

Lecture 10

Clauses

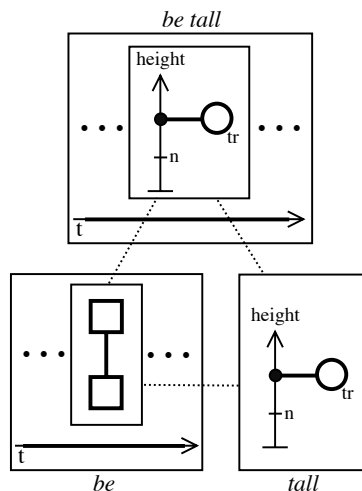
- A. Global Organization
- B. Descriptive Axis
- C. Interactive Grounding
- D. Discursive Functions
- E. Inversion

A. Global Organization

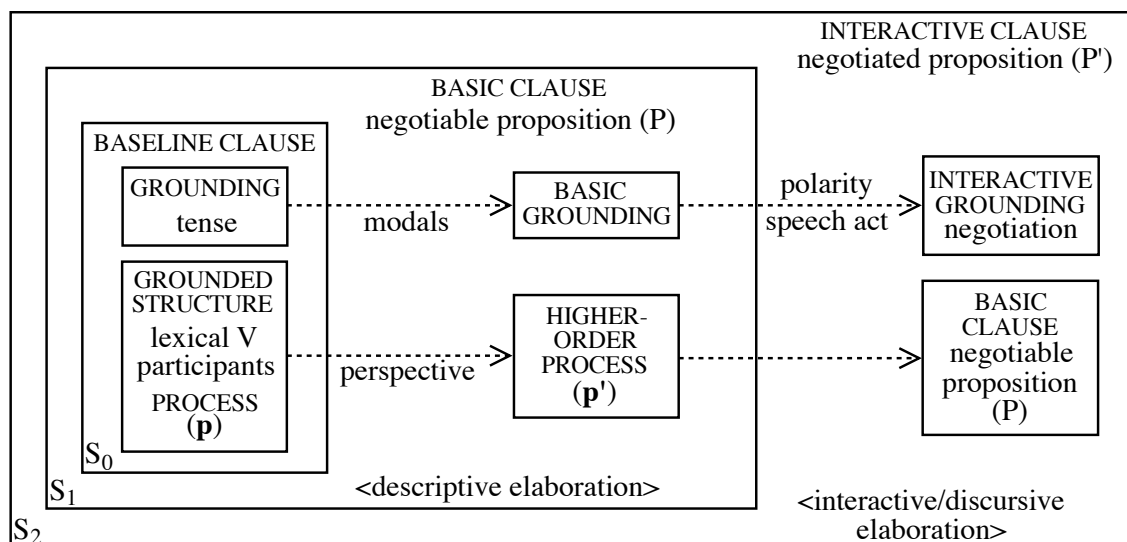
- (1)(a) The function of a *nominal* is to coordinate mental reference to a **thing**, selected from all those we are capable of conceiving. Analogously, the function of a *clause* is to coordinate mental reference to a **process**, which can be anywhere in our mental universe.
 - (b) Starting from the baseline of embodied experience, we construct our mental universe (in all its vast complexity) through many levels of elaboration involving capacities such as schematization, generalization, metaphor, and conceptual blending.
 - (c) In **baseline conception** we find the rationale for fundamental aspects of nominal and clausal structure. Elaborations of nominal and clausal structure reflect **conceptual elaborations** that draw on additional mental resources affording wider ranges of options.
- (2) Some components of baseline conception:
- (a) **Physical things:** people, objects, and substances, which exist in space. The default expectation is that they continue to exist through time. At a given point in time they occupy a particular spatial location.
 - (b) Things participate in **relationships**, which either continue through time or are transient. Enduring things and relationships provide a *stable framework* for the occurrence of *events*. A spatial relationship constitutes *motion* when it changes through time. Other events consist in the *interaction* of participants, typically involving *force*.
 - (c) Enduring things and relationships, together with everything which has occurred in that framework, constitute **reality**, which evolves through time with new occurrences.
 - (d) Things and relationships (*objects* of conception) are apprehended by a **conceptualizer** (*subject* of conception). The recognition of other conceptualizers, and the partial simulation of their experience, gives rise to *communicative interaction*.
- (3) In language reflecting baseline conception:
- (a) Both the *ground* and the *objective scene* (object of description) are **real**.
 - (b) **Viewing arrangement:** The interlocutors are together in a fixed location, engaged in observing and describing actual occurrences in the world around them.
 - (c) **Speech event:** The speaker describes something for the benefit of the hearer, who is expected to listen, understand what is said, and accept it (baseline reaction).
 - (d) The two lexical categories, **noun** and **verb**, designate physical, typically bounded entities. Each heads a grammatical structure, **nominal** and **clause**, that incorporates **grounding**.
 - (e) Nominal grounding pertains to **identification**. Clausal grounding pertains to **existence**.

- (4)(a) Nominals and clauses are *parallel* in that each serves the function of **coordinating mental reference** (to objects and events) and grounding concerns the referent's **epistemic status**.
- (b) One *asymmetry*, reflecting the fact that events are **conceptually dependent** on their more **autonomous** participants, is that clauses typically contain nominals, but not conversely.
- (c) Another asymmetry, reflected in nominal and clausal grounding, is that the **epistemic status** of objects and events has different *primary issues*: **identification** vs. **existence**.
- (d) Objects **exist** in *space*, and normally endure, so existence is taken for granted. Since many instances of a type exist at any one time, **identification** is the primary epistemic issue.
- (e) Events **occur** through *time*, and their existence (occurrence) is not presupposed. Since they are transient, the simultaneous existence of multiple instances is not a main concern. The primary epistemic issue is **existence**: whether or not a conceived event actually occurs.
- (5)(a) Clauses (rather than nominals) are the *basic units of discourse*. Unlike objects, whose existence is taken for granted, events are transient and unpredictable, hence noteworthy.
- (b) Since events are *conceptually dependent*, their participants have to be *identified*. In a connected discourse they are often identified by pronouns or just by prior mention.
- (c) A single clause occurring in isolation—a *baseline discourse*—incorporates nominals describing participants in order to identify them; existence is *presupposed*.
- (d) By contrast, description of the clausal event serves to *establish* its existence (occurrence) as part of the shared conceptual substrate.
- (6)(a) A **baseline clause** pertains to *baseline conception*. It describes a single occurrence in minimal fashion and is self-contained (i.e. it can stand alone as a *baseline discourse*).
- (b) It consists of only a *lexical verb* that specifies a process type, one or more *nominals* to specify its participants, and some kind of clausal grounding (*tense* in the case of English).
- (c) Some examples: *The hunter shot a deer. John kissed Mary. Floyd broke the glass. The ship sank. That cat sees a mouse. The baby slept. Alice likes this painting.*
- (7)(a) A clause is based on a **shared conceptual substrate**. For a baseline clause, it includes the **baseline viewing arrangement** [(3)(b)] and its status as a **baseline speech event** [(3)(c)].
- (b) Thus a baseline clause incorporates the supposition that the speaker is describing an actual occurrence, as well as the expectation that the hearer will accept it as such.
- (c) When successfully used, therefore, a baseline clause establishes the profiled occurrence as both the **joint focus of attention** and as part of their **shared conception of reality**.
- (8)(a) The simplicity of baseline clauses reflects the limitation to baseline conception and reliance on the substrate for matters that need to be explicit in non-baseline expressions.
- (b) Because the substrate specifies the description of actual occurrences, there is no need for elements like *negation* or *modals*, which exclude the profiled occurrence from reality.
- (c) There is no indication of *speech act*, since the substrate specifies the *baseline* speech act of *statement*: the speaker describes real occurrences and the hearer accepts them as such.
- (d) As a self-contained description, a baseline clause contains no indication of *discursive factors* such as topic, informational focus, or connections with other clauses.
- (9)(a) The lexical verb (e.g. *shoot, kiss, like*) specifies a **basic type** of process (occurrence).
- (b) Clausal grounding does not pertain just to this basic type: by itself, an expression such as *shot, kissed, or likes* is too schematic to be useful.

- (c) The epistemic status indicated by clausal grounding pertains to the **elaborated type** obtained by the nominal specification of the verb's schematic participants: *the hunter shoot a deer; John kiss Mary; Alice like this painting*.
- (d) The lexical verb and its participants form a **conceptual grouping** which functions as the **grounded structure** in a clause, even though it is not a grammatical constituent.
- (i) Functional grouping: [TENSE]_{GROUNDING} + [SUBJECT VERB OBJECT]_{GROUNDING STRUCTURE}
- (ii) Grammatical constituency: [SUBJECT [VERB+TENSE OBJECT]]
- (10) The verb functioning as **head** of a clause (analogous to the head noun of a nominal) is not always “lexical” (i.e. not necessarily a conventional unit) and is often complex.
- (a) It can be a novel expression, e.g. *She flirped the ice cube* [*flirp* = ‘melt with candle’].
- (b) A lexeme that is not a verb can be used as one, e.g. *The delivery boy porched the newspaper* (i.e. threw it onto the porch). [semantic extension; functional recategorization]
- (c) Complex verbs are formed by morphological derivation, e.g. ((*solid*)_{ADJ} -*ify*)_V, or by compounding, e.g. ((*counter*)(*attack*)).
- (d) There is a productive pattern of combining verbs with preposition-like “particles”: *turn off* [the television], *look up* [the information], *go on* ‘continue’, etc.
- (e) Serial verb constructions (in English limited to *come* and *go*) indicate successive phases of a complex event: *You should come see our new house; Go get the newspaper*.
- (11)(a) Verbs and clauses profile **processes** (relationships followed through time). The alternate term **occurrences** emphasizes their temporal manifestation: a process is a relationship that occurs—**exists through time**—just as an object **exists in space**.
- (b) While they typically endure, the relationships profiled by adjectives and prepositional phrases are fully manifested at a single moment: *the tall boy; a computer on his desk*.
- (c) Complex clausal heads are obtained by combining them with the schematic verb *be*, which profiles the existence—continuation through time—of some unspecified relationship: *The boy is tall; A computer was on his desk*.
- (d) This reflects the schematic characterization of a verb: it profiles a *relationship* followed *through time*. I.e. a verb describes the **existence** (or **occurrence**) of a relationship.
- (e) *Be*- and *have*-type verbs are commonly used in constructions describing the existence of things, e.g. *There are koalas in Australia, but China has pandas*.
- (12)



(13)

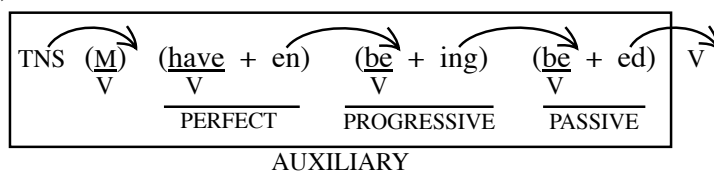


B. Descriptive Axis

(14)

(a) She might have been being followed.
 AUX V AUX V AUX V MAIN V

(b)



(c)

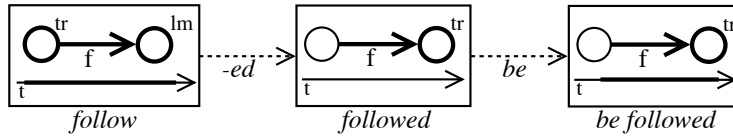
PAST walk → walked
 PAST be + ed follow → was followed
 PRES be + ing walk → is walking
 PRES (Ø) may have + en see → may have seen
 PAST may be + ing be + ed follow → might be being followed

(15)(a) The *passive*, *progressive*, and *perfect* constructions form a system of **perspectival adjustments** to the lexical process. From the lexical verb (V), each derives a complex verb consisting of a participle (*Ved* or *Ving*) preceded by the schematic verb *have* or *be*.

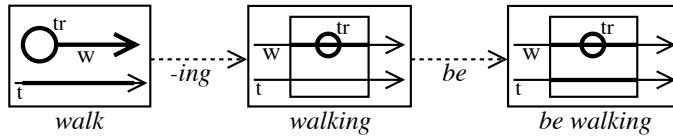
(b) They affect different facets of the lexical process: choice of trajector (PASS); extent of the profiled relationship (PROG); temporally posterior reference point (PERF).

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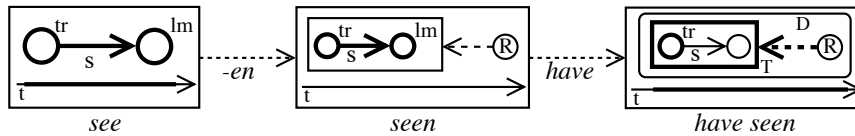
(a) Passive



(b) Progressive

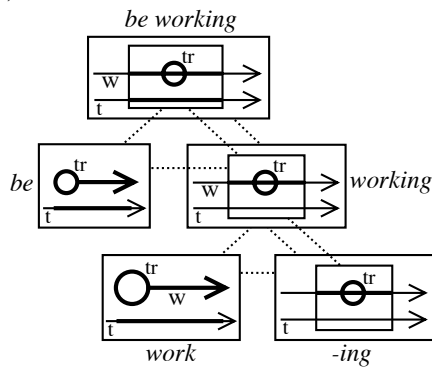


(c) Perfect

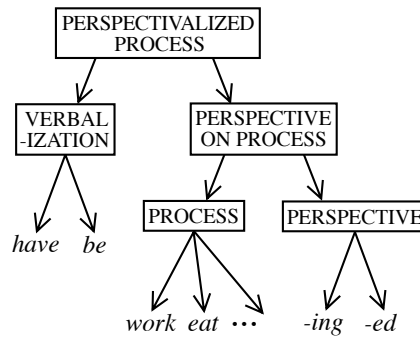


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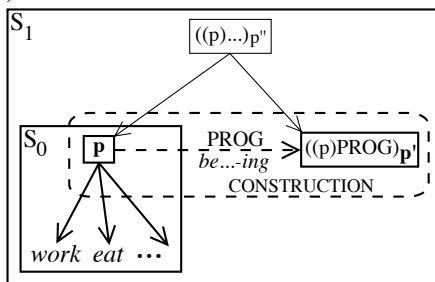
(a) Constructions



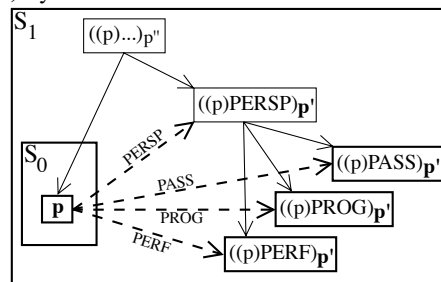
(b) Functions



(c) Baseline and Elaboration



(d) System of Elaborations



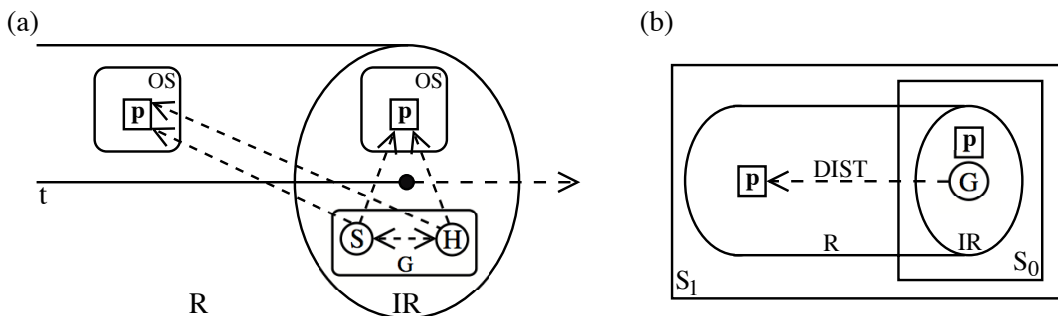
- (18)(a) PASS, PROG, and PERF are mutually exclusive in that only one applies directly to the lexical verb. They occur in certain combinations because a perspectivalized verb can in turn be perspectivalized, with respect to a different facet, at a higher level of organization.
- (b) At each stratum, a verb is introduced that imposes its profile on the composite expression (a complex verb). Grounding applies to the process it profiles (p , p' , p'' , or p''').
- (c) There is thus a discrepancy between the substantive verbal head and the verb that undergoes grounding. In baseline clauses the lexical verb serves both functions.

(19)

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \bar{S}_3 \\ \text{have been being watched} \\ \text{p}''' \end{array} \right] \leftarrow \text{PERF} \left[\begin{array}{c} \bar{S}_2 \\ \text{be being watched} \\ \text{p}'' \end{array} \right] \leftarrow \text{PROG} \left[\begin{array}{c} \bar{S}_1 \\ \text{be watched} \\ \text{p}' \end{array} \right] \leftarrow \text{PASS} \left[\begin{array}{c} \bar{S}_0 \\ \text{watch} \\ \text{p} \end{array} \right]$$

- (20)(a) In baseline clauses, the *lexical verb* is both the substantive **clausal head** and also the **grounded verb** marked for tense: *Alice **worked***.
- (b) With perspectival adjustments, the *grounded verb* is the one introduced at the highest level of organization: *Alice **is** working*, *Alice **has** worked*, *Alice **had** been working*.
- (c) English clausal **grounding** is also organized in strata. The core system consists of tense (PRESENT vs. PAST) and the basic modals (*may*, *can*, *will*, *shall*, *must*).
- (d) **Reality model**: Out of all conceivable occurrences, only some are *realized*. Through time there is thus established a *history of realized occurrences* (continually being augmented). For a given conceptualizer, at a given moment, the *established history* of occurrences constitutes **reality**. Not yet established, future occurrences are precluded.
- (21)(a) In the baseline, the ground (G) and the objective scene (OS) belong to reality (R). The portion of R that temporally coincides with the speech event is **immediate reality** (IR).
- (b) With respect to time, the profiled process (**p**) can either be PRESENT (in IR) or PAST (outside of IR). These are the two alternatives for **baseline grounding**.
- (c) Baseline grounding itself exhibits B/E organization. PRESENT is the baseline, usually “zero” (*they work*). PAST is elaborative both formally (*worked*) and conceptually, requiring an additional conceptual resource: **recall**.
- (d) The ending -s indicates person and number as well as tense. It is **preemptive**, overriding the general pattern: (*{I / we / you / they} work*, *she **works***).

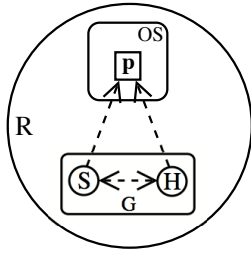
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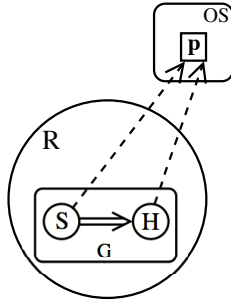
- (23)(a) As an additional conceptual resource, *modals* employ the capacity to **project** the evolution of reality to encompass as yet unrealized occurrences.
- (b) *Root modals* are **interactive**, intended to have some effect on events: *You **may** go to the party*; *They **should** be more polite*; *You **must** tell her the truth*.
- (c) *Epistemic modals* are **individual**, residing in the speaker's assessment of the prospects for **p** being realized: *She **will** refuse the offer*; *They **may** not be home*; *We **could** fail*.

(24)

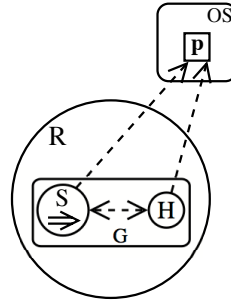
(a) Baseline Clause



(b) Root Modal



(c) Epistemic Modal

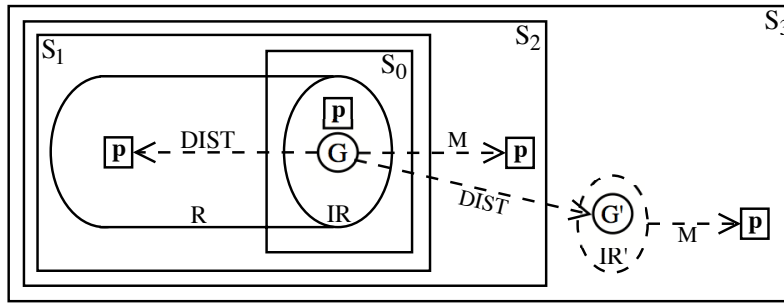


(25)(a) Relative to the **basic modals** (*may, can, will, shall, must*), the **elaborated modals** (*might, could, would, should*) consistently imply a longer epistemic path (e.g. *She will do it if she can* vs. *She would do it if she could*).

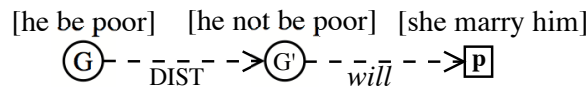
(b) The elaborated modals represent a higher stratum based on the capacity for **imagining** a situation (G')—distinct from G —from which a basic modal projection could be made.

(26)

(a)



(b) [If he were not so poor] she **would** marry him.



C. Interactive Grounding

(27)(a) A **basic clause** has a *descriptive* function. It describes a process (the clausal profile) and, through grounding, indicates its status with respect to reality (immediate, non-immediate, potential). The result is a **proposition** (P) whose validity can be negotiated.

(b) An **interactive clause** serves the function of *negotiating* the validity of P by means of **interactive grounding** (polarity, speech act). The result is a **negotiated proposition** (P').

(c) The polarity options are **positive** (POS), **negative** (NEG), and **affirmative** (AFF); positive is the baseline. The basic speech act options are **statement**, the baseline, and **question** (Q).

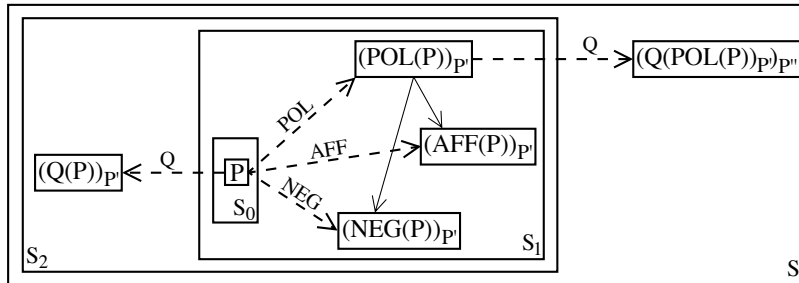
(d) These options are indicated by the subject and highest-level verb:

POS: *She is tall.* NEG: *She {is not / isn't} tall.* AFF: *She IS tall.* Q: *Is she tall?*

(e) The **affirmative** (with a partially accented verb) is used when the negative alternative might otherwise be presumed: *She may not be a great basketball player, but she IS tall.*

- (28)(a) A positive statement (e.g. *She may be working*) is the **baseline** with respect to interactive grounding: the **absence** of negotiation. In this case P and P' are non-distinct.
- (b) At higher strata, negotiation becomes a factor with the further options for polarity (negative and affirmative) and speech act (question).
- (c) Negotiation is indicated by the subject and the highest-level verb, provided that this is a **schematic** (“auxiliary”) verb: a modal (M), *have*, or *be*.
- (d) In clauses which otherwise lack such a verb, the auxiliary *do* serves this function. It profiles a **maximally schematic process**, hence *do* + V = V in terms of their content.

(29)



- (30)(a) Thus *do* appears when the proposition (P) is being negotiated (NEG, AFF, Q). V stands alone in the baseline situation, at a lower stratum where this is not yet an issue.
- (b) The lexical verb stands alone only in clauses representing the baseline in all respects: the absence of (i) perspectival adjustment, (ii) modal qualification, and (iii) negotiation.
- (c) From the paradigmatic standpoint, *He tried* is anomalous, occurring in lieu of the otherwise expected form **He did try*. It appears that V **preempts** *do* + V.
- (d) However, this is just a consequence of the **baseline status** of such clauses. They represent the lowest stratum, where perspective, modality, and negotiation are not yet in play.

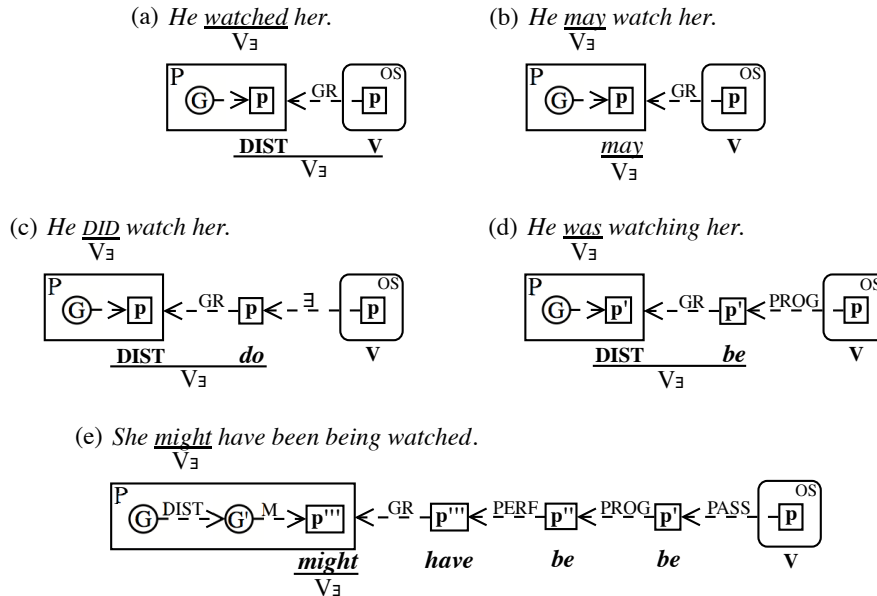
(31)

	POS	NEG	AFF	Q	
v/do	<i>He tried.</i>	<i>He didn't try.</i>	<i>He DID try.</i>	<i>Did he try?</i>	BASILINE
be	<i>He is trying.</i>	<i>He isn't trying.</i>	<i>He IS trying.</i>	<i>Is he trying?</i>	ELABORATION (descriptive)
have	<i>He has tried.</i>	<i>He hasn't tried.</i>	<i>He HAS tried.</i>	<i>Has he tried?</i>	
M	<i>He will try.</i>	<i>He won't try.</i>	<i>He WILL try.</i>	<i>Will he try?</i>	
	BASILINE	ELABORATION (interactive)			

- (32)(a) A clause profiles a process; it describes the **existence** (manifestation through time) of a relationship (*projected* existence, in the case of a modal). In a basic or baseline clause, its existence is simply **stated**. In an interactive clause, existence is being **negotiated**.
- (b) An English clause thus pivots on an **existential verb** (V_{\exists}), the one which profiles the process whose status is at issue (being either accepted or negotiated).

- (c) Starting with the lexical process (**p**), successive elaborations define a path through successively more complex structures. It leads to a negotiable proposition (P), in which the profiled process (**p**, **p'**, **p''**, or **p'''**) is related to the ground (G).
- (d) V_{\exists} is the *verb word* at the highest stratum. It bears tense, is marked for polarity, and inverts with the subject in questions.

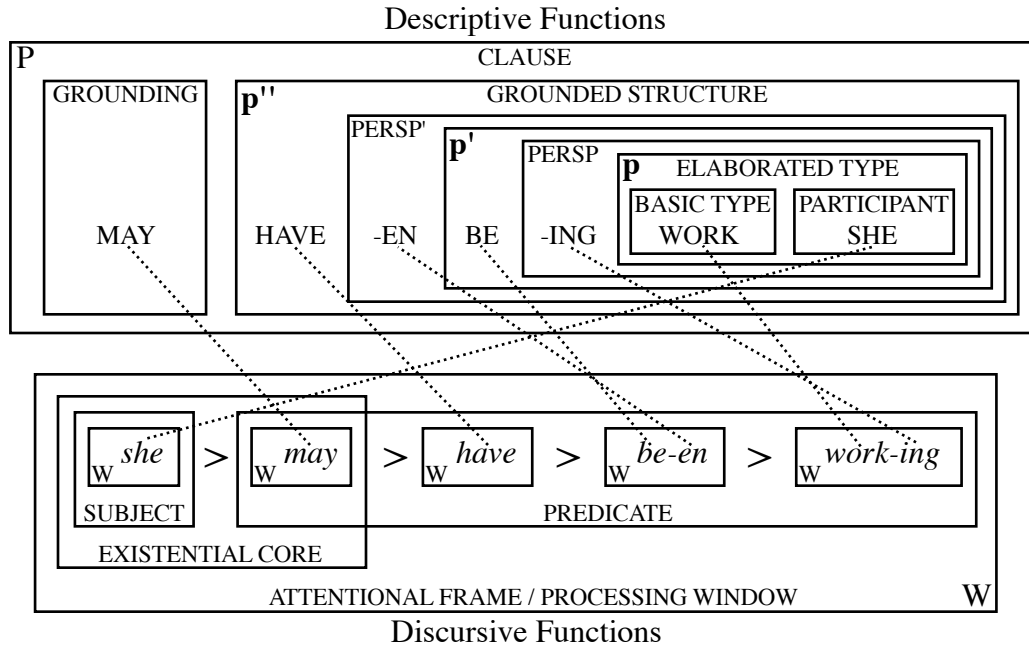
(33)



D. Discursive Functions

- (34)(a) **Management** includes such factors as turn taking, holding/yielding the floor, offstage indications of assent or disagreement. Questioning turns the floor over to the interlocutor.
- (b) Elements specifying interclausal **connections** range from having substantial descriptive content (*after, because, then*) to being purely discursive (*moreover, furthermore, and so*).
- (c) **Information structure** (topic, focus, givenness/accessibility/activation) pertains to the discourse status of entities in OS with respect to their intersubjective availability.
- (d) The **order of presentation** (for structures of any size) is a fundamental dimension of discursive organization. English questions show *inversion* of the subject and V_{\exists} .
- (e) Lexical items effect the initial **packaging** of content into “chunks” of manageable size. At a higher level, packaging consists in allocating content to grammatical structures, such as clauses, as well as to prosodically delimited processing windows:
- (i) *I came, saw, and conquered* vs. *I came, I saw, and I conquered*
- (ii) *//I came / I saw / and I conquered//* vs. *//I came // I saw // and I conquered//*
- (35)(a) Discursive structures are **non-descriptive**, consisting in ways of organizing and presenting descriptive content for interactive purposes as a discourse unfolds.
- (b) Descriptive and discursive structures are co-existing dimensions of functional organization, both represented in symbolic assemblies.
- (c) As a composite whole, **p** is unsymbolized in *She may have been working*. The constructions employed and the symbolization of components allow its apprehension.

(36)



- (37)(a) The **order of presentation** has intrinsic conceptual import just by virtue of invoking semantic structures in a certain sequence. It is exploited for iconic, symbolic, and discursive purposes, which are not mutually exclusive (e.g. a preposed **topic**).
- (b) The order of presentation tends to coalign with various **natural paths** of mental access, based on factors like GIVEN > NEW, transmission of force, and participant prominence.
- (c) The **initial element** serves as a “starting point” to which other content is attached (MacWhinney 1977). Though demanding more cognitive capacity, it lays a “foundation” for “structure building”; it “gains a privileged status in the comprehenders’ minds”, being more accessible in subsequent processing tasks (Gernsbacher and Hargreaves 1992).
- (38)(a) The initial element in a sequence—the **anchor**—is salient to some extent just by virtue of being initial, so it influences the processing of subsequent elements.
- (b) ANCHOR is the general case with respect to which TOPIC is a special case.
- (c) The anchor is an instruction to interpret a proposition with respect to a particular domain of knowledge or a certain aspect of the situation described. It “frames” the proposition and serves as initial point of access for presenting or apprehending the situation.
- (39)(a) An anchor’s inherent salience is augmented by the prominence associated with other discursive functions, e.g. the introduction of a topic.
- (b) [(*Janet*)_{A1} (*likes*) (*her dog*).]_{W1} [(*Tracy*)_{A2} (*loves*) (*her cat*).]_{W2}
- (c) A topic remains in force (in the substrate) until replaced. Discursive structures comprising topics and the scope of their influence can thus be observed on different time scales.
- (d) [((*Janet*)_A *likes her dog*.)_{A'} (*She loves her cat*.) (*But she hates her rabbit*.)]_{W'}
- (e) In a larger window (W'), the *initial clause* is anchor (A') for the others. Derivatively, its own anchor (A)—the **anchor within the anchor**—anchors the entire sequence.

(40) Some factors bearing on the choice of anchor:

- (a) Subject (the default): natural because it specifies the **trajector**, characterized as the *initial reference point* accessed in building up to the full conception of a profiled relationship.
- (b) Origin of natural path [iconicity]: **From Houston** he drove to Dallas (cf. ??**To Dallas** he drove from Houston); **In 1929** the stock market crashed [“zooming in” strategy].
- (c) Mental address: **In my view** the rich should pay no taxes [setting]; **Romney** I just can’t stand [participant]. A nominal anchor of this sort is a TOPIC.
- (d) Connection with the previous clause: **Therefore** you shouldn’t take the job.
- (e) Demands immediate attention: **Garlic** I taste [surprise]; **In the freezer** it goes! [urgency].
- (f) Just seems like a good way to start: **Carefully** she unwrapped the present.

(41)(a) An interactive clause contains a functional grouping—the **existential core**—that includes the subject (SUBJ), the existential verb (V_∃), polarity (POS, NEG, AFF), and speech act (Q).
 (b) The core itself fulfills the descriptive and interactive functions of a clause. It stands alone as such both in question tags (*will it?*) and when used anaphorically (*No, it won’t*).
 (c) Its elements are contiguous and subject to contraction, so the core is to some extent a phonological grouping. It is thus a symbolic structure with grammatical significance.

- (42)(a) **A:** Our plan won’t be affected, will it? **B:** No, it won’t.
 (b) **A:** The boys have been quiet, haven’t they? **B:** Yes, they have for the most part.
 (c) **A:** You’re cleaning your room, are you? **B:** Yes, I am.
 (d) **A:** He DID vote for Romney, didn’t he? **B:** No, he didn’t, actually.

- (43)(a) You should, I think, pass this test quite easily.
 (b) He did not, apparently, tell his wife about his affair.
 (c) She has, it seems, been complaining to her boss.
 (d) Are they, perhaps, being criticized unfairly?

(44)(a) Especially when the subject is a pronoun, the existential core is a *schematic representation* of the clause it is part of. Hence its discursive significance.
 (b) In “question tags” and ellipsis, the core allows a succinct expression to evoke a full proposition. **A:** *Floyd broke the glass, didn’t he?* **B:** *Yes, he did.*
 (c) In a full clause, an initial core presents its existential import in skeletal form to be fleshed out by what follows (a natural path of mental access): *He DID break the glass.*
 (d) When initial, the entire core is a clausal anchor. It frames the proposition in neutral fashion by invoking it schematically as a whole (instead of focusing a particular element).

(45)(a) Since an *initial* element can be of any size, the subject and the core can both be anchors. In the default-case order an English clause begins with two natural points of access.
 (b) If the core is initial in the clause, and the subject is initial in the core, then the subject—as *anchor within the anchor*—also functions, derivatively, as clausal anchor.
 (c) Since the core’s discursive functions stem from its schematicity, this grouping does not emerge when the existential verb is lexical: ??*Floyd broke, I think, the glass.*
 (d) Question tags consist of only the minimal existential core. The subject and verb both have to be non-lexical: *Floyd broke it, {did he? / *did Floyd? / *broke he?}.*

(46)(a) Within the existential core, the usual order is subject (= anchor), then the existential verb (a word), followed by any remaining core elements:

- (i) *He DID vote for Romney.*
- (ii) *I can't remember his name.*
- (iii) *It will not make any difference.*
- (iv) *He is never at home.*
- (v) *They weren't ever satisfied with my performance.*
- (vi) *She has seldom complained about her treatment.*

(b) Alternatives include a non-subject anchor (the subject is then in the remainder) and cases where the anchor and V_{\exists} are a single word (by contraction, or V_{\exists} itself being the anchor):

- (i) *Never would I do such a thing.*
- (ii) *Seldom has she complained about her treatment.*
- (iii) *You're certainly making a fool of yourself.*
- (iv) *I'm even painting the bedroom.*
- (v) *Haven't we talked about this before?*
- (vi) *Are they ever satisfied with your performance?*

(47)

(a)

Existential Core		
Anchor	V_{\exists}	Remainder
<i>he</i>	<i>DID</i>	
<i>I</i>	<i>can't</i>	
<i>it</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>not</i>
<i>he</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>never</i>
<i>they</i>	<i>weren't</i>	<i>ever</i>
<i>she</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>seldom</i>

(b)

Existential Core		
Anchor	V_{\exists}	Remainder
<i>never</i>	<i>would</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>seldom</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>she</i>
<i>you're</i>		<i>certainly</i>
<i>I'm</i>		<i>even</i>
<i>haven't</i>		<i>we</i>
<i>are</i>		<i>they ever</i>

E. Inversion

(48)(a) "Subject-auxiliary inversion" is not limited to questions, nor does it occur in all of them.

It is a *discursive* phenomenon concerned with *existential negotiation*.

(b) Inversion is manifested in the *existential core* (C_{\exists}) of *interactive clauses*.

(c) These are two of several levels of organization where English clauses follow the pattern $A + \exists + R$ (Anchor + Existential Element + Remainder).

(49)

(a)

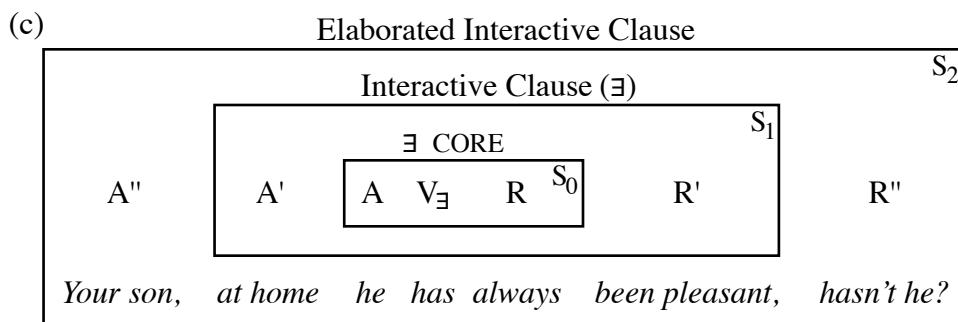
Baseline Clause

SUBJ(A)	$V(\exists)$	R	S_0
<i>Floyd</i>	<i>broke</i>	<i>the glass.</i>	

(b)

Interactive Clause

\exists CORE				S_1
A'	A	V_{\exists}	R	S_0
	<i>he</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>understand.</i>



- (50)(a) In an interactive clause, the function of A is primarily **descriptive** (usually it specifies the clausal *subject*), while that of A' is mainly **discursive** (e.g. establishing a *topic*).
- (b) It is atypical for all the potential semantic functions to be exploited and manifested with distinct elements. "Slots" can be left unfilled or conflated in a single element.
- (c) In the absence of a special discursive anchor (like a topic), C_{\exists} assumes this function, framing the proposition in neutral fashion [(44)]. The roles of A' and C_{\exists} are conflated.
- (d) When the roles of A' and A are conflated, and A is not the subject, the result is inversion.

(51)

(a)

A'	C $_{\exists}$			R'
	A	V $_{\exists}$	R	
<i>Zelda</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>understand</i>

(b)

A'	C $_{\exists}$			R'
	A	V $_{\exists}$	R	
<i>gambling</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>hates</i>		

(c)

A'/C $_{\exists}$			R'
A	V $_{\exists}$	R	
<i>he</i>	<i>is</i>		<i>working</i>

- (52)(a) C_{\exists} includes the subject, the existential verb, as well as indications of *polarity* and *speech act*. It is flexible in extent and in membership, depending on how it functions. Degree of membership reflects centrality with respect to *negation* (NEG) or *questioning* (Q).
- (b) *not, nobody, nothing, nowhere, neither, nor, never, seldom, hardly ever, at no time ...*
- (c) *who, what, which, when, where, why, how, to whom, for what purpose, with whose wife ...*
- (d) Non-core elements marked for NEG or Q thereby become core elements from the standpoint of semantic function, even if the core is not contiguous.

- (53)(a) *She was eating a banana.* [OBJ is not in C_{\exists}]
 (b) *She was eating **nothing**.* [OBJ is in C_{\exists} , does not function as A or A']
 (c) ***Nothing** was she eating.* [OBJ is in C_{\exists} , functions as both A and A']
 (d) *She was eating **what**?* [OBJ is in C_{\exists} , does not function as A or A']
 (e) ***What** was she eating?* [OBJ is in C_{\exists} , functions as both A and A']

- (54)(a) If the element marked for NEG or Q is left in place, it is not the *anchor* within the *core* (A), since A is by definition the *initial* core element. Nor is it the *discursive anchor*, A', which by definition is initial in an interactive clause.
- (b) It is however a natural choice for A', which makes it the **discursive focus**, serving to *frame* the proposition in terms of negation or questioning.
- (c) When it functions as A', it also functions as A, being both a core element and initial. Only one element can be initial in the core, so the subject is not the anchor (but part of R).
- (d) Inversion is thus a consequence of a core element other than the subject functioning as discursive anchor (A'), hence as core-level anchor (A).
- (e) With most discursive anchors inversion does not occur. They are not core elements, so A' and A remain distinct, with A being the subject [(55), cf. (40)].

- (55)(a) ****From Houston*** *did he drive to Dallas*.
 (b) ****In 1929*** *did the stock market crash*.
 (c) ****In my view*** *should the rich pay no taxes*.
 (d) ****Romney*** *just can't I stand*.
 (e) ****Carefully*** *did she unwrap the present*.
 (f) ****Garlic*** *do I taste*.

- (56)(a) With a core element as both A' and A, inversion is a consequence of that element **not** being the subject [(57)(a)-(b)]; there is no inversion when it **is** the subject [(57)(c)-(d)].
- (b) A classic problem—why inversion does not occur in questions formed on the subject (**Is who working?*)—is thus automatically resolved.
- (c) As a special case, the subject is made the discursive anchor (A') in order to establish it as the clausal topic [(57)(e)].

- (57)(a) ***Never*** *does he gamble*. [A' = A; NON-SUBJ]
 (b) ***What*** *can you see?* [A' = A; NON-SUBJ]
 (c) ***Nobody*** *is working*. [A' = A; SUBJ]
 (d) ***Who*** *is working?* [A' = A; SUBJ]
 (e) ***JOE*** *is working*. [A' = A; SUBJ]
 (f) ***Does*** *he ever gamble?* [A' = A = V₃]

(58)

C ₃			R'
A'/A	V ₃	R	
<i>never</i>	<i>does</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>gamble</i>
<i>what</i>	<i>can</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>see</i>
<i>nobody</i>	<i>is</i>		<i>working</i>
<i>who</i>	<i>is</i>		<i>working</i>
<i>JOE</i>	<i>is</i>		<i>working</i>
<i>does</i>		<i>he ever</i>	<i>gamble</i>

- (59)(a) The existential verb can itself function as dual anchor (A' and A) [(57)(f)]. In this case three roles are conflated: A', A, and V_∃.
- (b) A question word like *who* or *what* frames the question by specifying *what information is being sought*, i.e. the **question focus**. It is thus the discursive anchor (A').
- (c) A **polarity** (“yes-no”) question focuses on **existence**: the information being sought is whether or not the profiled event occurs. V_∃ is thus the discursive anchor.
- (60) Semantic functions are more fundamental than any particular structural implementations.

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