

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

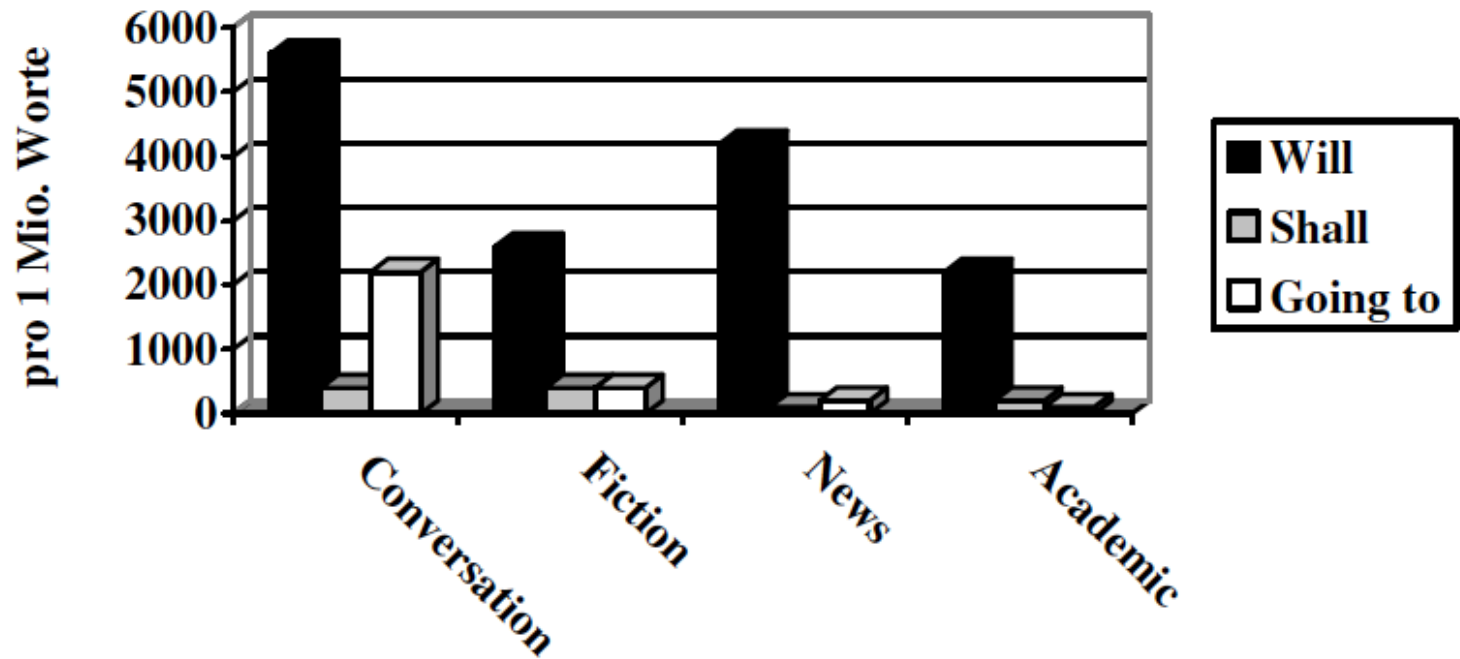
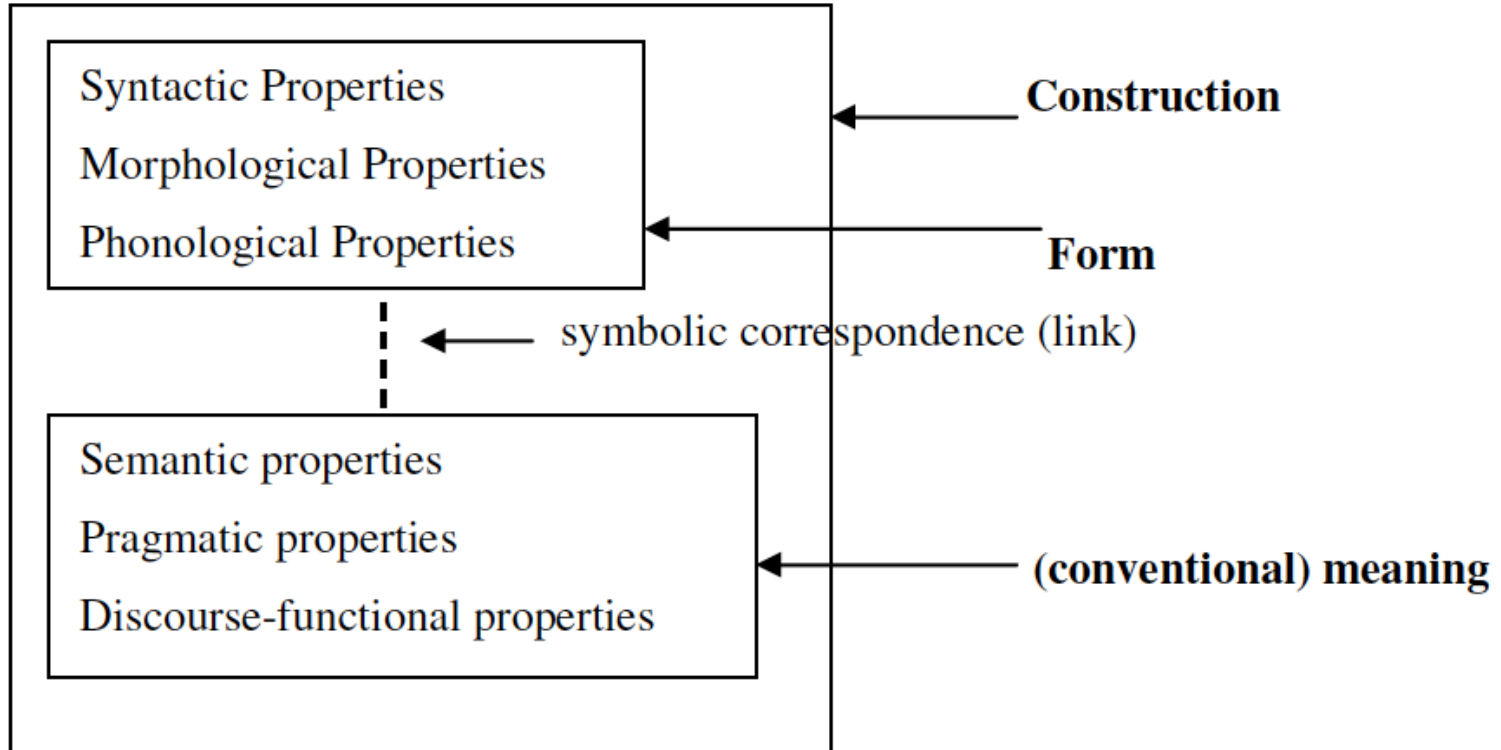


Abb. 4.5 Futurkonstruktionen in verschiedenen Genres (Biber et al. 1999: 489)

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



Construction grammar

Taxonomy of constructions

	Specific	Abstract
Atomic	house	Adverb
Complex	dry run	Subject-Predicate

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

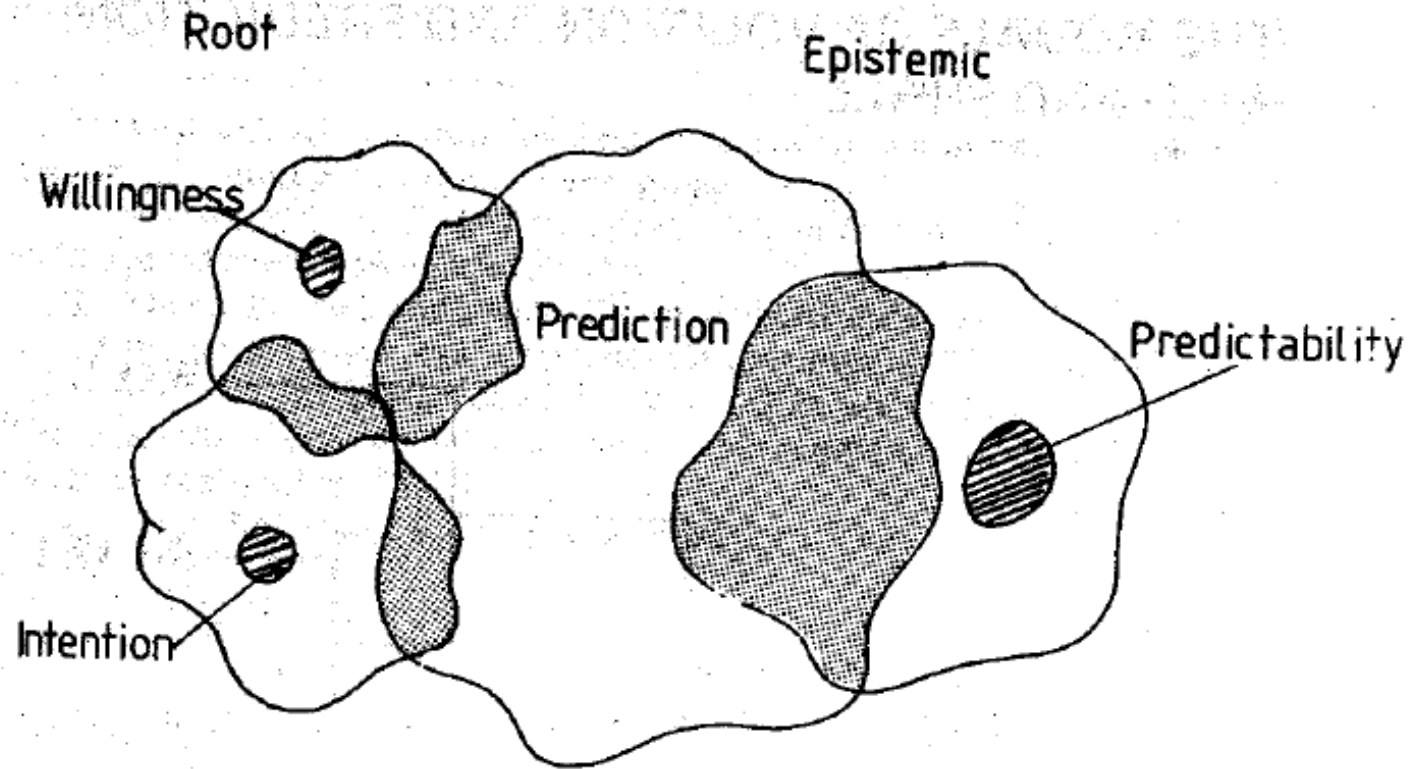


Abb. 4.6 Fuzzy Set Diagramm von *will* (Coates 1983: 170)

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

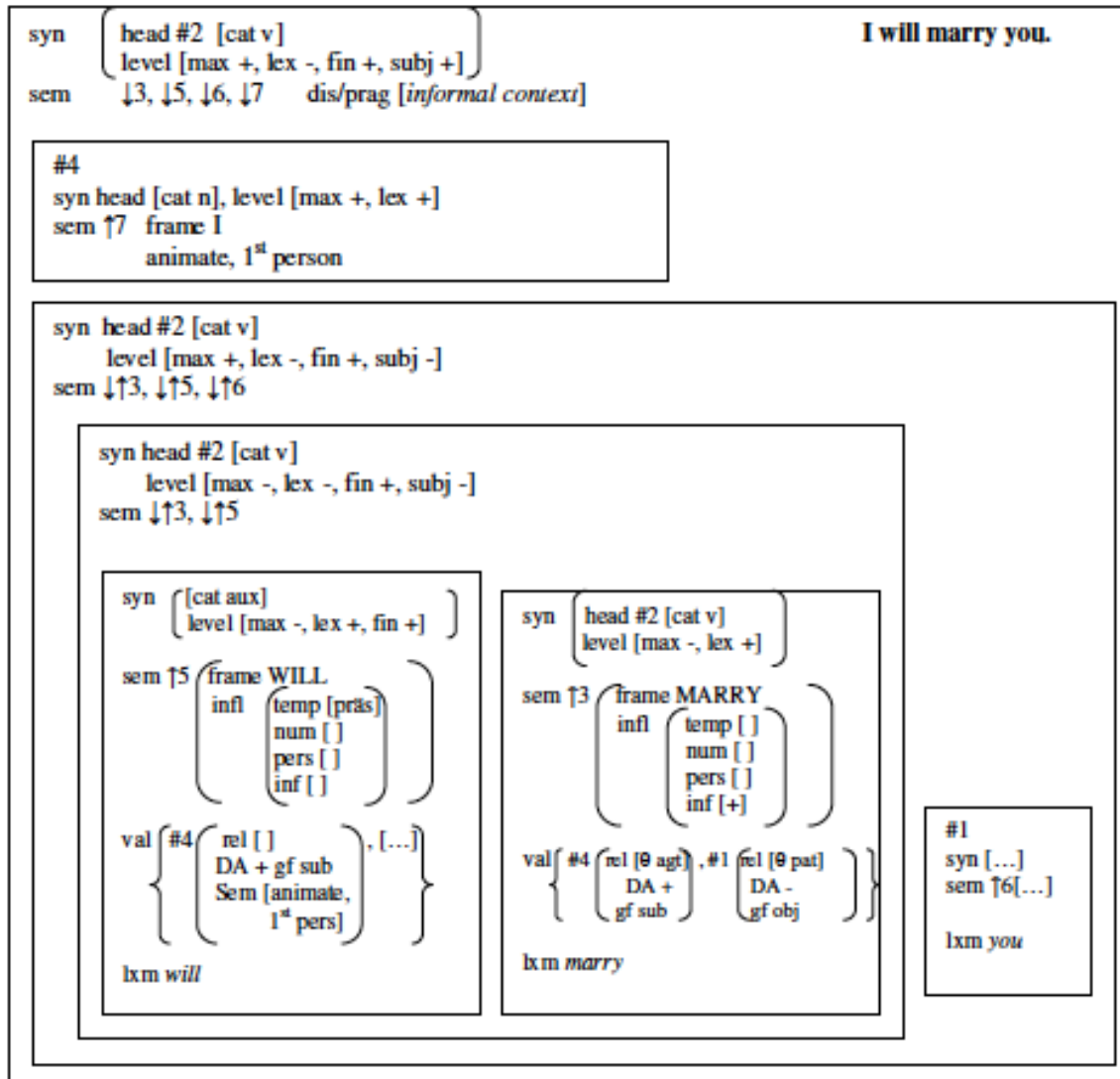


Abb. 4.7 Konstrukt *I will marry you* (NEM, willingness, intention)

Will, Epistemic Modality, Prediction

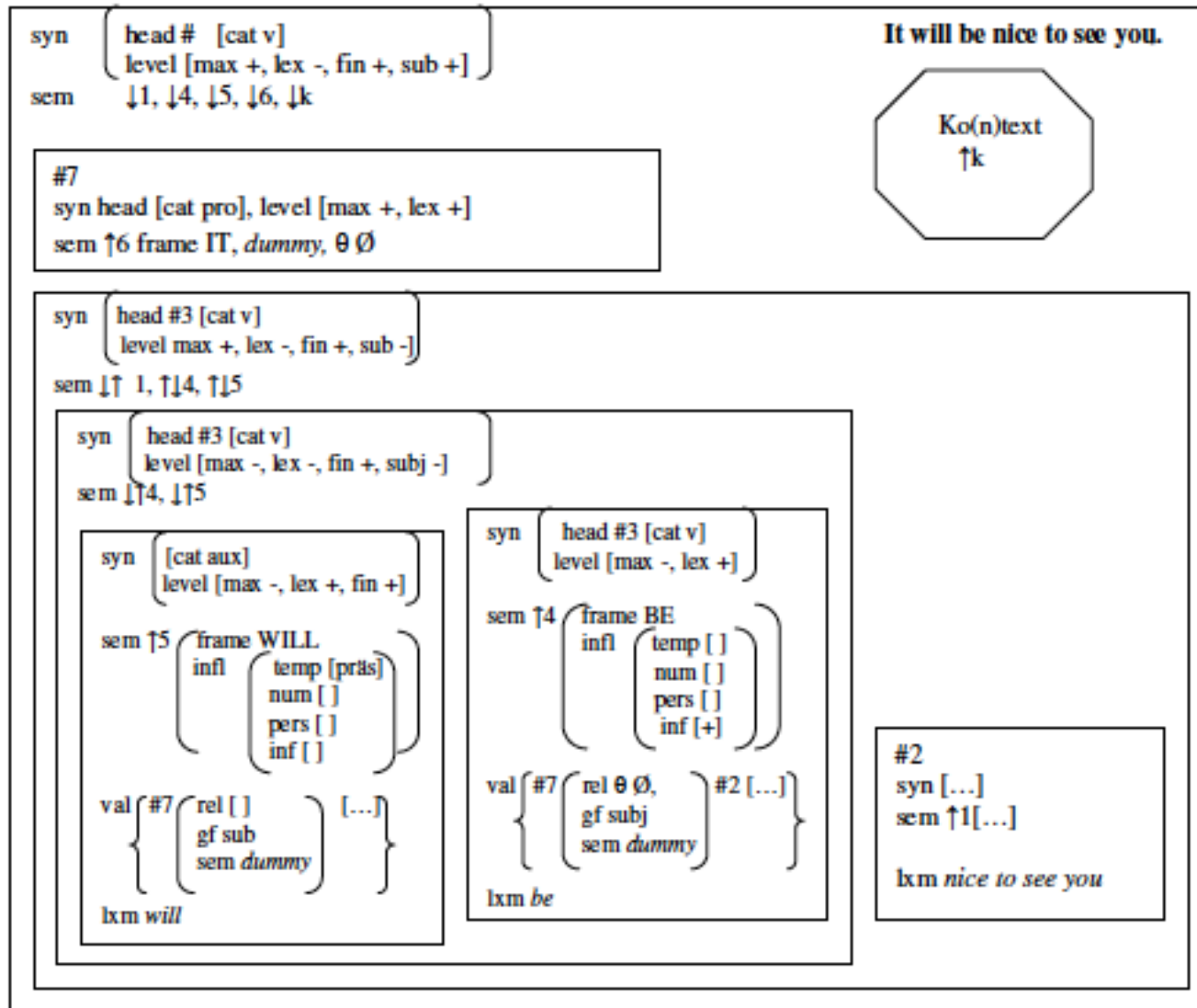


Abb. 4.8 Konstrukt *It will be nice to see you* (EM, future, prediction)

Will, epistemic, predictability

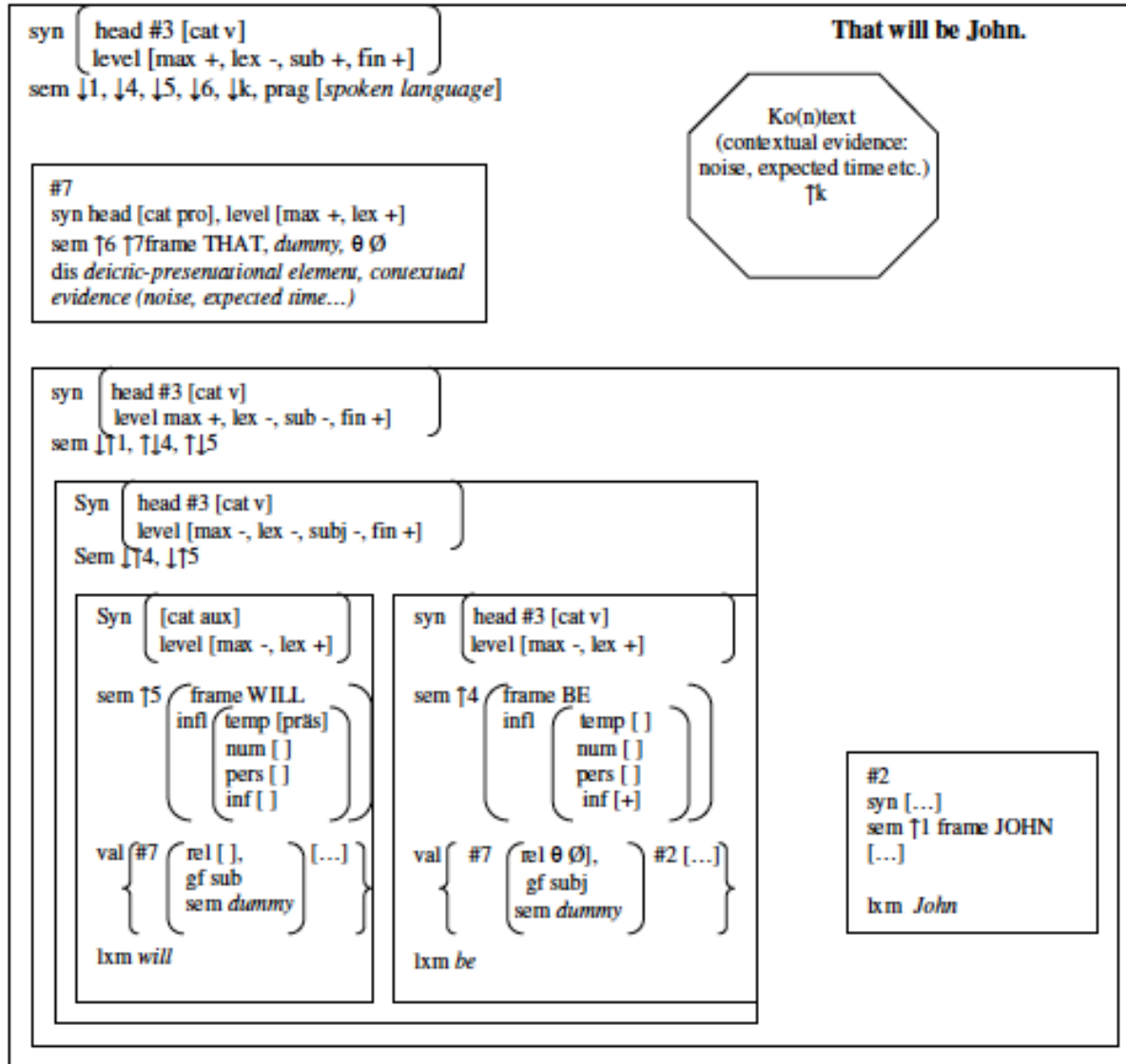


Abb. 4.9 Konstrukt *That will be John* (EM, predictability)

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	{ <i>begin</i> }	tomorrow week [sic!] (Wekker 1976: 83)
(53b)		{ <i>will begin</i> }	
(54a)	The sun	{ <i>sets</i> }	at 8.39 tomorrow (Goodman 1973: 81)
(54b)		{ <i>will set</i> }	
(55a)	There	{ <i>is</i> }	a solar eclipse next week. (Lakoff 1970: 845)
(55b)		{ <i>will be</i> }	
(56a)	It	{ <i>*rains</i> }	tomorrow. (Wekker 1976: 85)
(56b)		{ <i>will rain</i> }	
(57a)	John	{ <i>*falls</i> }	ill next week. (Wekker 1976: 85)
(57b)		{ <i>will fall</i> }	

The family of future constructions

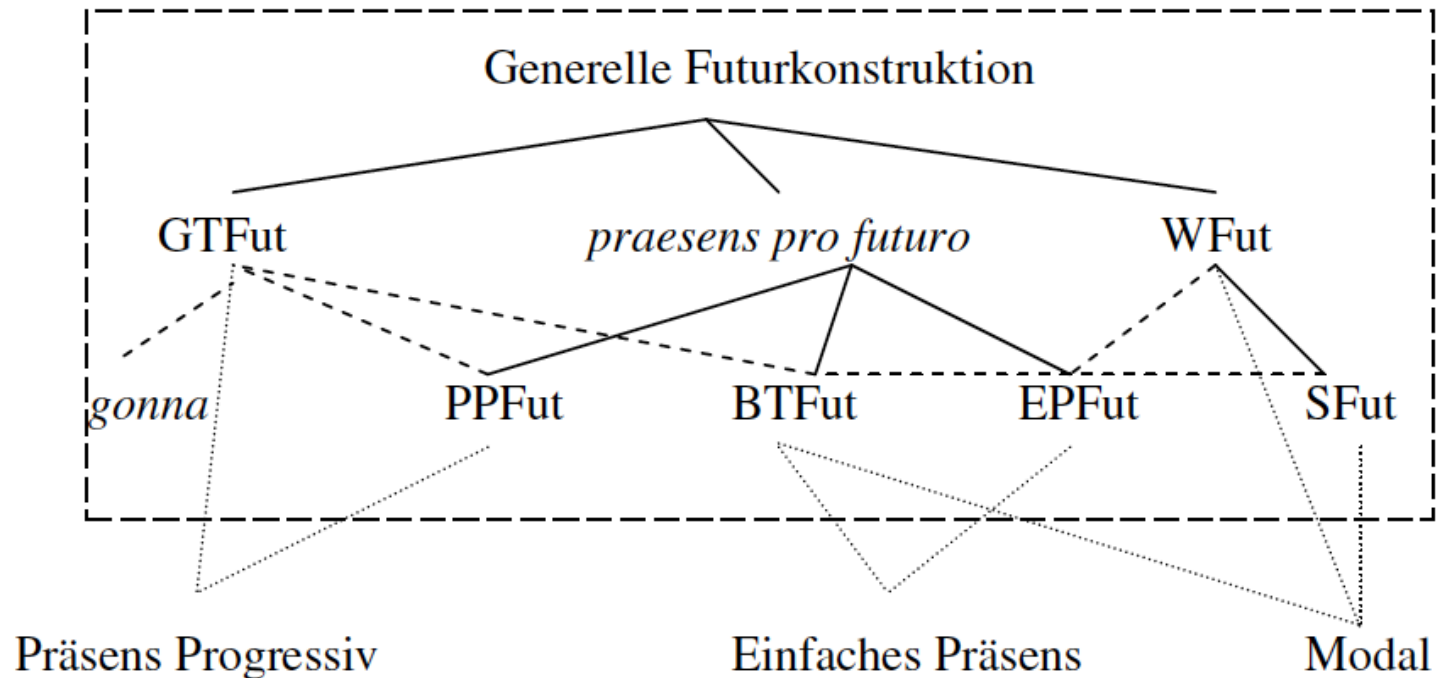


Abb. 4.18 Die generelle Futurkonstruktion und die Familie der Futurkonstruktionen

Thanks so much.