

What is in a text, what isn't, and what this has to do with lexical semantics

(Annotation guidelines)

Aurelie Herbelot
Universität Potsdam
aurelie.herbelot@cantab.net

Animal task, guidelines

You will be given a spreadsheet showing a number of animals (tiger, ant, etc) and features (are mammals, are blue, etc). For each pair animal/feature, your task is to quantify the sentence formed by concatenating the animal name (in the plural form) and the feature. For instance, say you are considering the pair {cat, are mammals}, you would have to quantify the sentence “Cats are mammals”.

You can quantify the sentence using any of the following annotations:

all: a universal. This applies to 'truly' universal sentences, i.e. those that do not accept exceptions (e.g. Cats are mammals). It also applies to sentences for which you can conceive of an exception which you have never heard of: we will call these 'far-fetched' cases (e.g. Cats have eyes: it is conceivable that a cat might be born without eyes, but it is a far-fetched scenario.)

most: majority case. This also applies to cases where exceptions are conceivable and known of (e.g. Ravens are black: some are albinos).

some: self-explanatory!

few: applies to (conceivable and known of) exceptions (e.g. Few dogs are blind).

no: negated universal (e.g. Cats are fish).

Extra guidance

In case of doubt, select the 'weaker' quantifier (*most* has precedence over *all*, *some* over *most*, etc.)

There is no right answer, the most important aspect of the task is consistency, so just use your intuition to complete it. But if you really get stuck, you may look for information using an external resource (Internet, encyclopedia, etc)