Imagery

- Perception-like experiences accompanying language comprehension or thought

- Perception - perceiving a scene produces a mental representation of objects, their spatial relationships (or other perceptual characteristics), awareness of how scene is changing over time, identification of event/state, awareness of reality of experience

- Consciously imagining a scene or comprehending a sentence describing a scene produces an experience similar in some ways to perception but without ‘reality’ experience
Imagery

• Imagery – not strictly visual
  – Imagine the flavor of corn flakes
  – Imagine jumping into a cold lake
  – Imagine the smell of freshly cut grass

• Consciously applied imagery is known to alter mental/emotional state consistent with effect of experiencing an actual instance of imagined situation
Imagery

• Imagery in language comprehension
  – More controversial

  • Subjects report imagery experiences to greater or lesser extents
  • Some people report imagery experiences even for abstract relationships
    – A mule is half-way between a donkey and a horse
  • Some people deny imagery experiences even for highly imageable situations
    – Mitya, with his long quick strides, went right up to the table
Imagery

- Zwaan & Madden – Comprehension involves the ‘mental simulation of an experience conveyed by an attentional frame’
  
  - Experimental evidence suggested that as sentences are comprehended, information is gained that is not expressed by the lexical items alone
The shortstop hurled the ball at you.

Are objects the same? Yes (fast)

Are objects the same? Yes (slow)
Imagery

• Langacker – Mental scanning (element of dynamicity)

  – Different expressions may describe same objective situation, but through different access paths

  • The iron is upstairs, in the second bedroom on the left, in the closet, next to the towels.
  • The iron is next to the towels, in the closet, in the second bedroom on the left, upstairs
Imagery

• Imagery
  – Factive/Veridical
    • The mental simulation of described situations that mirrors reality
  – Fictive/Non-veridical
    • The conception of irrealis
      – Hypothetical situations, day dreams, etc.

• Fictive construal of scene
  – Fictive Motion (Talmy)
Imagery

• Fictive motion in language

- That mountain range lies between Canada and Mexico. (factive)
- That mountain range goes from Canada to Mexico. (fictive)
- That mountain range goes from Mexico to Canada. (fictive)
Imagery

- Factive motion of some elements need not/must be present for the fictive effect.
- The fictively moving entity is itself factive/fictive.
- The fictive effect is observer-neutral/observer-based—and if observer-based, the observer is factive/fictive and moves/scans;
- What is conceived as fictively moving is an entity/the observation of an entity
Imagery

– Fictive Motion types
  
  • Emanation
  • Pattern Path
  • Frame-relative motion
  • Advent Path
  • Access Path
  • Coverage Path
Imagery

- Emanation

  - Fictive motion of something intangible emerging from a source.
    - Factive motion of element need not be present
    - Fictively moving entity is itself fictive
    - Fictive effect is observer neutral
    - What is conceived as fictively moving is an entity.
Imagery

– Source object is active-determinative entity

• Agency
• Energy, power
• Size
• Concreteness
Imagery

- Emanation types:
  
  • Orientation paths
    - Prospect paths
    - Alignment Paths
    - Demonstrative Paths
    - Targeting paths
    - Line of sight
  
  • Radiation Paths
  
  • Shadow Paths
  
  • Sensory Paths
Imagery

– Emanation

• Orientation paths

  – Source is a front-type object. Continuous linear intangible entity emerging from the front of some object and moving steadily away from it.

    1. She crossed in front of me/the TV.
    2. She crossed ?behind me/the TV.
    3. She crossed *beside me/the TV.
Imagery

- Orientation paths
  - Prospect paths
    » Source object has face-type front

1. The Cliff wall faces toward/away from /into/past the valley
Imagery

• Orientation paths

  – Alignment Paths
    » Source object is a stationary straight linear object with a point-type front

1. The snake is lying toward/away from the light.
Imagery

• Orientation paths
  – Demonstrative Paths
    » Source is a linear object with a point-type front where fictively moving line functions to direct or guide attention along its path.

1. I/The arrow on the signpost pointed toward/away from /into/past the town.
2. I pointed/directed him toward/past/away from the lobby.
Imagery

- Orientation paths
  - Targeting paths
    » Source is a front-bearing object whose orientation is set by an agent so that the fictive line conceptualized as emerging from the front follows a desired path relative to the object’s surroundings.

1. I pointed/aimed (my gun/camera) into/past/away from the living room.
Imagery

• Orientation paths
  
  – Line of sight
    » Source is a visual apparatus located on the front of an animate/mechanical entity.

1. I slowly turned/looked toward the door.
2. I slowly turned my camera toward the door.
3. I slowly looked around the room/away from the window.
4. I slowly looked from the painting, past the pillar, to the tapestry.
Imagery

– Emanation

• Radiation Paths
  – Source object is an energy source from which radiation moves away from steadily and continuously

1. The sun is shining into the cave/onto the back wall of the cave.
2. The light is shining (from the sun) into the cave/onto the back wall of the cave.
3. *The light is shining from my hand onto the sun.
Imagery

– Emanation

• Shadow Paths
  – Shadow of some object moves from that object to a surface.

1. The tree threw its shadow down into/ across the valley.
2. The pillar cast/projected a shadow onto/ against the wall.
Imagery

– Emanation

• Sensory Paths
  – Experiencer as source – experiencer emits a probe that moves from experiencer to the experienced
  – Experienced as source – experienced emits a stimulus that moves from experienced to experiencer.
Imagery

– Bidirectionality can be seen in possibility for two different path phrases

1. The enemy can see us from where they’re positioned.
2. The enemy can see us from where we’re standing.
3. We can be seen by the enemy from where they’re positioned.
4. We can be seen by the enemy from where we’re standing.
5. I can hear/smell him all the way from where I’m standing.
6. I can hear/smell him all the way from where he’s standing.
Imagery

– Bidirectionality can be seen in alternatives for lexicalization.

1. Even a casual passer-by can see the old wallpaper through the paint.
2. The old wallpaper shows through the paint even to a casual passer-by.
3. The soup smells/tastes/looks good.
Imagery

- Pattern Path
  - Fictive conceptualization of some configuration as moving through space.
    - Factive motion of some elements need not be present for the fictive effect.
    - The fictively moving entity is itself fictive.
    - The fictive effect is observer-based—and observer is fictive and scans
    - What is conceived as fictively moving is an entity
Imagery

– Pattern Path

1. As I painted the ceiling, (a line of) paint spots slowly progressed across the floor.
2. As I painted the ceiling, (a line of) ants slowly progressed across the floor.
Imagery

- Frame-relative motion
  - Factive situation - observer is moving, surroundings are stationary. Fictive description adopts local frame (narrow scope) and reports apparent motion

  - Factive motion of some elements must be present for the fictive effect.
  - The fictively moving entity is itself factive
  - Fictive effect is observer-based—and observer is factive and moves
  - What is conceived as fictively moving is an entity
Imagery

– Frame-relative motion

• I rode along in the car and looked at the scenery we were passing through. (global frame/wide scope)
• I sat in the car and watched the scenery rush past me. (local frame/narrow scope)
• I was walking through the woods and this branch that was sticking out hit me.
Imagery

– Advent Path
  • Stationary object’s location depicted in terms of its arrival or manifestation at that site
    – The palm trees clustered together around the oasis.
    – The children quickly clustered together around the ice cream truck.
    – The beam leans/tilts away from the wall.
    – Termite mounds are scattered/strewn all over the plain.
    – This rock formation occurs/recurs shows up near volcanoes.
Imagery

– Access Path

Stationary object’s location depicted in terms of a path that some entity might follow to it.

1. The bakery is across the street from the bank.
2. The ball rolled across the street from the bank.
3. The vacuum is down around behind the clothes hamper.
4. I extended my arm down around behind the clothes hamper.
Imagery

– Coverage Path

• Depiction of the form, orientation and location of a spatially extended object in terms of a path over the object’s extent.

  – The fence goes/zigzags/descends from the plateau to the valley
  – The field spreads out in all directions from the granary.