

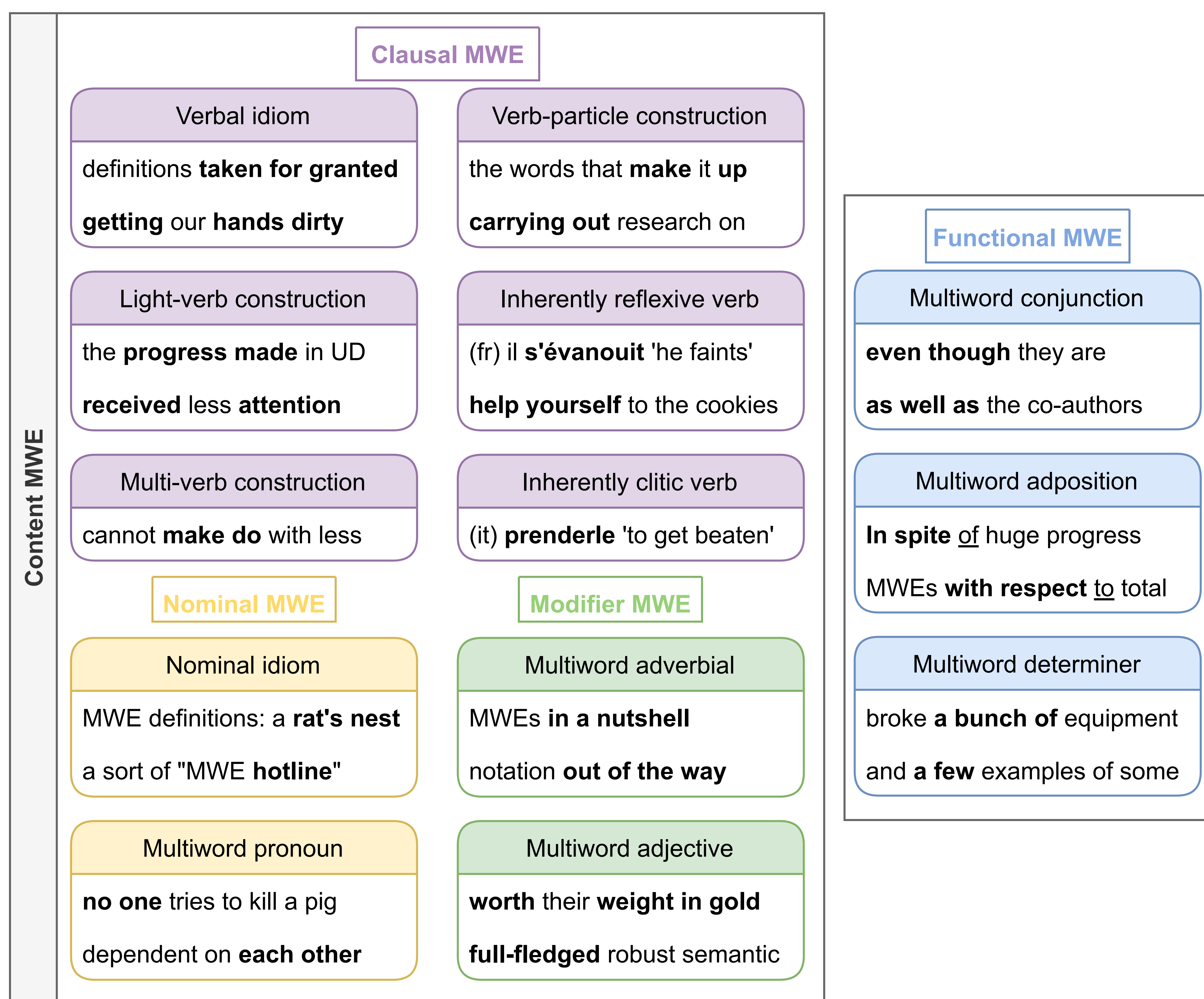
A taxonomy proposal for multiword expressions

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In a nutshell

- Multiword expressions (MWEs) defy attempts to categorise them into **clear-cut categories**
- My taxonomy proposal is **inspired by UD's typology-guided classification** for single words
- I discuss some corner cases, mostly in English – please **add examples** in your languages:
 - Not covered yet, hard to classify, borderline, endemic, exogenous, funny ...*
- A **cross-lingually consistent taxonomy** can inform annotation guidelines and lexicon design



The apples of discord



- Nominal idioms vs. **compounds**: word formation process or MWEs?
- Multiword **named entities** and **terms** are excluded: where is the border?
- Adjectival MWEs: modify **only nominals** / Adverbial MWEs: modify other categories
- Selected prepositions**: **in addition to** (adverbial) vs. **with respect to** (adposition)
a few apples (determiner) vs. **to eat a lot** (adverbial) vs. **a lot of food** (adverbial)
- Idiomaticity tests for **multiword pronouns** and **conjunctions** → closed lists?