

An Animated and Narrated Glossary of
Terms used in Linguistics
presents

Subcategorization

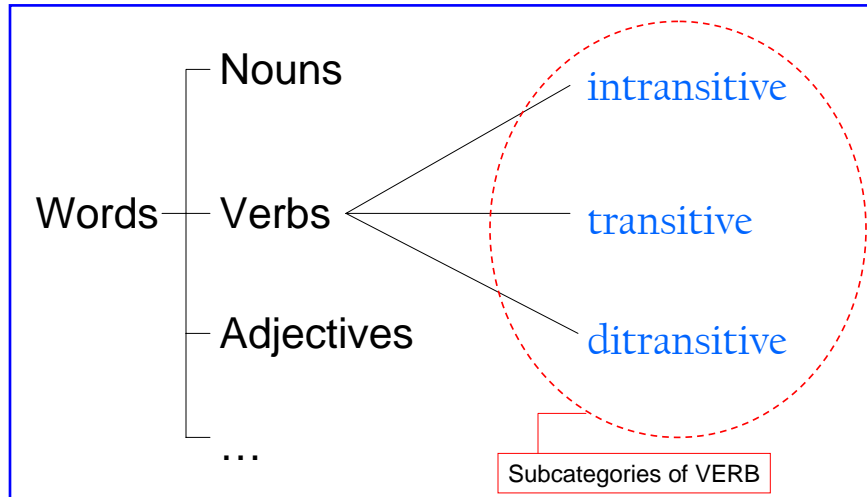
Categories

Categorize these words!

<i>Adjectives</i>	<i>Nouns</i>	<i>Verbs</i>
cat	slow	quick
	dog	pinch
laugh		dance
city	idea	put
	belief	believe
		delightful
cry	paint	give
	eat	
happy		



Subcategories



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Subcategorization Frames

Frame 1: The elephants _____.

Frame 2: The girls _____ the camel.

cry
laugh
dance

pinch
believe
paint
eat

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Subcategorization Frames

English verbs may be said to:

subcategorize for no objects: _____ \emptyset

subcategorize for one object: _____ Obj

subcategorize for two objects: _____ Obj₁ Obj₂

Subcategorization can be done by considering the **different frames** in which members of a particular category can fit.

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Subcategorization

- The basic idea is that items in any category can be divided into subcategories.
- Nouns, adjectives etc can be subcategorized too.
- One way of sub-categorization is to think of the frames in which an item occur.
 - Subcategorization Principle
Any lexical item of category X can be subcategorized with respect to the range of idiosyncratic Complements (i.e. sister constituents) which permits it within the minimal X-bar containing it.
(Radford1988:365)

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Further Reading

Haegeman, Liliane (1995) *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*, 2nd edition, pp.40-42. Blackwell Publishers.

Radford, Andrew (1988) *Transformational Grammar*. Cambridge University Press.

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The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)
An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics.
Hong Kong Baptist University.

