

Charles Fillmore (1929–2014) was an American linguist who, at the beginning of his career, formulated the case grammar theory, which was based on the assumptions made by generative grammar. Subsequently, however, he started to criticize generativist account of semantics and accepted some premises of the cognitive approach. As a result of this progress, Fillmore proposed the frame semantics theory, which was later used to develop the FrameNet lexical database.

This thesis follows the gradual change of Fillmore's linguistic approach, investigates its causes and illustrates the method on selected case studies. It also shows the practical application of Fillmore's current theory in the FrameNet database. Moreover, the thesis shows in which aspects Fillmore's linguistic model might enhance further linguistic research, and introduces several approaches and projects inspired by Fillmore's thoughts.