## Verb Meaning in German Body-Part Possessor Ascension Alternation

scratched / scratched up

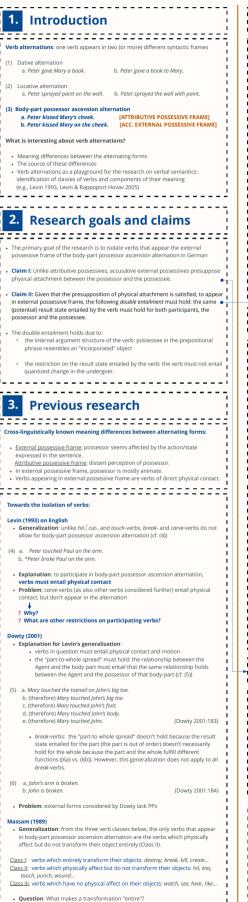
Among verbs of physical contact, resultatives that entail a specific result state do not appear in body-part possessor ascension alternation:

(7) Die Katze hat die Wange des Mädchens gekratzt / zerkratzt.

the cat has the girl's cheek scra 'The cat scratched / scratched up the girl's cheek.'

4. The challenge

LSA 2023 January, 5-8 Denver, CO

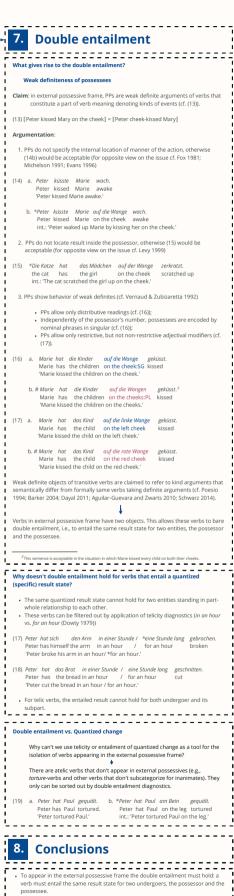


<sup>1</sup>aka verbs of contact by impact

(8) Die Katze hat das Mädchen gekratzt / zerkratzt. the cat has the girl scratched / scratched / scratched / scratched up 'The cat scratched / scratched up the girl.' (9) Die Katze hat das Mädchen auf der Wange **gekratzt** / **\*zerkratzt**. the cat has the girl on the cheek scratched / scratched scratched up 'The cat scratched / \*scratched up the girl on the cheek.' Levins's (1993) physical contact approach Both verbs entail physical contact, but zerkratzen 'to scratch up' doesn't participate in body-part possessor ascension alternation Dowty's (2001) impact-spread approach For both verbs (7) entails (8), but (9) with is ungrammatical with zerkratzen 'to scratch up' is ungrammatical Massam's (1989) entirety of transformation approach: Zerkrotzen 'to scratch up' does not seem to entail an entire transformation of the object, but it does appear in the external possessive frame The three existing approaches make inaccurate predictions about verbs appearing in the external possessive frame 5. Methodology -----Verbs considered: German verbs of physical influence with different levels of affectendess (cf. Beavers 2011) • Verbs were collected from Wortschatz Leipzig / Leipzig Corpora Collection Syntactic behavior of collected verbs as related to their appearance in attributive and external possessive frame was examined based on DWDS Corpora of German language. Beavers (2011) captures affectedness as specificity of result state entailed by a erb. Verbs can be organized along the scale according to their affectendess potential non-quantized not specified quantized change  $\rightarrow$  change  $\rightarrow$  change  $\rightarrow$  change  $\rightarrow$  for change (*cut though*) (*cut*) (*hit, kiss*) (*see, follow*) Distribution of verbs over syntactic frames POSSESSIVE FRAME EXTERNAL POSSESSIVE FRAME berühren 'to touch' beißen 'to bite' küssen 'to kiss' attackieren 'to attack + verletzen 'to injure schneiden 'to cut' stoßen 'to push' + zurichten 'to beat up' schlagen 'to hit' brechen 'to break' deformieren 'to deform' einschlagen 'to smash' ╋ zerkratzen 'to scratch up' durchstechen 'to pierce through wachküssen 'to kiss aw quälen 'to torture' peinigen 'to tantalize kränken 'to hurt' plagen 'to plague' 6. **Presupposed relationships** Unlike attributive possessives, for external possessives to be acceptable, presupposition of physical attachment must be satisfied Attributive possessives presupposed relationship (10) a. Peter grabbed Mary's arm body-part relationship b. Peter grabbed Mary's backpack. free relationship External possessives: a. Peter grabbed Mary by the arm (11) physical attachment b. Peter grabbed Mary by the backpack. physical attachment ι. -----References Aguilar-Guevara, A. and J. Zwarts (2010). Weak definites and reference to kinds. In Semantics and Linguistic Theory, Volume 20, pp. 179-196. Barker, C. (2004). Protectsion waves definites. In J. ymm, Y. A. Lander, and H. J. Parter (GSA). Definition of the semantic system of the semantic semantic semantics of the semantics of the semantic semantics Montage grammars. The semantics of verbs and times in generative semantics and in Montagev F107. Devidench feed Montage grammars. The semantics of verbs and times in generative semantics and in Montagev F107. Devidench feed Montage grammars. The semantics of verbs and times in generative semantics and in Montagev F107. Devidench feed Montage grammars. The semantics of verbs and times in generative semantics and in Montagev F107. Devidench feed Montage grammars. The semantics of verbs and times in generative semantics of body part incorporation in my montageverband terms of the procession of the semantic semantics of 2004 part incorporation in the Comman of Instantibits of a physical programmer alternation terms and the part verbal endance. 56: 405. Konc J. Borton Montageverbander and the semantics of the semantics of the semantic semantics of the semantics of the semantics of the semantic semantics of the semantics of the semantic semantics of the semantic semantics of the semantics of the semantics of the semantic semantics of the se 109 Fox B A

efinite determiner and the inalienable constructions in french and in english. Linguistic inquiry 23(4), 595–652.

L1



- Weak definiteness of the possessee encoded as a PP in the external possessive frame gives rise to the double entailment.
- Specificity of result blocks double entailment because the same quantized result cannot be true for two entities standing in a part-whole relationship to each

other.