The functional approach

- typological studies by Joseph Greenberg
- discourse-related studies by the Prague School and other linguists

        Talmy Givòn

        Sandy Thompson

        Joan Bybee

        Paul Hopper

        Wally Chafe

The Association for Linguistic Typology

Linguistic Typology

The cognitive approach

- Generative Semantics

        George Lakoff

        Ronald Langacker

        Len Talmy

International Association of Cognitive Linguistics

Cognitive Linguistics

Construction Grammar

Charles Fillmore

Paul Kay

George Lakoff

Adele Goldberg

Construction

A construction is a complex linguistic sign consisting of a specific form paired with a specific meaning.

Recent work on idioms

Fillmore, C., Kay, P. and O'Connor, M.K. 1988. Regularity and idiomaticity in grammatical constructions: The case of *let alone*. Language 64: 501-38.

Nunberg, S., Sag, I.A., and Wasow, T. 1994. Idioms. Language 70: 491-538.

Idioms: An overview

Encoding idioms	Decoding idioms
Idioms whose meanings the hearer could figure out even if he didn't known them.	Idioms whose meanings the hearer could not understand if he did not know them
answer the door *wide awake*	*kick the bucket* *pull a fast one*

Grammatical idioms	Extragrammatical idioms
They are semantically irregular but abide by regular syntactic rules	They are both semantically and syntactically irregular
kick the bucket *spill the beans*	*all of a sudden* *by and large*

Idioms with pragmatic point	Idioms without pragmatic point
They are tied to a specific pragmatic context	They are not tied to a specific pragmatic context
Good morning. *See you later.* *Once upon a time.* *Him be a doctor?!* *How are you doing?*	*All of a sudden.* *Either way is fine.* *That's just about the __ that __ .* *You can't have it both ways.* *Say it again.*

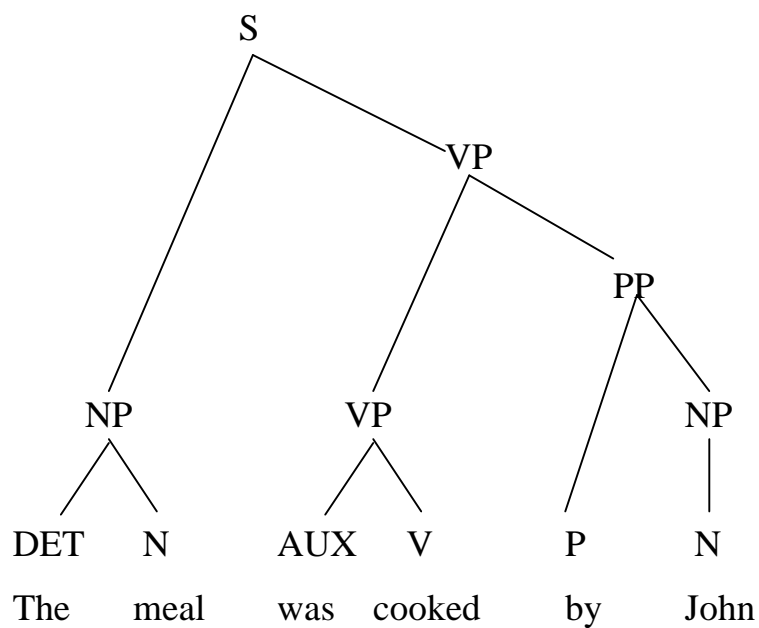| Substantive idioms	Formal (schematic) idioms
They are lexically filled and grammatically invariable	They are only partially filled by concrete lexical expressions and/or grammatically variable
It takes one to know one. *> *It took one to know one.* *So far so good* *>*So far so bad.*	*The __ the __ .* *-- let alone__ .* *Why don't you __ ?* *__ never got around to __ .*

Kick the bucket

(1)   a.   He kicked the bucket.

    b.   *The bucket was kicked.

    c.   *They kicked the buckets.

    d.   He will kick the bucket.

    e.   ?He had kicked the bucket.

Let alone

(1)   a.   We'll need shrimp and squid.

          b.   Max won't eat shrimp, let alone Squid.

(2)   a.   I want to cook the shrimp and clean the squid.

          b.   Max won't touch the shrimp, let alone clean the squid.

(3)   a.   Bill will drink beer and whisky.

          b.   Bill won't drink beer and whisky.

          c.   *Bill will drink beer let alone whisky.

          d.   Bill won't drink beer let alone whisky.

(4)   a.   Shrimp and squid, John won't eat.

          b.   *Shrimp let alone squid, John won't eat.

(5)   a.   *Shrimp, John won't eat and squid.

          b.   Shrimp, John won't eat, let alone squid.

(6)   a.   Max won't eat shrimp but Minnie will.

          b.   *Max won't eat shrimp let alone Minnie will.

Passive construction

(1) The meal was cooked by John.

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                       / \
                      /   VP
                     /   /  \
                    /   /    \
                   /   /      PP
                  /   /      /  \
                 /   /      /    \
                /   /      /      \
              NP    VP    /        NP
             / \   / \   /          |
           DET  N AUX V  P           N
           The meal was cooked  by  John
```

Idiosyncratic properties:

1. The subject is the patient rather than the actor of the verb.
2. The verb occurs in the past participle and with the auxiliary 'be'.
3. The 'by' phrase denotes the actor of the activity expressed by the verb.
4. The preposition 'by' does not have its basic spatial meaning.

The caused-motion construction

(1)   She dragged the child into the car.

(2)   He wiped the mud off his shoes.

(3)   She forced the ball into the jar.

(4)   He pushed the book down the chute.

'X causes Y to move somewhere'
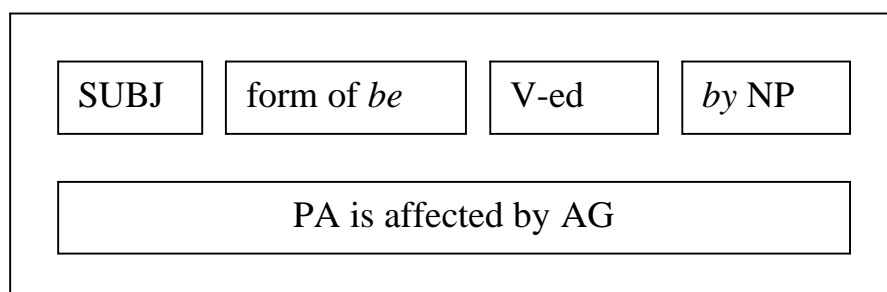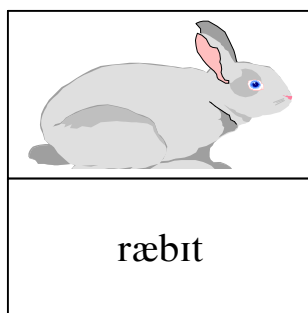

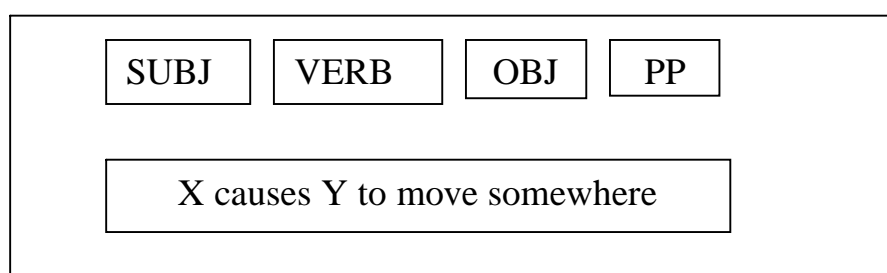(5)   She sneezed the napkin off the table.

The resultative construction

(6)   Peter meeked the bleek dizzy.

Words and constructions

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│   [rabbit image] │
├─────────────────┤
│     ræbɪt        │
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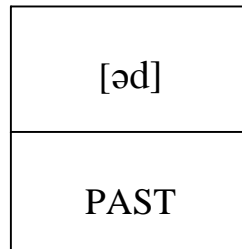
┌──┐
│ ┌────────┐ ┌──────────────┐ ┌────────┐ ┌────────┐ │
│ │ SUBJ │ │ form of *be* │ │ V-ed │ │ *by* NP │ │
│ └────────┘ └──────────────┘ └────────┘ └────────┘ │
│ ┌──┐ │
│ │   PA is affected by AG   │ │
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Passive Construction

┌──┐
│ ┌────────┐ ┌────────┐ ┌───────┐ ┌─────┐   │
│ │ SUBJ │ │ VERB │ │ OBJ │ │ PP │   │
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│ ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐   │
│ │   X causes Y to move somewhere   │   │
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Caused-motion construction

┌──┐
│ ┌────────┐ ┌────────┐ ┌───────┐ ┌───────┐   │
│ │ SUBJ │ │ VERB │ │ OBJ │ │ ADJ │   │
│ └────────┘ └────────┘ └───────┘ └───────┘   │
│ ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐   │
│ │   X affects Y so that it turns Z   │   │
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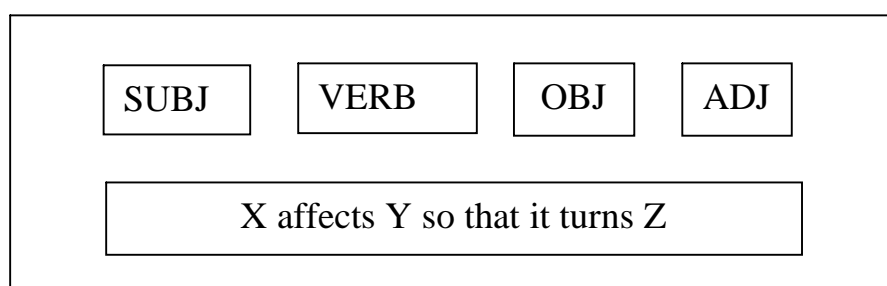
Resultative construction

Complexity

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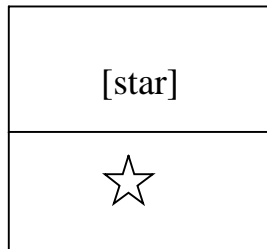
Abstractness/schematicity

Abstract:	NP V NP PP	constructional schema
Mixed:	__ let alone __	schematic idiom
Concrete:	kick the bucket	substantive idiom