

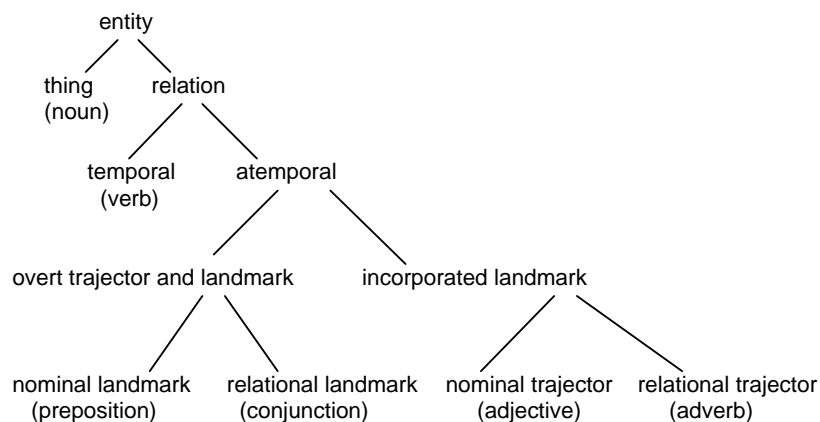
Temporal Adjectives in Cognitive Grammar

There are basically two, notionally defined, grammatical schemas in Cognitive Grammar (CG).

The first is a *thing* schema that instantiates nouns in grammar. The second is a *relation* schema, which can be divided into a temporal and atemporal distinction. The temporal subschema instantiates processes and the atemporal subschema instantiates adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, infinitives, participles (Langacker 1991: 5). Two important grammatical concepts in CG are trajector and landmark. While a trajector is the most salient figure, a landmark is the second most salient figure in an expression. In a typical transitive construction, the trajector is always the agent or instrument whereas the landmark is the patient:

1. 'He [tr] bought a dress [lm]'
2. The money [tr] bought three dresses [lm]'.

Taylor offers an outline of grammatical categories in CG (1996: 91):



A taxonomy of grammatical categories

The present discussion explores the possibility of recategorising adjectives in CG. Adjectives exemplify an ambiguous grammatical category. Givon (1984) categorises adjectives as lying in between nouns and verbs in a time-stability scale. Rusiecki (1985) divides adjectives into three overlapping categories: predicative, attributive, and gradable. Thompson uses the term *property concept words* (PCW) to refer to adjectives in the so-called natural grammar perspective (Thompson 1990: 167-8). She notices two major discourse functions in English and Mandarin PCWs.

First, PCWs function as predicates (Thompson 1990: 174):

3. I was getting kind of *good* at playing in the rain, really...
4. that got me so *mad* ...

Second, PCWs introduce new participants into the discourse (Thompson 1990: 175-176):

5. Hey, you got a *funny baggie*.
6. and there's *something* really *sad* that happens...

Thompson (1990: 181) concludes that the predicative PCWs will be categorised like verbs morphosyntactically, and the referent-introducing PCWs will be categorised like nouns morphosyntactically. PCWs that are morphosyntactically unlike verbs or nouns are categorised as a separate lexical category of Adjective.

In a recent discussion, Sheffer (1996) introduced a different conceptualisation of adjectives. Based on CG, Sheffer offers two types of adjectives, namely prototypical adjectives and deictic adjectives by definition. The difference between the two is that prototypical adjectives "elaborate an aspect of the internal semantics of the nouns they combine with" whereas deictic adjectives "specify an association between a role and the particular value it takes" (Sheffer 1996: 441).

Following Langacker (1991), Sheffer assumes that all nouns are of two cognitive types, namely type and instance. A noun type denotes a generic category. A noun type is not referentially identifiable until it is grounded as a nominal instance. The grounding of a noun in English is possible in two ways. First, by means of referential determination, either with a definite or indefinite determiner. It follows that a noun type such as 'computer' can be instantiated into a grounded noun phrase like 'a computer' or 'the computer'. These phrases provide the referential instances to the noun type computer. The second way is through quantification, namely relational and absolute quantifiers (Langacker 1991: 82):

A relative quantifier is so called because it specifies a quantity in relation to a **reference mass**; in the default-case interpretation, this reference mass consists of the maximal instantiation of the pertinent category (i.e. its full extension in all conceivable worlds)...an absolute quantifier [in contrast] specifies the size of the profiled instance without referring to the maximal extension of the relevant category (my emphasis).

A noun type like 'computer' can thus be instantiated with either a relational quantifier or an absolute quantifier:

Relational Quantification of Noun Instance

7. Each of the computers

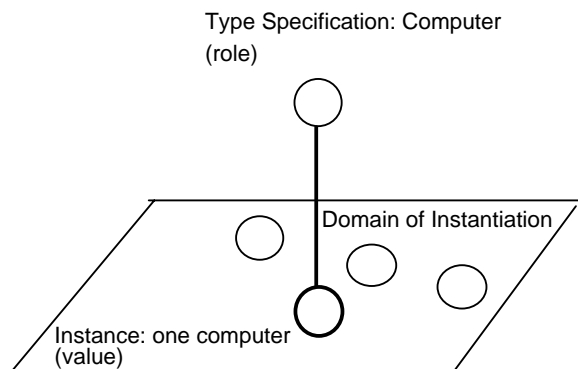
8. Most of the computers

Absolute Quantification of Noun Instance

9. one computer

10. One hundred and one computers

When we speak of one computer what we have done, in terms of CG, is instantiated an instance of computer from the noun type computer. I illustrate the type-instance divide of computer as follows:

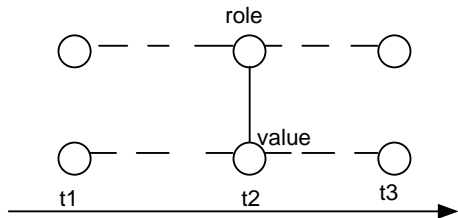


Following Fauconnier (1985), Sheffer (1996) refers noun types as roles and noun instances as values. According to Sheffer, deictic adjectives appropriate the nominal values in three temporal frames. These deictic adjectives can elaborate previous, current, and future values such as:

Table 1

Previous value	Current value	Future value
the former mistress	my new lover	the coming years
the previous scholar	her present employer	a new mayor

A schematic representation of value as an instance of role is provided by Sheffer (1996: 442):



This diagram shows that value is a temporal attribute that changes through time. Hence we can have a three-value division in Table 1. Following from this, a deictic adjective modifies a particular value/instance of a noun role/type as a possible reference that does not represent a referent absolutely. This detail, as Sheffer (1996) and Ferris (1991) point out, can be phrased in Bolinger's terms that deictic adjectives provide a reference modification (1967).

Deictic adjectives are an interesting category. I add that deictic adjectives elaborate recurrent values contingent to the nouns they modify. A deictic adjective can be modified by *again*:

11a. The traffic light is yellow again

b. *The banana is yellow again

12a. His arm is broken again

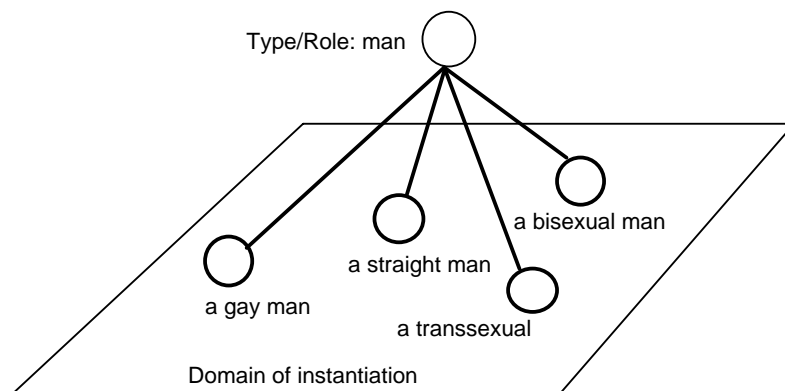
b. *This egg is broken again

13a. The machine is dead again

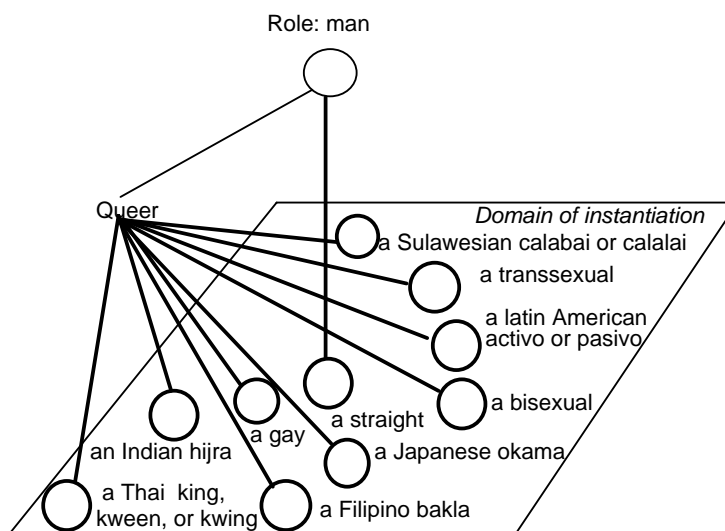
b. *Mother Theresa is dead again

The adjectives in the a-examples are deictic. They elaborate temporary values of nouns that can reoccur in time. Therefore, these values can be modified by *again*. The adjectives in the b-examples are prototypical adjectives because they predicate permanent properties in the nouns they modify. Permanent values denoted by prototypical adjectives do not change from one state to another. Naturally, these inherent properties cannot be modified by *again* which presupposes a change of state.

Based on these contrasting examples an adjective can be grounded as a prototypical or a deictic instance depending on the semantics of the noun it modifies. However, not all adjectives can have this dual instantiations. *Gay*, for example, is a deictic adjective by default. *Gay* is not an inherent property of man. Until the theory that being *gay* is genetic is accepted (cf. Byne 1997), *gay* remains attributive rather than referential. There is no guarantee that a *gay* man will remain *gay* in the future but the fact remains that he holds the role of man in his entire life. Consequently, *gay* is a temporary value of man. A basic representation of man in different sex related instantiations is represented as follows:



Cultural construals of the values of man are not so plain and simple as depicted above. The quality of being straight in one's sexual orientation remains the norm. *Straight* is the preferred or expected value for the man role although research in USA shows that at least 25-33 percent of the American males have at least one homoerotic experience in their lives (cf. King 1999: 225). I depict the values of man in different cultures as follow (cf. Manalansan IV 1995, Murray 1995):



Furthermore, Ferris (1991) examines the temporal qualities of adjectives in English. He offers a divide of standard and separative adjectives. Separative adjectives can be equated with the deictic adjectives in this discussion. Separative adjectives designate "the relation between the entity which is seen as a participant in the structure of the sentence communicated, and the description which characterises and identifies that entity (Ferris 1991: 578)." An important point made in Ferris' analysis is that separative adjectives are not limited to those of time (cf. Table 1). His examples include *would-be*, *so-called*, *apparent*, *possible*, and *true*. Examples like *possible* can have both standard and separative designations as contrasted in these examples (due to Ferris 1991: 582):

14. Herr Dittersdorf is a possible ally

15. The WHO has already sent medical teams to deal with a possible cholera outbreak

As a separative adjective in 14, *possible* qualifies the relation between ally and the entity it identifies. As a standard adjective in 15, *possible* qualifies the existence of cholera outbreak as so described. The test to show that there is indeed a semantico-syntactic difference between standard and separative adjectives is by means of syntactic distribution. Separative adjectives like deictic adjectives designate attributes, which can be temporary whereas standard adjectives like prototypical adjectives designate a permanent quality of an entity. As such, Ferris explains that separative adjectives do not exist in the predicative position (1991: 588):

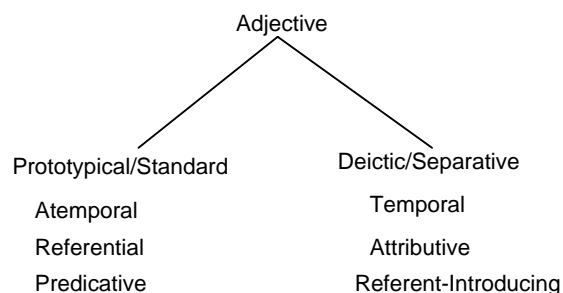
16. *Sussie's husband is former

Only adjectives with both standard and separative use can occupy the predicative position as shown in the following examples (Ferris 1991):

17. Eddy's school is old.

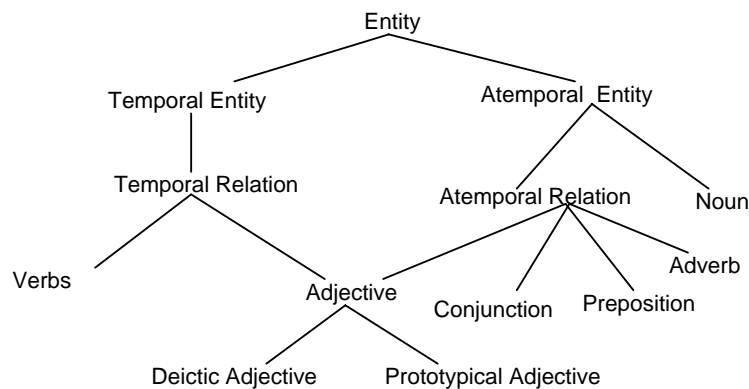
18. The gypsy ballad is true.

It is confirmed in this discussion that there are at least two types of adjectives, namely prototypical or standard adjectives, and deictic or separative adjectives. This division is illustrated as follows:



From the viewpoint of CG, deictic adjectives identify the semantico-cognitive difference between role and value in nouns. The association between role and value must be temporally bounded (Sheffer 1996: 442). Until now, adjectives are considered as atemporal

relations in Langacker's cognitive schema of things and relations (Langacker 1991: 5, 544; cf. Taylor 1996: 91). Based on the adjective division outlined in this discussion we need to subdivide adjectives into atemporal and temporal relations in CG because deictic adjectives may designate temporal relations. The semantic nature of the deictic adjectives is attributive pertaining to the modification of the reference, not the referent of the noun head. They do not encode permanent qualities of a noun but temporary values of the reference within the ground i.e. an instance. One might then like to consider this reconfiguration of grammatical schema in CG as a possible improvement:



Acknowledgment

I thank Dr Claudia Brugman for comments, although I am solely responsible for the content of this discussion.

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