Another Inversion Example

(1) Nepalese Prince Gyanendra was crowned king Monday after the death of his nephew, who had been elevated to the throne as he lay in a Katmandu hospital on life support after a horrific shooting in the royal palace. Killed in the palace shooting was 55-year-old King Birendra, his wife the queen, and other members of the royal family. (CNN website, 6/4/01)
VP Preposing (Ward, 1990)

(2) At the end of the term I took my first schools; it was necessary to pass, if I was to stay at Oxford, and pass I did, after a week in which ...

- A VP is moved from the end of the sentence to the beginning, leaving behind an auxiliary

- Serves one of two functions:
  - Proposition affirmation (three types)
  - Proposition suspension
Proposition Affirmation, Type 1

- **INDEPENDENT PROPOSITION AFFIRMATION**
  affirms a proposition that is neither semantically entailed by nor presupposed in the prior discourse

(3) As members of a Gray Panthers committee, we went to Canada to learn, *and learn we did*. We learned the amazing contrast...
Proposition Affirmation, Type 2

- **Concessive affirmation** affirms a proposition that stands in rhetorical opposition to another proposition conceded in the prior discourse.

(4) Waiting in long lines can be infuriating. Waiting in long lines to pay someone else money seems unconscionable. Waiting in long lines to pay someone else more money than they seem to be entitled to is lunacy. *But wait in line they did Monday in Chicago and the Cook County suburbs*, partaking in the semi-annual ritual of settling up property taxes by the 6 p.m. deadline.
VP Preposing

Proposition Affirmation, Type 3

• Scalar Affirmation affirms a proposition whose predicate is construable as a scale upon which the subject represents a high value

(5) Asked what he thought about during today’s race on a sultry day, Greg LeMond said: ‘I didn’t think. I just rode.’ Ride he did. LeMond won the time trial easily...

(6) Smith errs – and err he does! – by assuming without explanation that locative inversion and nonlocative inversion are governed by the same principles.
Scalar Affirmation

(7) I am so proud of Norman for getting a hundred on his exam. # And get a hundred he did!

(8) I am so proud of Norman for passing his exam. # And pass he did! He got a hundred.
VP Preposing

Proposition Suspension

- VPP may serve to suspend a speaker’s belief in an explicitly evoked and salient proposition

(9) Wilson Goode was prompt and correct to complain of ‘unfortunate racial overtones.’ And though he stopped short of apologizing, Mr. Egan agreed that the campaign letter stank. If Philadelphia is lucky, Egan’s slipping up — *if slip up he did* — will stand as an early warning to all camps...

(10) It’s really too bad that Joseph left, *if leave he did.*
Fictive Motion

• Fictive or Virtual Motion (Talmy, 1996, Langacker 1997)

(11) a. That mountain range lies between Mexico and Canada.
    
    b. That mountain range goes from Mexico to Canada.
    
    c. That mountain range goes from Canada to Mexico.

• The virtual motion is used to “build up” the conception of a stable situation (Langacker 1997)
Fictive Motion along an Oriented Path (Talmy, 1996)

(12)  a. The cliff wall faces toward/away from the valley. (Prospect Path)

        b. The snake is lying away from the light. (Alignment Path)

        c. The signpost points toward the town. (Demonstrative Path)

        d. I aimed my camera toward the living room. (Targeting Path)

        e. I quickly looked down into the well. (Line of Sight)
Fictive Motion

Pattern Paths

- The fictive conceptualization of some configuration as moving through space

(13) a. As I painted, (a line of) paint spots slowly progressed across the floor.

b. As I painted, (a line of) ants slowly progressed across the floor.
Fictive Motion

Frame-Relative Motion

- An moving observer represented as stationary and her stationary surrounding as moving relative to her from her perspective

(14) a. I sat in the car and watched the scenery rush past me. (Local frame, fictive motion)

b. I sat in the movie-set car and watched the scenery rush past me.

(15) a. I was walking through the woods and this branch that was sticking out hit me. (Mid-stream shift from global/factive to local/fictive)

b. I was walking through the woods and this falling pinecone hit me.
Fictive Motion

Frame-Relative Motion

(16) a. # We and the scenery rushed past each other. (Frame clash)

b. We and the logging truck rushed past each other.
Fictive Motion

Advent Paths

- A depiction of a stationary object’s location in terms of its arrival or manifestation at the site it occupies

(17) a. The palm trees clustered together around the oasis.
   b. The children clustered together around the oasis.

(18) a. Termite mounds are scattered all over the plain.
   b. Gopher traps were scattered all over the plain by a trapper.
Fictive Motion

Access Paths

- A depiction of a stationary object’s location in terms of a path that some other entity might follow to the point of encounter with the object

(19) a. The bakery is across the street from the bank.
    b. The ball rolled across the street from the bank.

(20) a. The vacuum cleaner is down the hall, around the corner, behind the clotheshamper.
    b. I ran down the hall, around the corner, behind the clotheshamper.
Fictive Motion

Coextension Paths

• A depiction of the form, orientation, or location of a spatially extended object in terms of a path over the object’s extent.

(21) a. The fence zigzags from the plateau to the valley.
   b. I zigzagged from the plateau to the valley.

(22) a. The field spreads out in all directions from the granary.
   b. The oil spread out in all directions from the granary.
Virtual Change

Langacker (1997)

(23)  a. His newspaper column grew longer every week.

b. The trees got shorter at higher altitudes.

c. The water got deeper as he swam away from the shore.

d. The telephone poles are rushing by at 80 miles per hour.

e. There was a house every now and then through the valley.

f. There is a house every now and then through the valley.