On representing semantic maps

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Problems with terminology

- Terminological proliferation
  - one function, many terms

- Terminological imprecision
  - one term which has a precise meaning but which is used differently (or more widely) in actual fact
Terminological proliferation

- deontic modality
- root modality
- dynamic modality
- agent-oriented modality
- participant-oriented modality
- non-epistemic modality
Optative mood

“the wish or hope of the speaker expressed in a main clause” (Bybee et al. 1994:179)

“The morpheme labeled optative [in Athabaskan] is used to express wishes and desires, incorporating notions of volition, necessity, desirability, and futurity.” (Rice 2000:249)
Semantic maps

- Visual representation of the semantic range of linguistic elements
- Used in typology for cross-linguistic and diachronic purposes
- Useful to circumvent terminological problems
Composition

- A domain
- functions of that domain
- means of connecting functions
- linguistic elements
Sample map
Realis and Irrealis

- Linguistic marking of real and unreal events
  - Held to be a fundamental property of language and cognition
Irrealis in New Guinea

- Based on Bugenhagen (1994)
- Data from seven languages
- Seven functions are mapped
Semantic map for Realis - Irrealis

PROH

IMP

PST  PRS  FUT  COUNT  HYP
Semantic map for Realis - Irrealis
Sinaugoro

Int.

R

I

2 1 3 6 7
Manam

R

I

2 1

3 6 7

5 4
Sursurunga
Mangseng

unm.

don’t

aro
Nakanai

unm.

ge
Manam
Nakanai

unm.
ge