

Locatives

- A. Methodology
- B. Additional Descriptive Constructs
- C. Locative Phenomena
- D. English Locatives
- E. Mixtec Locatives

A. Methodology

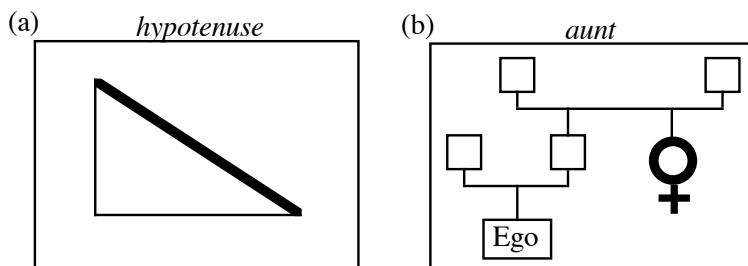
- (1) *Cognitive linguistics* and *cognitive grammar* are “cognitive” in the sense that, insofar as possible, they see language as drawing on other, more basic systems and abilities (e.g. perception, attention, categorization) from which it cannot be dissociated.
- (2)(a) A **symbolic structure** is the pairing between a *form* (i.e. a phonological structure) and a *meaning* (a conceptualization, in the broadest sense).
 - (b) Lexicon, morphology, and syntax make up a continuum consisting solely of **assemblies of symbolic structures**.
 - (c) Consequently, all elements validly posited in grammatical description have some kind of meaning (often quite schematic).
- (3) **Conceptual unification:** To fulfill its *semiological function*—allowing conceptual structures to be symbolized by sound structures—a language must at least comprise semantic structures, phonological structures, and symbolic links between the two. Cognitive grammar claims that *only* these elements are necessary. It thus achieves the *unification* of grammar with lexicon and their *reduction* to symbolic relationships.
- (4) **Restrictiveness (content requirement):** The only elements ascribable to a linguistic system are: (i) semantic, phonological, and symbolic structures that are (part of) overtly occurring expressions (hence directly apprehended); (ii) abstractions (schematizations) of permitted structures; and (iii) categorizing relationships between permitted structures (e.g. the relationship between a schema and a specific structure that instantiates it).
- (5) A primary working strategy of cognitive grammar is to seek **converging evidence** from three sources: (i) A particular construct is shown necessary for the adequate semantic description of multiple phenomena in various languages. (ii) This construct is related to an independently observable cognitive ability. (iii) This same construct proves critical for the explicit characterization of varied grammatical phenomena.
- (6) An expression’s meaning is a function of both the conceptual **content** it evokes and how that content is **construed**. Construal is our ability to conceive and portray the same situation in alternate ways (e.g. in terms of *perspective*, *prominence*, and level of *specificity*).
- (7) *thing* → *creature* → *animal* → *dog* → *poodle*

(8)(a) *This road winds through the mountains.*

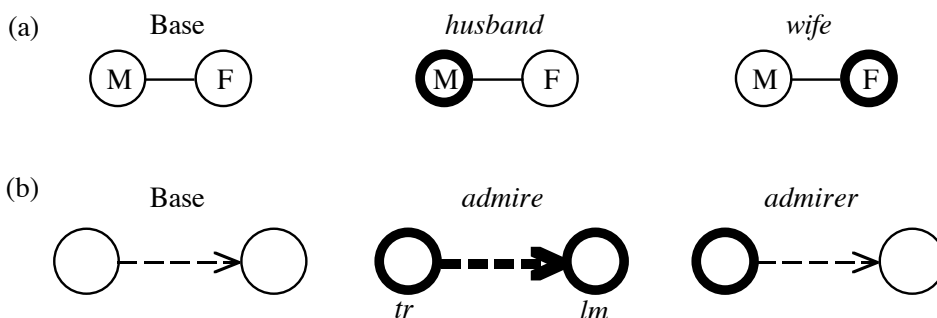
(b) *This road is winding through the mountains.*

(9) Within the array of conceptual content it evokes as the basis for its meaning (its conceptual **base**), an expression **profiles** (i.e. refers to) a particular substructure. Expressions that evoke the same content may contrast semantically by virtue of their choice of profile within this base.

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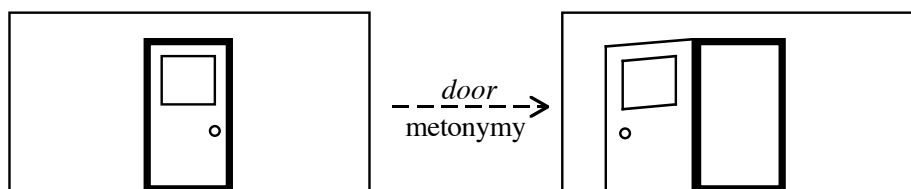


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(12) **Metonymy** is a shift in profile. An expression that normally profiles one entity is used instead to profile some other entity within the same conceptual base.

(13)



(14)(a) An expression's **grammatical class** is determined by the nature of its profile.

(b) The imposition of a particular profile constitutes the essential meaning of certain **grammatical markers**.

(c) In a grammatical construction, the **head** is the component structure whose profile is inherited by the composite structure.

(d) A **subordinate clause** is one whose profile is overridden at a higher level of grammatical organization.

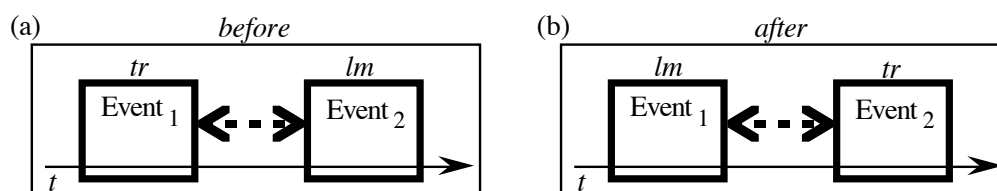
(15) Expressions can profile either **things** or **relationships** (abstractly defined). An expression's *grammatical class* is determined by the nature of its *profile* (not its content). A *noun* profiles a **thing**. A *verb* profiles a **process**, defined as a relationship whose evolution through time is rendered salient. Classes like *adjectives* and *prepositions* involve the profiling of **non-processual** relations.

(16)(a) *I **admire** anyone [who can pole-vault 16 feet].*

(b) *She **tried** [to lift the box].*

(17) *before* vs. *after* *above* vs. *below* *over* vs. *under* *in front of* vs. *in back of* *precede* vs. *follow* *lead* vs. *trail* *like* vs. *please* *admire* vs. *be admired by*

(18)



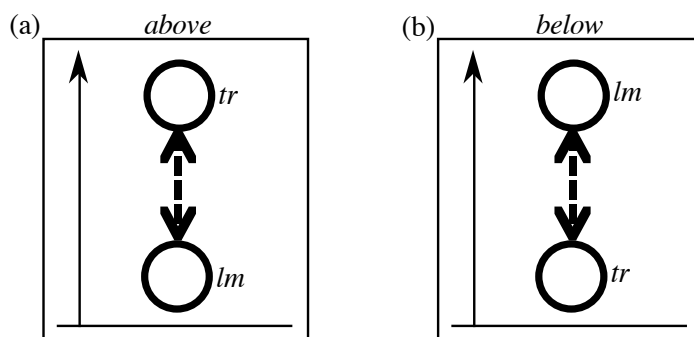
(19)(a) When a relationship is profiled, its participants are made prominent to varying degrees.

(b) The most prominent, the **trajector** (*tr*), is construed as the entity being located, evaluated, or described. It is the *primary focus* (“figure”) within the profiled relationship.

(c) Often another participant is made prominent as a *secondary focus*. This is called a **landmark** (*lm*).

(d) Expressions can have the same content, and profile the same relationship, but differ in meaning because they make different choices of trajector and landmark.

(20)



(21)(a) *Where is the lamp?*

(i) *The lamp (**tr**) is above the table (**lm**).*

(ii) **The table (**tr**) is below the lamp (**lm**).*

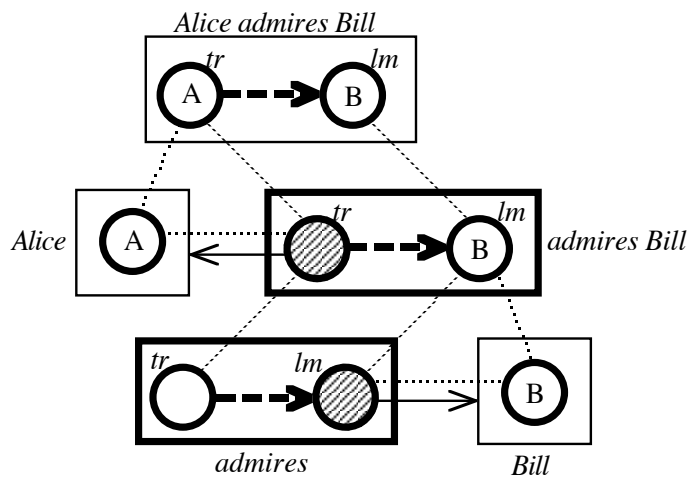
(b) *Where is the table?*

(i) *The table (**tr**) is below the lamp (**lm**).*

(ii) **The lamp (**tr**) is above the table (**lm**).*

- (22) The **subject**, at a given level of grammatical organization, is a nominal element which specifies the *trajector* of the relationship profiled at that level. An **object** is a nominal element which specifies the *landmark* at a given level.
- (23)(a) A **grammatical construction** is a symbolic assembly in which a set of **component** symbolic structures and a **composite** symbolic structure are linked by **correspondences** (dotted lines).
- (b) Usually the composite structure inherits its profile from one of the components, which is thus the **head** or **profile determinant** (heavy-line box).
- (c) A symbolic assembly exhibits a kind of **constituency** when the composite structure at one level of organization (in one construction) functions in turn as component structure at a higher level of organization (in a higher-order construction).
- (d) Grammatical patterns are represented by **constructional schemas**, i.e. *schematic* symbolic assemblies that serve as templates in forming new expressions.

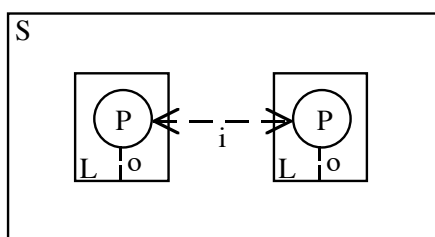
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B. Additional Descriptive Constructs

- (25)(a) Some **conceptual archetypes**: physical object, spatial motion of an object, the human face, the human body, a physical container and its contents, a whole and its parts, seeing something, holding something, handing something to someone, exerting force to effect a desired change, speaking, a face-to-face social encounter ...
- (b) Among these archetypes are the conception of a global **setting** containing **participants**, each found at some **location** within it. Participants **interact** with one another, but merely **occupy** locations.

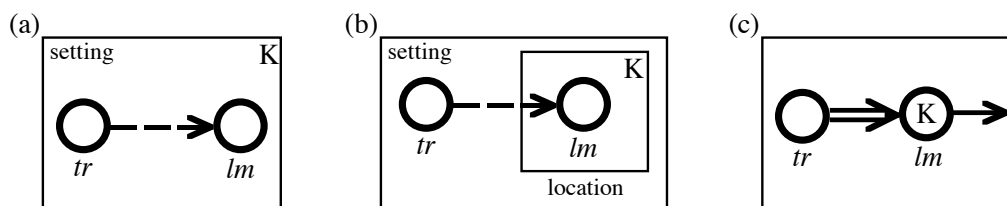
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S = setting
 L = location
 P = participant
 i = interact
 o = occupy

(27)(a) *In **the kitchen**, Jack told Jill about his problems.*(b) *I saw Jack in **the kitchen**.*(c) *Jill is painting **the kitchen**.*

(28)

(29)(a) ***My cat** is crawling through the grass.*

[participant subject]

(b) ***My cat** is crawling with fleas.*

[setting subject]

(30)(a) ***That director** has seen many exciting performances.*

[participant subject]

(b) ***This theater** has seen many exciting performances.*

[setting subject]

(c) ***The past year** has seen many exciting performances.*

[setting subject]

(31) **Transitivity** involves the *interaction of participants*. Grammatical properties (e.g. object marking, passivization) may depend on degree of transitivity.

(32)(a) *Ne'huaatl in aaltepeetl ni-k-i'ta-s.*

[participant object] [Nahuatl]

I ART town I-it-see-FUT
 'I will see the town.'

(b) *Ne'huaatl in aaltepeetl ni-ya-'.*

[location complement]

I ART town I-go-PAST
 'I went (to) the town.'

(33)(a) *Many exciting performances have been seen by **that director**.*

[participant]

(b) **Many exciting performances have been seen by **this theater**.*

[setting]

(c) **Many exciting performances have been seen by **the past year**.*

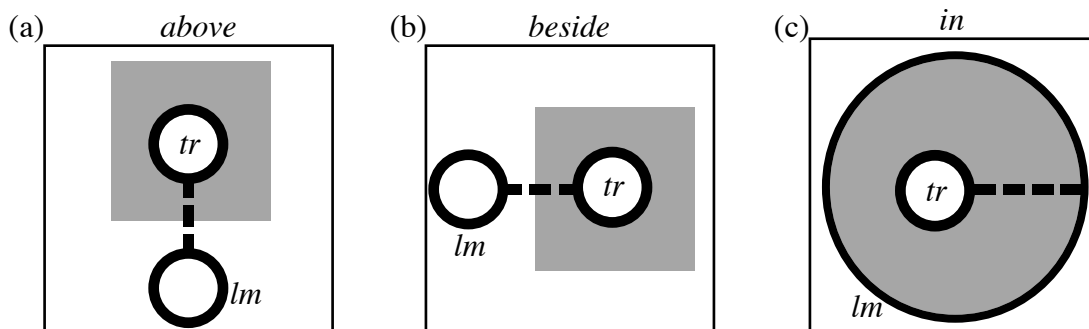
[setting]

(34)(a) *The soldiers carefully inspected **the village**.* [participant](b) *The soldiers finally reached **the village**.* [location](c) ***The village** was carefully inspected by the soldiers.*(d) ****The village** was finally reached by the soldiers.*

- (35)(a) *Kostner* features *Li Fuyin* in his new film. [participant]
 (b) *Kostner's new film* features *Li Fuyin*. [setting]
 (c) *Li Fuyin* is featured by *Kostner* in his new film.
 (d) **Li Fuyin* is featured by *Kostner's new film*.

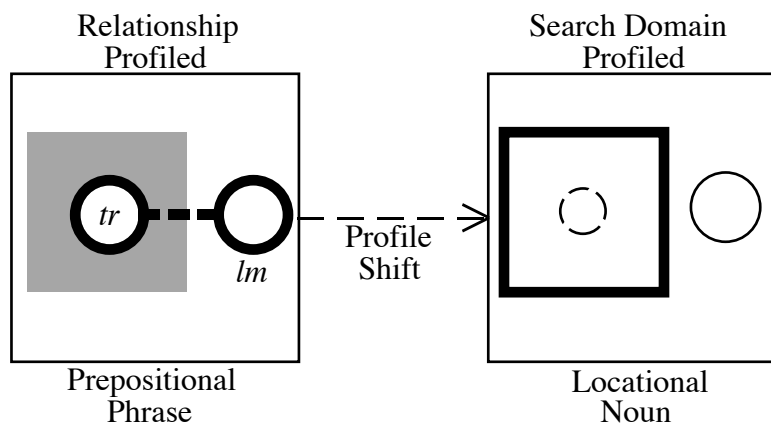
(36) The **search domain** of a locative expression is the region to which it confines its trajector, i.e. the set of trajector locations that will satisfy its specifications.

(37)

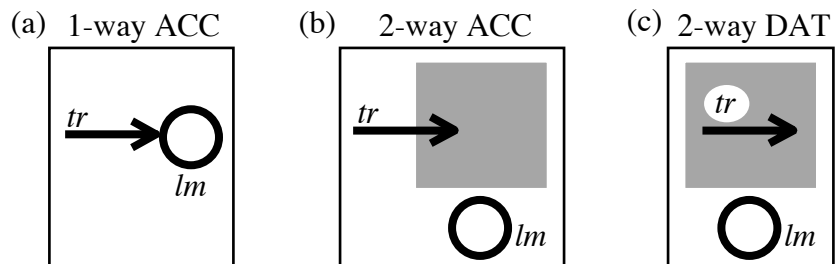


- (38)(a) *Under the bed* is all dusty.
 (b) *Near the fire* is quite a bit warmer.

(39)



(40)



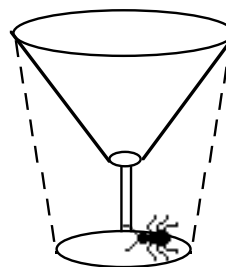
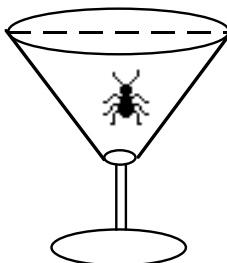
- (41)(a) *Wir wanderten in den (DAT) Bergen.* ‘We wandered (around) in the mountains.’
 (b) *Wir wanderten in die (ACC) Berge.* ‘We wandered into the mountains.’

- (42)(a) *Das auto steht hinter dem (DAT) Baum.* ‘The car is standing behind the tree.’
 (b) *Er stellt das Auto hinter den (ACC) Baum.* ‘He parks the car behind the tree.’

C. Locative Phenomena

(43)

- (a) *The pear is in the bowl.* (b) *The ant is in the glass.* (c) **The ant is in the glass.*



- (44) “...There are languages that encode very few ‘prepositional’ notions, do not use left and right in an extended spatial sense, and indeed require the conception of spatial relations in a fundamentally non relative manner...In Guugu Yimithirr...nearly all spatial descriptions involve essential reference to something like our cardinal directions...To describe someone as standing in front of the tree, one says something equivalent (as appropriate) to ‘George is just North of the tree’..., or to tell someone where you left your tobacco ‘I left it on the Southern edge of the Western table in your house’, or to ask someone to turn off the camping gas stove ‘turn the knob West’ and so on” (Levinson 1992: 2-3).

(45) Cora

- (a) *na-ʔa-rá-ʔaca* *y-é* *nʔa-hiise-ʔe*
 I-outside-facing:out-have:sore here-outside my-eye-on
 ‘I have a sore right here on my eyelid.’

- (b) *u-h-kí-tʔa-puʔu*
 inside-face:of:slope-short-in:middle-planted
 ‘Its [dog’s] tail is chopped short.’ [seen from behind]

- (c) *a-h-kí-tʔa-puʔu*
 outside-face:of:slope-short-in:middle-planted
 ‘Its [dog’s] tail is chopped short.’ [seen from side]

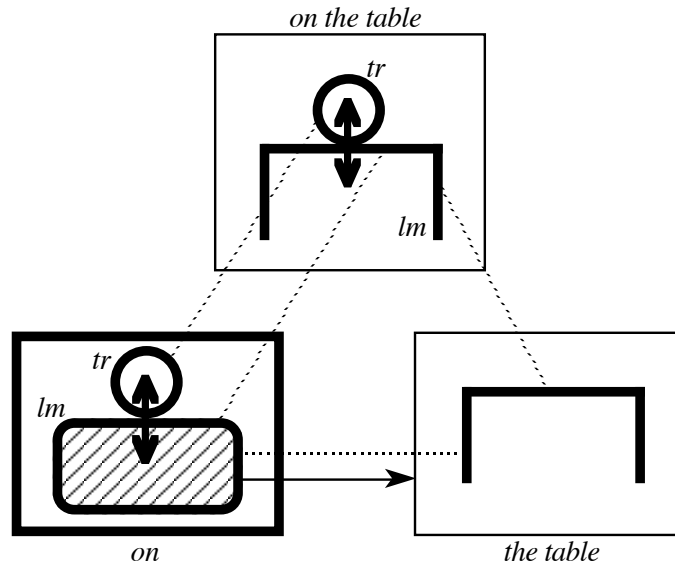
(46) Atsugewi

- (a) Verb Stem = Root (figure/motion) + Suffix (path/ground)
 (b) *qput* ‘for dirtlike material to move/be-located’
 (c) *-içt* ‘into a liquid’
 (d) *qputiçt* ‘for dirtlike material to move into a liquid’

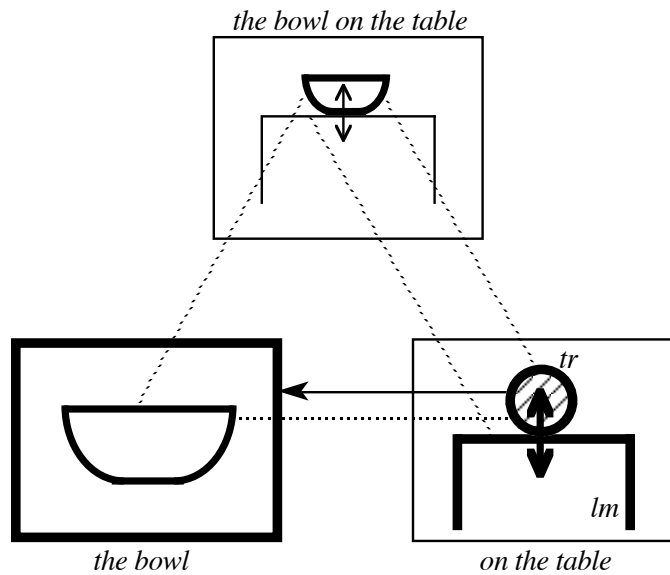
- (47) *nindečé ïï saà šini žúnu* ‘A bird flew over the tree.’ [Mixtec]
 flew one bird head tree

D. English Locatives

(48)

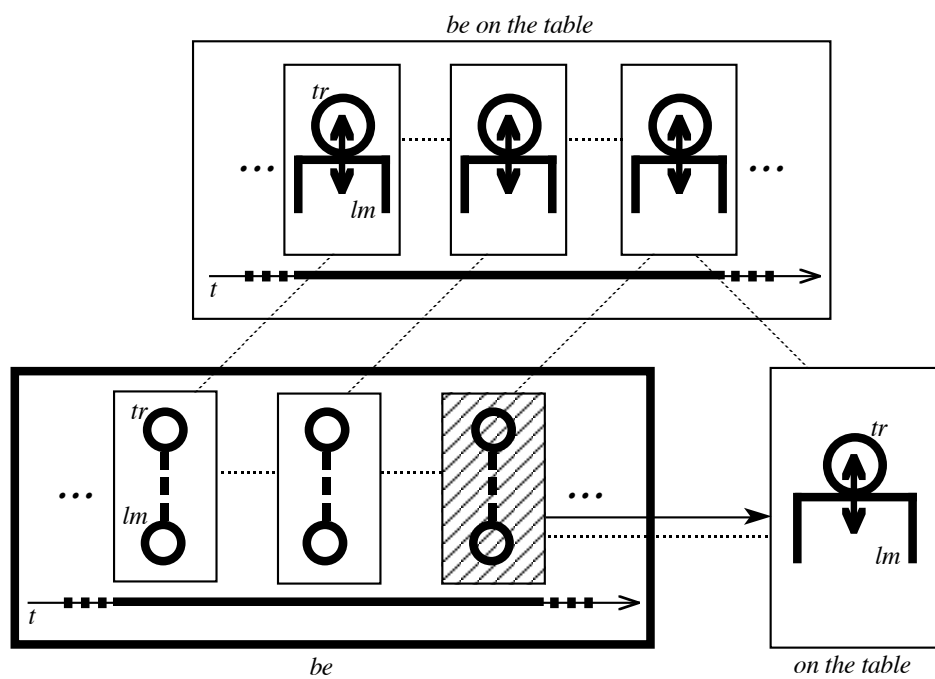


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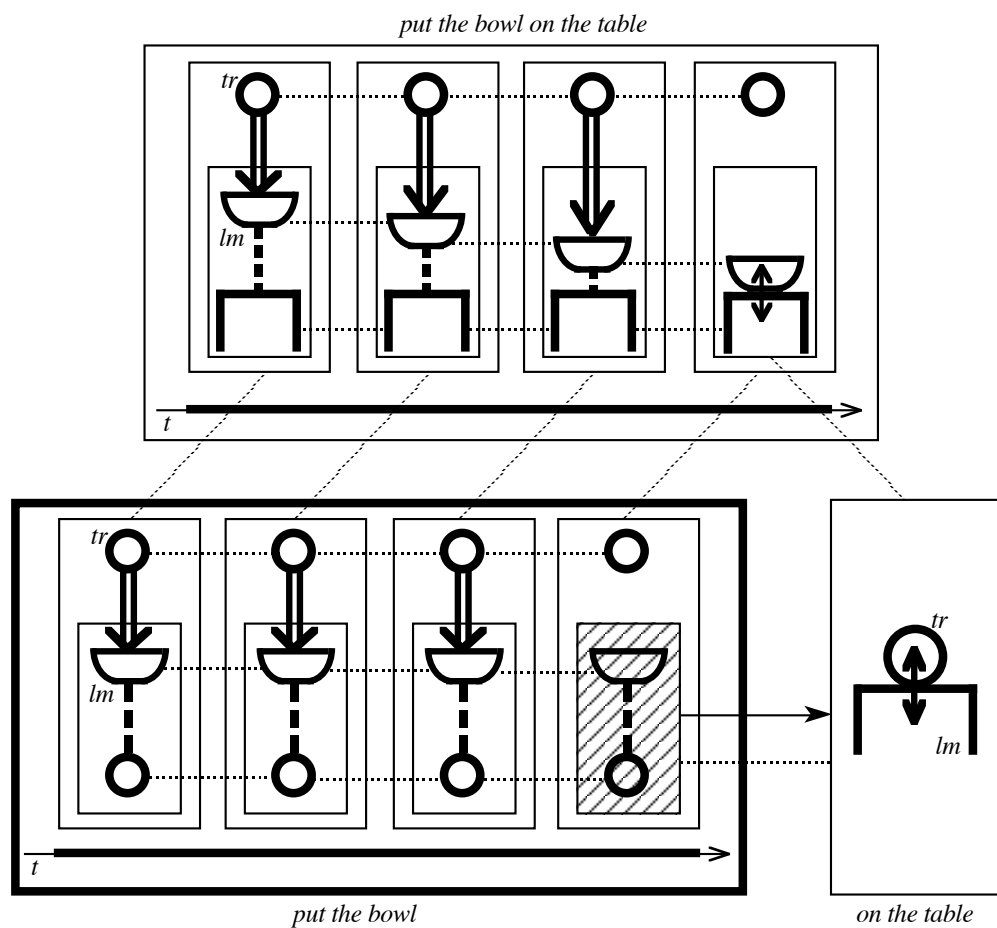


- (50)(a) *The bowl is on the table.*
 (b) *Sharon {set/placed/put} the bowl {on/!*onto} the table.*
 (c) *Sharon dropped a penny {in/into} the bowl.*

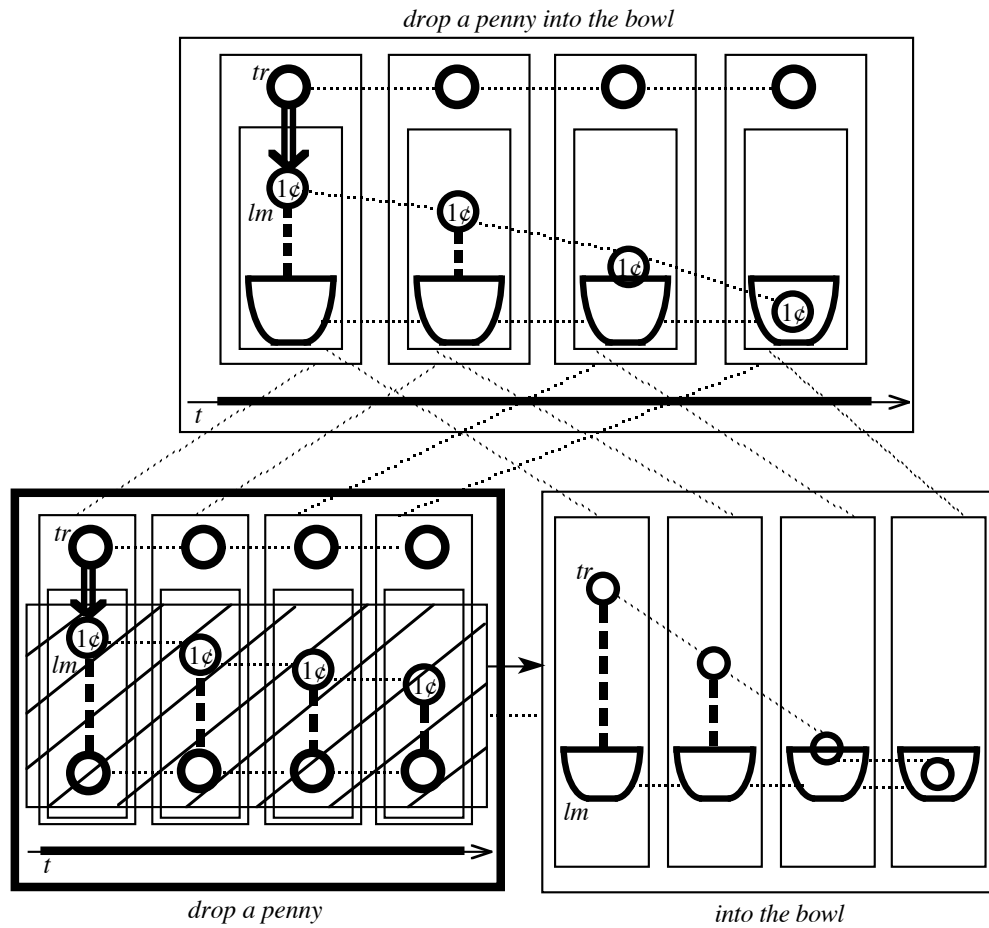
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(52)



(53)



E. Mixtec Locatives

(54) *šini* ‘head’, *haʔà* ‘foot/leg’, *siki* ‘back [animal]’, *ini* ‘stomach’, *ndaʔa* ‘hand/arm’,
žata ‘back [human]’, *čù* ‘belly’, *nuù* ‘face’

(55) *šini-rí* *ʔúʔù* ‘My head hurts.’
 head-my hurt

(56) *ndaʔa* *žúnu* *táʔnu* ‘The tree’s branch is breaking.’
 hand tree break

(57) *hítuu* *nuù* *ndaʔa-ri* ‘It [chalk] is lying on my hand.’
 lie face hand-my

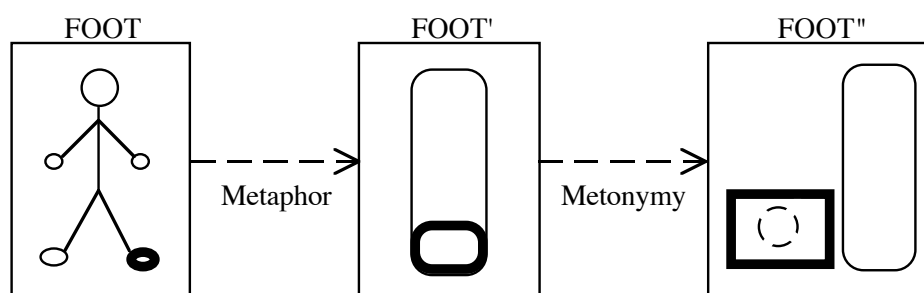
(58) *hítuu* *ini* *ndaʔa-ri* ‘It [chalk] is lying in my hand.’
 lie stomach hand-my

(59) *súʔunu-ro hísndée šini žúnu wq̃q* ‘Your clothes are on that tree.’
 clothes-your be:on head tree that

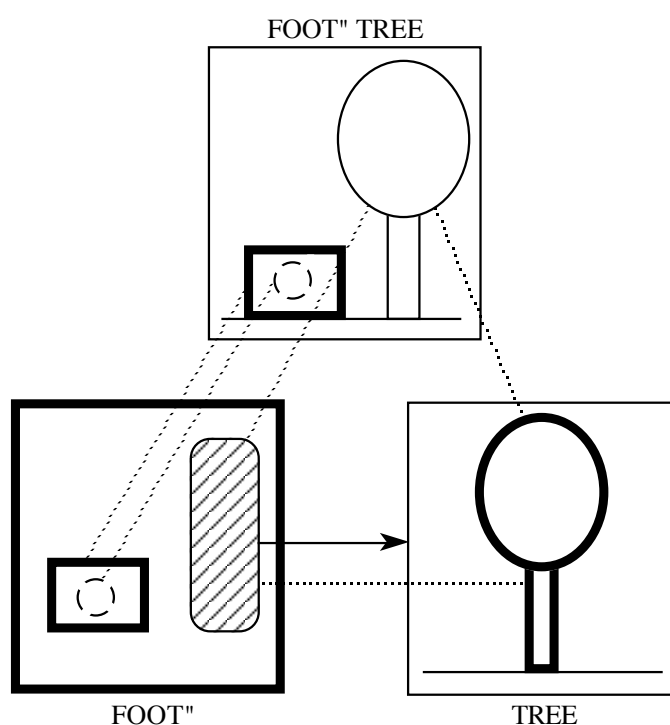
(60) *ndukoo haʔa žúnu* ‘He is sitting at the foot of the tree.’
 sit foot tree

(61) *rùʔù nindii-ri nùù maría* ‘I am standing in front of Maria.’
 I stand-I face Maria

(62)

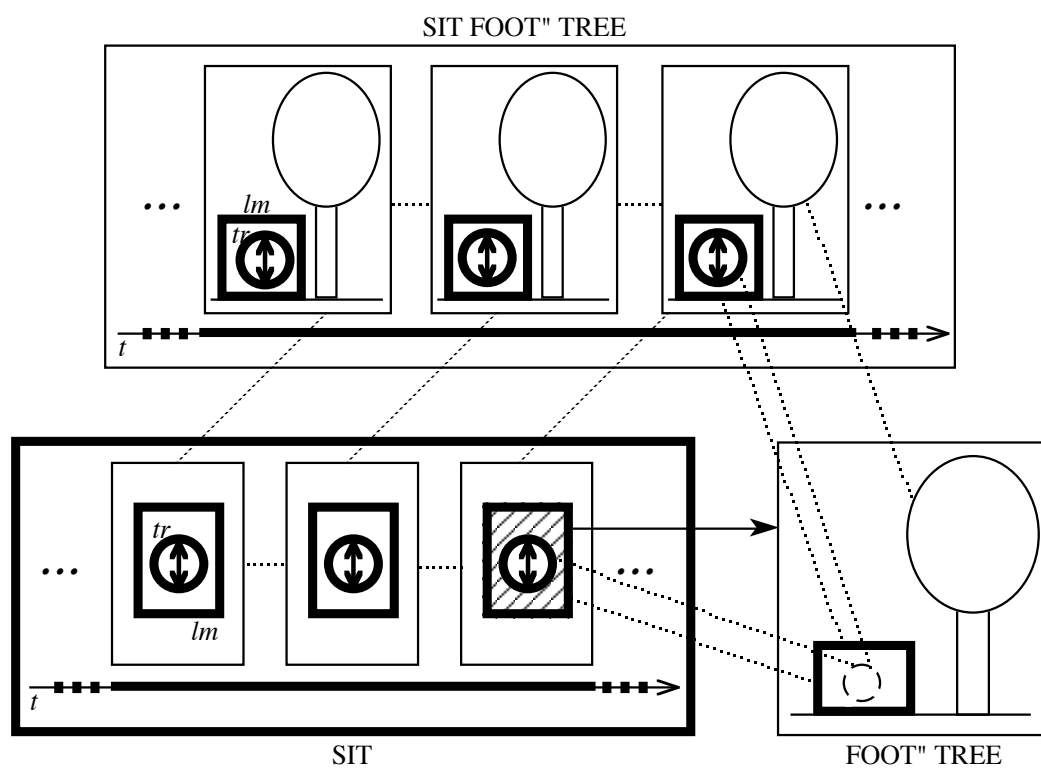


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(64) Glosses of locational verbs: ‘be located’, ‘be standing’, ‘be sitting’, ‘be lying’, ‘be in’, ‘be on’, ‘be in (hidden from view)’

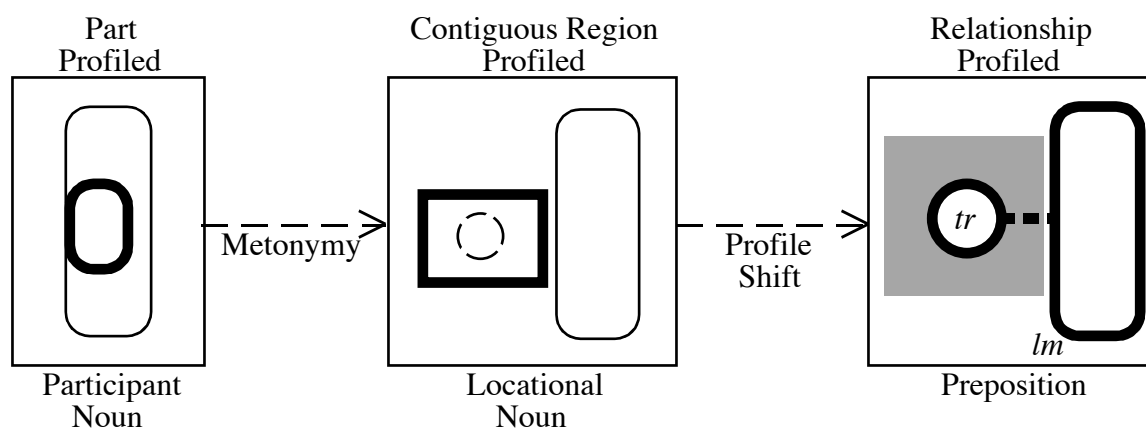
(65)



(66) *nikqžáa ini ndúča* 'Someone drowned in the water.'
 drowned stomach water

(67) *sáʔa-rí ndučaʔá nuù molcajete* 'I'm going to make salsa in the molcajete.'
 make-I salsa face molcajete

(68)



(69)

	<i>Thing 1</i>	<i>Thing 2</i>	<i>Thing 3</i>
<i>Locational Noun</i>	profiled region	potential occupant	reference object
<i>Preposition</i>	search domain	trajector	landmark
<i>Abstract Commonality</i>	spatial region	occupant of region	reference object

(70) Everything has to fit, and everything has to fit together.

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