

1.	German lemma	
2.	definition in German	
3.	English lemma	Primary figure
4.	definition in English	The primary figure is the pivotal entity around which a conceptual scene is organized. In a clause, the subject is prototypically the primary figure, since it is the most prominent clausal participant.
5.	further explanations / examples	<p>In relational predications, the primary figure corresponds to the trajector. In fact, one of the claims of Cognitive Grammar is that the notion of subject as primary figure is, at the root, semantic rather than syntactic, and, therefore, its syntactic properties are symptomatic rather than criterial. From this standpoint, the syntactic properties of subjects are evidence of the special prominence they are given by virtue of their role as trajectors or relational figures. For example, the tendency to select the mover/actor as subject in verbs of physical motion, such as <i>run</i>, <i>move</i>, <i>kick</i>, etc., reflect the cross-linguistic tendency to select the unmarked choice of a trajector as the figure on a general perceptual basis. The few exceptions to this tendency (e.g. verbs such as 'receive' or the passive construction) display a marked character which deviates from the basic pattern.</p> <p>The truth is that, despite this tendency, there is usually a fair degree of flexibility in the choice of the primary figure, since, in principle, there is no inherent restriction as to which participants can be subjects. As Langacker (1991: 331) outlines, the selection of the primary figure ultimately depends on the relationship profiled in the clause. For example, in a sentence like 'The boy obeyed his dad's instructions', the boy is coded by the subject, even though his dad is in control of the train of events, because the clausal profile is limited to what the boy does in response, and within that process the boy is the active participant.</p> <p>The status of subject as a relational figure also helps explain its relative autonomy in relation to the verb, in contrast to the direct object. This autonomy helps explain, in turn, why in English it is difficult to insert anything between verb and object but it is easy to do so between verb and subject, why verb-object idioms are more frequent than subject-verb idioms and why object incorporation in the verb is more common. Other syntactic properties which are given by the salience of clausal subjects as relational figures are the fact they have greater 'topicality' than other nominal complements as well as the fact they are more likely to be controllers for verb agreement (the scope of the agreement varies, however, in different languages. For instance, in Spanish the subject controls both number and gender verb agreement), antecedents for reflexivization and pronominalization, controllers for complement-subject deletion, and so on.</p>
6.	synonyms	Trajector, subject, syntactic figure
7.	antonyms	
8.	cross-references	Trajector, subject, prototypical subject, object, secondary figure,

8.	cross-references	Trajector, subject, prototypical subject, object, secondary figure, primary landmark, syntactic figure, focal participant
8.a	abbreviation of author's name	
9.	references and further reading	<p>Langacker, R.W. [1987] <i>Foundations of Cognitive Grammar. Vol. 1: Theoretical Prerequisites</i>. Stanford: Stanford University Press.</p> <p>Langacker, R.W. [1991] <i>Foundations of Cognitive Grammar. Vol 2: Descriptive application</i>. Stanford: Stanford University Press.</p> <p>Langacker, R.W. [2008] <i>Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction</i>. Oxford: Oxford</p>