

# Greeting Formulae as Expressions with Pragmatic and Phonological Idiomaticity

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Greeting Formulae
- 3 Routine Patterns (Schemata)
- 4 Formal Modelling in Constructional HPSG
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- Greeting formulae in German
- Individual routine formulae and routine patterns (schemata).
- Special pragmatic and phonological combinatorics
- Modelling in Constructional Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG)
- Not: empirical survey of usage but:  
Architecture of a formal grammar for the “full language”, as conceived in Construction Grammar (Fillmore et al., 1988)

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# Examples from German

- Normal lexical element: *Tag* ('day')
- Special lexical element: *Hallo, Hi, Moin moin*
- Normal structure: [N': Guten Tag] ('good day')
- Special syntagma:
  - ▶ Grüß (dich) Gott! ('greet (you\_acc) god') (*Hello*, Southern Germany)
- Bound lexical items:
  - ▶ *Weidmanns Heil* ('hunter's hail'; *Weidmann* restricted to greeting formulae)

# Usage Restrictions

- Day time restrictions:
  - ▶ Guten Morgen ('morning'), Guten Abend ('evening')
  - ▶ Guten Tag: no restriction
  - ▶ not existing: \* Guten Mittag, Guten Nachmittag
  - ▶ different use: Gute Nacht: 'sleep well'
- Regional restriction: Grüß Gott ('greet god'): Southern German  
Moin moin: Northern German
- Formality restrictions: Hallo, Hi, Hoi, Tagchen, ...
- Group specific:
  - ▶ Was geht? ('what's up?')
  - ▶ Petri Heil ('angler's hail'), Weidmanns Heil ('hunter's hail'), Ski Heil,  
...

# Usage Restrictions

- Season/ occasion specific:
  - ▶ *Narri-narro* (Swabian carnaval)
  - ▶ *Gutes Neues* ('good new (year)') (only greeting)
- Gender specific:  
*Küss die Hand* ('kiss the hand'): (man to woman; Austrian)
- Initial vs. reply: *Weidmanns Heil* – *Weidmanns Dank*



# The Meaning of Greetings I

- Greetings have no truth conditional semantics:
  - (1) A: Guten Morgen. (at 6pm) ('Good morning.')
  - a. B: # Nein, das stimmt nicht. ('No, that's not true.')
  - b. B: Doch wohl eher „Guten Abend” ('It's rather “Good evening”')
- Greetings set up the deictic center, the dialogue participants and their mutual relations and roles for the purpose of the conversation.
  - (2) Grüß dich — ich meine natürlich: Grüßt euch.  
hello to you<sub>sg</sub> I wanted to say of course hello to you<sub>pl</sub>
  - (3) Grüß Gott! — äh, Guten Tag!  
(Southern vs. northern variant)

# The Meaning of Greetings II

- The meaning of the lexical elements may be preserved ('projected'):
  - ▶ speaker-hearer relation: *du/Sie* (you [informal/formal]),
  - ▶ time of the day: *Abend* ('evening'),
  - ▶ appositives: *Weidmann* ('hunter')
- but doesn't need to: *Grüß Gott!* ('Greet God')

# Frames for Routine Formulae in Coulmas (1979)

- 1 Participants:
  - ▶ sex, age
  - ▶ social role, hierarchy, authority
  - ▶ familiarity
- 2 Setting
  - ▶ time
  - ▶ place
- 3 Why and wherefore
  - ▶ time
  - ▶ reason
- 4 Contextual restrictions
  - ▶ sequentialization
  - ▶ stylistic homogeneity
- 5 Concomitant activity
  - ▶ gestures

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# Gut- N: General Properties

- Form: good N: [*gut-* N]<sub>acc</sub>
- Examples:
  - ▶ greetings: Guten Morgen, Guten Tag, Guten Abend
  - ▶ others: Gute Nacht, Guten Appetit, Guten Flug, Guten Fang
- Coulmas's parameters:
  - ▶ Participants: unmarked
  - ▶ setting: if N is a time expression, N specifies the time
  - ▶ why and wherefore:
    - time: adjacent to the event specified by N
    - reason:
      - ★ greeting: add addressee to discourse participants
      - ★ other: conventionalized performative act connected to N
  - ▶ contextual restrictions: underspecified
  - ▶ concomitant activity: underspecified (optional nodding, hand shaking or waving, ...)

# Gut- N: Further Properties

- Usable with performative verbs: *gut- N sagen/ wünschen*

(4) Ich wünsche Ihnen einen guten Morgen/ einen guten Flug.  
I wish you<sub>formal</sub> a good morning/ a good flight

(5) Peter sagt nicht oft guten Morgen.  
Peter says not often Good morning  
(‘Peter doesn’t greet in the morning very often.’)

- Explicite addressee possible:

(6) Guten Morgen, Frau Müller/ Schatz, ...  
good morning Ms. Müller/ darling

(7) Guten Morgen dir (und allen deinen Freunden)  
good morning to you and to all your friends

# Special Reduced Forms

- Reduction: *guten* → /n/ or ∅
- Guten Morgen → ('n) Morgen    Guten Tag → ('n) Tag  
Guten Abend → 'n Abend    Gute Nacht → Nacht
- Coulmas's parameters: Participants: familiar, informal, non-hierarchical
- Restriction to highly conventionalized instantiations:  
guten Aufenthalt → \* 'n Aufenthalt ('pleasant stay')
- Restriction to unembedded usage:

(8) Sie traten ein, ohne guten Abend/ \*'n Abend zu sagen.  
they came in without good evening/ say  
'They entered without saying good evening.'

(9) Ich wünsche (einen) guten Abend/ \*'n Abend!  
I wish (a) good evening

# Other Idiosyncratically Reduced Forms

- Grüß Gott → 's Gott ('Greet God')  
(einen) guten Appetit → 'n guten ('(A) good appetite')  
auf Wiedersehen → Wiedersehen ('On reunion')  
Servus → Serv's ('hello' or 'bye')
- The same restrictions apply



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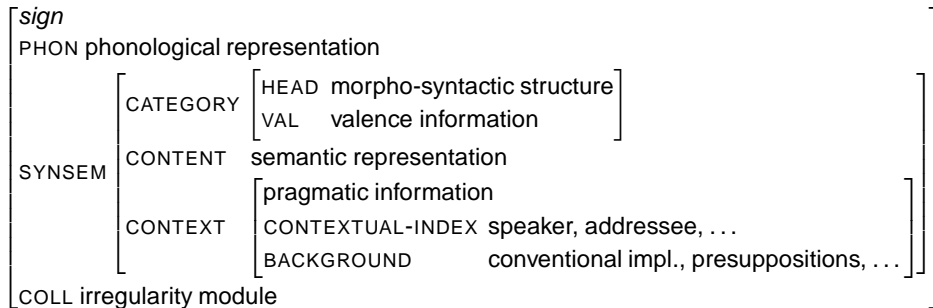
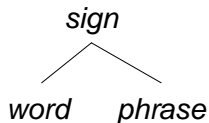
# Central Assumptions in HPSG in Pollard and Sag (1994)

- Linguistic objects are modelled as typed feature structures,
- ... organized in a type hierarchy with multiple inheritance.
- Local licensing: Every word, phrase, ... must be licensed by the grammar.
- words (non-recursive signs):  $word \rightarrow (LE_1 \vee \dots \vee LE_n)$
- phrases (combinatorics)
  - ▶ Phonological principles:  
phonotactic constraints, Constituent Order Principle
  - ▶ Syntactic principles:  
 $phrase \rightarrow (\text{Head-Subj-Schema} \vee \text{Head-Compl-Schema} \vee \dots)$   
Head Feature Principle, Subcategorization Principle, ...
  - ▶ Semantic principles: Semantics Principle
  - ▶ Pragmatic principles: Principle of Contextual Consistency, ...

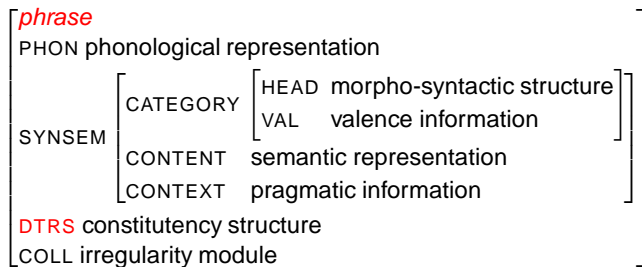
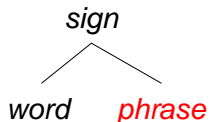
# HPSG and Construction Grammar (CxG)

- Pollard and Sag (1994): sign-based (*sign*) : linguistic objects have syntactic, semantic, phonological and pragmatic structure.
- Since Sag (1997): growing affinity to Berkeley-style CxG (Fillmore et al., 1988; Kay and Fillmore, 1999)
- Kay (2002): attempt of a CxG formalization, partly influenced by HPSG.
- Sag (1997), Ginzburg and Sag (2000): constructions as subtypes of *phrase*.
- Sag (2007a,b), *Sign-Based Construction Grammar*
- Richter and Sailer (2003, 2009), . . . : Constructions as phrasal lexical entries and module for irregular combinatorics.

# The Structure of the Type *sign*

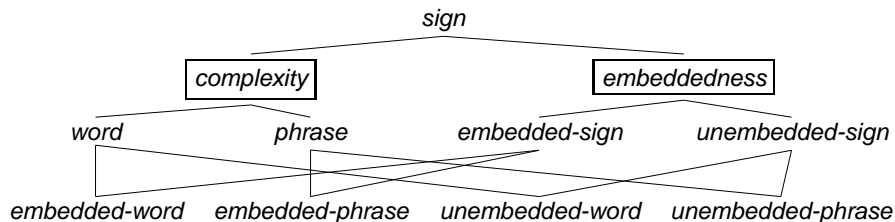


# The Structure of the Type *sign*



# Unembedded Signs

- Unembedded signs can occur as independent utterances, i.e. they have illocutionary force.
- Richter (1997). Alternatives: Sag (1997), Ginzburg and Sag (2000), Riehemann (2001)



Cross-classification of the dimensions of (ir)regularity:

- *irregular*: all signs with some exceptional behavior. In particular all basic morphemes and constructions.
- *sem-reg*: all signs with compositional semantics
- *syn-reg*: all signs with regular syntactic combinatorics
- *phon-reg*: all signs with regular phonological combinatorics
- *prag-reg*: all signs with regular pragmatic combinatorics

# Irregularity Module

expression	irreg	sem-reg	syn-reg	phon-reg	prag-reg
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Pollard and Sag (1994):

read books	-	+	+	+	+
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Richter and Sailer (2009):

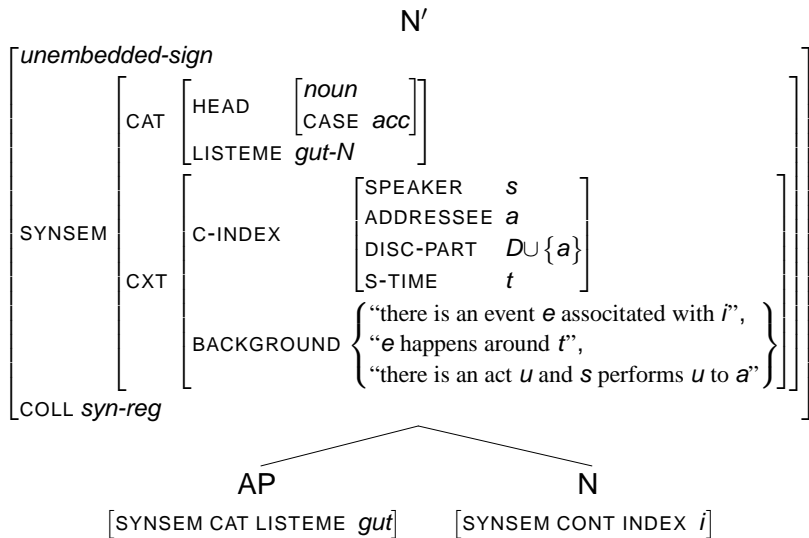
saw logs ('snore')	+	-	+	+	+
trip the light fantastic ('dance')	+	-	-	+	+

Extension:

Guten Tag	+	-	+	+	-
'n Tag	+	-	+	-	-
Grüß Gott	+	-	-	+	-
's Gott	+	-	-	-	-

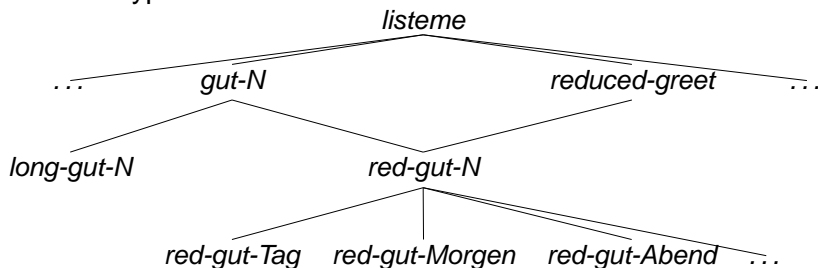


# Modelling Greeting “Gut- N”



# Long and Reduced Form I

- Subtypes of *listeme*:



- Constraint on *long-gut-N*:

[SYNSEM [CAT LISTEME *long-gut-N*]  
COLL *syn-phon-reg*]

- Constraint on *reduced-greet*:

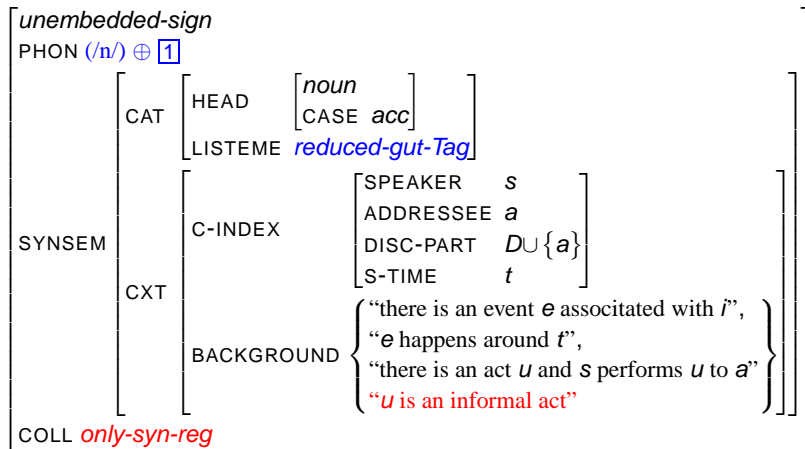
$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CAT LISTEME } \textit{reduced-greet} \\ \text{CXT BG } \{ \dots, \textit{“}u \textit{ is an informal act”} \} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{COLL } \textit{only-syn-reg} \end{array} \right]$$

- Constraint on *reduced-gut-N*:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } (\text{[1]}) \oplus \text{[2]} \\ \text{SYNSEM } \left[ \text{CAT LISTEME } \textit{reduced-gut-N} \right] \\ \text{DTRS } \left\langle \left[ \text{PHON } / \dots \text{[1]}/, \left[ \text{PHON } \text{[2]} \right] \right\rangle \end{array} \right]$$

# Constraint inheritance for ('n) Tag

N'



AP

N

PHON /gutən/  
SYNSEM CAT LISTEME *gut*

PHON 1 /tag/  
SYNSEM CONT INDEX *i*

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# Summary and Outlook

- Extension of Constructional HPSG to include pragmatic and phonological irregularity.
- Formal modelling of the linguistic knowledge of the language user.
- Planned:
  - ▶ Real data on individual greetings and detailed modelling
  - ▶ Application to other cases of phonological idiosyncrasy:
    - ★ idiosyncratic phonemes: *Thriller*
    - ★ truncation: *Kathy* (Orgun, 1996)

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