

Caused Motion

- The Caused-Motion Construction
(Goldberg 1995)

[Subject [Verb Object Directional]]

- (1)
 - a. Norman kicked the ball into the room.
 - b. Mary hit the ball out of the park.
 - c. Fred sprayed paint onto the wall.
- Causation is central
 - (2)
 - a. The bottle floated into the cave.
 - b. The boat sailed into the cave.
 - c. * The boat burned into the cave.

Resultatives

- The Resultative Construction

[Subject [Verb Object Pred]]

- (3) a. Norman hammered the metal flat.
b. Pugman combed his hair smooth.
c. The tools were wiped clean.
- The Resultative construction is assumed to be related to the Caused Motion construction
- (4) a. Pat threw the metal off the table.
b. Norman hammered the metal flat.

Resultatives

- Goldberg (1995) treats it as a metaphorical extension to the caused-motion construction

Motion \Rightarrow Change

Location \Rightarrow State

- Expressions reflecting this metaphor include:

- (5) a. The jello *went from* liquid *to* solid in a matter of minutes.
- b. He *couldn't manage to pull himself out of* his miserable state.
- c. No one could help her as she *slid into* madness.

Resultatives

- As with Caused-Motion constructions, resultatives can apply to intransitives
 - Syntactic frame may require so-called ‘fake objects’ when the verb is intransitive
- (6) a. Paulo, who had *roared himself hoarse*, was very willing to be silent.
b. * Paulo roared himself.
- (7) a. The Germans cried their throats dry with calling for a general council.
b. The Germans cried their throats.

More Syntactic Constructions

1. Active voice

(8) Norman won the race.

2. Passive voice

(9) The race was won by Norman.

3. Clefts

(10) It was the race that Norman won.

4. Topicalization

(11) The race, Norman won.

5. Inversion

(12) Winning the race was Norman.

6. VP Preposing

(13) Norman predicted that he would win the race, and win the race he did.

Inversion

- Inversion (Birner, 1994)

An INVERSION is a sentence in which the logical subject appears in a postverbal position while some other, canonically postverbal, constituent appears in clause-initial position.

(14) George, can you do me a favor?

Up in my room, on the nightstand, is
a pinkish-reddish envelope that needs
to go out immediately.

- Constraint: Information in the preposed element in an inversion should not be newer (i.e., more salient) in the discourse than information in the postposed element

Inversion

Discourse-old vs. discourse-new

- (15) We have complimentary soft drinks, coffee, Sanka, tea, and milk. Also complementary is red and white wine. We have cocktails available for \$2.00.
- (16) ... Now, however, they've [=a merry band of eco-warriers] had to be grabbed by the scruff of the conscience and hauled kicking and screaming out of their complacency. Doing the hauling is none other than George Washington Hayduke – ex-Green Beret...

Inversion

- Compare with putting discourse-new before discourse-old

(17) A: Hey, mom, have you seen my gym shirt? I'm in a big hurry to get to the bus stop.

B: # In the hall closet is your gym shirt.

B': Your gym shirt is in the hall closet.

- Both can be hearer-new (and thus discourse-new)

(18) You won't believe what I saw yesterday when I was walking past the park.

Sitting and talking with an elderly man
was your little brother. I think they were feeding the squirrels.

Inversion

- When both constituents are discourse-old, relative salience determines possible ordering(s)
- (19) Each of the characters is the centerpiece of a book, doll and clothing collection. The story of each character is told in a series of six slim books, each \$12.95 hardcover and \$5.95 in paperback, and in bookstores and libraries across the country. More than 1 million copies have been sold; and in late 1989 a series of activity kits was introduced for retail sale. Complementing the relatively affordable books are the dolls, one for each fictional heroine and each with a comparably pricey historically accurate wardrobe and accessories...

Inversion

Inferrables

- Inferrables appear to inherit the salience of the referents that license them
- (20) Labor savings are achieved because the crew is put to better use than cleaning belts manually; also eliminated is the expense of buying costly chemicals.
- (21) She got married recently and at the wedding was the mother, the stepmother and Debbie.