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Cross-Linguistic Analysis of Light Verb Constructions: Collocational Patterns in Persian and English

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Abstract

Light Verb Constructions (LVCs) have garnered considerable attention in linguistic research, yet the study of co-selection between verbs and nouns within LVCs from a cross-linguistic perspective remains underexplored. This study addresses the interaction between LVC components, mainly focusing on Persian, which features a unique marginal verb structure that collates with specific nouns. This structure is similar to light verb constructions in English, though differences exist in the two languages' collocational patterns and lexical selection. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the collocational relationships within LVC components in Persian and English, identifying commonalities and distinct characteristics across these languages. The methodology employed in this study is corpus-based cross-linguistic analysis, utilizing a comparative approach to examine the collocational patterns between verbs and nouns in Persian and English LVCs. Data were drawn from linguistic corpora for each language and then analyzed to identify co-selection patterns and the underlying semantic relationships. The findings reveal a significant co-selection relationship between nouns and their constructions in LVCs across both languages, although the specific patterns vary according to each language's context. These results indicate that collocations within LVCs influence syntactic structure and affect semantic relationships and cross-linguistic understanding. This study highlights the importance of lexical co-selection in LVCs for cross-linguistic research, which, in turn, may deepen insights into the interaction between different languages. Extend cross-linguistic analysis to include a broader range of languages and explore contextual factors influencing co-selection in LVCs. This can benefit fields such as translation, foreign language learning, and the development of natural language processing technologies.

Keywords: *Collostructional analysis, Light verb constructions, Persian, Qualia structure, Role, and Reference Grammar*

A. Introduction

Light verbs are attested in many of the world's languages (Butt, 2003), and generally, there is agreement that light verbs contribute to the formation of complex predicates. Light verbs contribute to the predication but require a resolution of the argument structure composition and other elements within the complex predication. The grammatical structure is that of a single complex predicate. Light verbs always form a complex predicate. Butt (2003) makes a clear distinction between auxiliary verb constructions and constructions involving light verbs based on cross-linguistic evidence. In Leech et al. (2009), the authors look at grammatical change in 20th-century English. Among the most noteworthy recent changes in English grammar, they mention an increase in the number and types of multi-word verbs, such as phrasal verbs and *have/take/give a + noun*. This phenomenon is on the borderline of syntax and the lexicon. Leech

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(2009) stresses the importance of studying these 'expanded predicates' across various text types to see whether the frequency of use of the former depends on the latter. Light verbs modulate the event described by the matrix verb in a manner distinct from auxiliaries. In the research on the world language, apart from English, there is a language with many complex predicates in its usage. Persian also shows the common regularities between verb and noun choices in its verb-verb form. Their nominal nuclear junctures exhibit a great connection with English LVCs. So, the present study aims to. The present study aims to explore the light verb from the multi-language perspective, which is the comparison between Persian and English by exploring their features first and then discussing their common regularities

The study is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly summarizes previous research on complex structures and introduces the Role and Reference Grammar (RRG). Section 3 describes the research test and the classification of Persian and English LVCs. Section 4 reports the results and accounts for these findings by comparing Persian and English. Section 5 concludes the paper by summarizing the findings and pointing out the implications and limitations of this study.

The cross-linguistic study of Light Verb Constructions (LVCs) holds significant importance in linguistics, especially for understanding collocational patterns and lexical selection between verbs and nouns across different languages. In LVCs, the interaction between verbs and nouns often forms complex structures, where the meaning of a sentence depends on the co-selection and semantic relationship between its components. While LVCs have been widely studied in English, cross-linguistic research on these constructions remains limited, particularly in languages with distinct structural features like Persian. This research gap allows us to deepen our understanding of collocational patterns and the underlying syntactic and semantic structures of LVCs. By comparing LVCs in Persian and English, this study seeks to identify universal elements and unique characteristics within each language's collocational patterns, enhancing our understanding of syntactic-semantic interplay in verb-noun relationships.

The urgency of this study is evident in several aspects. First, it offers a more comprehensive understanding of LVCs, allowing us to identify universal principles and language-specific variations in verb-noun collocations. Second, the findings can be directly applied to translation and foreign language learning, as insights into specific collocational patterns and co-selection principles in LVCs help translators and language learners avoid misinterpretations arising from structural and semantic differences. Finally, this research is relevant to developing Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies, particularly improving machine translation models and pattern recognition in multilingual contexts. Information on cross-linguistic collocational patterns can increase accuracy in automated text processing and AI systems that require contextualized semantic understanding across languages. Thus, this comparative study on LVCs in Persian and English makes a valuable contribution to linguistic theory, language education, translation, and NLP technology.

B. Literature Review

The concept of Light Verb Constructions (LVCs) has been widely discussed in linguistic literature, originating with Jespersen, credited with coining the term "light verb" to describe English V+NP constructions, where a light verb pairs with a deverbal noun. Jespersen's term has since been adopted to analyze similar constructions across various languages. Notable examples include Grimshaw and Mester's (1988) study on Japanese suru 'do' in N+V

constructions, Rosen's (1989) work on Romance periphrastic causatives with verbs like make (V+V), Mohanan's (1988) analysis of complex predicates in Hindi N+V structures, and Butt's (1995) examination of Urdu V+V complex predicates. Collectively, these studies contribute to understanding "complex predicates," which refer to constructions involving multiple predicational elements—such as nouns, verbs, or adjectives—functioning as a single unit with a mono-clausal syntactic structure. The scope of research on LVCs is extensive, spanning both applied and theoretical domains. In applied linguistics, LVCs are explored in first language acquisition, language attrition, and cross-linguistic comparison. From a theoretical perspective, studies have focused on the semantic characteristics of light verbs (e.g., Brugman, 2011; Butt, 2010), entry constraints for internal deverbal nouns (Nickel, 1968; Wierzbicka, 1982; Family, 2008), and the pragmatics of construction and verb usage in comparative studies (Nickel, 1968; Ronan, 2019; Bonail, 2020). Research has demonstrated that LVCs play a unique role in linguistic ontology due to their specific form-meaning pairing.

Three core aspects characterize the distinctiveness of LVCs. First, regarding the source of constructional meaning, the light verb's semantic role is minimized, primarily to form the construction. In contrast, the noun is the semantic nucleus, carrying most of the construction's meaning. Second, the nouns in LVCs often function as verb-like elements, primarily through zero-conversion processes that enable them to adopt verbal meanings within the construction. Third, while not entirely void, the semantics of the light verbs vary across different LVCs. These semantic variations contribute to functional differentiation among similar LVCs, leading to "constructional competition," where different LVCs vie in collocational strength and attraction depending on their deverbal and nominal complements. The comparative approach used in this research adopts Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) (Van Valin & LaPolla, 1997; Van Valin, 2005), a monostratal syntactic theory that aligns each sentence with a semantic representation via a linking algorithm. This algorithm incorporates rules governing the syntax-semantics interface, with discourse-pragmatic factors influencing the linking. RRG offers a framework to understand LVCs without relying on abstract syntactic structures, focusing instead on a direct interface between syntactic and semantic representations. The organization of RRG is given in Figure 1.

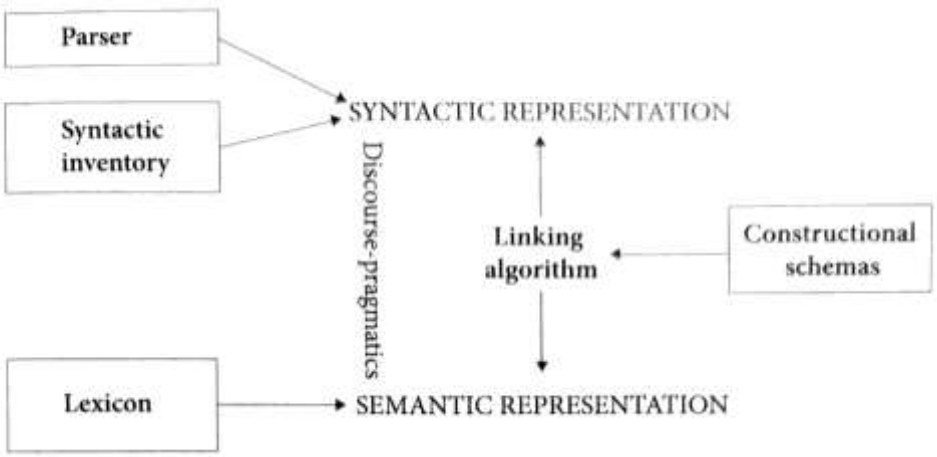

Figure 1. Organization of RRG (Van Valin, 2005)

The Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework offers a bidirectional linking algorithm that plays a crucial role in mapping between semantics and syntax. This algorithm

functions in two directions: it maps semantic representations to syntactic structures (semantics-to-syntax mapping). Also, it allows for the reverse process, linking syntactic representations back to semantic meanings (syntax-to-semantics mapping). This bidirectionality facilitates a deeper understanding of how linguistic elements function within sentence structures, providing a foundation for analyzing the relationship between meaning and grammatical form (Van Valin & LaPolla, 1997).

RRG's approach is heavily grounded in the Aktionsart classification of verbs, initially introduced by Vendler (1967) and later expanded upon by Dowty (1979). Aktionsart, meaning "form of action" in German, classifies verbs based on their inherent temporal properties and divides them into four main categories: states, activities, accomplishments, and achievements. This classification serves as a starting point for RRG's verb classification, offering insight into the temporal dynamics of verb meaning. Each Aktionsart type correlates with specific semantic features—such as [+static], [+punctual], and [+telic]—which indicate whether a verb has an inherent endpoint (telicity) or occurs at a specific moment (punctuality). According to Van Valin and LaPolla (1997), these universal features underscore the consistency of Aktionsart types across languages, making them essential in syntactic and semantic analysis. Table 1 (cited from Van Valin & LaPolla, 1997) illustrates the correspondence between Aktionsart classes and the states of affairs, which forms a foundational component of the present study's analysis.

Table 1. The relation between RRG and Aktionsart type

State-of-affairs type	Aktionsart type	RRG
Situation	State	[+static], [-telic], [-punctual]
Event	Achievement	[-static], [+telic], [+punctual]
Process	Accomplishment	[-static], [+telic], [-punctual]
State	Activity	[-static], [-telic], [-punctual]

(Valin & LaPolla, 1997)

C. Methods

To determine the Aktionsart type of a verb or predicate within the RRG framework, Van Valin and LaPolla (1997: 94) suggest several tests that are the modified form of those initially proposed by Dowty (1979). Even though these tests are valid cross-linguistically, there may still be a need to modify some for several languages to match them to their specific linguistic systems. In section 3.2, their modified forms are applied to the individual Persian light verbs to determine their Aktionsart class, and in section 3.3, they are applied to English LVCs.

1. The Five Aktionsart Tests in RRG

In Role and Reference Grammar (RRG), Van Valin (2005) suggests that the first step in analyzing a verb's stativity—determining if it is [-static] (indicating an event or process) or [+static] (indicating a state or non-event)—is to assess whether it can occur with the progressive aspect. Unlike English, Persian lacks a distinct progressive aspect form, utilizing the prefix mi- to mark an imperfect aspect (Rezai, 2003). However, Vahidian and Emrani (2000) assert that mi- does not explicitly indicate progressiveness in Persian. Rather, Persian employs grammaticalized expressions to convey progressive meaning, with this study adopting the phrase

der hale (‘in the process of’) to identify the Aktionsart of light verbs, in alignment with Rezai’s (2003) approach regarding the auxiliary verb dastan.

The second diagnostic proposed by Van Valin and LaPolla (1997) examines a verb’s compatibility with adverbs like vigorously, actively, and dynamically, which convey dynamic action and are thus indicative of the [-static] or [+dynamic] attribute of verbs. This test generally excludes state, achievement, and accomplishment verbs, as they lack dynamicity. In Persian, equivalent adverbs such as falane and ba qodraet serve as functional alternatives to these English adverbs. The third test focuses on whether the verb can co-occur with adverbs describing pace, such as slowly or quickly (Van Valin & LaPolla, 1997), which apply to [-static] verbs and distinguish [+punctual] from [-punctual] verbs. This test typically applies to accomplishment and activity verbs rather than to states or achievements. In Persian, the pace adverbs before (‘quickly’) and these (‘slowly’) fulfill a similar role, with these being essential for denoting achievement verbs.

The fourth diagnostic involves evaluating the verb's compatibility with duration adpositional phrases, such as for an hour, to determine telicity or the presence of a bounded interpretation. This test reflects whether the verb indicates a temporally extended state or event, distinguishing accomplishments, activities, and states ([-punctual]) from achievements ([+punctual]). In Persian, the phrase daraye yek saa (‘for an hour’) expresses this temporal duration. Finally, Van Valin and LaPolla (1997) propose using the phrase in an hour to test telicity in accomplishment verbs, identifying whether the verb denotes a bounded, time-specific event. In Persian, this telic quality is indicated by the expression deer yek (‘in an hour’).

Light verbs are among the most frequent verbs in the lexicon of many languages. In English, according to the PropBank corpus (Palmer et al., 2005), light verbs such as take, have, make, do, and give are highly frequent, with give being notably common in light verb constructions (Wittenberg, 2016; Wittenberg et al., 2014). This study compares Persian nominal nuclear junctures (NNJs) with English light verb constructions (LVCs), primarily focusing on the verbs has and give, which are frequently used in both languages.

2. Corpus and Tools

The data for this research were obtained through constructional analysis of the British National Corpus (BNC). The corpus was preprocessed and analyzed using Coll. analysis 3.2, an R script developed by Stefan Gries that performs automated constructional analysis on input data. Collostructional analysis encompasses three primary algorithms—collexeme analysis, distinctive collexeme analysis, and co-varying collexeme analysis—each applying an association-measure-based approach to examine co-occurrences of constructions that vary in levels of schematicity (Gries, 2023). These algorithms differ in how they assess co-occurrence units within the data. For this study, collexeme analysis was used to explore interactions between words and constructions. This approach yields insights into specific preferences or restrictions linked to particular constructional slots, highlighting how certain lexical items may be more likely or less likely to fill these slots based on usage patterns.

3. Research Questions

This research aims to investigate Persian deverbal nouns, exploring their structures, patterns, and functions within Persian grammar. Deverbal nouns—nouns derived from verbs—are crucial in understanding how actions and processes are nominalized or transformed into noun forms within a language. By examining the characteristics of Persian deverbal nouns, this study

seeks to provide insights into their morphological and syntactic behaviors and identify any patterns that might be specific to Persian or similar to those in other languages, such as English. The study explores the standard collocational features of Light Verb Constructions (LVCs) and deverbal nouns in Persian and English. The collocational analysis identifies how deverbal nouns and LVCs interact with specific verbs or other elements in typical usage. This comparison is valuable because it allows us to see whether similar collocational tendencies or structures exist in both languages, suggesting cross-linguistic patterns or universal principles in forming and using LVCs and deverbal nouns. Finally, by comparing Persian and English, the study examines structural and functional similarities between the two languages, contributing to a deeper understanding of how these linguistic forms manifest and co-occur cross-linguistically.

D. Findings and Discussion

1. The Persian nominal nuclear junctures- *dastæn* 'have'

Test 1: The use of the progressive expression *dær hal-e* 'in process of'

a. **an*[1] *mærd dær hal-e dæst daštæn dær in jenayæt æst.*
DEM man in process-Ez hand have-INF in DEM crime be.PRS.3SG
'That man is being involved in (committing) this crime.'

a. **dust-æm dær hal-e niyaz daštæn be mašin æst.*
friend-1SG in process-Ez need have.INF to car be-PRS.3SG
'My friend is needing the car.'

a. *ab dær hal-e jæryan dæštæn dær rudxane æst.*
water in process-Ez flowing have-INF in river be.PRS.3SG
'The water is flowing in the river.'

a. *dust-æm dær hal-e šerkæt daštæn dær mærasem æst.*
friend-1SG in process-Ez participation have-INF in ceremony be.PRS.3SG
'My friend is taking part in the ceremony.'

The first test is administered to determine the light verb's capability to co-occur in the progressive aspect, in other words, whether it is stative. As is clear from examples (test 1), only the nominal LVCs with a process noun (jæryan 'flowing' in 3a.) and an action noun (serkæt 'participation' in 4a.) are grammatical using this test. The other two sentences with the concrete noun (dæst 'hand' in 1a.) and the abstract noun (niyaz 'need' in 2a.) are unacceptable, though the light verbal element in all these nominal NJs is the same. At this stage, it might be hypothesized that the nominal part of the NJ is an important element in characterizing the verb class of the verbal construction but this hypothesis needs more evidence.

Test 2: The use of the adverb *fæalane* 'actively'/*ba qodræt* 'with strength'

b. **an mærd dær in jenayæt fæalane dæst dar-æd.*
DEM man in this crime actively hand have.PRS-3SG
'That man is actively involved in (committing) this crime.'

b. **dust-æm be mašin fæalane/ba qodræt niyaz dar-æd.*
friend-1SG to car actively/with strength need have.PRS-3SG
'My friend needs a car actively/strongly.'

b. **ab dær rudxane fœalane jæryan dar-æd.*
water in river actively flowing have.PRS-3SG
'The water actively flows in the river.'

b. *dust-æm fœalane dær mærasem šerkæt dar-æd.*
friend-1SG actively in ceremony participation have.PRS-3SG
'My friend participated actively in the ceremony.'

Test 3: The use of the adverb *besoræt/aheste* 'quickly/slowly':

c. **an mærd dær in jenayæt aheste dæst dar-æd.*
DEM man in this crime slowly hand have.PRS-3SG
'That man is involved in (committing) this crime slowly.'

c. **dust-æm be mašin aheste niyaz dar-æd.*
friend-1SG to car slowly need have.PRS-3SG
'My friend needs a car slowly.'

c. *ab dær rudxane besoræt jæryan dar-æd.*
water in river quickly flowing have.PRS-3SG
'The water is flowing in the river quickly.'

c. *dust-æm besoræt dær mærasem šerkæt dar-æd.*
friend-1SG quickly in ceremony participation have.PRS-3SG
'My friend participates in the ceremony quickly.'

Test 5: The use of the expression *dær yek saæt* 'in an hour':

e. **an mærd dær yek saæt dær in jenayæt dæst dar-æd.*
DEM man in an hour in this crime hand have.PRS-3SG
'That man is involved in this crime in an hour.'

e. **dust-æm dær yek saæt be mašin niyaz dar-æd.*
friend-1SG in an hour to car need have.PRS-3SG
'My friend needs the car in an hour.'

e. *ab*[2] *dær yak saæt dær rudxane jæryan dar-æd.*
water in an hour in river flowing have.PRS-3SG
'The water flows in the river in an hour.'

e. **dust-æm dær yek saæt dær mærasem šerkæt dar-æd.*
friend-1SG in an hour in ceremony participation have.PRS-3SG
'My friend participates in the ceremony in an hour.'

An important consideration here is that, in nominal light verb constructions (examples b, c, d, e), the light verb alone does not function as the entire predicate; instead, the entire nominal juncture (NJ) serves as the sentence's predicate. Therefore, the overall meaning of the construction emerges from the interaction between both components, as also emphasized by Saeedi (2009a). If the results of this study support this hypothesis, it would indicate that the light verb alone does not determine the verb class of the juncture; instead, the nominal element plays a crucial role in this classification. After applying five diagnostic tests to determine the Aktionsart type of nuclear junctures containing the verb dastæn (‘have’) combined with various

noun types—specifically, concrete, abstract, process, and action nouns—the results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Results of Five Aktionsart Tests on the LVC with the Stative/Transitive Verb Dastæn ('Have') and Four Main Noun Types

Noun type	**Concrete N.** ***Dæst*** **'hand'**	**Abstract N.** ***Niyaz*** **'need'**	**Process N.** ***Jæryan*** **'flowing'**	**Action N.** ***serkæt*** **'participation'**
dær hal-e **'in process of'**	NO	NO	YES	YES
fœalane/ba qodrœt **'actively'**	NO	NO	NO	YES
aheste/besorœt **'slowly'**	NO	NO	YES	YES
Bœraye yek saœt **'for an hour'**	NO	YES	NO	YES
dær yek saœt **'in an hour'**	NO	NO	YES	NO
Aktionsart Type	Achievement	State	Accomplishment	Activity

As evident from this Table, the first test shows that only the concrete and abstract nouns are excluded with the progressive expression *dær hale 'in the process of.'* The second test shows that the adverb *fœalane* 'actively' may only be used with the action nominal. Using the quality adverbs 'slowly' or besorœt, the third test quickly excludes the concrete and abstract nouns. The fourth test shows the adverbial expression *bœraye yek saœt* 'for an hour' may only occur with abstract and action nominals. The fifth and final test shows that *dær yek saœt* 'in an hour' may be used with the process noun *Jæryan* 'flowing' but not with concrete, abstract, and action nouns. Thus, it can be concluded that the LV das*tœn* 'have' forms NJs of different verb classes when used with different nominal elements. This indicates that the whole nominal NJ aspect type is not predictable from the full-heavy verb form.

2. The English Light verb

The English constructions under consideration **have** the form 'NP have + Aux a V-Infinitive' (where 'NP had a V' implies 'NP V-ed'). This excludes expressions like They had an argument, a stomach upset, or a good dinner, which is combined with a deverbal noun. One clear semantic difference between simple-verb and LVC is aspectual: the periphrastic construction presents the action (or the process) as limited in time.

(1) * I have a long look at.
I have a long walk/swim.
(2) *They had a lengthy walk.
They had a lengthy discussion.

If one swam for ten hours, one would hardly be said to have swum; if one spent ten hours in bed, one would hardly be described as having had a lie-down. Moreover, one cannot say? I had a long lie-down, a long shave, a long look at the letter, or a long smoke. Note that one can take a long walk or swim. This analysis is supported by the fact that while one can have a long walk and a long swim, one can hardly *have a lengthy walk or swim. However, nouns referring to actions combine both long and long. In summary, having a V construction implies that the action goes on for a limited period. However, it cannot be momentary. It must continue for some time, though not for a long time. Verbs that cannot take adverbial expressions indicating duration, e.g., for ten minutes, cannot occur in this frame: thus *She was getting up for ten minutes. For example, *have a walk, a swim, a run, a jog, or a lie-down*. The verbs in this sub-construction are intransitive; they do not require a second argument except to designate a place. Admittedly, intransitive verbs are seldom telic; however, they can easily be made telic using adverbial modifiers, i.e., they can be used in telic verb phrases.

(3) *Ben worked in half an hour
*Ben had a work.

In general, only two kinds of intransitive verbs of intentional action sound truly natural in they *have a V construction*: first, verbs whose very meaning implies aimlessness (*play, stroll, perhaps daydream*), and second, verbs referring to activities which are generally regarded as recreational or relaxing (in particular, those involving the whole body, such as *walk, swim, lie down*). One could hardly *have a speak, a spit, or a pray*: the verbs *speak, spit*, and *pray* do not imply aimlessness, and speaking, praying, and spitting are not regarded as recreational activities. There are 28 collexemes calculated from the BNC corpus with the help of collexeme analysis, the details of which are given in Table 3.

Table 3. The frequency of information on have_con is in Collexeme Analysis.

words	word.freq	obs.freq	exp.freq	coll. strength	notes
record	29496	26	1.10	26.01	
chat	2220	12	0.08	21.71	
look	120569	33	4.50	17.31	
grasp	2408	8	0.09	13.02	Understand complicated.
regard	14625	12	0.55	12.06	have feelings of dislike or respect
appeal	14489	10	0.54	9.44	
start	48478	15	1.81	8.99	
smell	5215	7	0.19	8.75	
remedy	2896	4	0.11	5.28	
ride	7041	5	0.26	5.08	
encounter	4140	4	0.15	4.68	
guess	4525	4	0.17	4.53	
taste	5541	4	0.21	4.19	
laugh	10842	5	0.41	4.19	
tinge	370	2	0.01	4.03	

words	word.freq	obs.freq	exp.freq	coll. strength	notes
touch	12206	5	0.46	3.95	
twist	2741	3	0.10	3.78	
debate	9392	4	0.35	3.32	
run	45056	7	1.68	2.75	
row	7206	3	0.27	2.58	
escape	7275	3	0.27	2.56	
supply	16854	4	0.63	2.40	
share	27326	5	1.02	2.40	
disdain	279	1	0.01	1.98	
respect	12357	3	0.46	1.93	
cast	5038	2	0.19	1.81	throw sb/sth
cuddle	429	1	0.02	1.80	To curl or snuggle up into a comfortable position
fear	14476	3	0.54	1.75	
bash	481	1	0.02	1.75	hit sth hard roughly or carelessly.

The data in Table 3 presents a constructional analysis of the verb "have" combined with various nouns, focusing on the frequency and strength of each noun's association with "have." The word frequency column shows the general frequency of each noun in the corpus, while the observed frequency indicates how often each noun appears in combination with "have." This observed frequency is then compared to the expected frequency, which reflects how often each noun would theoretically pair with "have" based on independent usage frequencies. The constructional strength quantifies the strength of each noun's association with "have," with higher values indicating stronger, more idiomatic pairings. For example, nouns such as "record" (26.01), "chat" (21.71), and "look" (17.31) have high constructional strength scores, suggesting that phrases like "have a record," "have a chat," and "have a look" are common and idiomatic in English. Conversely, nouns with lower constructional strength scores (e.g., "fear" and "bash") are less strongly associated with "have," indicating that these combinations are less idiomatic or only used in specific contexts. The notes column provides additional information, clarifying how some of these collocations are understood in English (e.g., "have a look" as "observe" or "understand" and "have a cuddle" as "snuggle up comfortably"). The data reveals that specific nouns form strong, semantically stable collocations with "have," reflecting both their idiomatic nature and contextual coherence in English usage.

Table 4. The Semantic Preference Between Light Verbs and Nouns.

	N_{ver}	N_{cre}	N_{dic}	N_{con}	$N_{semi-vol}$	N_{vol}
Have	5	2	4	7	6	4

a) Nouns denoting verbal/non-verbal expression (N_{ver}): *Have a debate*
b) Nouns denoting **creation and transformation** (N_{cre}): *have a state*
c) Nouns **denoting** the physical action (N_{dic}): *Have a look*
d) Nouns denoting **contact and effects** (N_{con}): *Have a touch*
e) Nouns denoting the action of **semi-volitional activity** ($N_{semi-vol}$): *have an appeal*
f) Nouns denoting the action of a Volitional state (N_{vol}): *have a regard*

In Table 4, the col lexemes of *LVC* are classified into different fields by semantic preferences. It is a convenient way to account for the different ranges of collocability of the function verbs. The examples show that not all function verbs can collocate with all noun classes. Thus, the semantic classes to which the nouns used in complex structures belong can be used as parameters to differentiate the verbs.

E. Conclusion

This study has shown that not all noun types are compatible with all verb classes in forming nominal junctures, as the semantic properties of the nouns play a crucial role in determining whether a particular noun-verb combination can form a cohesive compound or nuclear juncture. By examining the qualia structure proposed by Pustejovsky (1991) and incorporating it into the Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework, this study highlights the importance of noun semantics in influencing verb selection restrictions. The qualia structure, with its constitutive, formal, telic, and agentive roles, provides a framework to assess the selection restrictions of verbs, particularly how each noun's telic role (purpose and function) impacts the aspectual characteristics and transitivity interpretation of the overall construction. The analysis demonstrates that action nouns are incompatible with state predicates, defined by their [+static] features, due to their inherent dynamic properties. Similarly, activity and achievement LVCs do not form with process nouns due to the qualia structure and telic role of these noun types. Conversely, activity LVCs involve action nouns, accomplishment LVCs involve process nouns, and state and achievement LVCs involve abstract nouns.

This research has only begun to explore the complex, bidirectional interaction between Light Verb Constructions (LVCs) and deverbal nouns across multiple languages. Future studies should expand the language sample to include additional languages and a broader array of noun-verb combinations to understand these interactions better. Such research could refine our understanding of the selection restrictions and semantic compatibility between LVCs and deverbal nouns. Additionally, further investigation into the role of qualia structures across languages would be beneficial, particularly in how they shape aspectual properties and determine the potential for creating compound junctures in various linguistic contexts. Expanding this line of inquiry would contribute to a more comprehensive model of LVCs and deverbal nouns in cross-linguistic semantics and syntax.

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