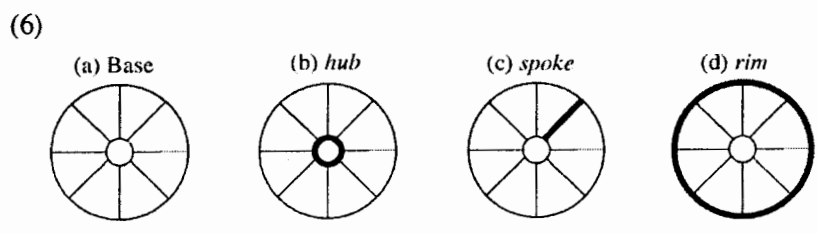


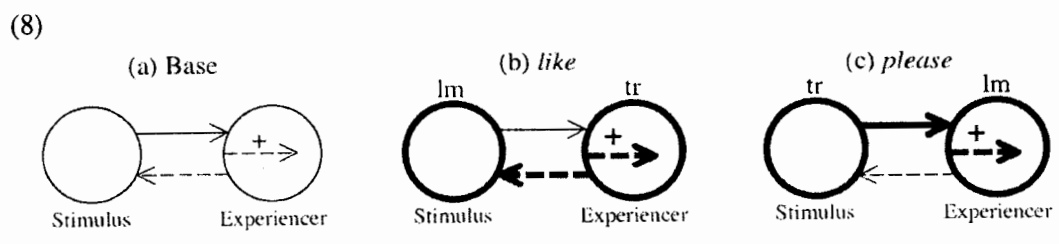
# The Conceptual Basis of Grammatical Structure

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- (1)(a) As viewed in cognitive linguistics, language is all about meaning, which resides in **conceptualization**.
- (b) Cognition being both **embodied** and **contextually embedded**, conceptualization is a primary means of engaging both the real and constructed worlds.
- (c) It subsumes any kind of mental experience (sensory, motor, emotive, intellectual) as well as apprehension of the context in all its dimensions (physical, psychological, social, cultural, discourse).
  
- (2)(a) It is claimed in Cognitive Grammar that lexicon, morphology, and syntax form a continuum consisting solely of **assemblies of symbolic structures** (constructions).
- (b) A **symbolic structure** is the pairing of a *semantic structure* and a *phonological structure*.
- (c) Thus all grammatical elements and structures are meaningful.
  
- (3)(a) **Construal**: our capacity to conceive and portray the same situation in alternate ways.
- (b) Dimensions of construal include **perspective** (e.g. *vantage point, local vs. global view*) and **prominence** (e.g. *profiling, trajector/landmark alignment*).
  
- (4)(a) *Jack was sitting to the left of Jill.*
- (b) *The trail {is rising/rises} very quickly.* *local view* *global view*
  
- (5) Within the conceptual content it evokes as the basis for its meaning (its **conceptual base**), an expression **profiles** some substructure. The profile is what the expression *designates* (or refers to), and as such is a *focus of attention* with respect to the symbolizing relationship.



- (7)(a) An expression can profile either a **thing** or a **relationship** (abstractly defined).
- (b) An expression's profile determines its **grammatical category**: a noun profiles a *thing*; a verb profiles a *process* (a relationship scanned sequentially in its evolution through time); adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions profile *non-processual relationships*.



- (9)(a) With expressions that profile relationships, there is usually a *primary focal participant*, the **trajector** (tr), which the expression serves to locate or characterize.
- (b) A *secondary focal participant* evoked for this purpose is called a **landmark** (lm).
- (c) A *subject* is a nominal expression which specifies the trajector of a profiled relationship; an *object* is one which specifies a landmark.

(10) Conceptualization is **dynamic**: it has a time course, and how it unfolds through processing time is one dimension of construal and linguistic meaning.

(11)(a) *Some expensive-looking suits were in the closet.*

(b) *In the closet were some expensive-looking suits.*

*dynamicity of conceptualization*

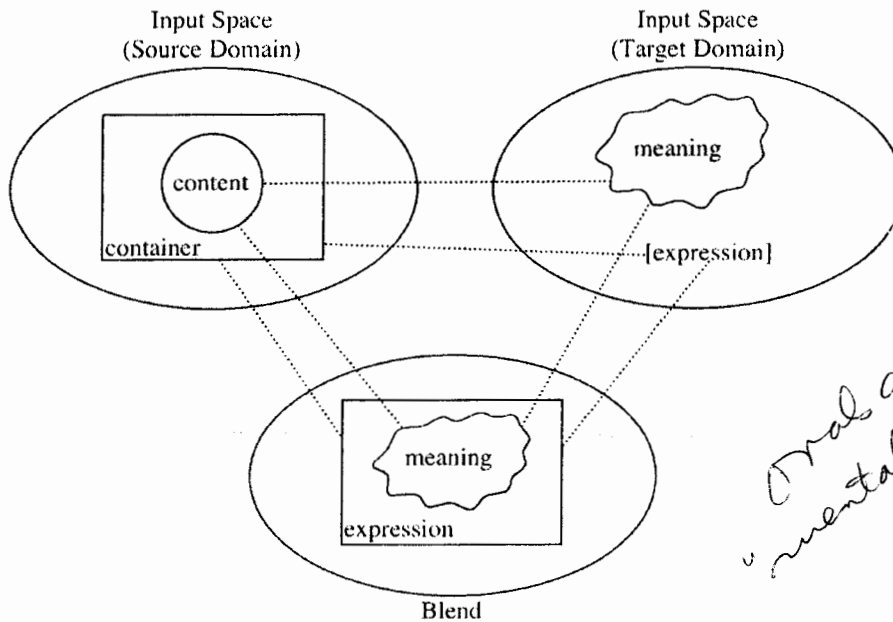
(12) **Imaginative capacities**: metonymy, metaphor, blending, mental spaces, fictivity.

(13) Rather than being *containers* for meaning, linguistic expressions serve as prompts for the *construction* of meaning. **Metonymy** consists in specifically mentioning one entity as a way of mentally accessing some other entity within the conceptual complex it evokes.

(14) *They just turned off the temple.* *Monks temple lights*

(15) **Metaphor** is a conceptual phenomenon independent of particular expressions. It consists in a set of mappings between a *source domain* and a *target domain* partially understood in terms of it. The result is a *blend*.

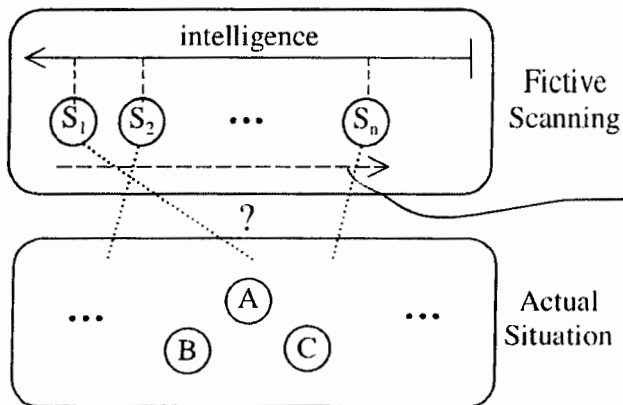
(16)



*"Blends are mental spaces"*

- (17)(a) **Mental spaces** are separate “working areas”, each hosting a conceptual structure representing some facet of an overall conception.
- (b) Though each has a measure of autonomy, a crucial factor is how the spaces are related to one another—the space **configuration**.
- (c) Aspects of this configuration are (i) the *correspondences* between elements of the various spaces, (ii) the *status* of each space (e.g. real vs. imaginative), and (iii) how they derive from one another.
- (18) Even when talking about **actual** entities, we commonly do so by means of expressions that refer directly to **fictive** (or **virtual**) ones. They often evoke *covert imagined scenarios* as the basis for their semantic and grammatical coherence.
- (19) *There’s a house every now and then through the valley.*
- (20)(a) *The balloon rose quickly.* [actual motion (perfective)]
- (b) *The trail rose quickly near the summit.* [virtual motion (perfective)]
- (c) *The trail rises quickly near the summit.* [virtual motion (imperfective)]
- (21)(a) Perfective virtual motion is generated by the local view of someone moving along a spatial path. The virtually moving entity consists of the segments of the path visible at each successive moment, fictively identified as being the same entity. The fictive motion is profiled.
- (b) Imperfective virtual motion is generated by mentally scanning along the expanse of a spatially extended entity, in building up to a full conception of its configuration. This global configuration is profiled.
- (22)(a) *His forehead rises steeply near the hairline.* [imperfective virtual motion]
- (b) *\*His forehead is rising steeply near the hairline.* [perfective virtual motion]
- (23)(a) *This road goes along the coast for a while and then turns inland.*
- (b) *The fence goes all around the estate.*
- (c) *The scar goes all the way from his knee to his ankle.*
- (d) *The scar goes all the way from his ankle to his knee.*
- (24)(a) *From time to time, she has brilliant insights.*
- (b) *Through the centuries, we have had many great leaders.*
- (c) *Every year my Christmas letter is longer.*
- (d) *The president’s plane keeps getting more luxurious.*
- (25)(a) *From one store to the next, prices vary greatly.*
- (b) *Quality improves with the more expensive brands.*
- (c) *As body size increases, the average gestation period gets longer.*
- (d) *From the brightest student in the class to the dumbest, they all work hard.*

(26)



Fictive Scanning

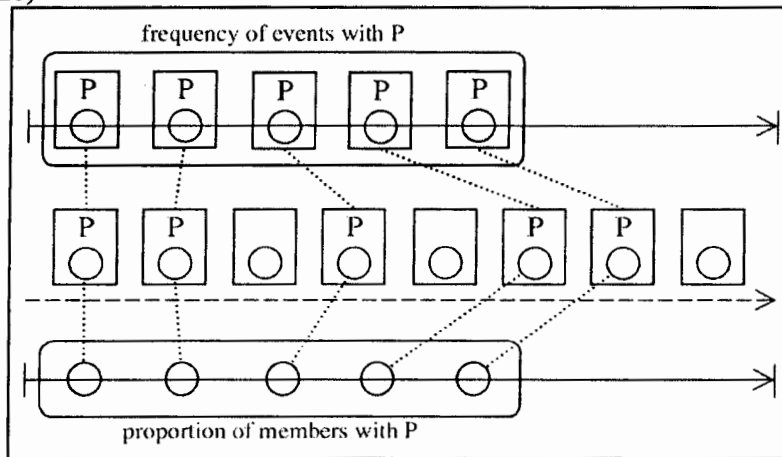
Actual Situation

*path of mental scanning*

- (27)(a) A linguistic theorist is **always** arrogant.  
 (b) A basketball player is **usually** tall.  
 (c) A calico cat is **often** unfriendly.  
 (d) A politician is **seldom** honest.

- [= **All** linguistic theorists are arrogant.]  
 [= **Most** basketball players are tall.]  
 [= **Many** calico cats are unfriendly.]  
 [= **Few** politicians are honest.]

(28)

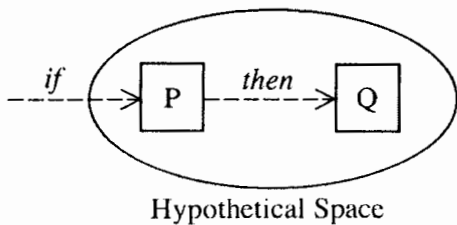


Fictive Examination Scenario

- = category member
- P = property
- = examination event

(29) *If he's a linguistic theorist, then he must be arrogant.*

(30)



(31) Jack is *still* working on his paper, but Jill has *already* finished hers.

(32)(a) She can't stand boxing, football, or hockey, and golf is *still* too violent for her.

(b) Forget about whisky—beer is *already* more than he can handle.

*mentally scanning  
along a scale*

(33) *Once again*, adverbs canonically used with respect to profiled, onstage occurrences come to be used instead for an aspect of the offstage conceptualization involved in their apprehension.

(34)(a) A verb profiles a *process*, i.e. a relationship *scanned sequentially* in its evolution through time. Sequential scanning is simply the mental simulation of a temporally extended experience.

(b) Tense is a kind of **grounding**, in which the process profiled by a finite clause is related to the speaker-hearer interaction (the **ground**).

(c) The English present tense specifies that the profiled clausal process *precisely coincides with the time of speaking*.

(35)(a) \*He paints the fence. [paint = perfective (bounded)]

(b) He is painting the fence. [be painting = progressive (imperfective)]

(c) He likes the fence. [like = imperfective]

(36)(a) They leave for Europe tomorrow. [scheduled future]

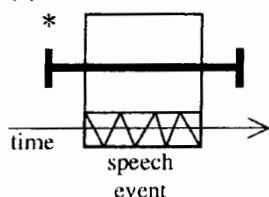
(b) I'm sitting in the study last night and the phone rings. [historical present]

(c) A kitten is born with blue eyes. [generic/timeless]

(37) In a **performative** (e.g. *I promise to quit smoking*), the profiled event is a *speech act*, and uttering the sentence under the proper conditions constitutes a *performance* of that speech act. Since the profiled event and the speech event are one and the same, they are necessarily temporally coincident.

(38)

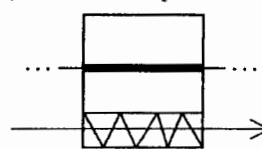
(a) Present Perfective



(b) Performative

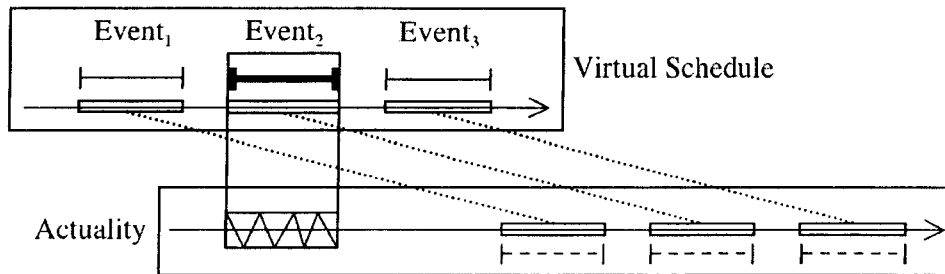


(c) Present Imperfective



(39) Rather than directly describing actual events, non-present uses of the present tense pertain to *covert mental constructions* involving *representations* of actual events. The event profiled by the present-tense clause is only virtual, one of the “entries” on a virtual “document” (e.g. a schedule). Apprehending the expression amounts to consulting the document and “reading off” an entry. This constitutes a virtual event “occurrence” which coincides with the time of speaking.

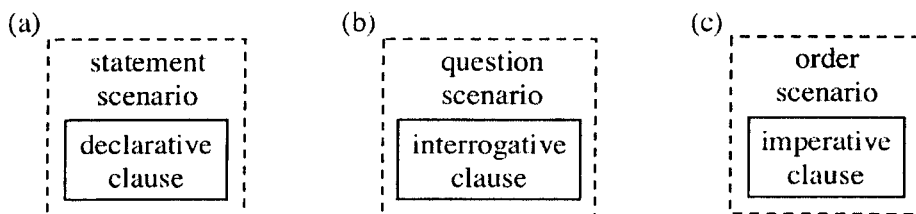
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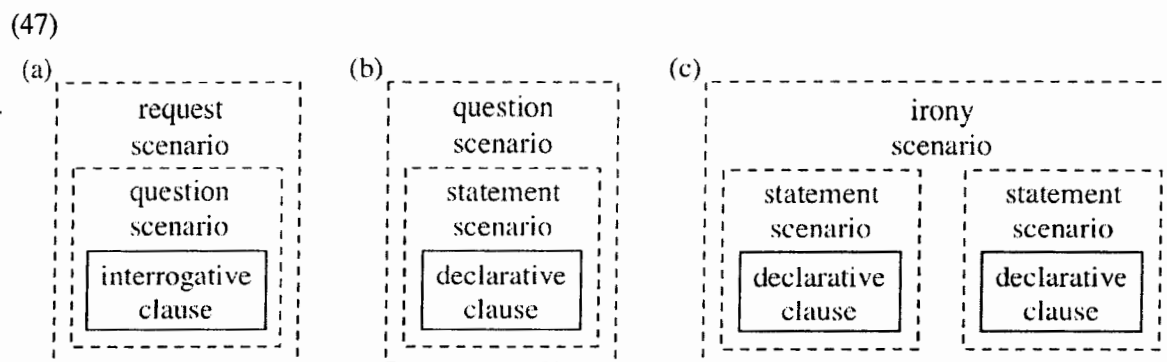
(41) *I'm not here right now.*(42)(a) The conventional units of a language include **interactive scenarios** representing speech acts standard in the culture.(b) These scenarios function as the meanings of speech-act verbs. In performative uses, the fictive speaker, hearer, and utterance of the scenario are *strongly identified* with the actual speaker, hearer, and utterance of the current speech event.

(c) They also function covertly to furnish the typical speech-act import of basic clause types.

(43)(a) *It's not the case that pigs are more intelligent than cats.* [declarative clause](b) *They don't know who falsified the documents.* [interrogative clause](c) *Show him that letter and I'll kill you.* [imperative clause](44)(a) *Pigs are more intelligent than cats.*(b) *Who falsified the documents?*(c) *Show him that letter!*

(45)

(46)(a) *Can you pass me the wine list, please?*(b) *You can't get that open?*(c) *Bush is wise, informed, and intellectually honest. And I'm the president of Iraq.*



- (48)(a) *That was a brilliant move.*  
 (b) *Don't rush—we have all the time in the world.*  
 (c) *I'm shocked—absolutely shocked—that he would lie to us.*

- (49)(a) *Shred those documents!*  
 (b) *You shred those documents!*  
 (c) *I (hereby) order you to shred those documents.*  
 (d) *I'm (hereby) ordering you to shred those documents.*  
 (e) *I regret that I must (hereby) order you to shred those documents.*

(50) *She is ordering him to shred the documents.*

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