Globally defined semantic roles in the Swedish Constructicon

• Semantic roles in Semantic database (Järborg 2001)
• SweCx roles are FE:s in FrameNet frames
• Individual roles overlap and merge into composite roles (and frames)
• The Cx definition clarifies relations between roles
• How roles in SweCx relates to other role systems
• Some problems
Semantic roles in Semantic database

• 33 basic roles
  Agent 'deliberate initiator of action'
  Antagonist 'counteracting actor or action'
  Context 'surrounding system'
  Part 'part of a system'
  Material 'consumed in process'

• A few groups
  Locative = Source, Path or Goal

• Combined roles
  Agent+Recipient

• A few prefixes
  Co-Agent
SweCx roles are FE:s in FrameNet frames

- Agent = Agent@Activity (Activity) || Agent@Intentionally_act (Act)
- Goal = Goal@Motion (Area, Direction, Distance, Path, Source, Theme)
Individual roles overlap and merge into composite roles (and frames)

• Self_mover@SelfMotion = Theme@Motion + Agent@Intentionally_act
• A SweCx role in isolation tells what most important about the role of a CE.
The Cx definition clarifies relations between roles

• Reflexiv_resultativ:

  'Someone\textsubscript{Actor} or something\textsubscript{Theme} performs or undergoes an action\textsubscript{Activity} that causes (or is assumed to cause) the actor\textsubscript{Actor}/theme\textsubscript{Theme} (expressed by the reflexive pronoun) to reach a state\textsubscript{Result}.

• Hon sprang sig varm. "She ran herself warm."

• Drick dig smal i vår! "Drink yourself slim this spring!"
Relation to some other role systems

- Short list of labels, with an eye on syntactic argument structure (Case for Case, Propbank)
- Names defined by positions in (formal semantic) argument frames (Van Valin)
- Macro roles (and proto-roles): Actor, Undergoer (Van Valin, Dowty)
- Schematic regions in Cognitive Grammar
Some problems

• Is the unintentional Agent a "Doer" with no intention added or an Agent with intention removed?
• Is "[someone]\text{Actor, typically Agent, ...}" one semantic role?
• How to select the Agent (Agent / Co-Agent problem).
• How to demote the Agent.