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Relational Paradigms[1]

Barbara E. Hollenbach

Thomas has shown that it is possible to construct a clause paradigm, also known as a transformational battery, using a clause root, which is held constant (1964, 1969, 1973). A clause root consists of a verb plus one or more nouns in constant role relationship to it. While I was helping a fellow-S.I.L. member study structure above the clause, the idea of constructing a relational paradigm occurred to me. In such a paradigm, two clause roots are used, and they must be in a possible cause-result relationship. They are then used to construct examples of every known way to express each of the relations between propositions consistent with the semantic content of the two clauses. A number of relations cannot be used in such a paradigm: means-purpose, restatement, alternation, contrast, comparison, greater-lesser, generic-specific, relativization, complementation. Such relations can be included only by changing the content of one of the clause roots, or by adding additional information to one of them.[2]
It is possible, however, to select a pair of clause roots for each of these relations, and construct a set of further paradigms, one for each relation.

Some previous attempts to set up batteries showing relations between clauses have been made by Nevers (1967) and Thomas (1968).

One obvious use of a relational paradigm is as a heuristic device for the study of structure above the clause level. Such a paradigm can be begun with examples from text material, substituting clause content through elicitation sessions. Once such a paradigm has been started, the investigator can then add new

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examples to it as he learns them, over a period of several months or even years. When such a paradigm nears completion, it can then serve as a useful checklist for the way relations are expressed in translated material.

Here is an example of a set of relational paradigms for English. I have not attempted to be exhaustive.

Major Paradigm:

Reason-Result:

His back hurt, so he went to the doctor.

His back hurt. Therefore he went to the doctor.

He went to the doctor because his back hurt.

Because his back hurt, he went to the doctor.

Since his back hurt, he went to the doctor.

His hurting back made him go to the doctor.

The fact that his back hurt caused him to go to the doctor.

The reason he went to the doctor is that his back hurt.

Condition-Consequence:

He goes to the doctor if his back hurts.

If his back hurts, he will go to the doctor.

If his back had hurt, he would have gone to the doctor.

Concession-Contraexpectation:

Although his back hurt, he didn't go to the doctor.

He went to the doctor even though his back didn't hurt.

Grounds-Implication:

He went to the doctor, so his back must hurt.

Since he went to the doctor, his back must hurt.

His back must hurt. He went to the doctor.

Contradeductive:

Just because he went to the doctor doesn't mean that his back

Proportional:

 The more his back hurt, the more he went to the doctor.

Sequence:

 His back hurt, and then he went to the doctor.

 His back hurt. Then he went to the doctor.

 His back hurt before he went to the doctor.

 Before he went to the doctor, his back hurt.

 He went to the doctor after his back hurt.

 After his back hurt, he went to the doctor.

Immediate Sequence:

 As soon as his back began to hurt, he went to the doctor.

Simultaneity:

 All the time his back hurt he went to the doctor.

 While his back hurt, he went to the doctor.

Inclusion:

 While his back hurt, he went to the doctor.

 During the time his back hurt, he went to the doctor.

 He went to the doctor when his back hurt.

Overlap:

 While his back hurt, he began to go to the doctor.

Until:

 His back hurt until he went to the doctor.

Since:

 He has been going to the doctor since his back began to hurt.

 Note that I found it necessary to introduce a phase verb

'to begin' in some of the examples to get the proper punctiliar

sense.

Minor Paradigms:

Means-Purpose:

He pretended that his back hurt in order to go to the doctor.

He pretended that his back hurt so that he could get to go to the doctor.

Restatement:

His back hurt. It bothered him a lot.

His back hurt. That is to say, it bothered him a lot.

His back hurt. In other words, it bothered him a lot.

Alternation:

Either his back hurt or he had the flu.

His back hurt, or else he had the flu.

Contrast:

His back hurt, but he didn't have the flu.

Comparison:

His back hurt just the same way that mine did.

As my back hurt, so did his.

Greater-Lesser:

His back hurt more than mine did.

Generic-Specific:

His back hurt. He had little pains running up and down it.

Relativization:

I know a man whose back hurt.

Complementation:

I know that his back hurt.

I know his back hurt.

F O O T N O T E S

[1]I am grateful to Kenneth Pike, who discussed the concept of a relational paradigm with me in the summer of 1971, and also to David Thomas, who encouraged me in 1973 to turn a small sheaf of notes into the present paper, and suggested some additional examples.

[2]For a discussion of relations between propositions in general, see the following articles in *Notes on Translation*: Fuller (1967), Frantz (1968), Bruce Hollenbach (1969), Beekman (1970), Barbara Hollenbach (1973a and 1973b).

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