

# FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR–

## Chapter FIVE

### CONCEPTUALISING PATTERNS OF EXPERIENCE

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# CHAPTER Five OUTLINE

- Conceptualising experiences expressed as situation types
- Material processes of doing and happening
- Causative processes
- Processes of transfer
- Conceptualising what we think, perceive and feel
- Relational processes of being and becoming
- Processes of saying, behaving and existing



# CONCEPTUALISING EXPERIENCES EXPRESSED AS SITUATION TYPES



- Processes, participants, and circumstances

Fred	bought	a new shirt	in Oxford Street	yesterday
Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance	Circumstance

At the present time	the state of the economy	is	Critical
Circumstance	Participant	Process	Attribute

- The process: the central part of the situation, realised by a verb
- Participants: symbolically represent the persons, things, and abstract entities involved in the process
- Attributes: elements which characterise, identify, or locate the participants
- Circumstances: those of time, place, manner, condition, etc. attendant on the situation

# CONCEPTUALISING EXPERIENCES EXPRESSED AS SITUATION TYPES



- Three main types of processes:

Material processes are processes of 'doing'

Mental processes, or processes of 'experiencing' or 'sensing'

Relational processes, or processes of 'being' or 'becoming'

- Inherent participants and actualised participants

E.g. Do you drive? (a car); Have you eaten yet? (lunch, dinner)

# MATERIAL PROCESSES OF DOING AND HAPPENING



- Agent and Affected in voluntary processes of “doing”

E.g.: The Prime Minister (Agent) resigned (Process). (*What did X do?*)

Ted (Agent) hit (Process) Bill (Affected).

Bill (Affected Subject) was hit (Process) by Ted (Agent)

- Force

E.g.: The earthquake (Force) destroyed (Process) most of the city (Affected)

- Affected subject of involuntary processes of “happening”

E.g.: Jordan (Affected subject) slipped (Involuntary Process) on the ice (Circumstance)



# CAUSATIVE PROCESSES

## Causative material processes and ergative pairs

Initiating Agent	Process	Affected
Paul	opened	the door
Pat	boiled	the water
I	rang	the bell

Figure 5.7 Transitive-causative structure.

Affected	Process
The door	opened
The water	boiled
The bell	rang

Figure 5.8 Anti-causative structure.

When the Affected object of a causative clause (e.g. *the door, the water, the bell*) is the same as the Affected subject of an intransitive clause, we have an ergative alternation or ergative pairs, as in *I rang the bell* (transitive) and *The bell rang* (intransitive).

# PSEUDO-INTRANSITIVES



Glass breaks easily.

This case doesn't shut/close/lock/fasten properly.

Colloquial language translates badly.

Some synthetic fibres won't wash. Usually they dry-clean.

Fair skin doesn't tan quickly, it turns red.

Pseudo-intransitives:

- Express a general property of the entity to undergo the process in question
- Tends to occur in the present tense
- A cause is implied but an Agent can't be added in a *by*-clause
- There is no corresponding transitive construction, either active or passive, that exactly expresses the same meaning as these intransitives (e.g. *Colloquial language is translated badly*)

# PROCESSES OF TRANSFER



PROCESSES THAT ENCODE TRANSFER: GIVE, LEND, CHARGE, PAY, OFFER OV

Examples:

Ed gave *the cat* a bit of tuna.

Bill's father has lent *us* his car.

Have you paid the *taxi-driver* the right amount?

Recipient vs Beneficiary

Examples:

I wrote a letter to him vs. I wrote a letter for him.

# CONCEPTUALISING WHAT WE THINK, PERCEIVE, AND FEEL



MENTAL PROCESSES: COGNITION (know, understand), PERCEPTION (see, notice, hear, feel), EMOTION (like, love, admire, miss), and DESIDERATION (hope, want, desire)

Experiencer	Process	Phenomenon
<b>1</b> I <b>2</b> Most people <b>Phenomenon</b>	don't understand are horrified <b>Process</b>	his motives by the increase in violence <b>Exeriencer</b>
<b>3</b> His motives <b>4</b> The increase in violence	elude horrifies	me most people

Figure 5.11 Examples of mental processes.

-ing clause	to-infinitive clause
They enjoy <i>walking in the woods</i> . She likes <i>visiting her friends</i> . I hate <i>having a tooth out</i> .	They love <i>to walk in the woods</i> . She would like <i>to visit Janet</i> . I would hate <i>to have my teeth out</i> .

Figure 5.12 Examples of cognitive processes.

# RELATIONAL PROCESSES OF BEING AND BECOMING



- The attributive pattern

Carrier	Process	Attribute
Their eldest son The unemployment figures Sports equipment	was are is	a musician alarming on the third floor

Figure 5.13 Carrier with its Attribute.

- The identifvina pattern

Reversibility in Identifying clauses			
Identified		Identifier	
Mont Blanc	is	<b>the highest mountain in Europe.</b>	
My father-in-law	is	<b>the one in the middle.</b>	
Identifier		Identified	
<b>Mont Blanc</b>	is	the highest mountain in Europe.	
<b>My father-in-law</b>	is	the one in the middle.	

# PROCESSES OF SAYING, BEHAVING, AND EXISTING

- **Verbal processes:**

Silvia (Sayer) had to say (Verbal process) her name twice (Said)

Jill (Sayer) told (Verbal process) him (Recipient) what she knew (Said)

- **Behavioural processes:**

He yawned rudely.

- **Existential processes:**

There is a good film on at the Scala.