



Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft (WSK) Online

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Cognitive Grammar

Editor(s): Susanne Niemeier, Constanze Juchem-Grundmann

2013

10.1515/wsk.38.0.primarylandmark

Published Online 31.1.2014

primary landmark

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most salient participant in a relational predication, frequently an entity with the status of secondary figure.

primäre Landmarke

am deutlichsten sichtbarer Mitspieler einer relationalen Prädikation, sehr oft eine Entität mit dem Status einer sekundären Figur.

A primary landmark can be elaborated by either a nominal or a relational component. When it is elaborated syntagmatically by a nominal, this is seen as the direct object, as in *Catherine won the lottery*. In this example, *Catherine* elaborates the schematic trajector of *won*, while *the lottery* elaborates its primary landmark and is thus the direct object.

Different selections of primary landmark may serve to impose contrasting images on essentially the same conceived situation. LANGACKER (1991: 326) illustrates these differences with the examples *Sally teaches mathematics/third grade*, *Sunday school/handicapped children*. In these examples, each primary landmark reflects a different conceptualization by focusing on different aspects of the same scene.

The primary landmark may coincide with the active zone of the participating entity, but cannot always be equated with it. For instance, in the sentence *I could smell her perfume*, the active zone of *perfume* with regard to the process of smelling is the scent while the entity it designates is the physical object.

In the passive construction, primary landmark and trajector coincide. The passive construction has the effect of deriving a complex clausal head from the verb (e.g., be (PERF (V))) which is intransitive and whose trajector corresponds to the verb's primary landmark, as in the sentence *The house was sold*.

This trajector/landmark alignment is characteristic of passives.

A primary landmark can also be elaborated by a relational complement. In these cases, the predicate's primary landmark can be defined as the most salient substructure, other than the trajector, which is elaborated by a complement. For example, in the case of 'have' and 'be' as auxiliary verbs (e.g., *He has worked hard* or *He is working hard*), the primary landmark is the participialized process described by *worked*. For these verbs, it is the relational character of their primary landmarks which renders them intransitive.

References

active zone (Cognitive Grammar)

direct object (Cognitive Grammar)

landmark (Cognitive Grammar)

primary figure (Cognitive Grammar)

relational landmark (Cognitive Grammar)

relational predication (Cognitive Grammar)

secondary figure (Cognitive Grammar)

secondary landmark (Cognitive Grammar)

trajector (Cognitive Grammar)

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