



## 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.relationallandmark

Published Online 31.1.2014

### relational landmark

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landmark which takes part in a relational predication as opposed to a nominal one.

*relationale Landmarke*

Landmarke als Teil einer relationalen (und nicht einer nominalen) Prädikation.

A relational landmark can coincide with either the primary or the secondary landmark of a predication.

For example, the relational landmark is also the primary landmark in perfect and progressive constructions, as in *She has left* vs. *She is leaving*. In these sentences, the overall trajector (i.e., the clausal subject *she*) is also the trajector of the relational landmark (i.e., of the perfect participle *left* in the first sentence, and of the present participle *leaving* in the second one). The fact that the primary landmarks of *have* and *be* (and in fact of all the auxiliary verbs) are relational rather than nominal renders the sentences intransitive. In those cases where a direct object is possible (e.g., *She has already left the office*), the content verb, and not the auxiliary one, licenses the direct object.

Other examples of constructions where the relational landmark is also the primary one relate to English modals (e.g., *He can dance*), to certain constructions derived by raising (e.g., *There began to be problems*) or to equi-NP deletion (e.g., *Helen began to cry*). In the latter case, both variants of *begin* profile the initiation of a process which is a kind of relational landmark, construed atemporally and coded by an infinitival complement.

There are furthermore cases where the relational landmark coincides with the secondary landmark. One example is that of causative constructions (e.g., *The bright light caused her to blink*), where the relational landmark is equated with the secondary landmark elaborated by an infinitival complement (i.e., *to blink*). A similar case is that of complex sentences involving physical perception, as in *We saw the man drowning*. In this case, the trajector is elaborated by the subject *we* and the primary landmark by the direct object *the man*. However, the peculiarity of these sentences is that the primary landmark ( $Im_1$ ) further includes some process in which it participates as its trajector. *Drowning* is the secondary or relational landmark ( $Im_2$ ) which serves as elaboration site for the complement clause.

### References

elaboration site (Cognitive Grammar)

infinitival complement (Cognitive Grammar)

landmark (Cognitive Grammar)

primary landmark (Cognitive Grammar)

relational predication (Cognitive Grammar)

secondary landmark (Cognitive Grammar)

Equi-NP-Deletion (Cognitive Grammar)

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