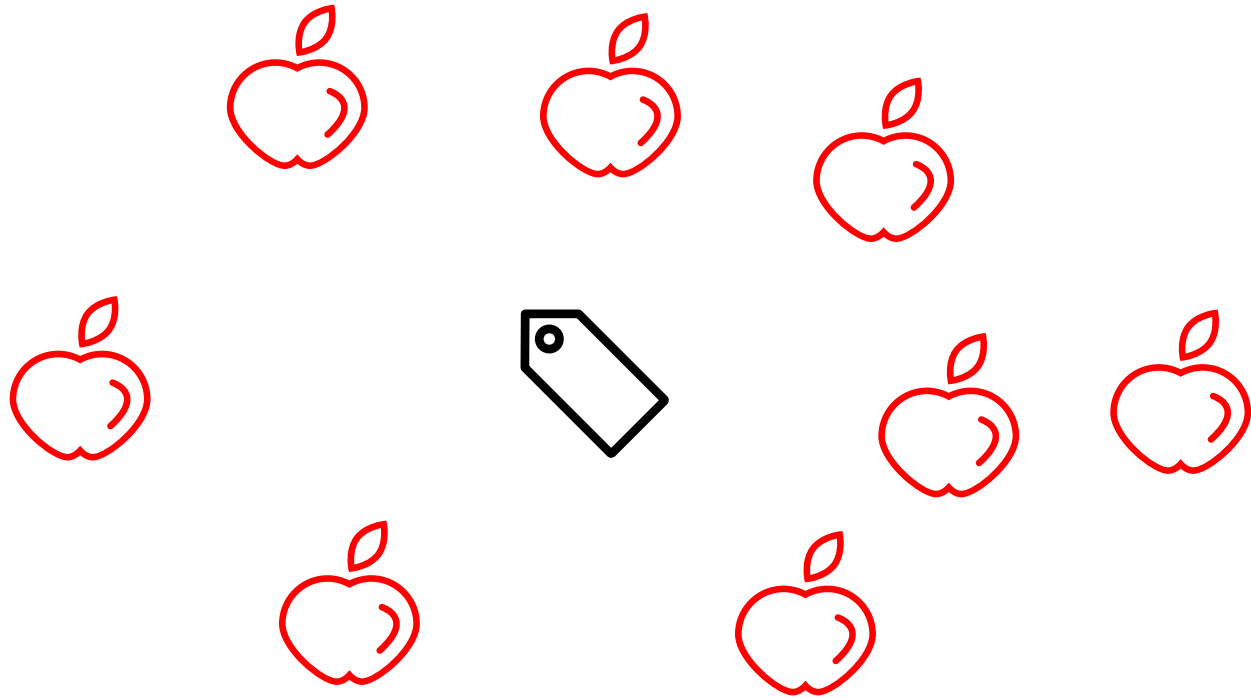


# Language and Cognition – lecture 5

## Reference point phenomena

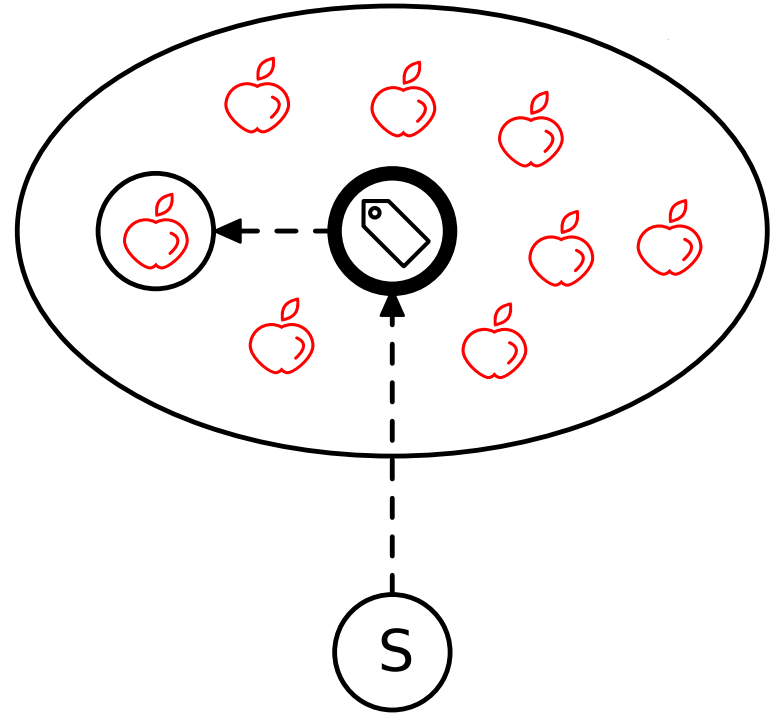
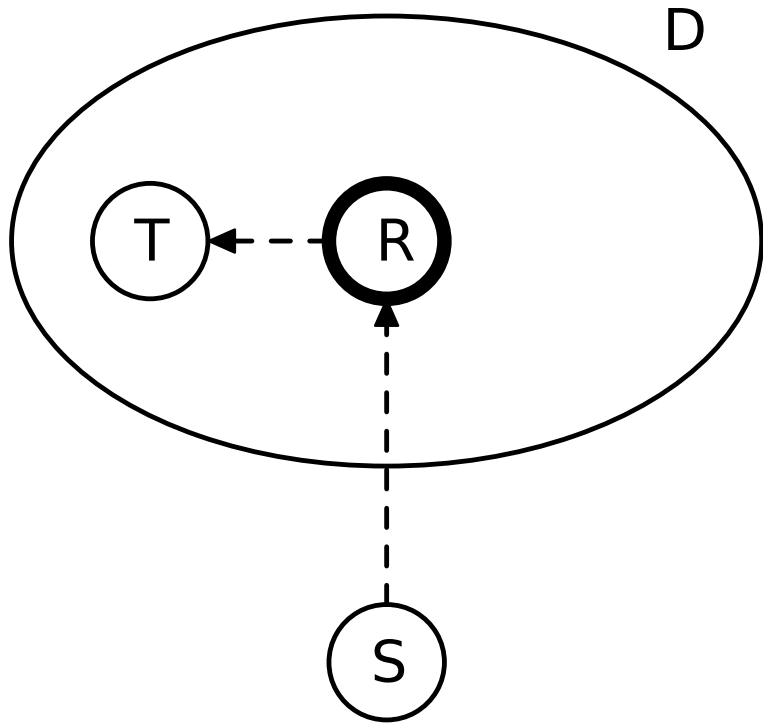
Pick the apple



# Reference point phenomena

- In reference point phenomena, the reference entity  $R$  is used to mentally access the target entity  $T$  within  $R$ 's domain ( $R \rightarrow T$ ).
- Typically, the relation is asymmetrical: if  $R$  is used to access  $T$ ,  $T$  is not used to access  $R$  ( $R \rightarrow T$ , but  $R \nleftarrow T$ ).

# Reference point phenomena



# Locatives

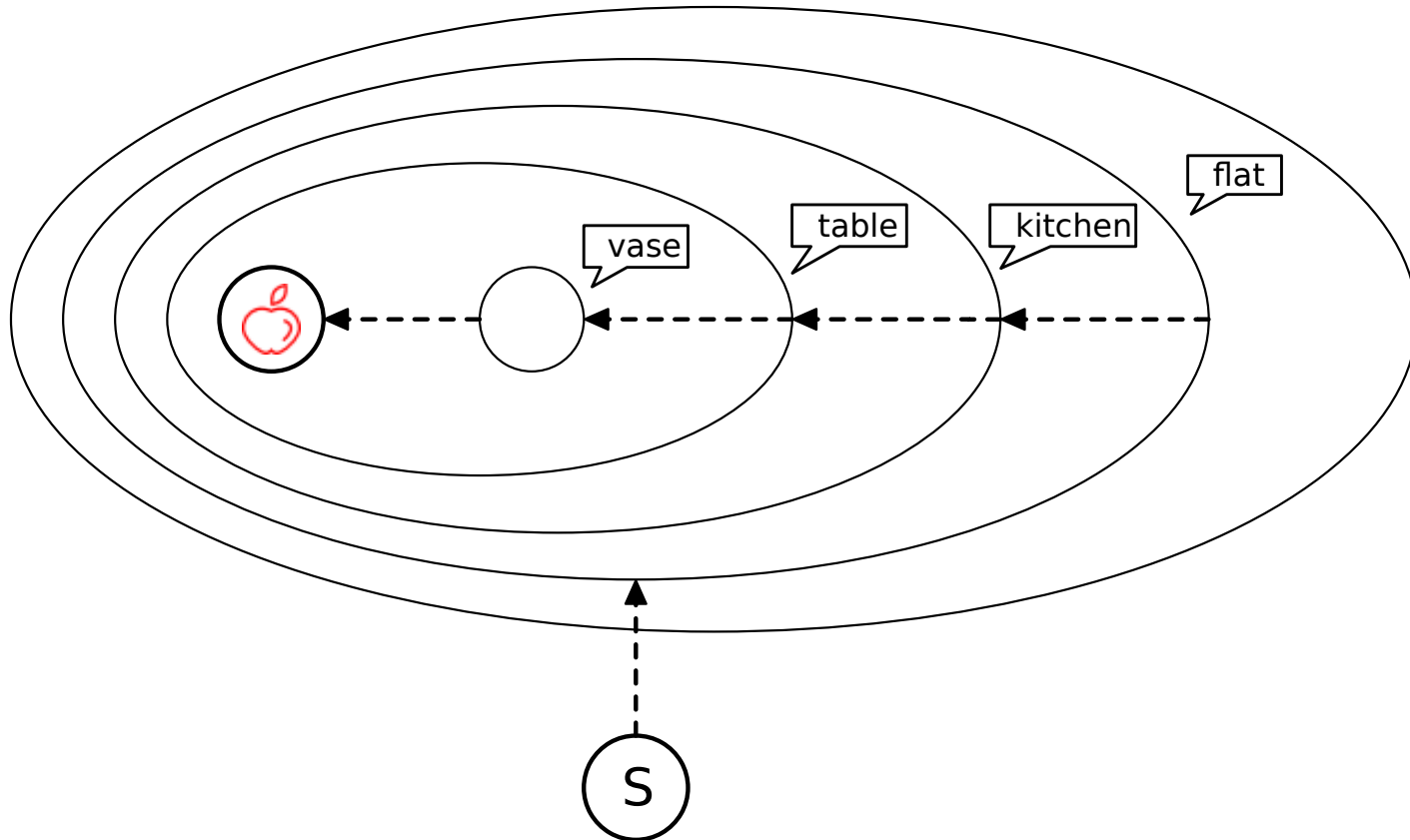
- Locatives characterize a location of an entity.

(1) *Apples are in my flat.*

- Locatives can be “nested.”

(2) *Apples are in my flat, in the kitchen, on the table, next to the flower vase.*

# Nested locatives



# Possession relation

Prototypical possession, e.g. *Jack's apple*:

- human possessor, inanimate possession
- possessor and possession are separate entities
- possessor controls the possession (but not vice-versa!)
- obtained in a transaction

## Less typical cases

Possessive constructions can also refer to relations that do not have all the properties of a typical possession.

- *my wife*
- *my hand*
- *my flu*
- *my thoughts*

# Too many terms!

<b>Aspect of the relation</b>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>apple</i>
Possession role	possessor	possession
Reference-point role	reference point	target
Prominence in the construal	landmark	trajector
Grammatical role	modifier	head

# Metonymy

In metonymies, one object is referred to by means of another object. The two are related by a contiguity relation like parthood, causation, constitution, containment, etc.

- (3) (a) *The kettle is boiling.* (containment)
- (b) *a glass* (constitution)
- (c) *All hands on deck!* (parthood)
- (d) *I'm reading Shakespeare.* (causation)

## Active zones

In active zone constructions only a part of the referred entity participates in a relation evoked in the expression.

(4)(a) *Jack chewed the apple carefully.*

(b) ?? *Jack's teeth chewed the flesh of the apple carefully.*

# References

- Giovanelli, Marcello, and Chloe Harrison. 2018. *Cognitive Grammar in Stylistics: A Practical Guide*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
  - Chapter 4.4-4.5
- Langacker, Ronald W. 1993. “Reference-Point Constructions.” *Cognitive Linguistics* 4: 1–38.