Supplemental Material for "It Takes Two To Kiss, But Does It Take Three To Give A Kiss? Conceptualization Based On Semantic Roles"

by Eva Wittenberg and Jesse Snedeker

Instructions to Participants

"In this study, we are interested in different types of actions and events that involve different types of roles in the event. Your task here is to classify events.

Just imagine a theater play, where in one scene, a bishop crowns a king: If you are the director, you need to cast for the role of the one getting crowned, and the crown-er. It doesn't really matter though whether you have one or two crowners – the play is still about the crowning event. Or, you have a chasing scene, with a policeman (or even a group of policemen!), chasing one or more criminals. No matter how many people are involved, you need to cast for two roles: The chasers and the chas-ees.

Now, events in the real world are a bit different from plays, because not only people can have roles, but also things – or even abstract things, like ideas or thoughts!

Look at this picture of jumping. There is one role involved, namely one or more people jumping. You don't need anything else or anyone else for this to be a jumping event!

Look at this picture of chopping: We have two roles, a chef who's doing the chopping, and the onion who is being chopped. Now, you need both roles for it to be a chopping event – if the chef is missing, the onion is doing nothing, and if the onion is missing, the chef isn't doing anything that makes sense. Note though that it doesn't matter how many chefs chop how many onions – there are two roles involved, the chopping role and the role of the one(s) being chopped.

Finally, look at this picture of serving, where we need three roles: one doing the serving, one being served, and one, what is served. In this particular picture, there's only one participant playing the role of serving (the waitress), but the role of what is served is played by several plates of food. Also, the role of "being served" is played by several customers. You need all three roles being cast for it to be a serving event!

Your job is now to sort all one-role events into one pile, all two-role events into another pile, and all three-role events into a third pile. You have to be careful though: Sometimes, there are lots of things in the picture that don't contribute much to the event. For example, it doesn't matter if the chef chops the onions at a table, or at the countertop; or whether the waitress serves people at the bar or while they are hanging out at a reception. So try to ignore the background, and focus on the bigger type of event!

Let's start with a training phase. Here are the cards you sort as training for the actual experiment. Whenever you get one card wrong, we start all over again. Do you have any questions?"

Experimental Sentences

Three Roles Consistent:

1. *The grandfather is reading the toddler a story.*
2. *The millionaire sells his friend a yacht.*
3. *The boy is texting his friend a joke.*
4. *The thief steals the purse from the woman.*
5. *The farmer is taking a sheep from the barn.*

Three Roles Inconsistent:

1. *The man buys a couch and sofa for the living room.*
2. *The nanny is tucking the children into their beds.*
3. *The grandmother is feeding the grandchild milk and cookies.*
4. *The businessman is passing pamphlets to the pedestrians.*
5. *The brother and sister lend their mother money.*

Two Roles Consistent:

1. *The man is calming the barking dog.*
2. *The muscle man is bending the rod.*
3. *The husband is cooking the pasta.*
4. *The cowboy is taming the pony.*
5. *The electrician repairs the wiring.*

Two Roles Inconsistent:

1. *The preacher marries the couple.*
2. *The wind is blowing the curtains.*
3. *The teacher grades the tests.*
4. *The witches brew a potion.*
5. *The toddler breaks the toy train and car.*

One Role Consistent:

1. *The girl is dancing.*
2. *The frog is jumping.*
3. *The dog snores.*
4. *The snow melts.*
5. *The child is crying.*

One Role Inconsistent:

1. *The brothers are fighting.*
2. *The dolphins are swimming.*
3. *The traffic lights are flashing.*
4. *The flags are waving.*
5. *The chickens are clucking.*

Light Verb Constructions/Base Verbs:

1. *The boy is giving the girl a kiss./ The boy is kissing the girl.*
2. *The aunt is giving the child a hug./The aunt is hugging the child.*
3. *The boxer is giving his opponent a punch./The boxer is punching his opponent.*
4. *The teenager is giving his rival a kick./ The teenager is kicking his rival.*
5. *The manager is giving his business contact a call./The manager is calling his business partner.*
6. *The detective is giving the criminal a warning./The detective warns the criminal.*
7. *The coach is giving the player a massage./The coach is massaging the player.*
8. *The wife is giving her husband support./The wife is supporting her husband.*
9. *The mother is giving the child a scolding./ The mother is scolding the child.*
10. *The headmaster is giving the graduates encouragement./The headmaster is encouraging the graduates.*

Joint Action Intransitive/Transitive:

1. *The boy and the girl are meeting./ The boy is meeting the girl.*
2. *The activist and the politician are battling./ The activist is battling the politician.*
3. *The girl and her friend are hugging./ The girl is hugging her friend.*
4. *The salesgirl and the bank teller are dating./ The salesgirl is dating the bank teller.*
5. *The father and the baby are cuddling./ The father cuddles the baby.*
6. *The judge and the politician are divorcing./ The judge is divorcing the politician.*
7. *The count and the princess are courting./ The count is courting the princess.*
8. *The teacher and the psychologist are marrying./ The teacher is marrying the psychologist.*
9. *The senator and the governor are debating./ The senator is debating the governor.*
10. *The student and his cousin are boxing./ The student is boxing his cousin.*