

Events and their context
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The notion of event appears to be intimately connected to that of context. Indeed, describing an event does not mean just saying that something happened, but also adding details about the context in which it happened, mentioning other things that were present besides the core event participants, or other events that occurred at the same time. So, in our ordinary talk events have a rich internal structure, with a foreground and a background: the former includes the core participants, while the latter the event context. I will present in this talk an ontological account of events according to which they are understood as perceived, situated, cognitively constructed entities, emerging from our sensory experience through a mechanism of focused attention, resulting in different levels of involvement in event participants depending on whether they belong to the focus or to the context. Hopefully, this approach can help understanding and specifying the core meaning of verbs, explaining linguistic phenomena such as verbs alternations.