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## **I'm Still Standing: A Frame Account of the Polysemous Meanings of Posture Verbs Referring to Standing**

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Recently, basic posture verbs such as *sit*, *stand*, and *lie* have attracted increasing attention as part of the cognitive approach to the relation between space and language (Newman, 2002; Ameka & Levinson, 2007 among others). In general, posture verbs are being investigated both language-internally and cross-linguistically. Language-internally, research tends to focus on the polysemy of specific posture verbs and the way the different uses are interrelated. According to Lemmens (2002), posture verbs exhibit three basic uses: First, in the postural use, posture verbs describe a specific posture of a human such as being upright or resting on one's feet in the case of the German posture verb *stehen* 'stand'. Second, in the extended locational use, posture verbs can be applied to non-human objects in specific orientations and also allow for the specification of a location by means of a locative PP or some other element referring to a particular location (e.g. *die Schachtel steht im Schrank*, lit.: 'the box is standing in the cupboard'). Third, in the metaphorical use, posture verbs are applied figuratively abstracting away from bodily posture and location in space (e.g. *er steht auf Schokolade*, lit.: 'he stands on chocolate', read: 'he likes chocolate'; *die Chancen stehen gut*, lit.: 'the chances stand well', read: 'there's a good chance'). The metaphorical use will be in the focus of this talk.

Gibbs et al. (1994) argue that the different meanings of posture verbs like *stand* are interrelated through image schemata (e.g. Johnson, 1987; Croft & Cruse, 2004), which originate from recurring bodily experiences. By consequence, semantic extensions such as *Please stand at attention*, *He wouldn't stand for such treatment*, *The law still stands* are argued to be grounded in image schemata such as VERTICALITY, BALANCE, and RESISTANCE. For example, one can arrive at the abstract meaning of *not stand for something* by mapping the physical resistance to gravity which is already present in the non-metaphorical use of *stand* onto resisting some metaphorical force. Other image schemata which have been proposed as playing a central role in the understanding of posture verbs are e.g. RESTING ON A BASE and CONTACT (Lemmens, 2004).

In our approach to the three uses distinguished by Lemmens, we build on the analysis proposed by Gamerschlag, Petersen & Ströbel (2012), who provide a frame account of the non-metaphorical uses of the three basic German posture verbs *sitzen* 'sit', *stehen* 'stand' and *liegen* 'lie'. They argue that the flexible frame format allows for a cognitively plausible decompositional analysis in which the postural and the locational information encoded in a posture verb is captured in a uniform way. For example, the frame representation in Figure 1 models the sentence *Der Ziegelstein steht auf dem Tisch* (lit.: 'The brick is standing on the table'). In principle, *stehen* can be applied to a subject if its referent's longest or second longest axis (1D or 2D) is aligned vertically and if it is supported from below.

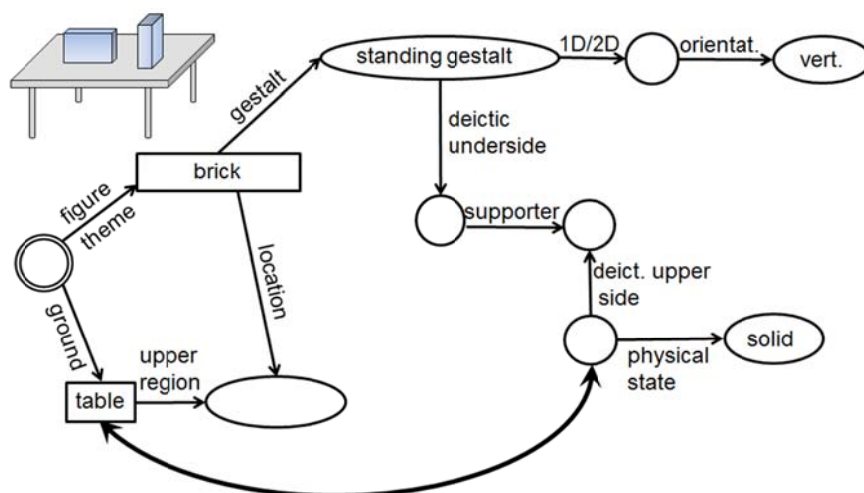


Figure 1. Frame representation of *Der Ziegelstein steht auf dem Tisch* (lit.: 'The brick is standing on the table')

Gamerschlag, Petersen & Ströbel (2012) focus solely on the literal uses but do not account for metaphorical uses of posture verbs. In the talk, we will extend their approach to also cover metaphorical uses. Following the image schema approach, we assume that the frames representing the metaphorical uses exhibit basically the same structure as the frames of the literal uses and are related to each other through systematic shifts. In order to model these shifts, we will single out different anchorage points for the metaphorical shifts (e.g., LOCATION, SUPPORT, VERTICALITY, BALANCE, RESISTANCE). Some of the anchorage points are already explicitly expressed in the non-metaphorical 'stand'-frame, either as attributes (location, supporter) or as values (vertical). Others, like BALANCE and RESISTANCE, are implicitly contained in the frame structure.

In order to illustrate the generalizability of our account, we will also discuss cross-linguistic data. Here, we will focus on a number of significant differences between German and French posture verbs.

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