On representing semantic maps

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Problems with terminology

- **Terminological proliferation**
  - one function, many terms

- **Terminological imprecision**
  - one term which has a precise meaning but which is used differently (or more widely) in actual fact
Terminological proliferation

* deontic modality
* root modality
* dynamic modality
* agent-oriented modality
* participant-oriented modality
* non-epistemic modality
Terminological imprecision

* Optative mood
  * “the wish or hope of the speaker expressed in a main clause” (Bybee et al. 1994:179)
  * “The morpheme labeled optative [in Athabaskan] is used to express wishes and desires, incorporating notions of volition, necessity, desirability, and futurity.” (Rice 2000:249)
Semantic maps

▶ Visual representation of the semantic range of linguistic elements

▶ Used in typology for cross-linguistic and diachronic purposes

▶ Useful to circumvent terminological problems
Composition

- A domain
- functions of that domain
- means of connecting functions
- linguistic elements
Realis and Irrealis

- Linguistic marking of real and unreal events
- Held to be a fundamental property of language and cognition
Irrealis in New Guinea

• Based on Bugenhagen (1994)

• data from seven languages

• seven functions are mapped
Semantic map for Realis - Irrealis
Semantic map for Realis - Irrealis
Sinaugoro

Int.

2 1 3

R

6 7

I
Sursurunga
Mangseng

unm.  don’t  aro

2  1  3  6  7
Nakanai

unm.

ge
Muyuw

unm.
Manam

Diagram showing connections between nodes labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, with edges indicating relationships between them.
Sinaugoro