

Exploring the *x's way* construction

ABSTRACT

The *x's way* construction has been repeatedly reconnoitered and explored by quite a number of authors, including Ray Jackendoff, Noam Chomsky, Adele Goldberg, Beth Levin and Malka Rappaport and Hagit Borer.

The construction, which is syntactically and semantically peculiar, has the knack of frisking its naughty- and slippery- way into novels, magazine articles, textbooks and other kind of texts. It constitutes a fairly outrageous example of mismatch between syntax and semantics. Hence, our interest in examining it in some depth.

We assume that the construction denotes an event and, strange though it may seem, events constitute grammatical objects. It is from this perspective that we intend to tackle the *x's way* construction.

We will examine various examples of the construction and will deal with the semantic requirements imposed by the structure on the verbs and paths, without losing sight of the pragmatic constraints posed by this idiomatic device.

We will also go over a few alternative analyses that have been proposed but which we discard.

This venture will take us straight into the world of events as grammatical objects, by-passing UTAH and the basic assumptions of argument selection and right into the heart of semantics and cognition.