The encyclopaedic approach to semantic structure II: two theories

1 Frames
Identify the frames associated with the following lexical items:

(1) Saturday
(2) breakfast
(3) widow
(4) celibacy
(5) (to) lend

2 Frames and participant roles
Provide a Frame Semantics analysis of the distinction between the verbs (to) borrow and (to) lend. You will need to say which participant role(s) each verb is associated with and provide evidence with example sentences.

3 Framing and culture
Now consider the lexical item prime minister.

a. Say which frame this belongs to, giving as much detail as possible in terms of other elements.
b. In what way is this frame culture-dependent?

4 Base, domain and domain matrix
What is the distinction between a base, a domain and a domain matrix? Provide examples to illustrate.
5 Domains and hierarchies of complexity

a. Provide hierarchies of complexity for the following lexical items:

(1) toe
(2) spark plug
(3) (a) second [= unit of time]
(4) prime minister

b. Did you have any difficulties establishing a hierarchy of complexity for prime minister? Comment on why this might be.

c. Provide a domain matrix for prime minister. Does this shed any light on why you may have had difficulties in b?

d. Now consider the domain matrices for president and monarch, respectively. What are your assumptions in terms of political systems?

6 Profile/base and TR–LM organisation

Invoking Langacker’s notions of profile and base and TR–LM organisation, consider the following sentences which all relate to aspects of the same scene.

(1) Tommy punctured Monica’s valentine balloon.
(2) Monica’s valentine balloon was punctured by Tommy.
(3) Monica’s valentine balloon got punctured.

a. How do these examples give rise to different construals?

Now consider the following example:

(4) Monica’s valentine balloon is punctured.

b. What is the difference between (4) and (3)?

c. How might you account for this in terms of profile and base organisation?