

ING218
Lecture 6
Transition and Transfer
Predicates

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This session will discuss and explore predicates that have a valency of more than two. Many such predicates express transition, movement from one place or person to another place or person.

Transition

Transition verbs are verbs that:

1. Express the going or coming from one place to another.

ex:

- 1 The bus goes from Greenville to Stratford.
- 2 Carlo came to this country from Italy.

Transfer

Transfer includes verb which

1. Express the moving of something from one place to another.

Ex:

3. Fenwick drives the bus from Greenville to Stratford.
4. Jane rowed the boat from one side of the river to the other.

Transfer

2. Express the putting and removing from one place to another.

Ex:

5. Squirrels are stashing nuts in that oak tree.
6. Thieves stole some money from the cash box.

Transfer

3. Express the giving and taking away from one place to another.

Ex:

7. Ronnie gave Rosie some flowers.
8. The accident deprived Alex of his livelihood.

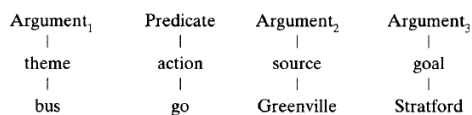
Transfer

4. Communicating something to someone through language is also a form of transfer.

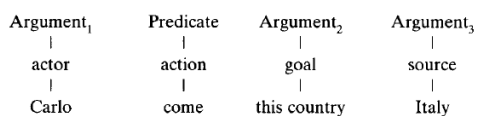
Ex:

9. Mother told the children a story.
10. Agnes is writing her mother a letter.

Sentence 1 tells of the movement of an inanimate object from one place, the source, to another place, the goal.



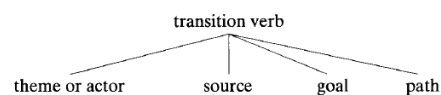
Sentence 2 is similar in role structure, except that the entity moving is animate.



In English the source is most often indicated by *from* and the goal by *to*, as here, and they occur in either order.

A sentence may express a Path, a place or area between the Source and Goal.

The path is indicated by a form that may follow one of several prepositions: *via*, *by way of*, *through*, *across* or *over*. The theme or actor NP is subject of the sentence. To generalize, sentences with transition verbs have this argument structure:



see that some predicates are specialized in meaning and others are quite general. For example *walk*, *drift* and *fly* indicate particular ways of moving while *go* is general. The former are called more **marked**, the latter **less marked**.

Common transition predicates are the following.

Unmarked: move

Focus on Goal:

get [general]

come [goal is where speaker or addressee is or will be]

go [goal is away from speaker]

Focus on Manner:

creep [animate subject; slow movement over a surface]

rotate [wheel or globe; turns on an axis]

gallop [subject is a horse or on a horse, moving at the fastest gait]

Focus on Path:

drift [effortless movement in moving water]
float [seemingly effortless movement in water or air]
fall [source is higher than goal; involuntary movement]

Focus on Cause or Purpose:

escape [source is undesirable place]
emigrate [as above; source-oriented]
immigrate [as above; goal-oriented]