
***Le prix de l'essence monte* ('The price of gasoline rises') –
A Look at the Semantic Complexity of French Verbs
of Value Change**

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The general aim of this talk is to capture the different extensional and intensional readings of the French verb *monter*. It will be illustrated that *monter* – in its extensional use- can display PATH (fr. *Pierre monte jusqu'au sommet de la montagne* 'Pierre climbs to the top of the mountain') and EXTENSION (fr. *L'eau monte jusqu'aux genoux* 'The water rises up to the knees') and besides that, at least up to a certain degree, even MANNER (against the assumption of Talmy, 2000) and COMPOSITION (fr. *Pierre monte une tente* 'Peter puts up a tent'). The COMPOSITION readings are of particular interest, because neither German *steigen*, nor Spanish *subir* allow this particular reading.

In contrast to the extensional readings of *monter*, which can be used stative (e.g. fr. *La route monte* 'The way climbs') and dynamic (e.g. fr. *Pierre monte le tableau de dix centimètres* 'Peter lifts the picture 10 centimeters') the intensional or VALUE readings of *monter* (fr. *On monte le prix du tableau de dix mille Euros* 'The price of the picture has been raised by 10000 Euros'), only allow a dynamic interpretation.

Furthermore, in both extensional interpretations of the French sentence *Une lumière monte dans le ciel* 'A light rises [PATH]/ reaches [EXTENSION] the sky', the verb *monter* illustrates a vertical motion upwards or towards the sky. The spatial difference between A and B can be estimated in meters, but the amount is not of predominant interest for the utterance. This distinguishes it from the intensional examples, in which the (exact) value is important for the meaning of the utterance. In the sentence fr. *Le prix du pétrole monte* [PRICE] 'The price for gasoline rises' it becomes clear that it is about a vertical motion upwards on a price scale (metaphor). The sentence fr. *Le pétrole monte* 'Gasoline rises' on the contrary, allows two possible interpretations. It can be either similar interpreted as an example of a VALUE reading (PRICE, metaphor) or more concrete as a liquid rising from level A to B [PATH or EXTENSION, metonymy], even though the interpretation PRICE appears more likely due to the fact that it is not as context dependent. Similar in example fr. *La température monte* 'The temperature rises', in which *monter* does not display signs of spatiality (Yune, 2009), but implies a scalar value change, whereby the category of the value change ('degree') is indicated through a functional noun ('temperature'). Regarding the extensional and intensional readings the talk will address the following topics: a) Are there different subcategories of the PATH reading? b) How can the metaphorical meaning extensions of the different readings be accounted for? c) What kind of semantic restrictions exists in the PATH, EXTENSION, MANNER and COMPOSITION readings and especially between extensional and intensional uses of *monter*?

Out of an empirical perspective, restrictions in use of the intensional readings will be illustrated with the help of a case study of the French sentence *Le prix de l'essence monte* 'The price of gasoline rises' and its variations. This case study is based on the results of an online questionnaire. The chosen example (*The price of gasoline rises*) is particularly interesting, due to the fact that English lacks a verbal counterpart to express the result of that utterance, namely that gasoline has become more expensive. In contrast to English, German possesses the verbal counterpart German *verteuern*, as in

German *Benzin hat sich verteuert* ‘Gasoline has become more expensive’. German *verteuern* ‘become/get more expensive’ –in contrast to French *monter* -encodes the dimension PRICE and an increase of the value along this dimension without involving metaphor. It will be discussed whether French *enchérir* and/or *renchérir* ‘add/ make/ raise a higher bid’ can be regarded as verbal counterparts or whether French shares the fact with English that it lacks a verbal counterpart and has to use similarly an auxiliary construction, such as French *L’essence est devenue plus chère* ‘Gasoline has become more expensive’.

Furthermore, concerning the VALUE reading *monter* will be contrasted to other verbs indicating a value change, as for example *accroître* ‘increase/ heighten’, *croître* ‘grow’, *(a)grandir* ‘get bigger’, *augmenter* ‘increase/ raise’, *hausser* ‘increase/ raise/ rise’, *élever* ‘raise/ rise/ bring up’, etc. One of the results will be, that in cases, in which in German *wachsen* ‘grow’ and *steigen* ‘climb’ appear synonymous (Csiky 2008), such as in German *Die Müllberge, die Kosten, der Druck, die Arbeitslosigkeit, das Interesse, die Spannung steigt/wächst* ‘The amount of garbage [lit. garbage mountains], the costs, the pressure, the unemployment rate, the interest, the tension rise(s)/grow(s)’, in French either *accroître* ‘increase/ heighten’ or *augmenter* ‘increase/ raise’ are preferred.

A final question raised in this talk will be: How much of the original dimension HEIGHT plays a role in the extensional and intensional uses of *monter*? In order to do so, restrictions in use, such as German *Er stieg über/in die Pfütze* ‘He stepped over/in the puddle’ (Geuder & Weisgerber, 2006) vs. *?/*Il monte sur/ dans une flaque* or French *Pierre monte les bagages* ‘Peter takes the luggage upstairs’ vs. German **Peter steigt die Koffer nach oben* and the different source concepts of French *monter*, German *steigen* and Spanish *subir* will be compared. It will be demonstrated, that all the possible readings and dimensions encoded by *monter* are already present in the source concept “mountain” from which *monter* is derived. Especially this last point will be illustrated with the help of a frame analysis of the different underlying source concepts.

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