

L113: Coursework II

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1 Frame Semantics

Identify the logical participants in the events and situations centered around *risk* (verb and noun) in sentences 1a-z (which all came from the BNC). Check whether you can assign them to FRAMENET's RISK frames. You do not treat all sentences given, but you should justify your answer. Which senses do the expressions *run a risk* and *take a risk* belong to? (Optionally, you might want to discuss lexemes other than *risk* which express the same frame semantics, such as *danger*, *chance* etc, cf sentences 2a-n.)

1a. It was 1875 before they **risked** erecting another one.

1b. The Chairman of Aerospatiale, the French aerospace group, commented that the proposed merger (together with that between Daimler Benz and Messerschmitt under consideration at the same time) **risked** setting a trend towards diversified national groupings, which would make the task of creating a European aerospace industry, capable of competing with the US, more difficult.

1c. This was a skilful manoeuvre but it **risked** frustration because the combination of fog, dense smoke from guns and funnels, and failing light, was making visibility increasingly poor.

1d. Programmes likely to produce such action ought, rather, to be spotted within the BBC in advance and either adjusted suitably or else supported by the Governors in such a way that the politicians would be quietly told, in effect, that if they wished to object they **risked** on this occasion a larger row than they might want.

1e. Undoubtedly, the low incidence of emotional trauma was due in part of the careful protocol, which acknowledged that families **risked** finding out that their apparently healthy baby had a lethal, untreatable disorder.

1f. I would not have **risked** turning away.

1g. When you think what they **risked** that's amazing.'

1h. Laura's insistence on punctuality for meal times became something of a fetish, not because she was herself preparing meals which **risked** being spoiled; she rarely had time for cooking any more.

1i. The **risk** to his reputation was significant.

- 1j. His “guys” in Lebanon, the Asmar network, were not to be **risked** on routine intelligence for the DEA, and Coleman had no other contacts there that he cared to expose to the Syrian-backed heroin cartel in the Bekaa Valley.
- 1k. The area is of particular significance in management buy-outs where there is the **risk** that an unwilling vendor will demand that management devote the whole of their time and attention to managing the business or otherwise risk breaching their terms of employment.
- 1l. Babies who survive meningitis **run the risk** of disabilities.
- 1m. Shuddering with fear and anticipation at the prospect of the weekend ahead, she **risked** opening her eyes again.
- 1n. In these days of gloom and doom, how refreshing to read about the life-guard who **risked** his life to save his dog.
- 1o. There are reports of up to three bears killing a child so I think the **risk** of a child handling one of these could be very serious.
- 1p. Nana’s neighbours **risked** their rusted axles to carry up heavy goods for the store, and on the last Tuesday of each month the soda company sent a small pickup to collect its empty bottles.
- 1q. He was warned that he **risked** not being able to read Braille if he worked with the soil because it would cut his fingers and reduce their sensitivity.
- 1r. Waterproofing: Cleaning operations are often limited by the **risk** of water penetration into mechanical or electrical systems.
- 1s. Face turned on one arm, she **risked** a glance along the muscular length of the body stretched a couple of feet away from her, the briefest black trunks accentuating the dusky, even tan of his skin.
- 1t. Children at the “extremes” (mentally handicapped and gifted) are probably more at **risk** special services less accessible.
- 1u. I **risked** another Middleditch and luckily caught Bunny at home.
- 1v. My dear, one had positively **risked** an influenza to bring her some good cheer, and to what end?
- 1w. I checked to see if Armstrong was still there and then I **risked** a crouching run as far as the Sierra’s tail lights.
- 1x. Here was somebody who had brought the art of skulduggery to the highest point of perfection, somebody, moreover, who was willing to **risk** life and limb in pursuit of her calling.
- 1y. These limits have given rise to thorny debate in at least two areas which serve as a reminder that it is not only nonhuman animals which are put at **risk**:
- 1z. “If I had known you were planning to entice me with your feminine wiles I would not have **risked** bringing you here, cara!”
- 2a. I don’t think you should **hazard** the ascent in the dark, that’s all.
- 2b. Honey is not **safe** for babies.
- 2c. It thus became **unsafe** for Richard Baxter to remain in Kidderminster.
- 2d. If the Conservatives dismissed the British Union of Fascists without too much concern and most could see no good political reasons for embracing the fascist faith they could not dismiss the **threat** of European fascism so easily, and attempted to accommodate it instead.

- 2e.** It affects the quality of life of everybody because nobody can be sure their calls are **safe** from prying ears.
- 2f.** If you carelessly **chance** going back there, you deserve what you get.
- 2g.** There is something curious, too, about the gradation of honours, so that a Ministry of Agriculture clerk is called before the young sergeant from the Royal Ulster Constabulary who **chanced** his life in some undisclosed anti-terrorist operation.
- 2h.** Although it must be acknowledged that there is a **danger** of deliberate under-recording, the emphasis placed by the course on the value and importance of being honest with oneself appears to have resolved this problem.
- 2i.** There was never much conviction in the way Biggs fought, his attitude more that of a man boxing from memory rather than one attempting to resurrect a shattered career, and Mason was never persuaded that genuine **peril** might result from exchanges in the middle of the ring.
- 2j.** Is climate change **dangerous** for mankind?
- 2k.** Customers can make complaints about **unsafe** products.
- 2l.** No child is **secure** from the temptation to do what “my friends” are doing.
- 2m.** Our system ensures that information stored within hardware is **secure** from external software attack and physical theft.
- 2n.** As even the remotest parts of the earth are threatened by modern industrial society, the future for not only dolphins but for all marine wildlife looks increasingly **insecure**.

2 Diathesis Alternations

Consider the verbs *pinch*, *jerk*, *splinter*, *nudge*, *poke* *slap*. Illustrate their semantic properties solely in terms of participation in diathesis alternations. How would you class them with respect to the verbs discussed in the lecture, namely *hit*, *break*, *cut* and *touch*? Tip: although many alternations exist, the three discussed in the lecture (middle, conative and body part possessor ascension) are enough to answer this question.