

Three-participant events project – Target events (version July 2019)

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The tables below provide classifications of different three-participant events into types with lists of English verbs as examples for concepts included in each type. The list in **Error! Reference source not found.** is based on Margetts & Austin 2007 but has been modified and extended. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the reduced list of ‘core concepts’ which were chosen as the focus of the project on the basis that they are attested in all or most of the project languages and therefore allow for comparison across the corpora.

Table 1 - Extended list of concepts

Type A Agent causes recipient to receive theme:

verbs of discrete or continuous causation of movement of an entity to a recipient

give, pass, hand, send, deliver, pay, feed, provide with, sell (s.b. s.th.)

including verbs signifying a deictically specified direction

bring, take (s.b. s.th.)

verbs of instantaneous causation of ballistic motion of an entity to a recipient

throw, toss, kick (s.b. s.th.)

Comments: including ‘throw s.th. **to** someone’ (for them to have, catch) but not ‘throw s.th. **at** s.o.’
excluding ‘inform’ etc. which is classified as Type C

Type B Agent causes theme to move to or to be located at location:

verbs of discrete or continuous causation of movement of an entity to or towards a location

cause BE AT location:

put, place, position, leave, keep, hold down, plant, sow, build, fix, attach ... (s.th. s.wh.)

cause MOVE TO location:

bring/take, carry, send, lead, throw, drag, deliver, pull, push, seat, lay, stand up ... (s.th. (to) s.wh.)

Comments: including ‘throw s.th. **at** someone or something’ but not ‘throw s.th. **to** s.o.’
excluding caused motion FROM location; which is classified as Type E

Type C Agent acts to communicate information to recipient:

verbs of explication

tell, show, ask, teach, inform of (s.b. s.th.)

Comments: Count NPs like story, news, joke, warning, letter, picture, etc. as theme participant

- NPs and pronouns are counted as participants, passages of direct or indirect speech are not
 - excluding also habitual ‘calling’ events e.g. *he (habitually) calls her “aunty”*, cf. FN 5 In M&A.
 - Excluding ‘write a letter’ which is classified as Type F
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Type D Agent/recipient takes possession of theme from source:

verbs of receiving

receive, learn, inherit, get, hear (s.th. from s.b.)

Comments: In practice ‘get’ and ‘take’ verbs can often not be clearly identified as belonging to Type D or Type E. They can be classified as DE

Type E	<p>Agent removes theme from R-type possession or location:</p> <p>verbs of discrete or continuous caused motion FROM location <i>get, take, send, carry, throw, lead, deliver, pay, provide with, drag, pull, push, wash off</i> (s.th. from s.wh.)</p> <p>verbs of dispossession from possession <i>rob, steal, snatch, remove, deprive, ask for, demand</i> (s.th. from s.b.)</p> <p>Comments: In practice 'get' and 'take' verbs can often not be clearly identified as belonging to Type D or Type E. They can be classified as DE.</p>
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Type F	<p>Agent intends to cause recipient to receive theme (and it is the activity which <i>creates</i> or <i>makes available</i> the Theme for the Recipient)</p> <p>verbs of creation <i>build, cook, make, write, catch, plant, ...</i> (s.th. for s.b.)</p> <p>verbs of preparation for use, <i>fill, load, pour (drink), prepare, ...</i> (s.th. for s.b.)</p> <p>verbs of obtaining <i>search, hunt, kill, pick, get, take, book, bring, drop off, ...</i> (s.th. for s.b.)</p>
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Type G	<p>Agent uses non-body part instrument to impact on or make change to patient:</p> <p>verbs of physical input with non-body part instrument <i>hit, beat, cut, break, kill, cover, pound</i> (s.b./s.th. with instrument) <i>skewer, shovel, snip, spear, join</i> (s.b. /s.th.)</p>
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Type H	<p>Agent uses body part instrument to impact on or make change to patient:</p> <p>verbs of physical input with body part instrument <i>kick, punch, lick, bite, gore, slap</i> (s.b. /s.th.)</p>
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Type I	<p>Conditions of satisfaction imply that agent causes recipient to receive theme:</p> <p>verbs of giving with associated satisfaction conditions <i>promise, lend, guarantee, owe</i> (s.b. s.th.)</p>
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Type J	<p>Agent acts to cause recipient to receive theme at some future point in time:</p> <p>verbs of future transfer <i>leave, bequeath, allocate, offer</i> (s.b. s.th.)</p>
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Type K	<p>Agent allows recipient to receive theme:</p> <p>verbs of permission and enablement <i>permit, allow, enable, sanction</i> (s.b. [to receive] s.th.)</p>
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Type L	<p>Agent causes recipient not to receive or have access to theme:</p> <p>verbs of refusal <i>refuse, deny, distract, withhold, hide, obstruct access to,</i> (s.b. [from] s.th / s.th. from s.b.)</p>
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Table 2 - Core concepts

Set A	Agent causes recipient to receive theme: give bring/take lead carry (to) send throw feed (s.b. s.th.) including <i>cause/give/make drink</i>
Set B	Agent causes theme to move to/be located at location: put/insert bring/take lead carry (to) send throw pull/drag, pour put/assign name (s.th. s.wh.) include fill in searches if appropriate to find alternations of <i>pour T into R /fill R with T</i>
Set C	Agent acts to communicate information to recipient: tell show teach (s.b. s.th.)
Set E	Agent removes theme from R-type possession or location: rob/steal bring/take send throw pull/drag (s.th from s.wh.)

Issues

There are a number of issues with these categories because they are not entirely consistent in the distinctions they make.

- E.g. a distinction is made between Type A (actual transfer from Agent) and Type I (conditions of satisfaction imply future transfer from Agent). However M&A 2007 do not make the same distinction between Type E (actual removal to Agent) and events like 'ask for/demand' (conditions of satisfaction imply removal to Agent). Events like 'ask for/demand' are currently included in Type E.
- Depending on the languages and concepts some of the types are not always clearly distinguishable. This is the case for Types D vs E and also Types I vs J.
- There are several concepts that do not fit neatly in the listed types. E.g. *make something from a material*. This is akin to Type G which is however restricted to instruments as it is currently defined. Also not easily categorized are benefactive events like *he carries my bag for me* and follow event like *I follow them to Madrid*, or exchange events *I exchanged the apple for a pear*.