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Over- and *out-* as negatively-oriented markers

In this paper, I address the issue of negation through two markers, verbal pre-fixes *over-* and *out-* which do not have an intrinsic negative meaning but which act as negatively-oriented markers. In the utterer-centered framework used here, these markers are seen as a means of assessing a value in relation to a subjective boundary. The different semantic stages at stake are defined as occurring in a notional domain. Negation is thus considered as the expression of an alteration which results from going beyond normal limits to such an extent as to possibly exit the domain. *Overbook* and *overdo*, for instance, imply excess, hence "not having the expected value". The markers considered here are studied in context and taken from a large corpus of oral and written English.

Key words: verbal prefixes; negative markers; *over*; *out*.

1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to tackle negation with two markers, the 'pre-verbs' *over-* and *out-,* which are not overtly negative as they are not specialised in negation. Yet these markers and the affixed verb to which they are attached form a lexical item which is contextually understood as having some negative meaning without being linguistically coded as such. The question addressed here is: what triggers the negative semantic specificity of these markers and to what extent are they relevant to negation?

This study provides a theoretical point of view, as it tries to find operations that entail negation in the semanticism of these preverbs. The term PREVERB will be used as a cover term for preverbal prefixes and *over-* and *out-* will be considered as bound spatial particles, as their attachment to the base contributes to the meaning of the whole unit: such as from *fly* to *overfly*. They are grammaticised prepositions with an adverbial meaning which can be captured in paraphrases such as: *overfly /*

fly over a space; outrun s.o. / surpass s.o. so that this person is out of competition. It is clear that they have a locative meaning.

2. Defining negation

If we first turn to prefixed verbs in which the preverb is overtly negative, like *mis-* as in *misunderstand* or *un-* as in *undo*, their morphology reveals that we start with a positive / non negative verbal base and then we construct the negation of it, by rejecting that first value. There is no such phenomenon at stake with *over-* and *out-* which have a typical locative meaning. However, I claim that these spatial preverbs carry a negative meaning, which is covert.

According to the OED, *not* [is cognate with or formed similarly to the Old Frisian *nā, nō*, which] comes from the Germanic base *ne*, an adverb meaning simple negation, and the Germanic base *o*, an adverb meaning 'ever, always, throughout eternity'. It seems that negation is combined with a scanning operation ('ever') that results in a concept of non-existence. To negate the existence of something, "one must first construct the domain on which the negation will operate" (Culioli 1995: 75). To do so, I suggest starting from Culioli's cognitive framework, the Theory of Predicative and utterer-centered Operations, which posits a complex system structured around a bundle of cognitive properties, called the NOTIONAL DOMAIN.

2.1. *Interior/exterior*

This theory is based on the concept of localisation and states that no occurrence can be constructed without being located. What we may call the LOCUS is the notional domain, organised around an organising center (OC), represented by a typical occurrence that bears the core meaning. It serves as an anchor, a reference for all other possible occurrences related to it, as for instance: *fall*, to which *collapse, drop* are related. These occurrences define the INTERIOR of the domain, which can be paraphrased by 'truly p'. The EXTERIOR is constructed by voiding the Interior, in scanning all possible terms and ejecting them, so that no occurrence remains in the interior. This means *it is not p* and can be paraphrased by 'truly not p'.

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        Interior              Exterior
         truly p              truly not p
O.C. ----------------------]
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Figure 1 The notional domain

In that case, two things identify or not (*fall /not fall)*. For example the adverb *nearly* in *he nearly fell,* locates the subject in the exterior, close to the boundary, as it means that he didn't fall.

2.2. *Boundary*

However, things may be more or less identifiable, like the processes *snack, nibble* or *devour* which are related to *eat.* So this representation has to be enriched with the concept of GRADIENT which is oriented away or towards the center.
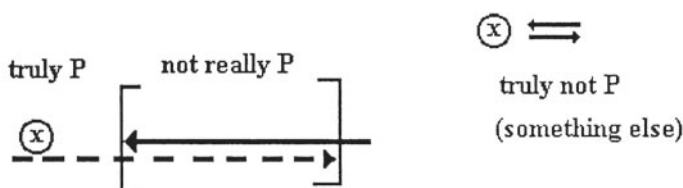

Figure 2. Extract from *Cognition and representation in linguistic theory* (Culioli 1995: 53)

The gradient delimitates a BOUNDARY in which you find occurrences that contain more or less the properties of the notion. For instance, the adverb *almost* refers to an in-between situation:

(1) *I stubbed my toe, swore, tripped, and **almost** fell, to be saved by a robust grip above the elbow. 'Are you all right?' He held me while I stood on one leg to massage the injured toe.*

M. Stewart, *Stormy petrel*, 1992

In this particular situation, the use of *almost* means that the character made a movement downwards which had similar properties with a fall but not all of them since the movement was incomplete, as shown by the co-text on the right (*saved*). The Boundary related to the notion /fall/ in a way negates the OC 'truly p', as *almost* excludes all typical occurrences that do not belong to it. However, this occurrence is maintained within the domain ('truly p' + 'not truly p') because 'falling' is a hyperonym for different ways of moving downwards.

In this paper we deal with verbs, therefore we deal with PREDICATIVE NOTIONS (predicates). We can try to define negation by using this representation, and see what negating means. It is a two-fold operation. It may be about differentiating or

disconnecting.

- NON-IDENTITY/DIFFERENTIATION: it involves choosing a predicative value which is not identified to the OC of the notion. For example, the negative assertion *he did not fall* is linguistically coded by the presence of the negation *not*. It consists of choosing the negative value (*not fall*) by excluding its complementary value (*fall*), so that the chosen value is located in the Exterior zone of the domain. In terms of localisation, negating is constructing the Exterior of the domain through a process of differentiation / non-identification / alteration (E ≠ I). In that case, negating means differentiating, performing alteration.

- DISCONNECTION: if the occurrence is not related to the domain, it means that it has nothing to do with it, so that it is completely disconnected from it. Neither I (pos. value) nor E (neg. value) are chosen. For instance, *fall* is disconnected from *stay up, lie down*; in terms of assertion, *he may have fallen* shows that there is no possible choice between p (fall) / p' (not fall). In terms of localisation, this value is disconnected (ω) from the initial domain. Thus negating also means disconnecting.

In which way does this two-fold definition of negation hold when it comes to preverbs? It is not a question of asserting positively or negatively. Let us take *over-eat* and *outreach*.

(2) *My diary for the holidays is, as usual, almost blank, but contains several references to having* <u>*overeaten*</u> *and then feeling sick, which served me right.*
S. MacLeod, *The art of starvation*, 1989

(3) *[...] he had finally* <u>*outreached*</u> *his brothers in length of leg and arm and hardness of muscle.*
E. Kelton, *The pumpkin rollers*, 1997

The process of *eating* (2) is not negated as shown by the result *feeling sick* in the right-hand co-text. In the same way, the process *outreach* (3) maintains the idea that several lengths have been reached. *Over-* and *out-* are not negative in themselves.

3. Spatial representation: The theory of abstract places

The core meaning of *over-* and *out-* has to do with spatial location. *Over- is related to *(s)upper*, source of Greek *hyper* and Old English *ofer-* 'beyond, above; higher'. *Out-* is related to Old English *ut* 'out, without, outside' (Online Etymology Dic-

tionary). This entails working on a spatial representation. I will show that this concept is not in contradiction with the concept of negation as defined in the current framework, since a preposition operates a relation of localisation between two terms.

The analysis of the meaning of the prepositions may be refined and done more efficiently by means of the Abstract Loci Theory (Theory of abstract places) by Desclès (2001) and anchoring relation, in which the preposition determines an AN-CHOR, i.e. a locator. In that case the notional domain exclusively deals with spatial representation.
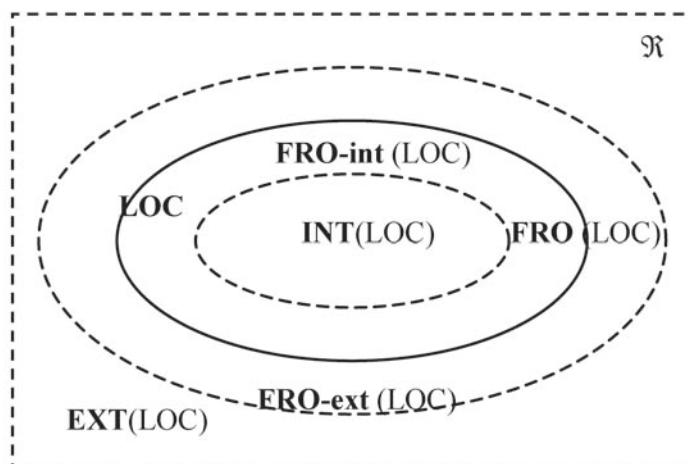

Figure 3: From Desclès et al. (2001)

This model will serve as a basis for further analysis. It represents a locus which refers to abstract place (spatial, temporal and notional) and it includes an INTERNAL BOUNDARY (FRO-int) and an EXTERNAL BOUNDARY (FRO-ext) which will be quite useful in our analyses. The OC here is called the anchor and the fundamental anchoring (/ locating) relations are maintained: identification (= INT), differentiation (≠ INT) and disconnection / breaking (ω INT).

3.1. Over-

In this model, it is stated that *over-* carries the invariant meaning of "going across the boundary locus" and anchors the entity on the external boundary, according to a

gradient, with or without contact. In all cases, this localisation takes a negative value as it negates the interior of the domain. It takes up a value of differentiation. *Over-* may have a spatial, a temporal or a notional value.

3.1.1. *Spatial anchoring*

The initial covering value of *over-* includes movement in the following examples.

(4) *It was as if the virgin forest was extending outside the bathroom to swallow up the entire apartment, to **overgrow** it, to fill it with roots and finally to absorb it completely.*

<div align="right">U. Kovalyk, Mrs. Agnes's bathroom, 2010</div>

The forest (4) invades the flat by entering the anchoring space (INT) and extending its limits by moving across the boundary locus, towards its external boundary (FRO-ext), so that it is NOT limited to the interior (≠ INT). It is an example of the initial covering value of *over-*.

(5) *As they came round a bend they met a lorry **overtaking** a tractor. Two of the riders left the road to avoid a head on collision.*

<div align="right">BNC</div>

The anchored entity *lorry* (5) is localised relative to the FRO-ext of the anchor *tractor*, in an outward movement of the gradient, which is realised in the lorry's occupying the other lane on the road. If not, the lorry would have bumped into the tractor.

(6) *If you're cracking your neck five to 10 times a day, it's a problem. Instead of retrieving discomfort, you're **overstretching** the soft tissues of the neck, leading to **excessive** movement in the spine.*

<div align="right">D. Schipper, Ask Men's health, 2006</div>

Overstretching means "making a stretch too far", but within the limits of the muscle (6). The external boundary has been reached.

Here are a few static examples that do not include movement:

(7) *All the twin rooms are comfortable, and all **overlook** the attractive courtyard.*

<div align="right">Enterprise Lakes and Mountains, 1990</div>

(8) *Howard had vaguely remembered a whole series of gardens and court-yards, **overhanging** the city below.*

M. Frayn, *Sweet dreams*, 1976

3.1.2. *Temporal anchoring*

(9) *"After that I went to sleep." "Did you sleep well?" He was scrutinising her openly in return. "Like a log." "When did you wake up?" "Quarter to eight. I **overslept**." "So you heard none of the commotion when Sarah Parker roused Dr Darnell?" "No. I was sleeping very soundly."*

S. Shepherd, *Black justice,* 1989

Overslept (9) means that the subject slept too long and that he continued to sleep after the intended time: he slept until *quarter to eight*, and even later. It our model, the time of sleeping has extended across the boundary which represents the intended time of sleeping to the FRO-ext (*quarter to eight*).

3.1.3. *Notional anchoring*

(10) *In Malone, Sir Robert Megarry held that an action for breach of confidence does not lie where a person utters confidential information which is **overheard** by a third party.*

C. A. Gearty, K. D. Ewing,
Freedom under Thatcher: Civil liberties in modern Britain, 1990

The third party (10) is localised relative to the FRO-ext of the locus *conversation* according to a high-low gradient; no contact between the entities, since the subject is non agentive, they are in a way external to the conversation as they did not intend to hear it, although they are linked to it (they did hear something).

(11) *I won't go into the grim details of factory chicken production, but typically the birds are fed appetite stimulants and antibiotics. Bred to gain weight fast, they're **overfed** and kept in cages so crowded they can't move.*

San Francisco Chronicle, 2001

In this case, *overfed* (11) means that they were "fed too much". The anchoring space (locus) is the quantity of food and INT is the accurate quantity of feeding. The movement on the gradient of quantity moves away from the center across the boundary which represents the limit advisable (namely the threshold), to the external boundary.

At the end of this section, we may make the preliminary conclusion that, in all cases concerning *over-*, the anchored entity is not exactly within the spatial limitation of the anchor. It is differentiated from it / not identified with it, which implies the negation of it: the roots of the forest trees are not physically restricted to the space of the apartment; the lorry is NOT WITHIN the internal limits of the tractor (its lane); the movement on the muscles is INadequate; the time of sleeping is NOT the due time; the third party is within reach but NOT close to the speakers; the quantity of feeding is NOT the accurate quantity.

Over- takes up a negative value of non-identification/differentiation, but not disconnection as the link with the interior of the locus is maintained.

3.2. Out-

In this model, it is stated that *out-* carries the invariant meaning of "closure of the boundary locus" and anchors the entity beyond the external boundary, into the exteriority of the domain. In all cases, this localisation takes up a negative value, as it negates the interior of the domain along with its boundaries. It takes up a value of breaking / disconnection (ω INT).

Out- may also have a spatial, temporal or notional value.

3.2.1. *Spatial anchoring*

(12) *She called it her robin. And once she took me to see. All she did was **out-stretch** her hand and sprinkle cheese crumbs on the palm. She would call softly, "Robby, Robby".*

J. Seely et *al. The Oxford English Programme*, 1990

She extended her hand (12) out of the initial space (her own sphere), into the potential sphere of the robin. These two spheres are initially disconnected. The movement on the gradient goes away from the center across the boundary of her own space and beyond it, so that the boundary of the initial space closes and the entity is localised in the exterior, within the robin's potential sphere.

(13) *When I graduated from high school she gave me a Bulova watch with a rock crystal face and a pair of the major's shoes whose size coincided with mine for a summer and a fall before my feet **outgrew** them.*

C. East, *Virgo*, 2013

The shoes (13) no longer fit his feet, which have become **too** big. The growth of the feet is symbolised by the movement on the length gradient towards the Exterior of the locus *shoes.* As a result, there is a break between the two entities.

3.2.2. *Temporal anchoring*

(14)   *She's **outlived** Edith, she's even out lived Edith's boys, Marcus and Peter.*
                                         J. Cranfill, *The bride's war*, 2014

The anchor (14) is Edith's and her friend's lifetimes. The gradient has moved towards the external boundary. The death of Edith triggers the closure of the boundary. This means that Edith is located in the exterior (given that she no longer lives) but also that the woman's lifetime continued beyond that time limit, disconnecting her from her friend. We notice that this use entails the notion of comparison (with her friend's lifetime).

3.2.3. *Notional anchoring*

(15)   *Eventually, most youngsters **outgrow** the jealousy and bickering, and begin to feel affection and care for each other.*
                              M. Herbert, *Discipline: a positive guide for parents*, 1989

The youngsters (15) get rid of these feelings and enter a new world of feelings. The gradient moves away towards the boundary, which then closes. They are located beyond FRO-ext, in the Exterior: they are no longer affected or influenced by the initial feelings and they can be disconnected from them.

To conclude this section, we can argue that in all cases concerning *out-*, the anchored entity is disconnected from the anchoring space, which implies the negation of it. The girl's hand is no longer in her own sphere; the toes are no longer contained by the shoes (as they stick out of them); the friends' lives are disconnected; the initial feelings are gone. This localisation takes up a negative value of disconnection (/ breaking) that leads to non-existence.

However, such a model based on non-identity and disconnection has to be refined in order to account for semantic negative values such as excess (*overstretch, oversleep, overfeed; outgrow1*), comparison (*outlive*), and influence (*outgrow2*), which have been addressed in the previous examples. Cognitive linguistics will be

quite helpful in the semantic treatment of these preverbs.

4. A semantic approach

Cognitive linguistics provides a semantic representation of spatial expressions involving reference to non-linguistic concepts regarding interaction between objects. The approach by Tyler and Evans (2003), following Talmy (1975, 1983) and Langacker (1987), provides CONCEPTUAL PRIMITIVES for prepositions: LM ('landmark' = locator, spatial entity), TR ('Trajector' = located element), PATH (= trajectory), contact between TR and LM, lack of contact, whether the LM is extended *(ocean)* or not, vertical *(mountain)*.

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      _____
        distal scene
      -----------------------------------
      Proximal scene to the LM
                        ● TR
      _____ LM
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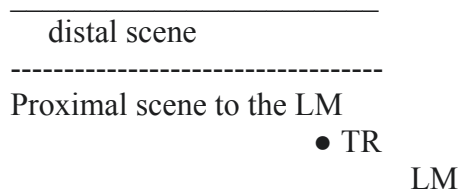
Figure 4: Protoscene of *over*

REL → TR higher (but proximate) to the LM / potential contact with the LM.
FUNC → TR and LM are within each other's sphere of influence.

The TR is portrayed as a dark sphere; the LM as a bold line; the dashed lines signal the distinction (within the spatial scene) between the proximal scene to the LM (namely within potential contact with the LM) and the distal scene; the vantage point is external (offstage).

The PROTOSCENE (= representation of the primary sense) of the preposition *over* provides a new criterion, the sphere of influence:

- The relational level (Relationship between TR and LM): TR is higher but proximate to the LM, within a region of potential contact with the LM.

- The functional aspect of this relation: TR and LM are within each other's sphere of influence (The TR can affect the LM in some way and *vice versa.*)

Within this cognitive framework, Brugman (1981) and Lakoff (1987) consider that words have a number of related meanings. They propose a meaning chain analysis

of *over* suggesting that *over* has a primary sense extending to non-primary ones, all senses existing as categories in the mind of the user.

4.1. Over-

In Tyler and Evans (2003), it is primarily metaphoric extension that is at stake, as they provide different meanings of the preposition *over*. Some of them can be retrieved in a model for the preverb *over-*: control sense; excess sense.

4.1.1. *Control sense of* over- *: opposition (≠)*

(16) *The trunks in the clearing had formed an ever-tightening ring which* <u>*threatened*</u> *to* **overpower** *him; to crush him with its living* <u>*might*</u>*. The forest had cornered its greatest* <u>*enemy, and would show*</u> <u>*no mercy*</u>*.*

<div align="right">C. Kelly, The forest of the night, 1991</div>

According to this model, *over-* has a control sense (16): TR *trunks* exerts influence, or control (namely proximal scene) over the LM *him,* who loses his might. In fact, in experiential terms, control and upward position are correlated. I suggest here a negative value of differentiation, since the quantitative degrees on the scale of power are comparatively different: one is higher than the other.

Furthermore, although the scale is upwardly oriented, it is nevertheless negatively oriented, because it has a detrimental effect. This may be confirmed by the following examples:

(17) *Powell was reliving the afternoon of April 9, 1988, when he won the world's greatest steeplechase on Rhyme' N' Reason. Suddenly, television captured the gap-toothed, moist-eyed smile of Andy Adams, and reality* **overwhelmed** *romance.*

<div align="right">BNC</div>

(18) *These figures appear to show that cocaine use has* **overtaken** *heroin use.*

<div align="right">The Criminal Law Review, 1985-1994</div>

4.1.2. *Excess sense of* over-

This refers to the 'over-and-above' sense in Tyler and Evans (2003), paraphrased by 'too much'. It means 'going beyond a designated point' considering TR is high-

er than LM, but within reach.

Moreau (2005) in a study of degrees *enough* and *too* provides a scalar reading in terms of adequacy / non adequacy, based on the idea of a subjective norm. The initial space is the accurate degree on a scale, and represents the norm. It is paraphrased by 'enough':

Orientation du   ← TOO   ← NOT ENOUGH   orientation du

petit quantificateur   grand quantificateur

ou de la   ou de la

propriété à   propriété à

valuation négative   valuation positive
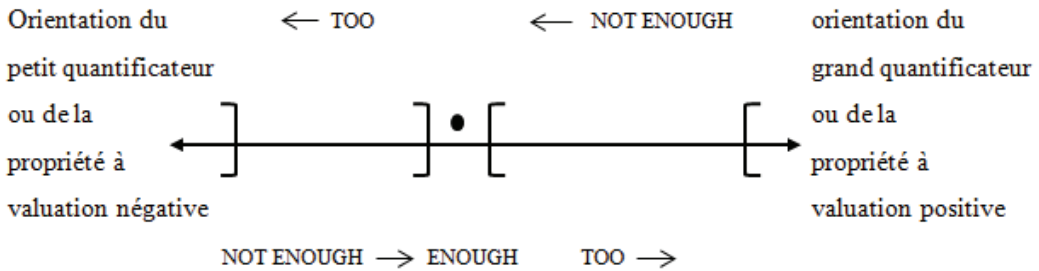
NOT ENOUGH → ENOUGH   TOO →

Figure 5: Representation of adequacy / inadequacy

The initial space (the norm) can be referred to as the LM. Underneath this stage (to the left of the point on the figure) is the neighbouring zone of insufficiency, paraphrased by 'not enough'; beyond this stage (to the right of the point on the figure) is the neighbouring zone of excess, paraphrased by 'too much'. These two zones are differentiated / non-identified from the referential point as they are not adequate. They represent a zone of inadequacy on both parts of the referential point.

(19) *Discrepancies at Foundations led the LSC to request an audit in February after there was <u>not enough</u> money to pay for ISAT test study booklets. It showed the principal **overdrew** an account by $8,010.*

                                           Chicago Sun-Times, 2004

In (19), it means that they drew out too much money, more than allowed. The quantitative degree of money withdrawn is not located in the zone of accuracy (INT). It has gone beyond the referential degree "enough" on an upwardly oriented scale.

In the following example, *over-* provides a frequency interpretation (A. McIntyre 2003):

(20) *The rugs produced today [...] are generally very attractive and well made; the dyes are of excellent quality, although there is a tendency by some groups to **overwash** their items, which weakens the pile.*

                        L. Allane, *Oriental rugs: a buyer's guide*, 1988

Over- means 'more often than the accurate frequency' ('what is needed'). The number of times people wash their items (20) goes beyond the norm.

4.2. Out-

Out- has in common with *over-* a sense of completion. But the core meaning of *out* is exteriority.

4.2.1. Over- *and* out-: *a diachronic link*

In the OED you read that "the earlier of these *out*-compounds were in nearly every instance preceded by a form with *over-*." (*outlive* was preceded in same sense by *overlive* (// French *survivre*); *outpass* ← *overpass* (// French *surpasser*); *outweigh* ← *overweigh*). "It would seem therefore that *out-* here takes the sense of 'beyond'." In the same way the OED writes that "*outlive* may come from some association with adverb *out* meaning 'so as to disappear into extinction' as if it were 'to live to see another *out* or at an end'."

This link is suggested by Tyler and Evans (2003) who mention a completion sense for the preposition *over* as in:

(21) *The conference is over.*

This is an aspectual value as it focalises on the endpoint of the process /hold a conference/ that has been reached, so that the external boundary of the process is closed. The completion sense of the preposition is evidence of the close link that exists between the prepositions *over* and *out,* which has an effect on the semanticism of the preverbs.

From the model of the protoscene, I suggest the protoscene of *out*:

● TR

_____
Distal scene

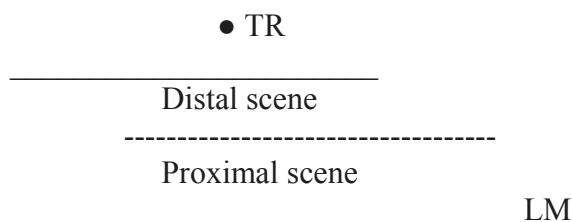Proximal scene
_____   LM

Figure 6: Protoscene of *out.*

REL → TR away from the LM / no potential contact with the LM.

FUNC → TR and LM not within each other's sphere of influence.

- The relational level (Relationship between TR and LM): TR is away from the LM, without potential contact with the LM.

- The functional aspect of this relation: TR and LM are not within each other's sphere of influence.

Here again, in this model the entity is localised in the exterior, beyond the boundary which represents the endpoint.

If we return to Desclès' model, the preverb *out-* localises the entity in the exterior. The crossing of the external boundary triggers the closure of it. The closure disconnects the entity from the initial domain. In that case, negation is seen as a phenomenon of disconnection.

4.2.2. Out-: *how to expel a rival*

The sense of 'surpassing' or 'beating' has to be retained as a central value, as it includes the semanticism of 'going beyond'. This probably comes from the fact that "in Latin verbs and nouns in *ex-* were constantly rendered by English verbs preceded by *out.*" (OED). This idea of competition involves the presence of two entities that are opposed to each other. This opposition is not limited to a non-identification, as it triggers the eviction of the rival, out of the domain. Disconnection creates a hiatus: it entails a lack of existence.

It has to be noticed that this notion of closure is syntactically coded by a resultative construction (which may include atypical uses in the transit of the verbs and in the properties of its complement). In this construction, *out-* localises the object in a final disconnected state. The focus is on the object that disappears.

This is confirmed, for instance in a few previous examples and the following:

(13) *my feet **outgrew** them*

The result in (13) is that the shoes were out of use. The boy just got rid of them.

(14) *She's **outlived** Edith*

The result in (14) is that Edith no longer exists, whereas her friend still lives.

(22) *I spent so much effort and expense to **outbid** my rivals, I never stopped for one moment to consider if I really wanted the prize.*

A. Wells, *Viking Magic*, 1993

Outbid my rivals (22) means that the goal was to eliminate the rivals. The OED gives this definition: "One who *outbids* another, bids *beyond* his rival until he drives him *out* of the contest."

Compare:

(23) *After so many close calls, he **overbid** the $600,000 asking price, and now it's nervous time.*

CBS_Morning, 2003.

Overbidding does not trigger the closure of the boundary, as the process goes on. The price is just different from the previous one (scale of quantity): non-identity value.

(24) *It was hard not to pick up speed as we made our way along it. Knobby forgot himself and stumbled into an awkward canter before he **outran** his legs and went body surfing on the harsh flooring of the tube.*

M. Flynn, *When the winds are all asleep,* 2009

Outran his legs (24) means that his legs were of no use, as if they had disappeared: disconnection.

(25) *Aksum had **outlasted** Jerusalem and Rome, going down in ruin only eighty years before the Norman conquest of Britain.*

W. Thesiger, *The life of my choice*, 1988

It means that Aksum replaced Jerusalem and Rome that had no more existence: disconnection.

The following example highlights this idea in which the rival is driven out of contest, having no more song to sing, no more argument, no more wit, no more force to fight:

(26) *"Though I have had no association with this hall, you would best invite me to do so now. I am meistersinger! I have **outsung**, **outargued, outwitted**, and **outfought** all of you in the meistersinger contest." "Outfought? Ha!" Gaston shouted, pushing his way back to the podium. "You mean **outbrawled** and **out-back-stabbed.**"*

J.R. King, *Heart of Midnight*, 1992

5. Conclusion

The purpose of this study has been to offer glimpses into negation through a lexical analysis of preverbs, which is seldom discussed in literature. It appears that a negative meaning can be retrieved in the domain of spatial representation, namely in preverbs, through a 'space grammar' framework.

As demonstrated in the above analyses, the preverbs under study, *over-* and *out-,* do not overtly code negation. The negative value is context-dependent as it is linked to the semanticism of its verbal base and complements. The preverbs *over-* and *out-* can encode the speaker's involvement, which is then assessed from a negative viewpoint in relation to a norm. In this way, the above schematisation, in so far as it deals with inference and metaphor, is cognitive in nature.

What can be ascertained from this study on negation is the present theoretical model of negation that provides the values of non-identity and disconnection, here exemplified through preverbs *over-* and *out-*. This viewpoint enters a wider definition of negation as the expression of 'what is not', whether it be opposed to a pre-existing entity (the norm), or completely lacking existence, being disconnected from its anchor.

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OVER- I *OUT-* KAO NIJEČNO ORIJENTIRANI OBILJEŽIVAČI

Ovaj se rad bavi pitanjem negacije kroz analizu dvaju obilježivača, glagolskih prefiksa *over-* i *out-*, koji nemaju inherentno niječno značenje, ali koji se ponašaju kao niječno orijentirani obilježivači. Kroz primjenu pristupa usmjerenog na govornika, ti se obilježivači tumače kao sredstvo procjene neke vrijednosti u odnosu na subjektivnu granicu. Različiti semantički stupnjevi definirani su kao pojave u pojmovnoj domeni te se negacija tako smatra izričajem promjene, koja je rezultat nadilaženja uobičajenih granica do te mjere da je moguće i izlaženje iz domene. Tako *overbook* i *overdo* primjerice, impliciraju pretjerivanje, dakle "neimanje očekivane vrijednosti". Navedeni obilježivači proučavaju se u kontekstu te su izdvojeni iz velikog korpusa govorenog i pisanog engleskoga.

Ključne riječi: glagolski prefiksi; niječni obilježivači; *over*; *out*.