

Appendix 2a

Linguistic category model based on the work of Semin and Fiedler (1988) and employed by Maass et al (1989: 982)

Level, category and characteristic features	Examples	Example	In terms of informativness, verifiability, disputability, enduringness and abstractness
‘Descriptive action verb (DAV) – objective description of a specific and observable behaviour with a clear beginning and end; refers to specific situation and specific object: usually does not have positive or negative connotations’	‘Kiss Look Run Visit Call’	‘A is punching B’	Verifiable Low endurance Least Undisputable Concrete informative
‘Interpretive action verb (IAV) – Describes a general class of behaviours, but refers to a specific action with a clear beginning and end, to a specific object situation; provides an interpretation beyond the mere description; has positive or negative semantic connotations’	‘Help Offend Inhibit Cheat Threaten’	‘A is hurting B’	
‘State verb (SV) – Enduring states (emotional, affective, mental, etc) beyond specific behaviours or situations; reference to specific object; no clear beginning and end; provides interpretation beyond mere description; does not readily take the progressive form or imperative’	‘Believe Love Admire Desire Envy’	‘A hates B’	
‘Adjectives (Adjs) – Describe highly abstract person dispositions; no object reference or situation; highly interpretive, detached from specific behaviours’ (Maass et al 1989: 982)	‘Honest Impulsive Reliable Helpful Creative,	‘A is aggressive’	Most Disputable Abstract informative High Unverifiable endurance