

senses correlated with different sets of accompanying arguments. In its most simple paradigmatic construction, the Class V verb མྱེས་ connotes the sense of “to compose.” For example,

འཇམ་དབྱངས་དབང་པོས་འགྲེལ་བ་བརྒྱུ་མཁོ།

The commentary was composed by Jamyang Wangpo.

However, in a different syntactic context—one involving only the presence of an ablative (case 5) qualifier—the verb conveys the sense of “to stem (from)” or “to be based (on)”:

ཆོས་རྣམས་ཀྱི་ངོ་བོ་ཉིད་མ་མཆིས་པ་ཉིད་ལས་བརྒྱུ་མཁོ་

Based on just the naturelessness of all phenomena ...

In many instances there are also semantic variations that are close in scope though differentiable by different syntactic frames. The verb སེམས་, for instance, conveys the general sense of cognitive activity. In its usage, however, three distinct though related senses can be seen. In an active construction with a nominative object, it connotes the loose sense of “to think (about)”:

འཁོར་བའི་སྐྱུག་བསྐལ་རྣམས་བསམ་

Thinking about the sufferings of cyclic existence ...

However, with an object marked explicitly in the second case (“objective”), the more specific meaning of “to meditate (on)” is indicated:

དམ་ཆོས་འདི་ལ་བསམ་གུར་

Meditating on this true teaching ...

Finally, in a construction with a verbal or sentential complement marked in the second case (“objective”), the more specific meaning of “to think (that)” is conveyed:

རྒྱལ་སྐུས་ལག་ལེན་འབྲུལ་མེད་ལགས་པར་སེམས།

I think that these practices of the Conqueror’s sons are without error.

Other variations in word sense occur as an artifact of active/passive alternations. For example, the Class III verb མྱེད་ conveys the sense of “to illuminate” in an active construction, as in: