

Construal

- Scope effects on Imperfective vs. Perfective

Construal

- Verbs refer to *processes*
- Process is relationship seen as persisting through time
- Imperfective process - does not change over time
- Perfective process - changes over time- has steps

Construal

– Perfective

- Walk, talk, hit, dress, sing
 - Starting point, ending point, evolving motor routines, sequences of actions

– Imperfective

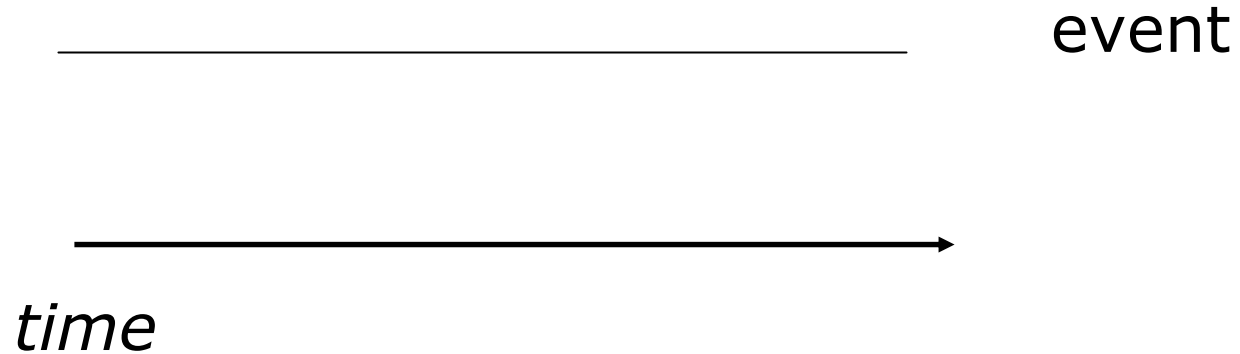
- Believe, know, think, have, resemble
 - Indeterminate beginning and end, stable status that persists through time

Construal

- Linguistic usage reflects the perfective/imperfective contrast
 - Simple present
 - I have a car.
 - I know a lawyer.
 - *I walk to the bank now.
 - *I sing you a song.
 - Progressive
 - *I am having a car.
 - *I am knowing a lawyer.
 - I am walking to the bank now.
 - I am singing you a song.

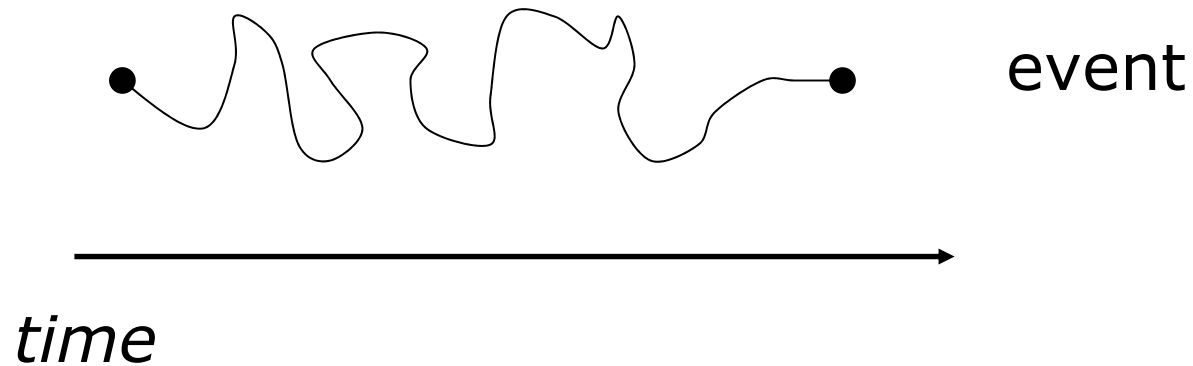
Construal

Perfective event - unchanging over time



Construal

Imperfective event - changing over time



Construal



Object well differentiated from surroundings

Clear boundaries

Complex morphology - change through space

Construal

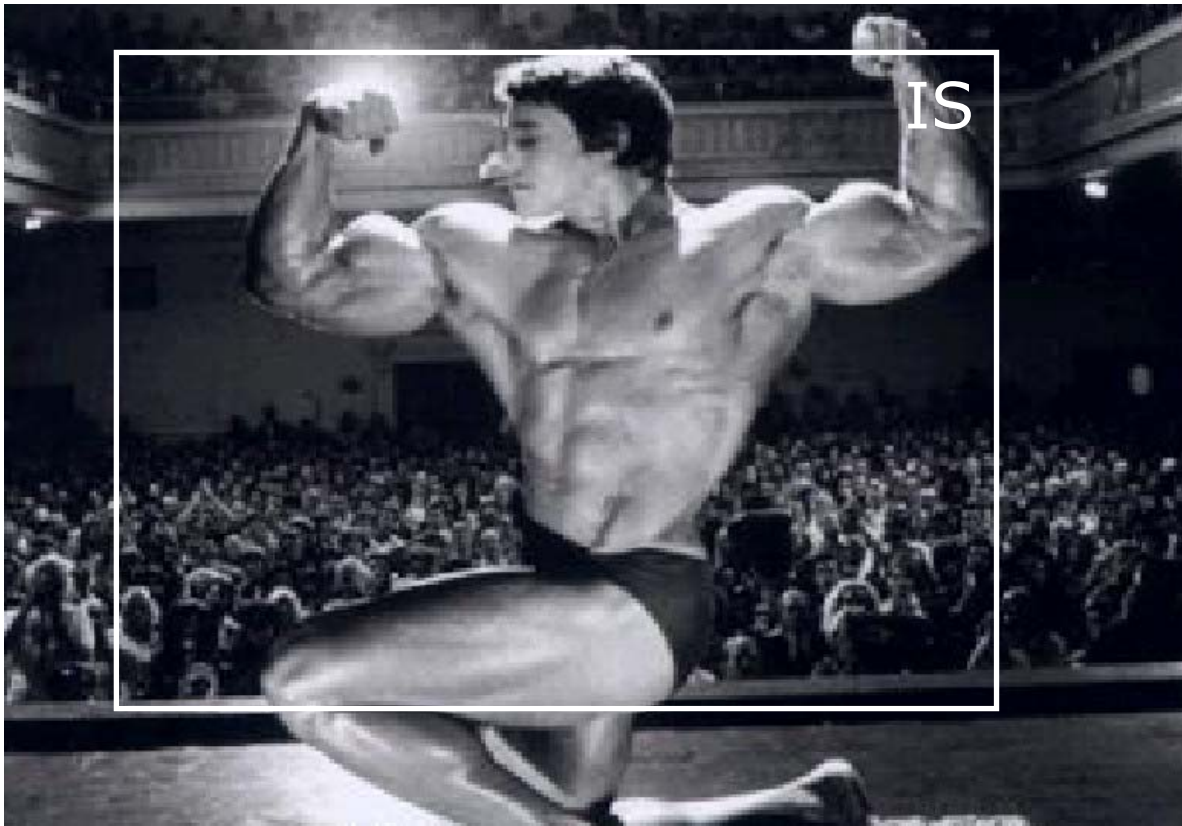


Object has no clear boundaries
Object is homogenous/amorphous

Construal



Construal



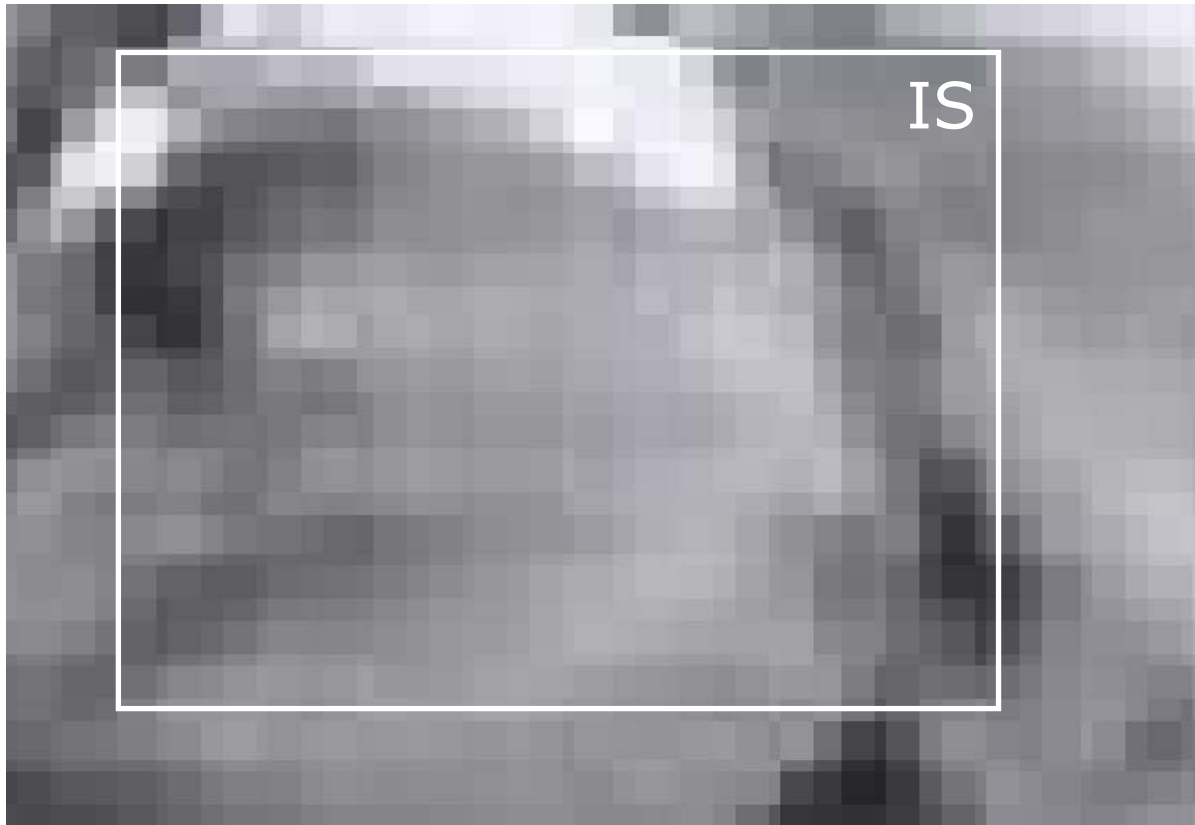
Construal



Construal



Construal



Zooming in changes apparent structure

Construal



Construal



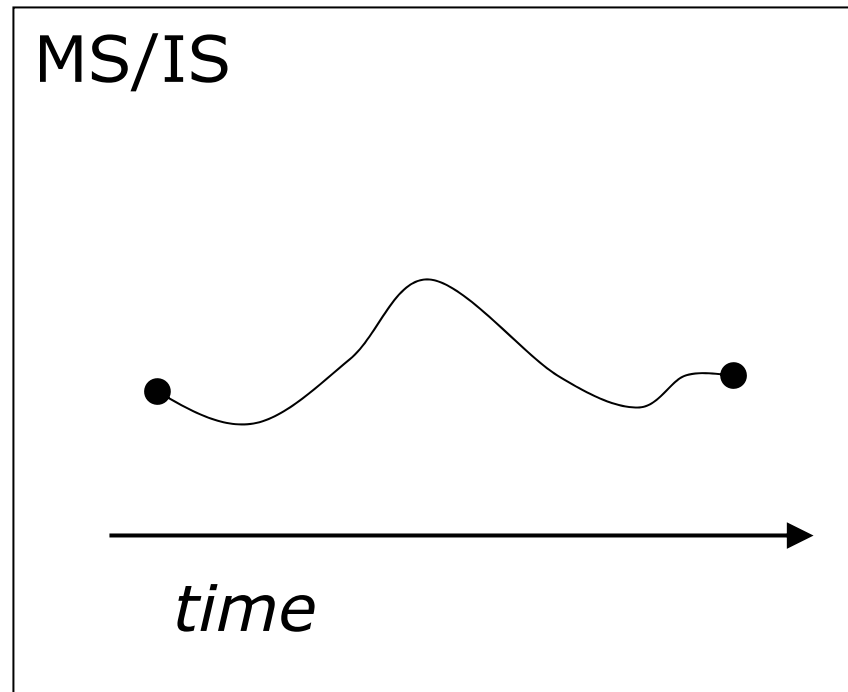
Construal



Construal

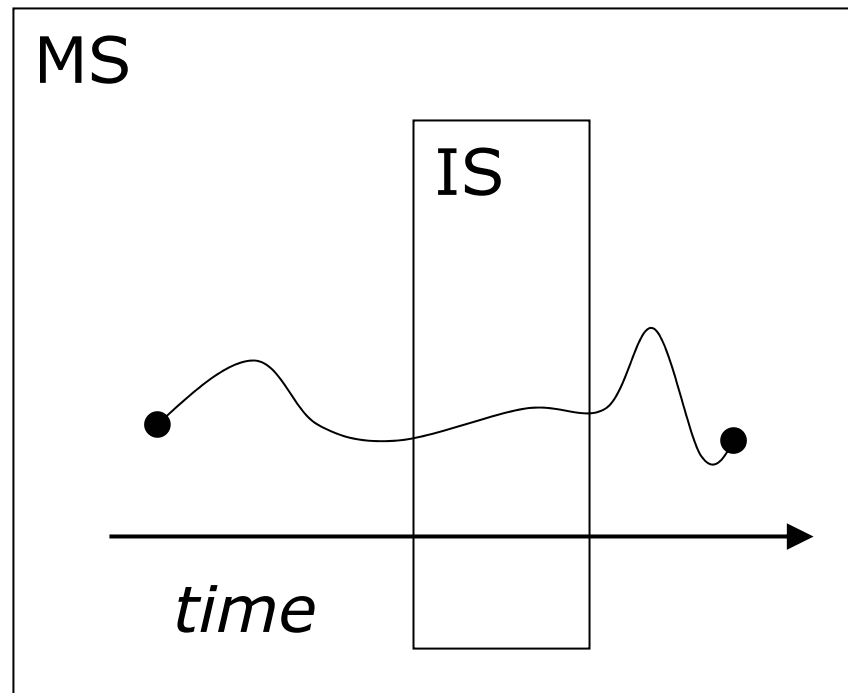
- Claim from Langacker: Progressive marking imposes a narrowed viewing window on a verb's content in the temporal domain such that processes normally marked by change (inherent perfectives) are viewed as homogenous or unchanging through time.
- Since it follows naturally from this claim that it would be somewhat meaningless to impose such a window on a process that is already designated as unchanging over time (imperfectives), this idea is consistent with the observation that imperfectives do not take progressive marking.

Construal



Perfective verb, ex. *walk*

Construal



Perfective with progressive, ex. *Be walking*

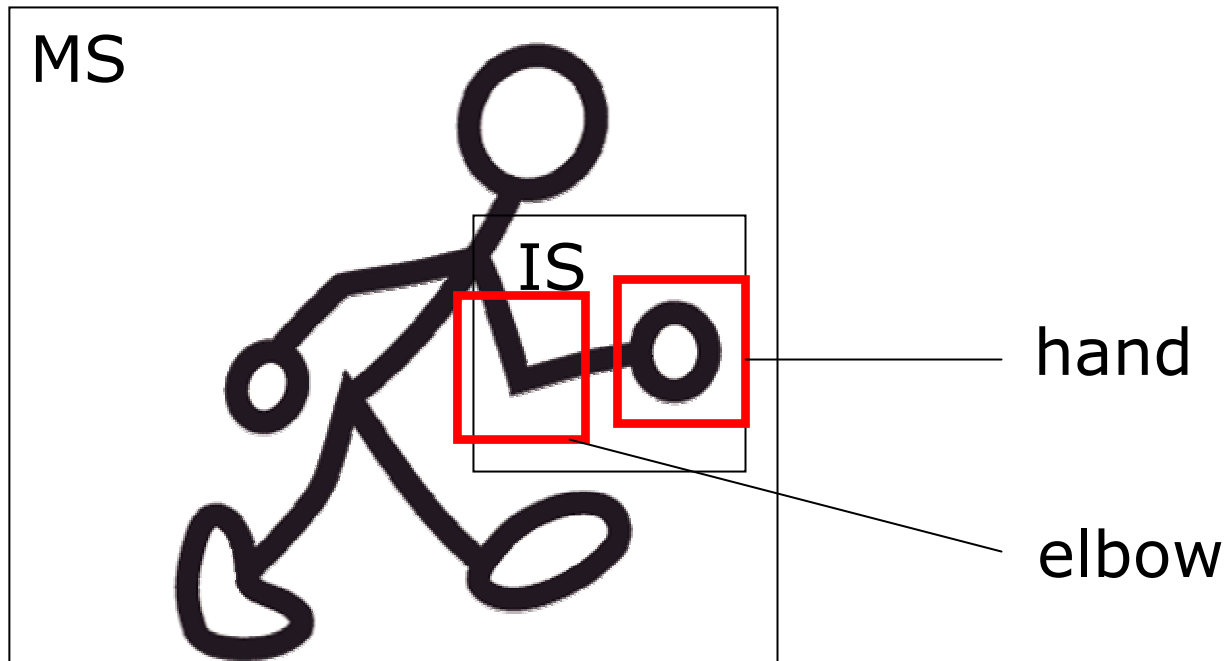
Construal

- Prominence (salience)
 - Selection of content
 - What is selected is salient relative to background
 - Focus
 - Foreground salient relative to background
 - Prototype salient relative to extensions
 - Immediate scope relative to maximal scope
 - **Profiling**
 - **Trajector/landmark**

Construal

- Profiling -
 - Expressions select a certain body of conceptual content from one or more domains as a conceptual *base*.
 - Expression's *profile* is the specific focus of attention within its immediate scope--its referent
 - Multiple expressions may share the same conceptual base and differ in terms of profiling

Construal



hand and *elbow* profile different parts of body

Construal

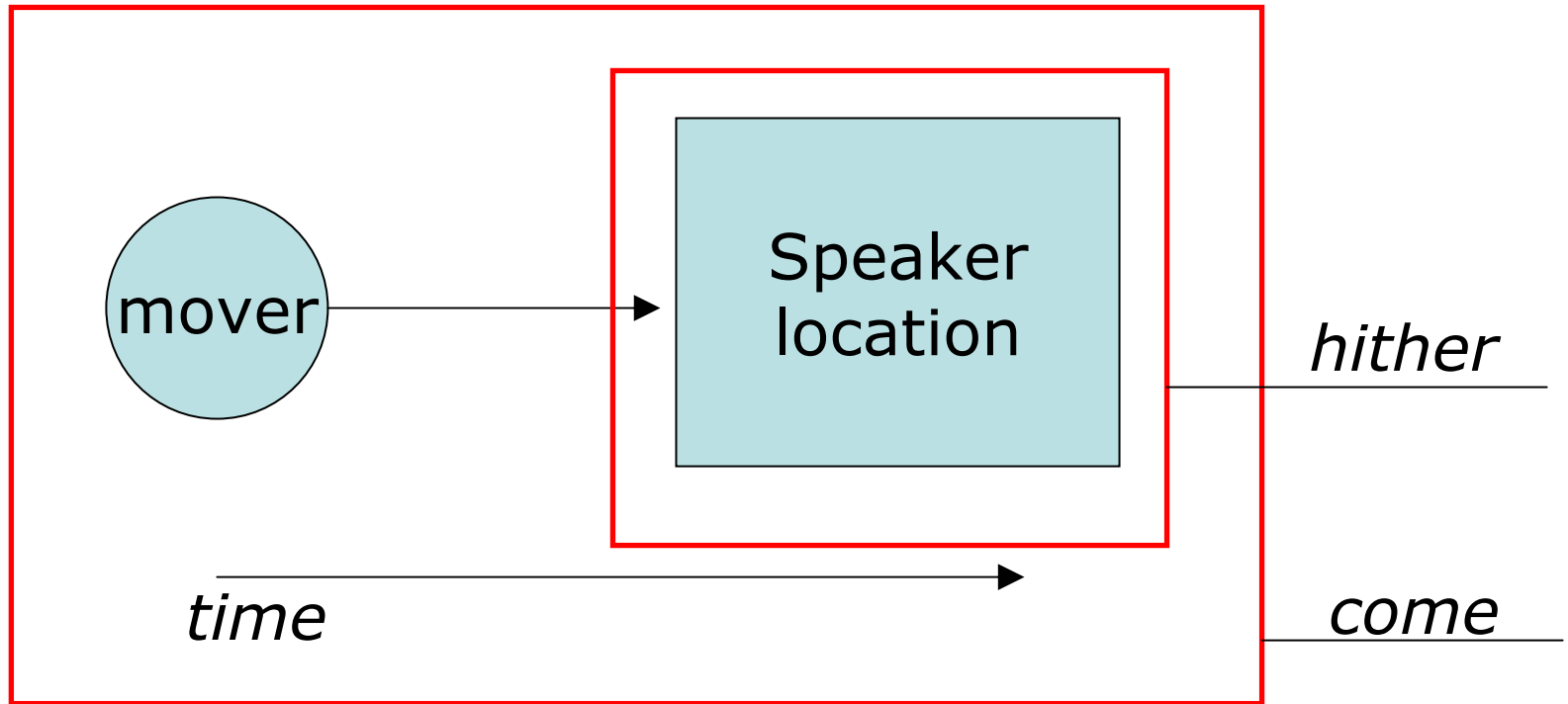
February						

Days of week profile part of conceived cycle
Of days, weeks, years, etc.

Construal

- Verbs profile processes
- A process can vary in terms of the complexity of its conceptual base
 - Ex. *Come, go* evoke spatial domain, single action, few components: mover, direction, speaker location
 - Verb profiles entire process
 - *Hither, thither* - profiles the location speaker within that process

Construal



Construal

- More complex domains/frames/script may involve multiple processes.
 - Verb profiles one particular process that is understood against the background of this conceptual base.
 - *Buy, sell* profile separate processes within a complex transaction frame
 - *Enroll, graduate, test, grade* profile separate processes within an educational institution frame.

Construal

- Metonymy - profile shift
 - If there is a Cognitive domain/frame establishing connection between the two entities, can refer to one entity by naming another that profiles something else in domain.
 1. I'm the lasagne.
 - Restaurant behavior involves people placing orders for food. Customers are not introduced to waitstaff or cooks. Orders organized by dish.

Construal

2. She couldn't find Tom in the phone book.
 - Phone book is a database of information linked to real persons

3. He came at precisely 7:45 p.m.
 - *come* and *arrive* share the same conceptual base involving movement from location to another
 - *come* profiles full event, *arrive* profiles final stage of reaching goal

Construal

- Adverbs and Adjectives
 - Profile relationships between objects/processes and qualities
 - White sock
 - Run quickly
- Prepositions
 - Profile relationships (prototypically spatial) between objects.
 - In the barn
 - Over the mountain

Construal

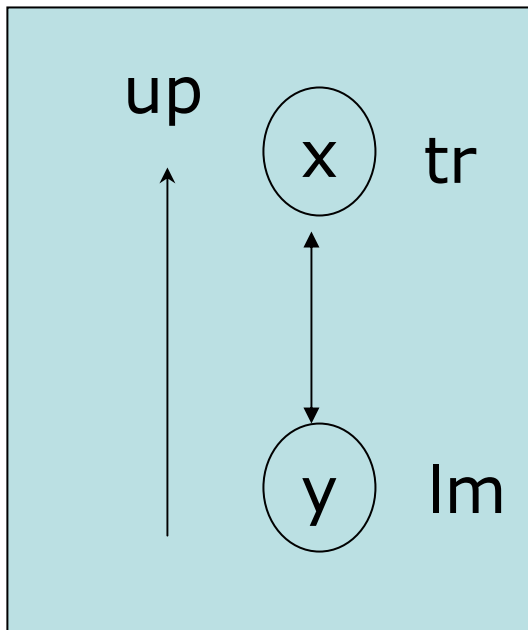
- Profiled relationships
 - Verbs profile processes
 - Adverbs and adjectives profile other sorts of relationships
 - Within profiled relationship can distinguish another level of foreground/background alignment - trajector/landmark organization
 - Primary/secondary salience

Construal

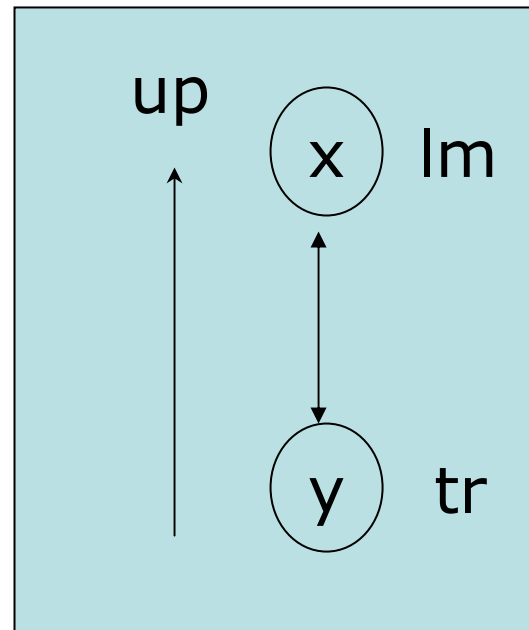
- Trajector seen as participant being located, evaluated or described.
- Landmark - has secondary focus trajector is seen as being located, evaluated or described with respect to landmark

Construal

above



below



Construal

- Two expressions may describe same objective content, but differ in tr/lm alignment
 - 1a. The lamp is above the table.
 - 1b. The table is below the lamp.
 - 2a. John resembles Mary.
 - 2b. Mary resembles John.

Construal

- Where is the lamp?
 - It's above the table
 - *The table is below it.

- Who does John look like?
 - *Mary resembles John.

Construal

- Subject/object relationship is a particular kind of trajector/landmark relationship
- Not all verbs profile processes that have both a trajector and a landmark. Not all processes that have tr/lm overtly express a landmark
 - Verbs with single participant have only tr (*walk, run*)
 - Verbs that can be used intransitively may still have landmarks (*read, arrive*)
 - Verb can have more than one landmark as well
 - Ex. Dative relationship

Construal

- Trajector/landmark organization for other word classes
 - Adverbs, adjectives *quickly, red*
 - Trajector is thing being evaluated (process/object)
 - Landmark is scale trajector is located on
 - Nouns
 - *Part* - characterized with respect to whole
 - *Uncle* - located with respect to ego

Construal

- Trajector/landmark organization - aspect of construal -- speaker chooses form of expression
- Trajector/landmark designations clearer for prototypical verbs (physical motion)
 - *Run, kick, move, approach, etc.*
- Verbs profiling mental processes -- less clear.
 - I saw, heard, felt, ...
 - It looked, sounded, felt...
 - I like it/ it pleases me
 - I think .../ it occurs to me