

Fillmore, Charles. 1979. Verbs of judging. In Fillmore +  
Layenden, eds., Studies in linguistic semantics,  
272-289. New York: Holt, Reinhart + Winston, Inc.

mentalist conceptions - image / concept in head of speaker  
before / after utterance.

behaviorist (Bloomfield) - mug of dog form - sit.  
preceding performance, consequence in hearer's  
behavior. [PN: something like public display act].

structuralist - common to all appropriate contexts of use.

3 conceptions of meaning.

componential approaches - break down into  
"feature" or "components"

→ e.g. check via selectional restrictions on  
co-occurrence.

(1) The wolf fell

+ PHYS OB)

(2) The wolf died

+ LIVING

(3) The wolf felt it

+ ANIMATE

} test for  
component  
of a noun

presupp failures: used under both +/-,  
but grammatical → diagnoses absent  
component.

-(S)#

(4) The wolf got / didn't get a divorce.

- HUMAN

(6) I accidentally broke your wolf

- RIGID

→ ad infinitum -, subject to our beliefs.

Fillmore problem is approaching "what is the meaning of  
this form".

instead, ask:

What do I need to know in order to use this form appropriately, + in order to understand others?

- linguistics should be interested in usage rules, not "external signs" or "reflexes" of lang.

Q: should theory of lang begin with words or sentences?  
words - rules for use, including compositional principles.

sentences - illocutionary act (how to do things in sentences - Austin).

( "potentials" of sentences ~ dynamic context.  
> felicity conditions for sentences.

(7) please shut the door.

(i) Spk-Add rel'ship

(ii) Add. can shut door.

(iii) Specific door, recoverable from context.

(iv) Door is open.

(v) Spk wants door to become closed.

( these relate to different gramm. features of sentence.  
imperative, "shut", definite article.  
- some are preconditions, not context.

(8) please don't shut the door.

Q: what changes? only (v) → context

2 levels of communication (speech)

1. presuppositional
2. illocutionary.

1. presupp - conditions needing to be satisfied for p. illoc. act to be effectively performed.

( + which relate to facts about linguistic structure of sentences.

- note: psupps can be used to communicate attitudes or special information.  
(e.g. When did you stop ...).

eventual goal system of rules s.t., given a grammatical description, we can compute full set of presuppositions.

- lexical info (words)
- global structural properties
- stress (prosody).

case study: verbs of judging

role structure: identify various types, entities, aspects of situation required.

situation, "defendant" (being judged).

"judge" (making judgement)

addressee (of speech act).

(~~locutionary~~ locutionary ~~conce~~ conce, locutionary target  
(speaker) (addressee of utterance).

context John says congressman is soft on communism.

(9) J. accused my Congressman of being soft...

context J. writes important letter to M, then said sorry.

(10) J. apologized to M. for writing the letter.

(11) M. forgave J. for writing the letter.

clm M is still the affected, J. the defendant.

verb: differ syntactically, but also in relship to situation.

- (12) a. J accused H of untnq... } prep. changes.  
 b. J credited H with ...  
 c. J criticized H for ...

unt, entity, ? (as situation).

(13) I accused J. of causing the accident.

(14) I scolded J. for causing the accident.

(15) \* I accused J of the accident.

(16) \* I scolded ... for

"blame": either "causing the accident" or "the accident".

"accuse" - "of", but not "for".

also: (21) I blamed the accident on John.

"scold", "criticize" don't need situation to be explicit.

- accuse, criticize, scold, blame, credit, praise  
 ↳ req: judge, defendant, situation to be understood
- apologize, forgive - affected, defendant, situation.
- justify, excuse - defendant, situation.

some verbs: impulsive acts (accuse, criticize, praise).

↳ verbs of saying as well as of judging.

some: inner experiences (blame / think).

↳ attitude verbs / psych.

ACCUSE [judge, Defendant, situation (of)]. (performative)

King: SAY [judge, 'X', Addr.].

X = RESPONSIBLE [sit., Def.].

Prempp: BAD [situation].

CRITICIZE [Judge, Defendant, Sit (for)].

ling: SAY [Judge, 'X', Addr.].

X = BAD [Sit.].

Presupp: RESPONSIBLE [Defendant, Sit].

ACTUAL [Situation].

claims: use accuse when clear sit. is bad, wants to assign responsibility.

criticize when responsibility clear, wants to assign value judgement.

(35) J. accused H of writing the letter.

presupp: blameworthy.

tell: J said H did it

(36) J criticized H for writing the letter.

presupp. H did it

tell: J said H was blameworthy.

there's an alternative.

also contrast in terms of factuality.

accuse is performative (I accuse H. - is the accusation).

(I criticize H → not itself the criticism).

"scold" - addressee of ling. act = defendant.

SCOLD [Judge, Defendant, Sit (for)].

ling: SAY (Judge, X, Addr.).

X = BAD (Sit.).

Presupp: RESPONSIBLE [Defendant, Sit].

THINK [Judge, ACTUAL (Sit)].

Def = Addr.

accuse - more serious situations.

(presupps - shouldn't need to explain bad).

3 uses of "blame".

1. BLAME [j, D, Sit (for)]

imp-act.

Mug: SAY [j, 'X', Addr].

X = RESP [Def, Sit]

Psupp: BAD (Sit).

NOT (RESPONSIBLE [Def, Sit]).

Def  $\neq$  Addr.

Judge  $\neq$  Def.

(44) H. blamed the difference.

cm: I'm not resp. psupp. (?).

BLAME<sub>2</sub>, BLAME<sub>3</sub> opinions, thoughts.

↓      ↓  
criticize    accuse.

3 alternate w/ resp. to mug, psupp. context.

EXCUSE [Def, Sit].

Mug: SAY [Def, 'X', Addr].

X = NOT (RESP. [Def, Sit]).

} excuse when responsible.

Psupp: BAD [Sit]

ACTUAL [Sit].

JUSTIFY [Def, Sit].

Mug: SAY [Def, 'X', Addr].

NOT (BAD [Sit]).

} justify when looks bad

Psupp: RESP [Def, Sit].

ACTUAL [Sit].

Q: do these have to be things that the Def. said?

→ so far, responsibility + badness → one is mug, one is psupp.

AP APOLOGIZE & FORGIVE - both resp, + badner u p supp.  
mng: change in sd affected / def. rel'ship.

credit, praise like blame, ~~accuse~~ criticize  
↳ GOOD.

Upshot: these verbs form a semantic field  
Q, e.g. what about "good" equiv. to  
accuse, justify, forgive, apologize  
(are English gaps accidental).

↳ wide range of additional verbs.  
(condemn, castigate, commend, admit,  
confess, concede).

→ do these features work cross-linguistically?  
(could there be dimensions that  
English doesn't mark?).

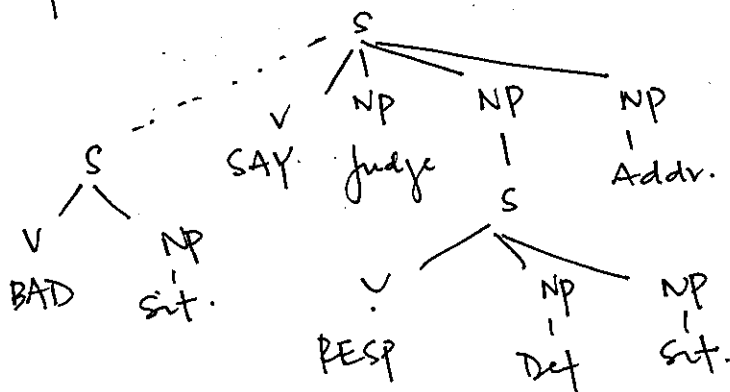
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McCawley, James. 1979. Verbs of blaming in McCawley,  
Adverbs, Vowels, & Other Objects of Wonder. 135-150.  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Fullmore → diagram form.

McCawley -  
analogize to  
deep str, input/output  
to inference rules.

1. ACCUSE [Judge, Def, Sit (of)].  
Mng SAY [Judge, 'X', Addr].  
X = RESP [Def, Sit].  
~~Pemup~~ BAD (Sit).



- Questions:
- 1) Are fullmax's presupps actually presupps?
  - 2) can doth always be filled by same kind of things? (e.g. "situation").
  - 3) syntax  $\leftrightarrow$  sem. links.

(3) Nixon accused Agnew of wanting to end the war.

{ Q: is "situation" : Agnew wants to ...  
or "propositional function" x wants to ...  
( don't work, it isn't req'd that spt believe that  
Agnew / anyone wants to end war is bad.

so ~ change presup from BAD (sit) to  
THINK [judge, BAD [sit]]. PN: theory of  
presup projection.

but (4) doesn't commit speaker to  
either position re: Officer's attitude.

(4) Officer O'Reilly accused me of not offering him a  
bike + threatened to take me to the station  
( + accuse me of offering him a bike.

point: accusation introduces "jeopardy".

→ potential for negative consequence ~ need to  
defend self.

so: (6) a. J. accused S. of breaking the window.

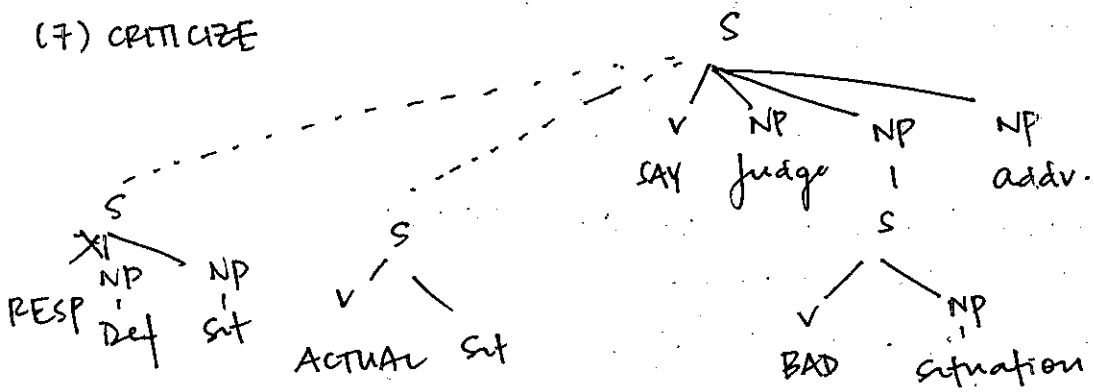
b. ~ J said that S broke the window + thereby  
put S. in jeopardy.

but: also needs infer of creating jeopardy. [does it?]

↳ responsible for performativity (for McCauley).



(7) CRITICIZE



because same components, just distributed differently,  
we expect same selectional restrictions.

but: "cut<sup>ci</sup>ge" doesn't require human defendant.

- (8) a. Mencken criticized Act 2 for being too long.  
b. \*accused -- of.

some restr. on "criticize".

- (11) a. \* J. criticized wisdom for being hard to achieve.  
b. \* Arthur criticized it for being an unlucky number.  
c. \* S criticized the Mississippi river for being too wide.  
✓ ... the Amazon for being too filthy  
✓ ... The Erie Canal for being too narrow.

- (13) a. McGovern criticized Nixon for
- { \*inresponsibility  
his "  
? Mitchell's inesp..
- FN: judgement vary  
here.

FN: judgement vary here.

- b ... the fact that he puts ketchup on his cottage cheese.
- c. { what he said to the knights of Columbus.  
the basis of which he fills cond. vacancies  
the way in which his econ. policy has failed.

→ alternates w/ "accused" - p. 140, top.

- ACTUAL prupp captures some of this.

→ (13<sup>3</sup>, 14 c) have odd properties.

(15) a. length (Bible) > length (Tr. of Cancer).

b<sub>2</sub> Length (ToC) = 287p.

∴ length (Bible) > 287p.

(16) a. Schw. criticized ToC for its length.

length (ToC) = 287p.

∴<sup>→</sup> Schw. crit ... for 287p.

} McCauley:  
logical str.  
of modifying  
sentence  
matters here.

so: really (10) McGov. criticized ...

Nixon for saying ... what he said to them.

... for filling vacancies on the bank on which...

... for his econ. policies failing in the way  
in which...

rule: TELESCOPING → delete all but nominalization.

↳ depends on embedding context.

log. structure:

(24) a. x criticize y for S := x say (y is bad b/c S).

b. accuse of S := (x say<sub>2</sub> S) and  
(become<sub>2</sub> (y in jeopardy)).

subscript ~ event.

p. 143 (26) further gramm. contrasts - but judg. vary (p. 14).

Fillmore: credit, praise - positive counterparts.

p. 144 (27-28) → many of same observations.

also parallel v.

(29) a. M criticized A. (= ... for sthg. ~praise  
#... for it).

b. accused (= ... for it ~credit  
# for sthg).

(31) a. x praise y for S = x say (y is good b/c of S)

b. x credit<sub>2</sub> y with S = (x says S) and  
(becomes (y is in jeopardy)).

(  
, McCauley: nope

diff: credit doesn't req. human defendant.  
→ also no "good" prupp.

(33) M. Daley credited me w/ saving his life + promised  
to reward me by taking me to Tokyo + a credit  
me w/ refusing...

PN (but, "promise" also shifts co-  
por. but in some respect).

blame<sub>1</sub> - shift blame onto , 2 - hold culpable . 3 - <sup>think</sup> guilty.

(34) a. Phil put a bomb in the go's office + blamed it on  
me.

b. J. blamed<sub>2</sub> me for writing that letter.

c. B. blamed<sub>3</sub> me for what had happened.

bl<sub>2,3</sub> → diagrams, p. 146. again, alt. b/w. nuq + prupp  
w/ resp. to val. judg. +  
responsibility.

McCauley -  
v. diff. situation  
restrictions.

blame<sub>3</sub> - situation really cit. not action.  
(PN: state v. event).

blame<sub>2</sub> - human defendant req'd.

(NB: McCauley is marking spec).

consist of "resp. for" (~ attrib. to).

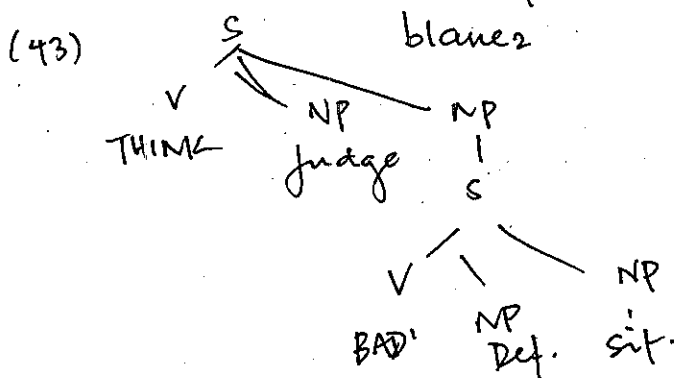
blame<sub>2</sub> - addnl restrict - it must be act or controll.  
state on defendant's part.

↳ suggestion: replaced "BAD" w/

"it was bad of x to" (include person).

↳ PN: also links judg. to person,  
sp. context.

↳ bad as binary relation.



BAD' → could  
be by itself resp.  
for psuyps  
(needs own  
decompositional  
analysis).

McCauley upshot.

- psuyps aren't as idiosync. as might seem.

↳ some predictable fr. other features  
(lex items) of culture.

"category errors" ~ select. restrictions.

- but some are key parts of msg.

\* blame<sub>3</sub>; credit, attribute

~~bad~~ bad    ~~good~~ good    ~~neutral~~ neutral

(but certain contrasts won't ever get  
lexicalized).

- knowing there is  
a cross-ling. fact,  
whereas contrast like \*are  
language-specific