On how to integrate context into grammar

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How to express the future

- Shall / will
- Be going to
- Be to
- Simple present
- Present progressive

(Nehls 1978)
Frequency of future constructions

Abb. 4.5 Futurkonstruktionen in verschiedenen Genres (Biber et al. 1999: 489)
Some constraints

• „shall“ only with 1st p sing > future, all other p require „will“
• The present forms require a future adverbial
• Progressive usually incompatible with inanimate and non-agentive verbs
• „be to“ is stylistically constrained
• „Be going to“ is more informal, „will“ more formal
Construction Grammar

- Syntactic Properties
- Morphological Properties
- Phonological Properties

- Semantic properties
- Pragmatic properties
- Discourse-functional properties

Construction
Form
Symbolic correspondence (link)
(conventional) meaning
Construction grammar

Taxonomy of constructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Specific</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atomic</td>
<td>house</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>dry run</td>
<td>Subject-Predicate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Context and Pragmatics in CXG

• “in the light of the pragmatic context....” (Goldberg 2006)
• “by construction I intend a conventional association of any or all of the following kinds of grammatical information: syntactic, semantic – including ‘pragmatic’, lexical and phonological” (Kay 2002: 1).
• “Another notion rejected by Construction Grammar is that of a strict division between semantics and pragmatics. Information about focused constituents, topicality, and register is presented in constructions alongside semantic information”. (Goldberg 1995: 7).
Individual constructions

WILL

• Modal or future auxiliary?
• Will versus shall and prescriptivism
Will and Modality

Abb. 4.6 Fuzzy Set Diagramm von will (Coates 1983: 170)
Epistemic modality correlates with

• Dummy Subject (*there...*)
• progressive(*will be having*)
• Perfective aspect (*will have heard*)
• Stative verb (*will be, will have*)
• Passive (*will be sung*)
• Quasi-Modal (*will have to see*)

(Coates 1983: 181)
Non-epistemic modality, volition
Will, Epistemic Modality, Prediction

Abb. 4.8 Konstrukt *It will be nice to see you* (EM, future, prediction)
Will, epistemic, predictability
Individual Constructions

GOING TO
- Relatively few constraints
- Going to > gonna
Individual Constructions

PRAESENS PRO FUTURO

- 75% (Wekker 1976:80) have a future time adverbial

- „Witness - please! ’The Water Engine‘ which premieres on cable‘s TNT channel tonight at 8....“

- „A new study shows that only one in 20 women undergoes an annual mammogram as recommended by doctors. We look at that and other health stories ....“
PPF-Constraints

(53a) Rehearsals \( \begin{cases} \text{begin} \\ \text{will begin} \end{cases} \) tomorrow week \([\text{sic!}]\) (Wekker 1976: 83)

(53b) \[ \text{will begin} \]

(54a) The sun \( \begin{cases} \text{sets} \\ \text{will set} \end{cases} \) at 8.39 tomorrow (Goodman 1973: 81)

(54b) \[ \text{will set} \]

(55a) There \( \begin{cases} \text{is} \\ \text{will be} \end{cases} \) a solar eclipse next week. (Lakoff 1970: 845)

(55b) \[ \text{will be} \]

(56a) It \( \begin{cases} \text{*rains} \\ \text{will rain} \end{cases} \) tomorrow. (Wekker 1976: 85)

(56b) \[ \text{will rain} \]

(57a) John \( \begin{cases} \text{*falls} \\ \text{will fall} \end{cases} \) ill next week. (Wekker 1976: 85)

(57b) \[ \text{will fall} \]
The family of future constructions

Abb. 4.18 Die generelle Futurkonstruktion und die Familie der Futurkonstruktionen
Thanks so much.