
Event metonymies

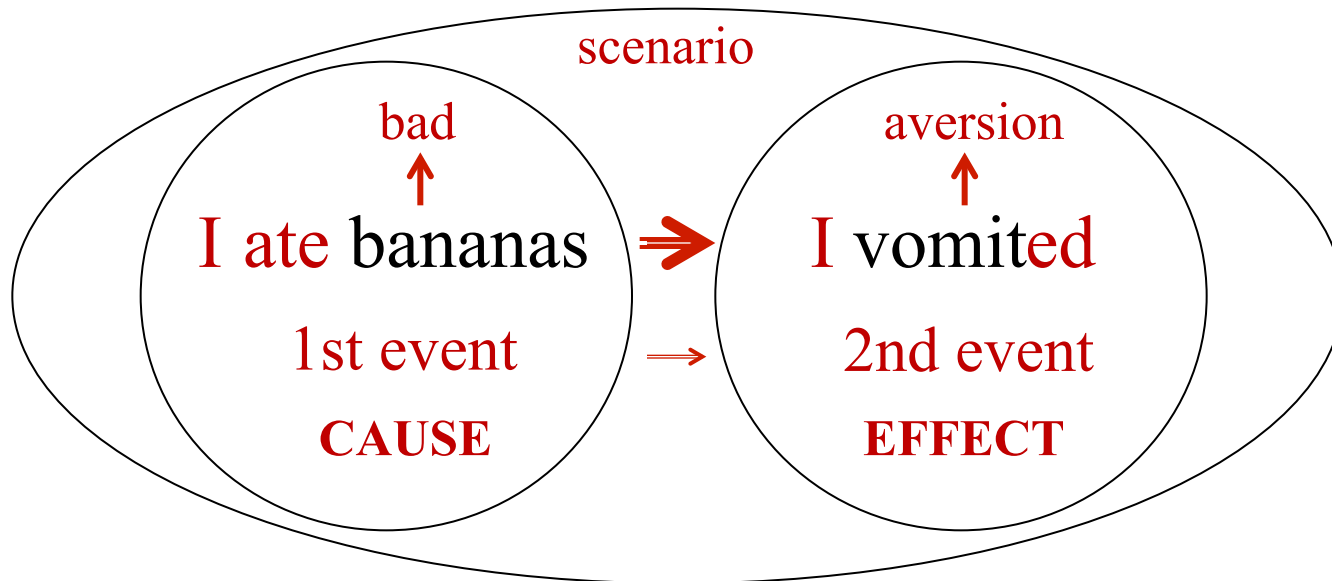
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Structure

1. Associative links and metonymies
2. Referential metonymies
3. Event metonymies
4. Puzzles waiting to be solved

The associative machine

(Daniel Kahneman. 2011. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*)



"Your mind automatically assumed a temporal sequence and a causal connection between the words *bananas* and *vomit*, forming a sketchy scenario in which bananas caused the sickness. As a result, you are experiencing a temporary aversion to bananas (don't worry, it will pass)."

Metonymic reasoning in the banana story

bananas = I ate bananas: PART FOR WHOLE: THING/
PARTICIPANT FOR EVENT AFFECTING THE
PARTICIPANT

vomit = I vomited (the contents of my stomach): PART FOR
WHOLE: PREDICATE FOR AN EVENT

I ate bananas. I vomited. = I first ate bananas and then vomited.
JUXTAPOSED EVENTS FOR SUCCESSIVE EVENTS
FOR CAUSAL SCENARIO

bananas = bad: THING FOR A PROPERTY OF THE THING

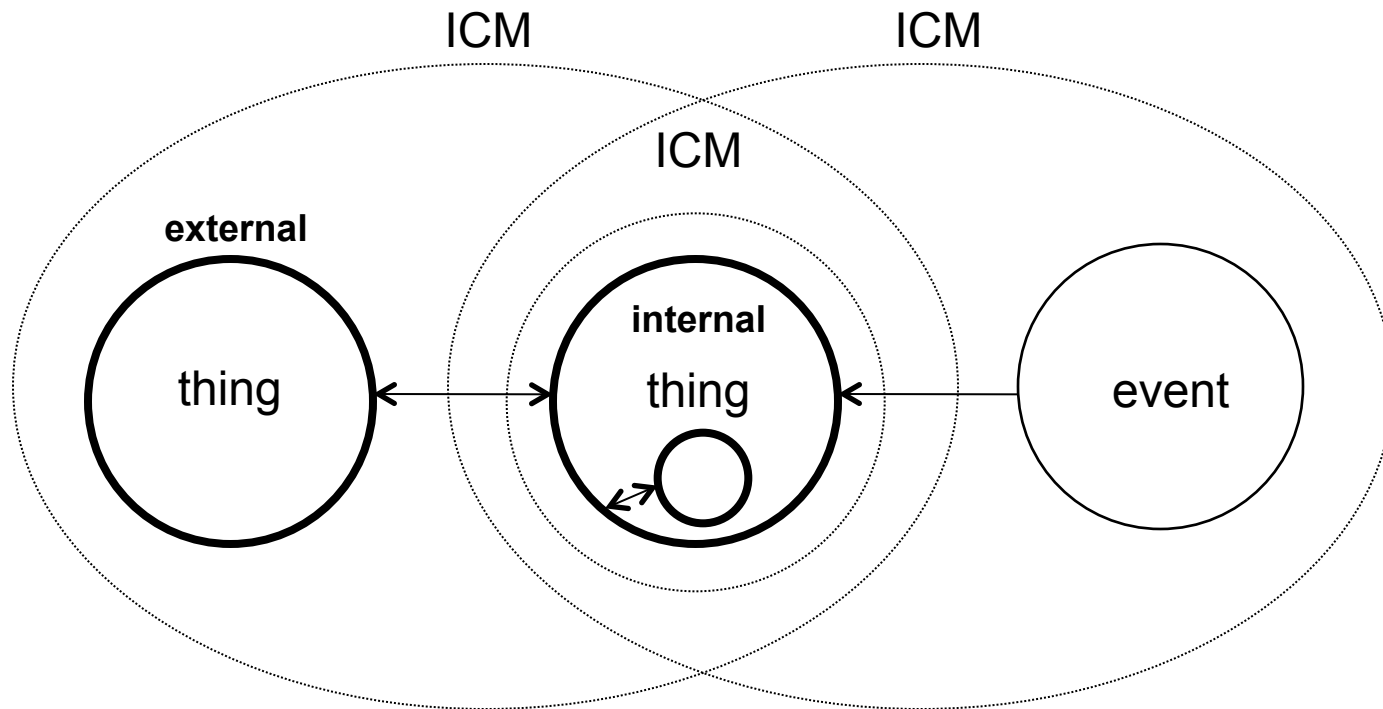
I ate bananas = EVENT FOR CAUSE (in the scenario)

I vomited = EVENT FOR EFFECT (in the scenario)

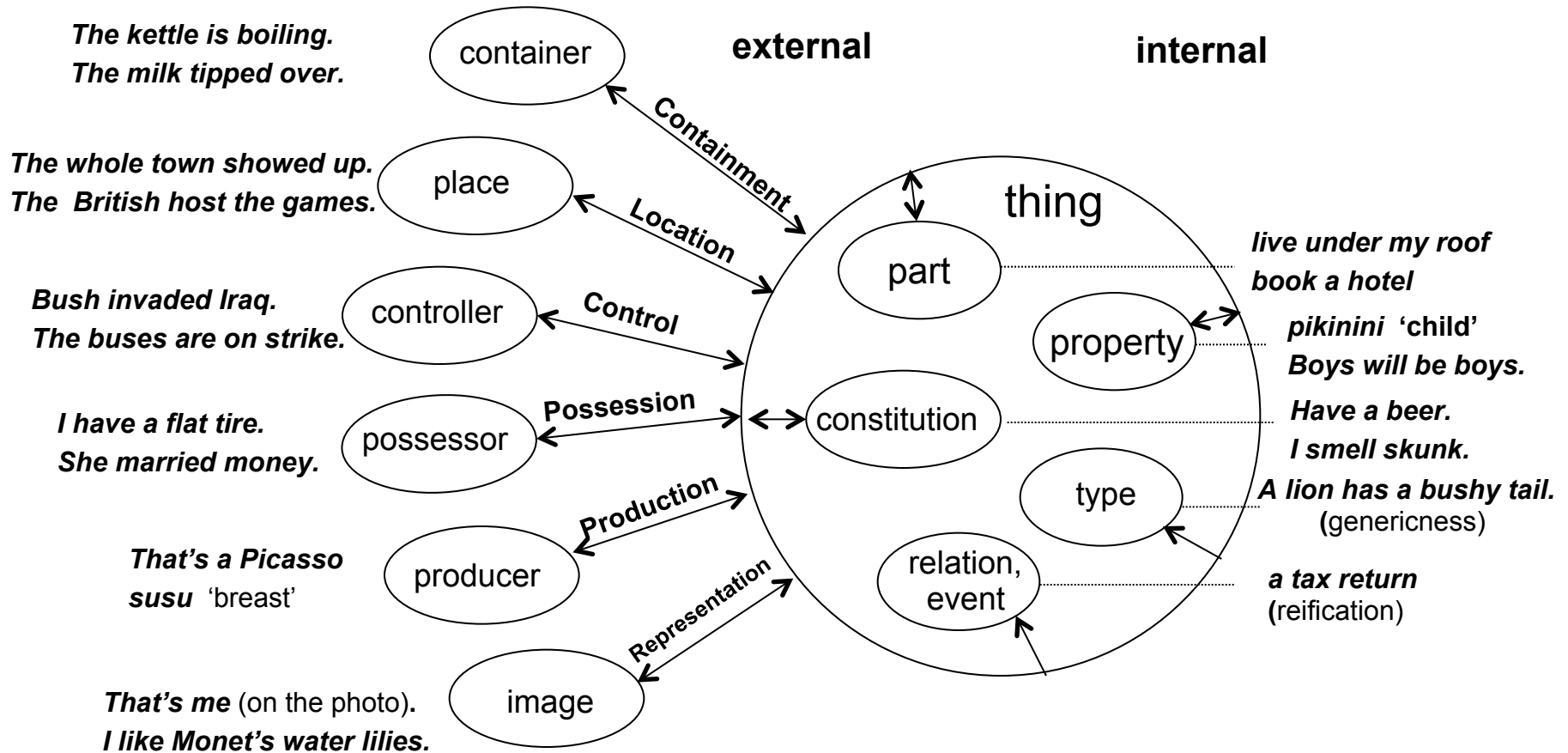
vomit = aversion: EVENT FOR A PROPERTY OF THE EVENT

All these metonymies are event metonymies.

Referential metonymies



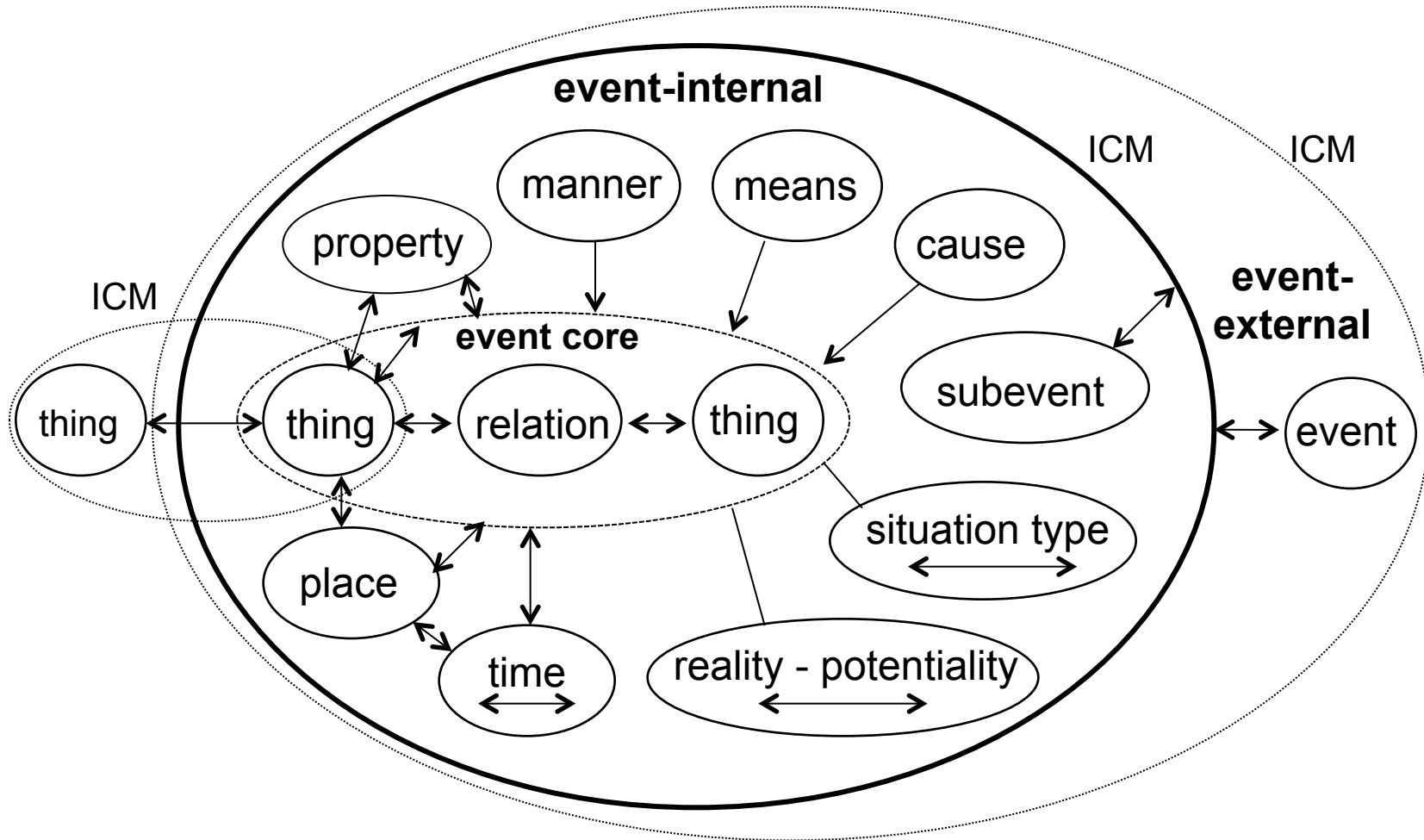
Typical referential metonymies



Characteristics of referential metonymies

- Referential metonymies may relate to referent-internal or referent-external entities.
- **Referent-internal** metonymies constitute a small, well-defined set.
- The majority of referential metonymies relate to **referent-external** entities.
- Referential metonymies are predominantly **bidirectional**.
- The **target** of referential metonymies tends to be easily and uniquely accessible.
- Referential metonymies tend to be **noticeable** to the language user.

Situational/event metonymies



Comparing referential and event metonymies

	Referential metonymies	Event metonymies
Metonymic relationships:	well-defined	poorly defined
Types of metonymy:	limited set	almost open set
Internal relationships:	very few	many
External relationships:	many	few
Conceptual distance:	great	small
Reversability:	mostly bidirectional	mostly unidirectional
Metonymic target:	uniquely accessible	often inaccessible
Perceptibility:	noticeable	mostly unnoticed

THING-EVENT metonymies

THING FOR PROPERTY: *I am just a student*

THING FOR EVENT: *We've always had a nose for the very best.*

OBJECT FOR EVENT INVOLVING THE OBJECT:

Mary began the book.

THING FOR THE USE OF THE THING:

The treadmill burns 200 calories an hour.

OBJECT INVOLVED IN ACTION FOR AGENT: *couch potato*

PROPERTY metonymies

PROPERTY FOR A THING: *You're insulting my intelligence.*

EVENT FOR PROPERTY OF A THING FOR THE THING:
pick-up truck

MEANS and MANNER metonymies

MEANS FOR ACTION: *He sneezed the napkin off the table.*

MANNER OF PERFORMING AN ACTION FOR THE ACTION:
I'll be brief.

MANNER OF PERFORMING AN ACTION WITH A THING
FOR A PROPERTY OF THE THING:

*Our investors are more interested in long-term, stable, reliable
returns than in the fast buck. / fast car*

TIME FOR MANNER: *permanent talk*

CAUSAL metonymies

CAUSE FOR EFFECT:

beautify the garden.

CAUSE FOR PURPOSE:

donate money for a good cause

EFFECT FOR CAUSE:

happy hour ‘times when restaurants reduce their prices on alcoholic beverages’

PRECEDENCE FOR CAUSE:

Who started the fight?

SITUATION-TYPE metonymies

STATE FOR EVENT:	<i>Paolo Soleri <u>is</u> dead at 83.</i>
SEEING FOR MAKING SURE:	<i>Can you <u>see</u> to it.</i>
HABIT FOR SPECIFIC EVENT:	<i>Would you care for something to drink? – <u>I never drink.</u></i>
EVENT FOR STATE:	<i>Please <u>fasten</u> seatbelt while seated.</i>
MOTION FOR STATE:	<i>The poplar is <u>after the oak</u>.</i>
PROCESS FOR ACTION:	<i>The door <u>opened</u> ‘someone opened the door’</i>
RESULT FOR ACTION:	<i><u>Have</u> another cookie.</i>
ACTION FOR RESULT:	<i>He is <u>catching</u> a bird./ <u>dermatologically tested</u> (It doesn't say who or what skin it was tested on. the test.)</i>

POTENTIALITY, ACTUALIT, REALITY metonymies

- POTENTIAL FOR ACTUAL: *I can see your point./*
I must admit you are right.
- ACTUAL FOR POTENTIAL: *Do you play the piano?/*
He is an angry person.
- ACTUAL FOR ASSIGNED: *Is someone sitting here? –*
No, the seat is empty.
- SUBJECTIVITY FOR REALITY: *That was a penalty.*
- APPEARANCE FOR REALITY: *He looked puzzled.*

TIME metonymies

Time-internal:

PAST FOR PRESENT: *What was your name?/ This was the supermarket.*

POINT IN TIME FOR PERIOD: *At the moment there is no news available.*

PASSING TIME FOR PRESENT: *currently* ‘presently’

PROXIMATE TIME FOR DISTANT TIME:

Today's syntax is tomorrow's morphology.

Time-external:

EVENT FOR TIME: *Christmas*; Tok Pisin: *yu gat hamas krismas?*

THING FOR EVENT FOR TIME: *I explained a few classes ago.*

THING FOR ACTIVITY FOR TIME TO DO THAT ACTIVITY:

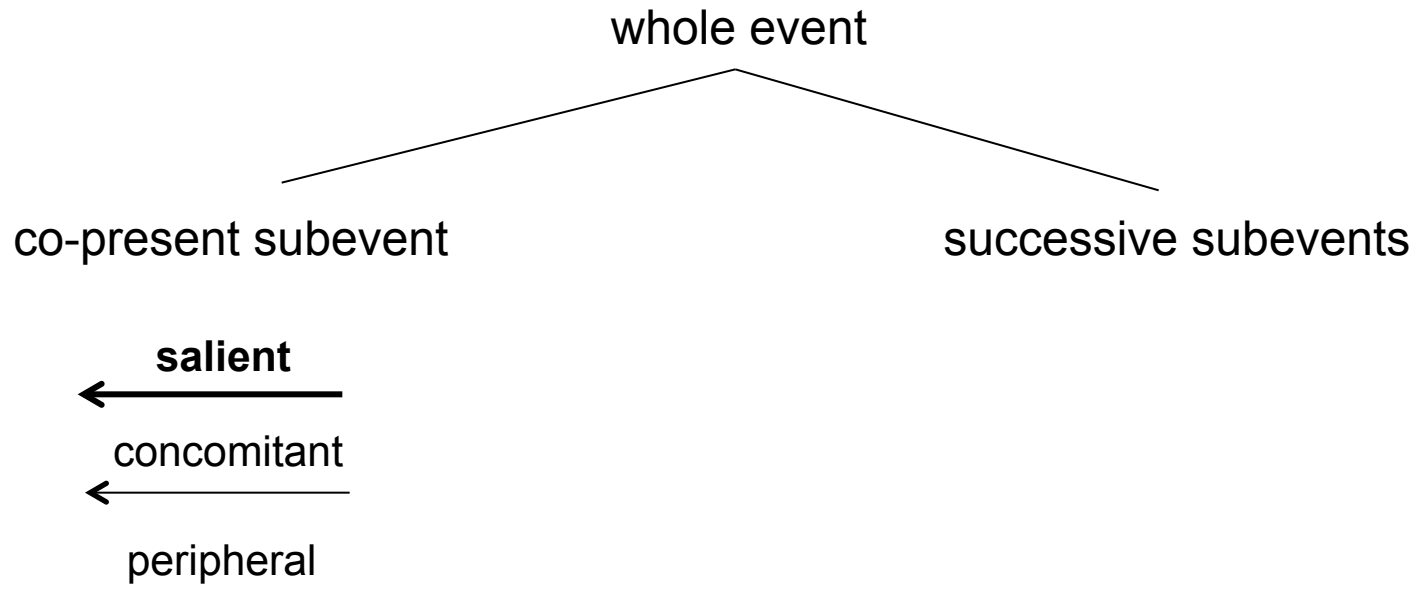
She left about two beers ago.

TIME FOR EVENT: *9/11*

PLACE metonymies

- PLACE FOR EVENT: *Greece was not supposed to happen. /
Not longer after, Hutton was on the plane./
Jack is on the phone.*
- EVENT FOR PLACE: *He drove through a red light./ bus stop*
- TIME FOR DISTANCE: *From Cologne to Vienna it is ten hours by train.*

WHOLE EVENT – SUBEVENTS



CO-PRESENT SUBEVENTS:

SALIENT and CONCOMITANT SUBEVENTS

Event ICM comprising two co-present subevents

salient subevent	concomitant subevent	metonymic highlighting of concomitant subevent
ACTION	SOUND	SOUND FOR ACTION <i>The shop assistant <u>rang up</u> the purchase on the cash register.</i>
MOTION	SOUND	SOUND FOR MOTION <i>The train <u>roared</u> over the mountain tracks.</i>
MOTION	MANNER	MANNER FOR MOTION <i>The airplane <u>bounced</u> its way to a halt.</i>
VERBAL	NON-VERBAL	NON-VERBAL FOR VERBAL <i>The queen <u>raised an eyebrow</u> yesterday when she was told of a play about a man who has a passionate affair with his pet goat.</i>

CO-PRESENT SUBEVENTS:

SALIENT and PERIPHERAL SUBEVENTS

Event ICM comprising several co-present subevents



subevents

metonymic highlighting
of a salient subevent

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE:

speaking, understanding,
writing, reading

SALIENT SUBEVENT FOR SET OF SUBEVENTS

My wife speaks Finnish = ‘she speaks,
understands, writes and reads Finnish’
but: *I don’t read Hebrew*.

EVENTS IN FALL 1989:

fall of the Berlin Wall,
opening of the borders,
visa-free travel,
freedom of speech,
free elections, etc.

SALIENT SUBEVENT FOR COMPLEX OF EVENTS

When the wall came down = ‘unspecific sum of
cooccurring events’

CO-REPRESENT SUBEVENTS:

Playing a musical instrument

The ICM of ‘playing a musical instrument’ comprises the following aspects:

1. a musical instrument

4 types of instrument according to the **means** of sound production: brass, woodwind, percussion, and string instruments

2. the production of a **sound**

3. the production of music by a musician **playing** a tune on a musical instrument

Playing a musical instrument in different languages

English: **production of music:** you *play* an instrument

Finnish: **production of sound:** you *sound* an instrument

Japanese: **different means** of sound production:
you *pluck, blow, beat, or sound* an instrument

Hausa: **one means** of sound production: you *hit* an instrument

Playing a musical instrument in Japanese

String instruments (guitar, violin, viola, harpsichord, piano, organ, accordion, etc.) are ‘plucked’ (*hiku*).

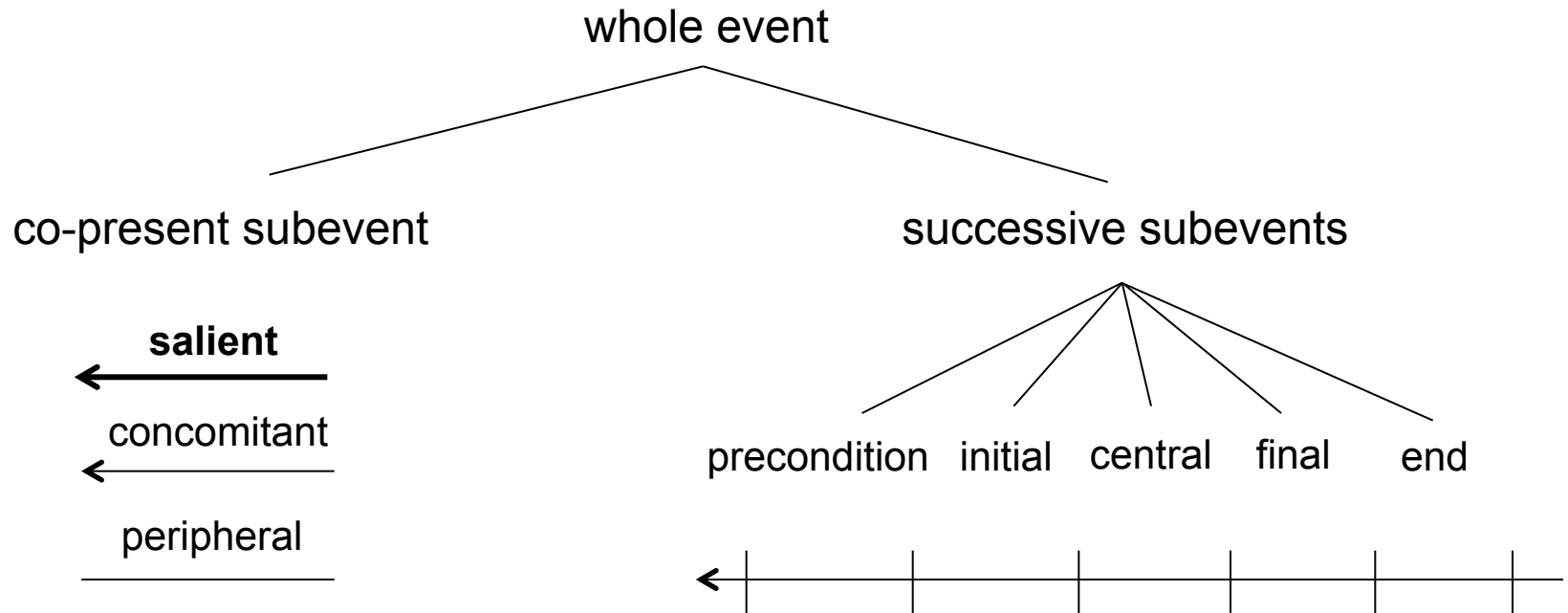
Brass and **woodwind** instruments (trumpet, trombone, flute, oboe, recorder, harmonica, etc.) are ‘blown’ (*fuku*).

Percussion instruments (drum, castanets, tambourine, xylophone, etc.) are ‘beaten’ (*tataku*).

Percussion instruments that are **shaken** (maracas, handbell, etc.) are ‘sounded’ (*narasu*).

Playing any musical instrument in a **performance** is expressed as ‘musical.performance-do’ (*ensoo-suru*).

Whole event – subevents



SUCCESSIVE SUBEVENTS FOR WHOLE EVENT

“Getting to a place” ICM (Lakoff)

“How did you get to the party?”

Precondition: “I have a car.”

Embarkation: “I hopped on a bus.”

Center: “I drove.”

Finish: You park and get out.

End point: You are at your destination

Means of getting to a place

Means	Establishing Precondition	Precondition	Embarkation	Center	Final
by bus	<i>They opened a new bus line.</i>	<i>There is a bus stop close by.</i>	<i>I hopped on the bus.</i>	<i>I took the bus.</i>	<i>I came by bus.</i>
walking	<i>I love walking.</i>	<i>This is within walking distance.</i>	<i>I put on my walking shoes.</i>	<i>I walked over.</i>	<i>I came on foot.</i>
by car	<i>I just bought a new car. I borrowed Dad's car. I passed the driver's test. They have built a new road.</i>	<i>I have a car. Friends always lend me their cars. I now have a driver's license. You can get here in no time.</i>	<i>I jumped into the car. I got behind the steering wheel.</i>	<i>I drove.</i>	<i>I came by car</i>

SUCCESSIVE SUBEVENTS FOR WHOLE EVENT:

focus on different subevents

	whole event				
	precondition	initial	central	finish	end
Phoning ICM:	<i>There is the phone.</i>	<i>Just pick up the phone.</i>	<i>I made a phone call.</i>	<i>I slammed down the phone.</i>	<i>We are cut off.</i>
Doctor's visit ICM:	<i>My wife was sick.</i>	<i>You went to see the doctor.</i>	<i>The doctor examined her.</i>	<i>The doctor prescribed green pills.</i>	<i>She is feeling better now.</i>
Paper-grading ICM:	<i>There was a pile of papers waiting to be graded</i>	<i>I read the papers.</i>	<i>I marked all the mistakes.</i>	<i>I graded the papers.</i>	<i>I returned the papers.</i>

Booking ICM (in soccer games):

Caution and removal from the game

Yellow card:

A playing card-sized card that a referee holds up to warn a player for dangerous or unsportsmanlike behavior; also called a caution.

Red card:

A playing card-sized card that a referee holds up to signal a player's removal from the game, presented for violent behavior or multiple law infractions.

The referee gives a card to a player



Referee Peter Frojdfeldt, right, from Sweden, **gives a yellow card** to Italy's Luca Toni, second left, during the group C match between the Netherlands and Italy in Bern, Switzerland, Monday, June 9, 2008, at the Euro 2008 European Soccer Championships in Austria and Switzerland.

SUCCESSIVE AND CO-PRESENT SUBEVENTS in the booking ICM

Precondition: A player displays dangerous or violent behavior.

Initial, preparatory subevents:

- a) The referee *walks over* to the player.
- b) The referee *dips/ reached* into his pocket/ *fumbles* in his pocket.
- c) The referee *pulls out* a red card/ *fishes* a red card out of his pocket.

Central subevents: performative booking act:

- a) The referee *holds up/ brandishes/ waves* the red card.
- b) The referee *shows/ gives/ wields/ issues* the player the red card.
- c) The player *is shown/ sees/ receives/ gets* the red card.
- d) The player *picks up/ earns/ draws* a red card.

Final, ensuing subevents: the player is booked:

The player is *sent off/ banished* from the field/ *removed* from the game.

Some unresolved, thorny problems surrounding event metonymies

1. **What is the target** of event metonymies?

If the metonymic target is taken to be the **central subevent**, e.g. *I drove* in the ‘getting to a place’ ICM, then *I hopped on the bus* would be metonymic, but *I drove* would not.

If the metonymic target is taken to be the **ICM**, then all subevents including the central one (*I drove*) would metonymically stand for the ‘getting to a place’ ICM.

2. If the central subevent is taken to be the metonymic target, **what counts as a central event?** (e.g. *holding up/ showing/ giving* a card?)

3. Are event metonymies **language dependent** or **conceptual**, or both? E.g., is the English expression *play an instrument* metonymic even when there are no alternative expressions available?