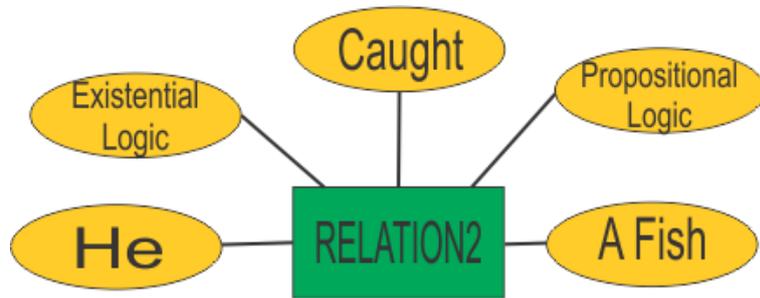


A Simple Case



I hope you can see that “he couldn’t catch a fish” is pretty easy.

I prefer “bet” as a good example of a relation with multiple objects

“I bet you any money your horse won’t win”

but “pay” shows the interaction of relations.

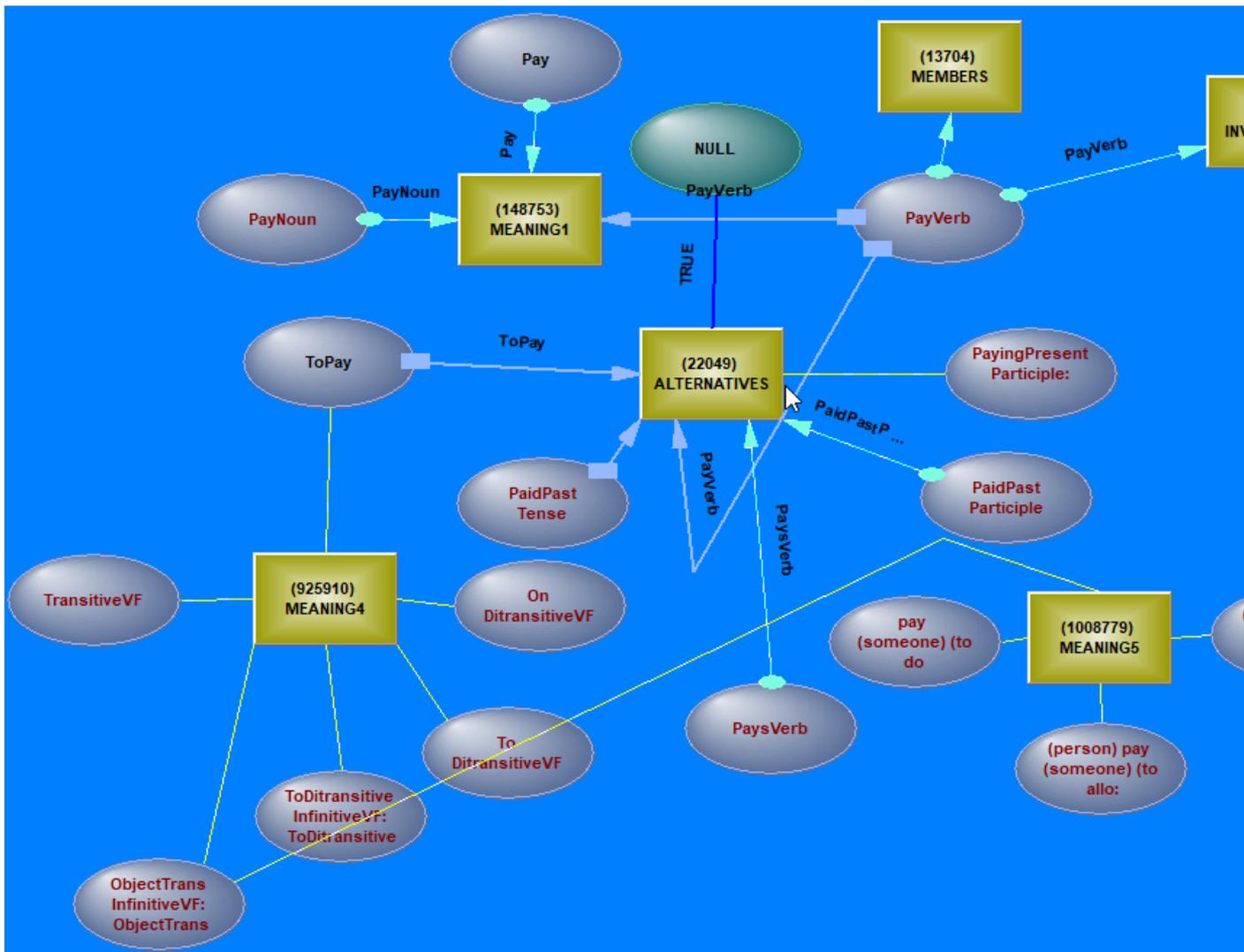
Pay can be a noun or a verb, then for a verb there is a layer of verbforms, then a layer of definitions for the different verbforms (a noun can be a simple noun, or a noun supporting a clause or infinitive).

Fred paid John \$50 to mow the lawn.

Fred’s mower was faulty, and John was injured.

Fred paid John \$50,000 to avoid a lawsuit.

ToPay has five verb forms (out of 80), including two TransInfinitive forms – one where the Infinitive takes the subject of the verb as its subject, one where the Infinitive takes the object of the verb as its subject. It needs to decide between the two so it can finish building the sentence. I have put in some breadcrumbs connecting Fred and an injured John, so Fred is the one trying to avoid the lawsuit. If it can’t finish, it suspends that sentence and moves onto the next one, coming back if it has more information.



The machine has access to 80,000 definitions, built in the same way, with objects and connections.

An asocial machine can't grasp what "dance" refers to above.

"Dance" (the noun) has seven meanings, including "a set of lively movements resembling a dance". It can't be "(of a person) move in a quick and lively way", unless we allow the machine to think of itself as a person.

The system also knows about figurative use.

But it is asocial.

There is a team at OED making sure the dictionary is up to date – sounds social enough to me. There are probably 100 man-years of effort in the dictionary, obviously based on data, but where a person has winkled out the different meanings ("set" is the champion, with 74).

But it doesn't know about feelings.

We are interested in complex specifications, not what to say to someone on Facebook.

You might look at our blog

(<https://www.blogger.com/u/1/blog/post/edit/8946867322720802128/566232823621654060>)

on prepositions to see how active they are

or what Orion Active Structure is about - <https://www.semanticstructure.com/what-is-orion-for/>