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Abstract

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This study addresses the lexical representation of French VN and Swedish NV-are agentive nominal compounds. The objective is to examine their semantic structure and output meaning. The analysis shows that, as a result of their semantic structure, the compounds group into some major output meanings. Most frequently, the N constituent corresponds to an Undergoer in the argument structure of the V constituent, and the compound displays an Actor role. More precisely, it denotes an Agent, an Instrument or an Instrumental Locative, specified in the Telic role in the Qualia. Compounds with Place or Event meanings do not display any role in the V's argument structure. Hence, their N constituent can be either an Actor or an Undergoer. In conclusion, our study proposes a unified semantic account of the compounds in French and Swedish, and can have applications for NLP systems, particularly for disambiguation and machine translation tasks.