

## THE SEMANTIC ARCHITECTURE OF THE DOMAIN OF EXISTENCE IN THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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*ABSTRACT: In this paper we will analyse the semantic domain of EXISTENCE in the French and English languages following the Functional-Lexematic Model (Martín Mingorance 1984), which consists of four levels of lexical description: paradigmatic, syntagmatic, pragmatic, and cognitive. We will focus on the paradigmatic, syntagmatic and cognitive axes.*

*On the paradigmatic axis the lexemes are grouped under semantic domains and dimensions elaborated on the basis of shared meaning components following Dik's method of Stepwise Lexical Decomposition (1978b). The relevant semantic parameters are those of manner, means/instrument, place, time, and the parameter describing the nature of the subject/object.*

*On the syntagmatic axis we specify the syntactic patterns of each lexeme following Dik's model (1978a). Three complementation patterns govern this semantic domain: SV, SVAdjunct, and SVO (NP).*

*On the cognitive axis we examine the connections of EXISTENCE with other domains: PERCEPTION, FEELING, ACTION, COGNITION, CHANGE, POSITION and MOVEMENT.*

*RESUMEN: En este artículo analizaremos el dominio semántico de la EXISTENCIA en francés e inglés, siguiendo el Modelo Lexemático-Funcional (Martín Mingorance 1984), que consta de cuatro ejes de descripción: paradigmático, sintagmático, pragmático y cognitivo. Nos centraremos en los ejes paradigmático, sintagmático y cognitivo*

*En el eje paradigmático los lexemas están agrupados en dominios y dimensiones en función de rasgos de significado comunes. El diseño de las dimensiones atiende al mecanismo de la Descomposición Léxica Gradual de Dik (1978b). Los parámetros semánticos opositivos son los de modo, medio/instrumento, lugar, tiempo, y aquel que describe la naturaleza del sujeto/objeto.*

*En el eje sintagmático especificamos la sintaxis léxica de los verbos según el modelo de Dik (1978a). Tres patrones sintácticos rigen este dominio: SV, SVCC y SVO (SN).*

*En el eje cognitivo estudiamos las relaciones semánticas del dominio de la EXISTENCIA con otros dominios: PERCEPCION, SENTIMIENTO, ACCION, COGNICION, CAMBIO, POSICION y MOVIMIENTO.*

### 0. Introduction

EXISTENCE is one of the most basic lexical domains. In this paper we shall contrast the semantic configuration of this field in the French and English languages

following the Functional-Lexematic model elaborated by Martín Mingorance (1984; 1985a,b; 1987a,b,c; 1990). We will expound the similarities and divergences between the French and English domains of EXISTENCE on three levels: *paradigmatic*, *syntagmatic* and *cognitive*.

## 1. An outline of the Functional-Lexematic model

The Functional-Lexematic model integrates Coseriu's *Lexematics* (1977) and Dik's *Functional Grammar* (1978a), and consists of four levels of lexical analysis: *paradigmatic*, *syntagmatic*, *pragmatic* and *cognitive*.

The *paradigmatic* axis is concerned with the semantic description of the lexemes according to the principles of opposition and functionality. The lexemes are grouped under semantic domains<sup>1</sup>, which are in turn divided into dimensions<sup>2</sup> following the postulates of Coseriu's *Lexematics*. Each dimension subsumes a set of semantically closed lexemes and represents an area of meaning within the general concept embodied by the domain.

The method used in the elaboration of the meaning definitions is Dik's *Stepwise Lexical Decomposition* (1978b), according to which each lexeme is made up of an information nucleus, the *definiens*, and a set of relevant features which mark the distance from the other members of the dimension and the field. The lexical unit which constitutes the act nucleus of the dimension is the *archilexeme*. Then, Faber and Mairal (1994: 13-14) claim that "lexical dimensions in each field are established in terms of oppositions formulated from the definitional structure of the lexical units. These oppositions characterize both the internal structure of the dimension in question as well as the lexical structure of the items that it contains. Lexical dimensions are thus directly derived from the definitional structure of lexical units".

On the *syntagmatic* axis we specify the syntactic patterns of the predicates in the dimension adopting Dik's predicate frames model as a notational device (1978b). The predicate frames are formal structures including these types of information:

- (i) The form of the predicate
- (ii) The syntactic category to which it belongs

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1. The following semantic fields can be distinguished (Faber and Mairal 1992): EXISTENCE, MOVEMENT, POSITION, CHANGE, PERCEPTION, FEELING, COGNITION, POSSESSION, SPEECH, SOUND, and GENERAL ACTION.

2. This structural level is described by Geckeler (1977). A dimension can be thought of as a viewpoint of lexical articulation which operates in a lexical field and activates oppositions between certain lexemes within that field.

- (iii) Its quantitative valency<sup>3</sup>, i.e. the number of arguments that the predicate requires.
- (iv) Its qualitative valency, i.e. the semantic functions of the arguments and the selection restrictions holding for them.
- (v) Meaning definition

Predicate frames describe a state of affairs and specify the relationship between the predicate arguments (represented by the variable  $x$ ). Each argument is characterized by a selection restriction - described in terms of binary semantic features - and fulfils a semantic function (Agent, Force, Experiencer, Goal, Recipient, etc.).

Consider the predicate frame of the verb *prononcer*:

$[(x_1: \text{prototyp. human})_{\text{Ag}} (x_2: \text{prototyp. -concrete } \epsilon \text{ sounds, letters, words})_{\text{Go}}]_{\text{Action}}$

This frame describes an Action (a state of affairs defined by the parameters [+control, +dynamism] and specifies the relationship between a human argument, performing the function of Agent, and an argument fulfilling the function of Goal and semantically marked as [-concrete].

The *pragmatic* axis deals with the meaning components that provide information about the communicative situation and about the way in which speakers perceive and evaluate the world. In this light, it is safe to affirm that most lexical models focus on descriptive meaning, neglecting subjective and connotative factors. However, in Lyons' terms (1977), words also carry social and affective meaning.

The description of the *cognitive* axis is based on the idea that semantic structure reflects conceptual structure<sup>4</sup>. Then starting from the postulate that each semantic domain represents a basic conceptual category, we can arrive at the delineation of conceptual schemata. Faber and Mairal (1998:19) define a schema in the following terms:

*“A schema is a modular, dynamic characterization that subsumes linguistic symbolic units obtained in a bottom-to-top fashion through the activation of lower-level schemata. These schemata are linguistically motivated and reflect our understanding of reality”.*

*Modular* means that a given schema includes a number of opposing subschemata. *Dynamic* suggests that cognitive schemata are linked to other schemata. *Linguistic* entails that the units which define a cognitive schema obtain from semantic structure.

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3. Following Sommers (1984: 508), “valency is concerned with relationships between the verbal predicate and the other elements making up a predication. These elements divide up into those which are closely associated with the predicate, termed “complements”, and the rest, termed “adjuncts”. This distinction correlates with Dik’s distinction between arguments and satellites.

4. The argument that semantic structure reflects conceptual structure is found in Faber (1994a), Faber & Mairal (1994,1998), Faber & Pérez (1993), and Lakoff (1987).

The connections between cognitive schemata embody metaphoric and metonymic processes and are expressed in a semantic macronet (cf. below).

## 2. Contrastive paradigmatic analysis

The lexemes which integrate the French and English fields of EXISTENCE can be classified according to semantic parameters (cf. appendix 1). The semantic features which are relevant to the paradigmatic structure of both lexical domains are those of *manner, means/instrument, time, place*, and that describing the *nature of the object*.

The parameters of manner and means/instrument are relevant to the definitional structure of both the French and English semantic fields.

The parameter of manner is particularly relevant in the establishment of the semantic hierarchies of the verbs under the causative subdimensions *Faire mourir qqn/un animal* / To cause sb to die and *Faire disparaître complètement qqch* / To cause sth to disappear. The verbs *assommer, exécuter, lyncher, étrangler, étouffer, empoisonner, lapider, fusiller* and *décapiter* all denote different ways of killing someone/an animal, sharing with the English terms an element of manner.

In the subdimension *Faire mourir qqn/un animal* instrument is a meaningful feature of the lexemes *égorger, poignarder* and *guillotiner*.

On the other hand, both French and English definitions in the dimensions *Exister en tant que représentation de qqch* / To exist as a representation of sth are arranged in terms of means, although this parameter is more salient in English because the English dimension subsumes more verbs.

The relevance of the time and place parameters results from the way of conceptualizing existence. Something can exist in the objective world over a particular space and/or a particular period of time.

Further, the parameter of time is a structuring device within both semantic domains. Some dimensions are organized in terms of time: *Exister dans le temps* / To exist in time, *Continuer à exister dans le temps* / To continue to exist in time, and *Cesser d'exister dans le temps* / To stop happening.

The time parameter is most central to the definition structure of the French verbs in the dimension *Continuer à exister dans le temps*, whereas in the correlative English dimension this semantic pattern is made explicit in only two verbs (linger, persist).

Another correspondence between the French and English field of EXISTENCE can be pinpointed in relation with the parameter describing the nature of the subject. Below we present the lexemes of both domains where this parameter is relevant within their definition:

- (i) Animate entity:
  - Human beings: *se reproduire* /reproduce, *procréer* /procreate.
  - Animals: *éclore* /hatch, *croître*.

- Plants: *fleurir, croître, pousser.*
- (ii) Inanimate entity:
  - Ideas / feelings: *s'éveiller, percer, germer.*
  - Daylight: *poindre, pointer, dawn.*
  - Sun / moon / stars: *se lever, paraître<sup>2</sup>, pointer, percer.*
  - Noise / voice: *s'élever.*
  - Activity: *fleurir, prospérer.*
  - Rash/sore: *erupt<sup>2</sup>*

Note that the parameter describing the nature of the subject is more basic in French.

The major divergence between the French and English lexical fields concerns the semantic differentiation pattern nature/quality of the object. The parameter describing the nature of the object is salient in English, whereas that describing the quality of the object is more relevant in French.

## 2. Contrastive syntagmatic analysis

An examination of the syntactic properties of the French and English predicates of EXISTENCE reveals that they have a limited number of complementation patterns. We have pinned down the following predicate schemata (cf. above)

### 2.1. SV<sup>5</sup>

The predicate frames for this syntactic pattern have the following formats:

1. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. living/human)<sub>Proc</sub>]<sub>Process</sub>

This frame designates a Process qualified by a Processed argument prototypically living/human.

French predicates	English predicates
<p><i>fleurir, s'épanouir, grandir, croître, pousser ressusciter<sup>2</sup>, mourir, décéder, claquer, crever casser sa pipe, passer l'arme à gauche, manger les pissenlits par la racine, avaler son bulletin de naissance / sa chique, sortir les pieds devant sortir entre quatre planches, boire le bouillon d'onze heures, déposer le bilan, faire couic ramasser ses outils, faire sa malle / sa valise aller chez les taupes, périr, expirer<sup>1</sup>, se noyer s'électrocuter</i></p>	<p><i>surface, flourish, drown<sup>1</sup>, pass away/on kick the bucket, give up the ghost</i></p>

5. The linguistic symbols used for the syntactic functions of the clausal elements are S=Subject, V=Verb, O=Object. The label "Adjunct" (Quirk 1985) refers to the grammatical function of adverbial. Adjuncts can fulfil various semantic roles (place, time, manner, etc.). On the other hand, each syntactic function can have different realizations. For example, an object can be realized as a noun phrase (NP) or as a nominal clause.

2. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. living)<sub>Ag</sub>]Action

This schema describes an Action encoding a living argument fulfilling the semantic function of Agent.

– French predicates: *éclore, avorter, faire une fausse couche, se suicider, se brûler la cervelle, disparaître, s'évaporer, se volatiliser, s'évanouir.*

– English predicates: reproduce<sup>1</sup>, procreate, hatch, miscarry, commit suicide.

3. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. -concrete)<sub>Fo</sub>]Process

This predication describes a Process qualified by a Force argument which has the following selection restrictions:

Selection restriction	French predicates	English predicates
Theories/Institutions		be born <sup>1</sup> , originate <sup>1</sup> , flourish
Feeling/emotion/attitude	disparaître, s'évanouir	germinate <sup>1</sup> , dawn, surface materialize, pass away/on disappear, evaporate, vanish fade, dissipate
Fact < situation, process, event, action >	commencer <sup>1 3</sup> , se produire arriver, se passer, survenir finir, cesser, (se) terminer s'achever	start <sup>1 3</sup> , resume, ensue originate <sup>1</sup> , threaten, open <sup>1</sup> come up, crop up
Intellect	se matérialiser, s'évanouir	germinate <sup>1</sup> , miscarry pass away/on
Sound		fade
Business/activity	se développer, prospérer	
Term of office/contract	expirer <sup>2</sup>	expire <sup>2</sup> , lapse

## 2.2. SVAadjunct

The predicate frames for this government pattern have the following readings:

1. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. human/living)<sub>Proc</sub>

(y<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. time, place, manner)<sub>Ti/Loc/Ma</sub>]Process

This schema designates a Process and brings to light a human/living Processed and a satellite which can perform various functions. The selection restrictions touching upon the arguments are sketched below.

	Selection restriction	French predicates	English predicates
Subject	Human	naître <sup>1,2</sup> , éclore vivoter, végéter grandir, décéder expirer <sup>1</sup> , se noyer se tuer, s'électrocuter	die, expire <sup>1</sup> , perish suffocate <sup>1</sup> , fade
	Living	se reproduire <sup>1</sup> se multiplier se propager, éclore naître <sup>1</sup> , vivre, croître pousser, fleurir mourir, périr	grow, starve <sup>1</sup>
Adjunct	Time	naître <sup>1</sup> , vivre, fleurir éclore, mourir, périr décéder, expirer <sup>1</sup>	die, expire <sup>1</sup> , perish suffocate <sup>1</sup> , starve <sup>1</sup>
	Place	naître <sup>1</sup> , vivre, croître pousser, s'épanouir mourir, se noyer	grow, expire <sup>1</sup> , perish suffocate <sup>1</sup> , die, starve <sup>1</sup> fade
	Manner	se reproduire <sup>1</sup> se multiplier se propager, naître <sup>2</sup> vivre, végéter, vivoter grandir, mourir, périr se tuer, s'électrocuter	perish

2. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp.+concrete)<sub>Fo</sub> (y<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. time, place, cause, manner)<sub>Ti/Loc / Cau/Ma</sub>]<sub>Process</sub>

This frame differs from the one above in the semantic role of the first argument (Force), semantically marked as concrete.

Below we specify the semantic feature of the arguments:

a) Force:

- “Entity / object”: evaporate, appear, disappear.
- “Something visible”: appear / *apparaître*, *se former*, *surgir*, materialize, disappear, vanish.
- “Liquid / gas”: *jaillir*
- “Volcano”: erupt1
- “Machines”: die.
- “Documents”: expire2 / *expirer*2.
- “Speech / writing”: end.
- “Light”: *poindre*, *pointer*.
- “Sun / moon / stars”: *se lever*, *paraître*2, *pointer*, *percer*.
- “Day”: *poindre*.

## b) Satellite:

- Place: materialize, erupt1, appear/ *apparaître*, *se former*, *surgir*, *jaillir*, *poindre*, *pointer*, *se lever*, *paraître2*, die.
- Time: *se former*, erupt1, expire2 / *expirer2*.
- Cause: disappear, vanish.
- Manner: end

3. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. -concrete)<sub>Fo</sub> (y<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. time, place, manner)<sub>Ti/Loc/Ma</sub>]Process

This frame resembles the previous one in that it encodes a Force argument and a satellite, but differs from it in the semantic scope of the subject argument, characterized as [-concrete] (“theory”, “fact”, “feeling”, “sound”, “activity”). The satellite may fulfil three semantic roles (time, place, manner).

Syntactic function	Selection restriction	French predicates	English predicates
Subject	Theories/ideas/ institutions	s'éveiller, germer	originate <sup>1</sup> , perish
	Fact < situation, action event, process >	se produire, arriver se passer, survenir avoir lieu, éclater se reproduire <sup>2</sup> , finir cesser, (se) terminer s'achever	happen, take place transpire, occur, rage end, conclude terminate
	Feeling/emotion/ behaviour	germer, éclater exploser, se déchaîner	erupt <sup>1</sup> , die, perish
	Sound	s'élever	
	Activity	prosperer	
Adjunct	Time	éclater, exploser se déchaîner s'éveiller, arriver se produire, se passer survenir, avoir lieu se reproduire <sup>2</sup> , cesser prosperer, s'achever (se) terminer, finir	happen, take place transpire, conclude terminate, perish
	Place	éclater, s'élever germer, s'éveiller se produire, se passer survenir, avoir lieu	happen, take place transpire, erupt <sup>1</sup> , die perish
	Manner		happen, take place transpire, end conclude, die, perish



4.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. -concrete}) (y_1: \text{prototyp. time, place})_{Ti / Loc}]_{State}$

This predication designates a State and codifies a subject argument which has no semantic function, and a satellite which fulfils the semantic role of time or place. The selection restrictions holding upon the two arguments are described below.

Syntactic function	Selection restriction	French predicates	English predicates
Subject	Theories / institutions ideas		prevail, live, live on survive, endure remain, last, linger persist, go on
	Fact < event, situation process, action >	commencer <sup>1 3</sup> se reproduire <sup>2</sup> continuer, durer se prolonger, traîner	go on, rage
	Feeling / emotion		live, endure, remain last, linger, persist
	Customs	subsister, se perpétuer	prevail
	Time	s'écouler, passer	
Adjunct	Time	commencer <sup>1 3</sup> continuer, durer traîner	prevail, live, live on survive, remain, last linger, go on, rage
	Place		prevail, live, live on survive, go on, rage

2.3. SVO (NP)

The predicate frames for this complementation pattern go as follows:

1.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. human})_{Ag} (x_2: \text{prototyp. human/living})_{Go}]_{Action}$

This schema describes an Action and specifies the relation between an Agent, prototypically human, and a Goal.

The semantic scope of the object is taken up below.

Sel. restrict. on the object	French predicates	English predicates
Human	procréer, engendrer, accoucher donner le jour, enfanter avoir/ faire la peau de assassiner, zigouiller, lapider massacrer, exterminer, liquider exécuter, fusiller, décapiter guillotiner, pendre, crucifier lyncher, étrangler, étouffer empoisonner, poignarder	beget <sup>2</sup> , sire, give birth to deliver, remove, do away with eliminate, do in, bump off liquidate, crucify, lynch execute, hang, murder assassinate, starve <sup>2</sup> , smother gas, drown <sup>2</sup> , slay, strangle suffocate <sup>2</sup>
Living	propager, tuer, abattre assommer, égorger, se pendre	kill, massacre, slaughter exterminate, butcher, destroy <sup>1</sup>

2.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. human/living})_{Ag} (x_2: \text{prototyp. +concrete})_{Go}]_{Action}$

This predication differs from the one above in the semantic path of the Goal, semantically characterized as concrete (“object”, “writing/picture”, “money”, “food / manufactured goods”, “place”).

Sel. restrict. on the object	French predicates	English predicates
Object	produire <sup>1</sup> , pondre, reproduire contrefaire, enlever, gratter	make <sup>2</sup> , create, produce <sup>1</sup> , lay spawn, duplicate, reproduce <sup>2</sup> fake, forge, counterfeit, bear kill, destroy <sup>2</sup>
Writing/picture	falsifier, copier, contrefaire imiter, attaquer, effacer raturer, rayer, barrer	copy, duplicate, reproduce <sup>2</sup> forge, counterfeit, delete, erase cancel, efface
Money	falsifier, contrefaire, imiter	forge, counterfeit
Food / manufactured goods	produire <sup>1</sup>	produce <sup>1</sup>
Place	détruire	destroy <sup>2</sup>

3.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. human})_{Ag} (x_2: \text{prototyp. -concrete})_{Go}]_{Action}$

Here the Goal argument is semantically marked as [-concrete]. This semantic feature is further specified in the table below.

Sel. restrict. on the object	French predicates	English predicates
Fact < situation, process, event, action >	créer, commencer <sup>2</sup> , amorcer engager, entamer, entreprendre inaugurer, ressusciter <sup>1</sup> recommencer	make <sup>2</sup> , reproduce <sup>2</sup> , resurrect resume, bring about precipitate, induce, provoke prompt, effect, occasion, start <sup>2</sup> commence <sup>2</sup> , institute, instigate loose, open <sup>2</sup> , originate <sup>2</sup> inaugurate, initiate, kill eradicate, remove, efface expunge
Feeling/sensation/attitude		create, make <sup>2</sup> , engender ressurrect, fake, produce <sup>2</sup> germinate <sup>2</sup> , precipitate, induce provoke, prompt, kill, erase eradicate, destroy, obliterate remove, efface, expunge
Intellect		produce <sup>2</sup> , germinate <sup>2</sup> , erase obliterate, originate <sup>2</sup> , efface
System/organization/ institution/law	créer, constituer, former fonder, instaurer, instituer	establish, found, institute open <sup>2</sup> , destroy <sup>2</sup>
Behaviour		copy, reproduce <sup>2</sup>
Information		erase
Result/state		create, engender, produce <sup>2</sup>
Business/company	liquider	start <sup>2</sup> <sup>4</sup> , liquidate

4. [(x<sub>1</sub>: prototyp. human) (x<sub>2</sub>: prototyp. -concrete)]<sub>State</sub>

This is a two-place predication describing a State. The semantic scope of the complement is described below:

- “Feature / value / quality”: represent, stand for, exemplify, personify<sup>1</sup>, *personnifier*, typify, embody / *incarner*.
- “Meaning / representation”: represent / *représenter*, mean, signify, personify<sup>1</sup>
- “Feeling / attitude”: typify, depict.
- “Intellect”: represent / *représenter*, stand for, exemplify, instance, depict, embody.
- “Fact”: exemplify, depict.

5.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. +concrete}) (x_2: \text{prototyp. -concrete})]_{\text{State}}$

This schema differs from the one above in the selection restriction holding for the subject argument.

The semantic delineation of the arguments goes as follows:

a) Subject

- “Object”: represent / *représenter*, mean, *exprimer*, *symboliser*.
- “Symbol / sign / gesture / facial expression”: represent, mean, signify, indicate, *indiquer*, symbolize, denote / *dénoter*
- “Word / name”: mean.

b) Object:

- “Meaning / representation”: represent / *représenter*, mean, signify, indicate, *indiquer*, symbolize, denote / *dénoter*.
- “Feature / value / quality”: represent, mean, indicate, symbolize, denote / *dénoter*, *indiquer*.
- “Intellect”: represent, *exprimer*, *symboliser*.
- “Fact”: mean.

6.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. -concrete}) (x_2: \text{prototyp. -concrete})]_{\text{State}}$

This frame also designates a State whose arguments are semantically marked as [-concrete]:

a) Subject:

- “Fact”: mean, indicate / *indiquer*, symbolize, denote, typify.
- “Intellect”: represent.
- “Feeling / attitude”: mean, indicate / *indiquer*, symbolize, denote, typify.
- “Organization”: stand for.

b) Object:

- “Meaning”: mean, indicate, symbolize, denote.
- “Value / quality”: stand for, indicate, symbolize, denote, typify.
- “Intellect”: represent, stand for.
- “Feeling / attitude”: mean.

7.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. -concrete})_{\text{Fo}} (x_2: \text{prototyp. -concrete})_{\text{Go}}]_{\text{Process}}$

This frame designates a Process and specifies the relation between a Force argument and a Goal argument, both semantically characterized as [-concrete].

Let us present the selection restrictions imposed upon the two arguments.

Syntactic function	Selection restriction	French predicates	English predicates
Subject	Fact <situation,action process, event >	produire <sup>2</sup> , provoquer susciter, causer motiver, engendrer <sup>2</sup> occasionner déchaîner, entraîner	create, spawn, produce <sup>2</sup> , bring about precipitate, spark, induce, provoke, prompt, occasion give birth to
	Feeling/attitude	susciter, motiver engendrer <sup>2</sup> , déchaîner	
	Theories/institutions		institute, loose, initiate, do away with
Object	Fact <situation,action process, event >	produire <sup>2</sup> , causer provoquer, susciter motiver, occasionner entraîner	bring about precipitate, spark induce, provoke prompt, occasion give birth to, institute initiate, do away with
	Feeling / attitude	susciter, engendrer <sup>2</sup> déchaîner	create, produce <sup>2</sup> , precipitate, spark induce, provoke prompt
	Institution/organiz.		haunt
	Result / state		create, produce <sup>2</sup> spawn
	Expenses	occasionner	

#### 2.4. SVO (Passive)

The predicate frame for this syntactic pattern has the following reading:

$[(x_1: \text{prototyp. human})_{\text{Ag}} (x_2: \text{prototyp. human/animal})_{\text{Go}}]_{\text{Action}}$

This schema describes an Action qualified by a human Agent and a Goal argument, prototypically living.

It is the predication of the verbs *tuer, abattre, assommer, égorger, assassiner, zigouiller, massacrer, exterminer, liquider, exécuter, fusiller*, behead, decapitate, *décapiter, guillotine, guillotiner, pendre, crucifier*, electrocute, *lyncher, étrangler, étouffer, empoisonner, lapider, poignarder*.

#### 2.5. SVO (Nominal clause)

The predicate frames for this government pattern have the following forms:

1.  $[(\text{Cert } e_1: [\text{Pred}\beta (x_2)]_{\text{Ev}})_{\text{Fo}}]_{\text{Process}}$

This is the predication of *advenir* and *arriver*. It designates a Process whose only argument of the predication fulfils the semantic role of Force. The complement clause encodes an Event, represented by the variable  $e_j$ . This extensional value is in turn modified by the intension *Cert* (standing for Certain), which signals that the state of affairs described by the complement is assessed as being the case with no alternatives available<sup>6</sup>. These extensional properties are in turn modified by an intensional value. The intensional properties are codified along a Scale of Evaluation.

The combination of an extensional property and an intensional value gives rise to the complement meaning..

Thus the Force has Certain Event meaning.

2.  $[(\text{Prob } X_1: [\pi_2 e_1: [\pi_1 \text{Pred}\beta (x_n)]_{\text{State}}])]$

This is the predication of *seem*, *appear*, *look as if*, *paraître*<sup>l</sup> and *sembler*.

This schema designates a State and codifies an argument extensionally characterized as a *Fact*, represented by the operator  $X^l$ . This extensional value is modified by the variable *Prob* (standing for Probable). This means that the speaker presents the propositional content as expected although some alternatives are offered.

The complement has Probable Fact meaning.

3.  $[(x_1: \text{prototyp. +concrete } \varepsilon \text{ sign, symbol}) (\text{Cert } X_1: [\pi_2 e_1: [\pi_1 \text{Pred}\beta (x_n) \pi]_{\text{State}}])]$

This frame designates a State and specifies the relation between a concrete argument performing no semantic function, and a second argument extensionally marked as a *Fact* ( $X_j$ ) and intensionally characterized as *Certain* (*Cert*). The complement has Certain Fact meaning.

It is the predication of *mean*, *express*, *indicate* / *indiquer*, and *denote*.

### 3. Contrastive cognitive analysis

The connections of EXISTENCE with other semantic fields can be formalized in a *semantic macronet*, where the names of domains in their primary location are written in capital letters.

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6. Mairal (1994) has studied the value of the complement of higher predicates. He postulates that the complement of certain predicates can be characterized by both *extensional* and *intensional* properties. The former are arranged along a scale of knowledge and behaviour. They indicate what the complement designates in a possible world. Six extensional values are to be distinguished: *Quoted Speech Act*; *Fact*; *Future Fact*; *Event*; *Action*, and *Individual*.

## 1. PERCEPTION:

### 1.1. Visual perception:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (i) To exist in the perception of others<br>[show, look, look like/as if, date]   | Exister dans la perception des autres<br>[se présenter, sembler/paraître <sup>1</sup> /avoir l'air, se matérialiser]  |
| (ii) To begin to exist in the perception of others, becoming visible<br>[appear, dawn, surface, materialize erupt <sup>2</sup> , haunt, form <sup>1</sup> , arise, come up crop up, form <sup>2</sup> ] | Commencer à exister dans la perception des autres, devenant visible<br>[apparaître, se former, surgir, jaillir poindre, se lever, paraître <sup>2</sup> , pointer percer, germer] |
| (iii) To stop existing in the perception of others<br>[disappear, evaporate, vanish fade, dissipate]  | Cesser d'exister dans la perception autres<br>[disparaître, s'évaporer, se volatiliser s'évanouir]  |
| (iv) To cause sth to disappear<br>[remove, rub out, scrape, delete efface, erase, cancel, eliminate <sup>2</sup> expunge, obliterate, destroy <sup>2</sup> eradicate]                                   | Faire disparaître complètement qqch<br>[effacer, enlever, éliminer, gommer gratter, raturer, rayer, barrer détruire]  |

### 1.2. Auditory perception:

make<sup>2</sup>, erupt<sup>1</sup>, fade faire, s'élever

## 2. FEELING:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (i) To exist/cause to exist [predominate create, engender, resurrect]                                    |  |
| (ii) To cause sth to exist in time<br>[produce <sup>2</sup> , precipitate, occasion induce]              | Faire exister qqch dans le temps<br>[produire <sup>2</sup> , susciter, engendrer <sup>2</sup> déchaîner] |
| (iii) To begin/cause to begin to exist<br>[give birth to, erupt <sup>1</sup> , germinate <sup>1</sup> 2] | Commencer à exister<br>[éclater, exploser, se déchaîner, s'éveiller]                                     |
| (iv) To begin to exist in the perception of others<br>[materialize, dawn, surface, form]                 |  |
| (v) To continue to exist [live, live on survive, endure, remain]   |  |
| (vi) To continue to exist in time<br>[linger, persist]   |  |

- (vii) To cease to exist / To cause to die Faire mourir qqn/un animal  
[die, perish, kill, murder, butcher, [tuer, assommer]  
massacre, slaughter, starve<sup>1</sup> 2]
- (viii) To cease to exist in the perception Cesser d'exister dans la perception  
of others [disappear, vanish, fade des autres [disparaître, s'évanouir]  
dissipate, evaporate]
- (ix) To cause sth to disappear  
[destroy<sup>2</sup>, obliterate, efface, expunge  
remove, erase]

### 3. ACTION:

- (i) To cause to exist Faire exister qqn/qqch  
[make<sup>1</sup> 2, render, produce<sup>1</sup>, engender [faire, créer, constituer, produire<sup>1</sup>  
establish, found, resurrect] établir, fonder, instituer, instaurer  
ressusciter<sup>1</sup>]
- (ii) To cause to exist in time Faire exister qqch dans le temps  
[produce<sup>2</sup>, bring about, spark, induce [produire<sup>2</sup>, causer, provoquer  
prompt, occasion, effect, provoke] susciter, motiver, occasionner  
déchaîner, engendrer<sup>2</sup>, déclencher  
entraîner]
- (iii) To cause to begin to exist Commencer qqch  
[start<sup>2</sup>, institute, instigate] [commencer<sup>2</sup>, amorcer, engager  
entamer, entreprendre]
- (iv) To cause to begin to exist in time Commencer qqch (Temps)  
[start<sup>4</sup>, initiate, inaugurate, [commencer<sup>4</sup>, inaugurer<sup>2</sup>  
commence<sup>2</sup>, open<sup>2</sup>, originate<sup>2</sup>]
- (v) To cause to die Faire mourir qqn/un animal  
[kill, murder, assassinate, eliminate<sup>1</sup> [tuer, abattre, assommer, égorger  
bump off, do away with, liquidate pourfendre, avoir/faire la peau de  
exterminate, massacre, butcher descendre, assassiner, zigouiller  
slaughter, execute, behead, decapitate liquider, exterminer, massacrer  
guillotine, hang, lynch, crucify exécuter, fusiller, décapiter  
elecrocute, starve<sup>2</sup>, strangle, suffocate<sup>2</sup> guillotiner, pendre, lyncher  
smother, gas, drown<sup>2</sup>, commit suicide électrocuter, étrangler, étouffer  
slay, destroy<sup>1</sup>] noyer, empoisonner, lapider  
poignarder, crucifier, se suicider  
se pendre, se brûler la cervelle]



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (vi) To cause sth to disappear<br>[remove, rub out, scrape, delete<br>efface, erase, eliminate, destroy <sup>2</sup><br>expunge, obliterate, eradicate] | Faire disparaître complètement qqch<br>[effacer, enlever, éliminer, gommer<br>gratter, raturer, rayer, barrer, détruire] |
|---|--|

#### 4. COGNITION:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (i) To cause to exist<br>[make <sup>2</sup> , produce <sup>1</sup> , institute, initiate] |  |
| (ii) To cause to begin to exist<br>[loose, miscarry]                                      |  |
| (iii) To exist / To begin to exist in the<br>perception of others [seem, appear]          | Exister dans la perception des<br>[sembler, paraître <sup>1</sup> , avoir l'air] |
| (iv) To cause sth to disappear<br>[erase, obliterate]                                     |  |

#### 5. CHANGE:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (i) To cause to exist<br>[make <sup>1</sup> , render, create]   | Faire exister qqn/qqch<br>[se multiplier, se propager, propager]   |
| (ii) To cause to exist in time<br>[produce <sup>2</sup> , bring about, spark, induce<br>prompt, occasion, effect, provoke]  | Faire exister qqch dans le temps<br>[produire <sup>2</sup> , causer, provoquer, susciter<br>motiver, occasionner, déchaîner<br>engendrer <sup>2</sup> , déclencher, entraîner] |
| (iii) To begin to exist in the perception<br>of others<br>[appear, dawn, surface, materialize<br>erupt <sup>2</sup> , haunt, form <sup>1</sup> , arise, come up<br>crop up, form <sup>2</sup> ] | Commencer à exister dans la<br>perception des autres<br>[apparaître, se former, surgir, jaillir<br>poindre, se lever, paraître <sup>2</sup> , pointer<br>percer, germer]       |
| (iv)  | Continuer à exister [se développer<br>grandir, croître, pousser]   |

#### 6. POSITION:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (i) To continue to exist [endure, remain]   | Continuer à exister [rester <sup>2</sup> demeurer <sup>2</sup> ,<br>se maintenir]                                    |
| (ii) To continue to exist in time<br>[go on, pass, elapse, last, linger<br>persist, rage] | Continuer à exister dans le temps<br>[continuer, durer, persister, subsister<br>se perpétuer, se prolonger, traîner] |

## 7. MOVEMENT:

To begin/to continue/to cease to exist Commencer/Continuer/Cesser d'exister

### EXISTENCE and PERCEPTION

The verbs under the dimensions To exist in the perception of others, To begin to exist in the perception of others / *Commencer à exister dans la perception des autres*, To stop existing in the perception of others / *Cesser d'exister dans la perception des autres*, and To cause sth to disappear / *Faire disparaître complètement qqch* show a deviation to VISUAL PERCEPTION.

This relation is supported by the following facts:

a) The complementation patterns of several predicates are instances of perceiving something physically:

SV Adjunct (Place)

(1) The edge of the moon is just showing in the sky.

(2) Le soleil parut derrière les collines.

b) The complement meaning of some verbs is semantically marked as “something visible”. It is the case of show, appear / *apparaître*, surface, materialize, form<sup>1</sup>, *se former*, *surgir*, disappear / *disparaître*, vanish, and dissipate.

c) Some French and English verbs show an extension from physical entities to abstract entities, a deviation which is typical of PERCEPTION verbs.

– Deviation to FEELING: materialize, dawn<sup>1</sup>, surface, *germer*, disappear / *disparaître*, dissipate, evaporate, *s'évanouir*, vanish, and erase.

– Deviation to COGNITION: appear.

### EXISTENCE and FEELING

The connection of EXISTENCE with FEELING is syntax-dependent in that it obtains via the selection restrictions impinging upon the subject/object argument, which is semantically characterized as “feeling”:

(3) Sa colère se déchaîna quand il apprit qu'on ne lui avait pas donné le poste qu'il croyait mériter.

In English, the relation of EXISTENCE with FEELING can obtain indirectly. For instance, some verbs in the subdimension To cause to die are indirectly linked to FEELING in that the emphasis is not on the physical action and the result (the death of someone), but on the emotional reaction of the object. In French only two verbs (*tuer*, *assommer*) denote this idea:

(4) Elle assomme tout le monde avec ses plaintes et ses reproches.

(5) If I should find out that you have done something behind my back, I'll kill you.

## EXISTENCE and ACTION

Our claim about the relation of EXISTENCE with ACTION is backed up by the following facts:

- a) The verbs *make*<sup>2</sup> and *faire*, which belong to the dimensions To cause to exist and *Faire exister qqn/qqch* are the archilexemes of the semantic domain of ACTION.
- b) The predicates within all the causative dimensions (except for the dimensions To cause to die / *Faire mourir qqn/un animal* and To cause to disappear / *Faire disparaître complètement qqch*) encode an object semantically marked as “effected” (resulting from the action denoted by the verb). This semantic feature is prototypical of verbs of ACTION.
- c) The complement meaning of a few verbs signal a step from physical entities to mental entities. This extension coincides with that postulated for the verbs of ACTION:
  - Deviation to FEELING: produce<sup>2</sup>, engender, *engendrer*<sup>2</sup>, precipitate, occasion, induce, *susciter, déchaîner*.
  - Deviation to AUDITORY PERCEPTION: make<sup>2</sup>, *faire*.
  - Deviation to COGNITION: make<sup>2</sup>, produce<sup>1</sup>, originate<sup>1</sup>, institute, erase, obliterate, miscarry, loose.

## EXISTENCE and COGNITION

As advanced above, some verbs falling in the dimensions To cause to exist, To cause to begin to exist, and To cause to disappear maintain a close connection with the semantic field of COGNITION in that the semantic scope of their object argument is “intellect”:

- Ideas / thoughts / projects: miscarry, produce<sup>1</sup>, erase, obliterate.
- Theories / Institutions: institute, loose.
- Laws: make<sup>2</sup>.

This relation is reinforced syntactically. Some patterns of *appear, seem, paraître* and *sembler* touch upon MENTAL PERCEPTION.

The form of these government patterns goes as follows:

SV [PO] O-Nominal Clause

- (a) S = prototyp. *it / il*
- (b) O = prototyp. Probable Fact
- (6) *Il semble qu* .
- (7) *It seems/appears that you are mistaken.*

## EXISTENCE and CHANGE

The complement meaning of some verbs under the dimensions To cause to exist / *Faire exister* and To cause to exist in time / *Faire exister qqch dans le temps* signals the transition from one state of affairs to another:

(8) Le coup d'état a entraîné la chute du gouvernement.

(9) All this would precipitate an economic crisis.

(10) The staff reduction has created a lot of problems.

Further, in English the connection of EXISTENCE and CHANGE is reinforced on the syntagmatic level, as shown in the syntactic pattern of the predicate *render*: SVO Complement / Participle. This complement or participle denotes the state resulting from the action designated by the subject:

(11) The medicine must have rendered her unconscious for a long time.

## EXISTENCE and POSITION

The link of EXISTENCE and POSITION is established via two dimensional-level schemata: To continue to exist / *Continuer à exister*, and To continue to exist in time / *Continuer à exister dans le temps*. The English lexemes in the first dimension focus on the permanence of existence, while the French verbs (*rester*<sup>1 2</sup>, *demeurer* and *se maintenir*) highlight the continuation of a state of affairs (state or situation).

On the other hand, the verbs within the dimension To continue to exist in time / *Continuer à exister dans le temps* lay the emphasis on permanence in time.

## EXISTENCE and MOVEMENT

The connection of EXISTENCE with MOVEMENT obtains from the general configuration of the semantic domain of EXISTENCE in both French and English. The field of EXISTENCE is divided into three major dimensions:

- To begin to exist / *Commencer à exister*
- To continue to exist / *Continuer à exister*
- To cease to exist / *Cesser d'exister*

The relation with MOVEMENT results from the conception of existence as a movement through time.

### Codification of metaphorical and metonymical processes

Process	Type	French predicates	English predicates
METAPHOR	Theories are people		be, predominate, prevail be born <sup>1</sup> , arise, originate <sup>1</sup> institute, initiate, miscarry flourish, loose, survive endure, remain, last, linger persist, go on, die pass away/on, perish
	Institutions are people		be, predominate, prevail embody, threaten, originate <sup>1</sup> be born <sup>1</sup> , reincarnate institute, loose, haunt, arise initiate, survive, flourish endure, remain, go on perish, do away with
	Machines are people	commencer <sup>2</sup>	start <sup>2</sup> , die, give up the ghost
METONYMY	Part for the whole		originate <sup>1,2</sup> , depict, embody fake, live, live on, survive <sup>1</sup> endure, kill
	Product for producer		appear, disappear, date
DEVIATION FROM [+CONCRETE] TO [-CONCRETE]	Feeling	percer, tuer, disparaître, s'évanouir	predominate, depict, fake dawn, erupt <sup>1</sup> , germinate <sup>1</sup> give birth to, surface materialize, survive, endure remain, linger, persist, die pass away/on, perish, kill disappear, evaporate vanish, fade, erase, destroy <sup>2</sup> eradicate, obliterate remove, expunge
	Intellect		make <sup>2</sup> , produce <sup>1</sup> , institute loose, miscarry, appear initiate, erase, obliterate
	Fact < situation, event process, action >		make <sup>1,2</sup> , render, create depict, reproduce <sup>2</sup> materialize, produce <sup>2</sup> occasion, bring about induce, provoke, prompt go on, last, suffocate, kill do away with
	Sound	faire	make <sup>2</sup> , erupt <sup>1</sup>

We observe that metaphorical and metonymical processes are relevant to the cognitive structure of the domain of EXISTENCE in English, while in French there is a poor codification of these processes.

#### 4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the lexicon is not an inconsistent inventory of words, but a structured whole of semantically bound units which are grouped under semantic domains structured paradigmatically, syntagmatically, pragmatically and cognitively.

The contrastive analysis of the French and English domains of EXISTENCE has highlighted the relations of equivalence between the French and English lexemes. We can conclude that the similarities between the French and English fields of EXISTENCE are far more prominent than the divergences on the different levels of analysis:

- 1) On the paradigmatic level, we have noted that the same relevant differentiation parameters traverse the French and English domains.
- 2) On the syntagmatic level, the examination of the predicate schemata encoded in the French and English fields has revealed that the verbs pattern syntactically in the same way.
- 3) On the cognitive level, the description of the semantic links of both domains has yielded the same metaphorical projections from these fields into others.

In sum, starting from the idea that semantic structure reflects conceptual structure, we claim that the way of interpreting reality is roughly the same across culture boundaries.

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## Appendix 1: Semantic classification of EXISTENCE verbs in French and English

### 1. The parameter of **Manner**

<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>
Former	
Etablir	
Fonder	Found
Constituer	
Se reproduire <sup>1</sup>	
Paraître <sup>1</sup>	Look
	Seem
Sembler	
Avoir l’air	
Se matérialiser	
	Personify <sup>1</sup>
	Embody
Copier	Copy
Survenir	
	Happen
Advenir	Occur
Eclater	
Exploser	Erupt <sup>1</sup>
Se déchaîner	

ISABEL NEGRO

Eclore	Hatch Make <sup>2</sup> Materialize Erupt <sup>2</sup>
Se former	Crop up
Pointer	
Percer	
Germer	
S'élever	
Se développer	
Prospérer	
S'épanouir	Rage
Abattre	
Assommer	Do away with Liquidate
Etrangler	Strangle
Etouffer	Suffocate <sup>2</sup>
Egorger	
Massacrer Massacre	Smother Gas
Empoisonner	
Lapider	
Fusiller	
Décapiter	Behead
Pendre	Hang
Crucifier	Crucify Electrocute Starve <sup>1 2</sup> Drown <sup>1 2</sup>
Se pendre	
Raturer	
Barrer	Remove Rub out Scrape Delete Erase Erase Cancel
Se volatiliser	Vanish



Se dissiper	Fade
S'évaporer	
S'évanouir	Dissipate

2. The parameter of **Means / Instrument**

Exprimer ( <u>Means</u> )	Express ( <u>Means</u> )
Symboliser ( <u>Means</u> )	Symbolize ( <u>Means</u> )
Dénoter ( <u>Means</u> )	Denote ( <u>Means</u> )
Personnifier ( <u>Means</u> )	
	Exemplify ( <u>Means</u> )
Incarner ( <u>Means</u> )	Incarnate ( <u>Means</u> )
Egorger ( <u>Instr.</u> )	
Poignarder ( <u>Instr.</u> )	
Guillotiner ( <u>Instr.</u> )	Guillotine ( <u>Instr.</u> )
Gratter ( <u>Instr.</u> )	
Gommer ( <u>Instr.</u> )	

3. The parameter of **Time**

Coexister	
	Resurrect
	Look like/as if
S'ensuivre	Ensure (from)
Avoir lieu	Take place
Coïncider	Coincide
Se reproduire <sup>2</sup>	Resume
	Threaten
Ressusciter <sup>2</sup>	
Se réincarner	Reincarnate
Avorter /	
Faire une fausse couche	Miscarry
	Live on
Survivre	Survive
Hanter	
Surgir	Come up
Jaillir	
Durer	
S'écouler/Passer	Pass
Persister	
Subsister	
Se perpétuer	
Se prolonger	Linger
Traîner	Persist

4. The parameter describing the **nature of the subject / object**

4.1. **Identity of the subject**

Procréer	Procreate
Eclorre	Hatch

S'éveiller  
 Poindre  
 Se lever  
 Paraître<sup>2</sup>  
 Pointer

Dawn

Percer  
 Germer  
 S'élever

Erupt<sup>2</sup>

Hanter  
 Fleurir  
 Prospérer  
 Grandir  
 Croître  
 Pousser

#### 4.2. Identity of the object

Inaugurer  
 Instituer  
 Etablir  
 Instaurer

Establish

Pondre  
 Se reproduire<sup>1</sup>  
 Exprimer  
 Personnifier

Engender  
 Lay  
 Reproduce  
 Personify<sup>2</sup>  
 Incarnate

Falsifier  
 Contrefaire  
 Imiter

Duplicate  
 Counterfeit  
 Forge

Déchaîner  
 Avorter /  
 Faire une fausse couche  
 Amorcer  
 Engager  
 Entreprendre  
 Entamer

Assassinate  
 Eradicate

#### 4.3. Quality of the object

Créer	Create
Produire <sup>1</sup>	Befall
	Occur
Occasionner	Provoke
	Loose
	Form <sup>1</sup>
	Crop out
Végéter	
Vivoter	Rub out
	Erase

#### 5. The parameter of **Place**

	Prevail
	Grow
Coexister	Depict
Avoir lieu	Take place
Coïncider	Coincide
Se réincarner	Reincarnate
Se lever	
Hanter	Haunt
S'épanouir	
Gratter	
Rayer	

## Appendix 2: Paradigmatic structure of the domain of EXISTENCE in French

### EXISTER

**être**: exister (philosophique).

**coexister**: exister dans le même lieu au même moment.

### FAIRE EXISTER

**faire**: faire exister qqch.

**créer**: faire exister qqn/qqch de nouveau.

**constituer**: créer qqch conformément à la loi.

**produire<sup>1</sup>**: faire exister qqch qui n'existe pas encore.

**se reproduire<sup>1</sup>**: produire des êtres semblables à soi par la génération.

**se multiplier/se propager/propager**: se reproduire, en faisant augmenter le nombre.

**procréer**: produire des êtres vivants par voie de génération (littér.).

**engendrer<sup>1</sup>**: procréer (le mâle).

**pondre**: faire des oeufs (les animaux ovipares, spéc. les poules).  
**former**: faire exister qqch en lui donnant une forme/organisation particulière.  
**établir**: faire exister qqch (une institution/loi/règle) en le mettant en application.  
**fonder**: établir qqch en fournissant parfois une somme.  
**inaugurer**: établir qqch (une pratique/un usage).  
**instituer**: établir qqch (un tribunal/un usage/une règle).  
**instaurer**: établir qqch (une institution/un régime politique/une loi/une règle/une mode).  
**ressusciter**<sup>1</sup>: faire exister de nouveau qqch qui avait disparu.

#### EXISTER DANS LA PERCEPTION DES AUTRES

**se présenter**: exister dans la perception des autres.  
**paraître**<sup>1</sup>/**sembler**/**avoir l'air**: se présenter sous un certain aspect.  
**se matérialiser**: se présenter sous une apparence matérielle/visible.

#### EXISTER EN TANT QUE REPRÉSENTATION DE QQCH

**représenter**: exister en tant que représentation de qqch.  
**exprimer**: représenter une idée/un sentiment au moyen du langage ou de l'art.  
**symboliser**: représenter qqch par un symbole.  
**dénoter**: représenter qqch en tant que signe.  
**indiquer**: être le signe d'une autre chose.  
**personnifier**: représenter une abstraction.  
**incarner**: personnifier qqch sous une forme matérielle et visible.

#### FAIRE EXISTER QQCH EN TANT QUE REPRÉSENTATION D'UNE AUTRE CHOSE

**reproduire**: faire une représentation de qqch.  
**copier**: reproduire fidèlement qqch.  
**falsifier**: reproduire qqch (monnaie/une chose écrite) dans une intention frauduleuse.  
**contrefaire**: reproduire qqch (un objet/écriture/monnaie) dans une intention frauduleuse.  
**imiter**: reproduire qqch (monnaie/écriture/une chose écrite) dans une intention frauduleuse.

#### EXISTER DANS LE TEMPS

**se produire/arriver/se passer**: commencer à exister dans le temps.  
**survenir**: se produire de façon inattendue et brusque.  
**advenir**: se produire de façon imprévisible.  
**s'ensuivre**: se produire à la suite de qqch.  
**avoir lieu**: se produire à un endroit ou à un moment donné.  
**coïncider**: se produire dans le même lieu au même moment.  
**se reproduire**<sup>2</sup>: se produire une nouvelle fois.  
**devenir**: arriver qqch à qqn (emploi à la forme interrogative).

#### FAIRE EXISTER QQCH DANS LE TEMPS

**produire**<sup>2</sup>/**causer**/**provoquer**/**susciter**/**motiver**/**engendrer**<sup>2</sup>: faire exister qqch dans le temps  
**occasionner**: produire qqch de fâcheux.  
**déchaîner**: provoquer une certaine réaction.  
**entraîner**: provoquer en ayant pour effet qqch.

COMMENCER A EXISTER/VIVRE

**commencer**<sup>2</sup>: commencer à exister.

**éclater**: commencer de façon soudaine et claire.

**exploser**: commencer brusquement et violemment.

**se déchainer**: commencer avec une grande violence.

**naître**<sup>1</sup>: commencer à exister/vivre.

**naître**<sup>2</sup>: naître avec certaines caractéristiques.

**éclore**: commencer à exister en sortant de l'oeuf (les animaux ovipares).

**s'éveiller**: commencer à exister (une idée/un sentiment).

**ressusciter**<sup>2</sup>: naître de nouveau après être mort.

**se réincarner**: naître dans un autre corps après être mort.

FAIRE EXISTER QQCH/DONNER NAISSANCE A QQN

**commencer**<sup>2</sup>: faire exister qqch.

**amorcer**: commencer qqch (une conversation/une affaire).

**engager**: commencer qqch (une bataille/une affaire/une conversation/des négociations).

**entamer**: commencer qqch (un sujet/une affaire/une conversation/des relations).

**entreprendre**: commencer qqch demandant de longs efforts/une coordination.

**accoucher/donner le jour**: donner naissance à qqn.

**enfanter**: donner naissance à qqn (litt.).

**avorter/faire une fausse couche**: accoucher avant terme d'un fœtus/enfant mort.

COMMENCER A EXISTER DANS LA PERCEPTION DES AUTRES

**apparaître**: commencer à exister dans la perception des autres.

**hanter**: apparaître souvent quelque part (les esprits/fantômes).

**se former**: apparaître en prenant une certaine forme.

**surgir**: apparaître soudainement.

**s'élever**: surgir en augmentant d'intensité (un bruit/une voix).

**jaillir**: apparaître soudainement/abondamment.

**poindre**: apparaître (la lumière du jour ou d'un astre).

**se lever**: apparaître à l'horizon (un astre).

**paraître**<sup>2</sup>: apparaître à l'horizon (soutenu).

**pointer**: apparaître peu à peu (la lumière/les étoiles).

**percer**: apparaître au moyen de plusieurs signes (le soleil/un sentiment).

**germer**: apparaître en se développant (un projet).

CONTINUER A EXISTER

**vivre**: continuer à exister (les êtres animés).

**végéter**: vivre une vie difficile/insipide/médiocre.

**vivoter**: vivre une vie précaire/morne.

**survivre**: vivre encore après un événement passé/désagréable.

**se développer**: continuer à exister en devenant plus grand/meilleur.

**fleurir**: se développer (une plante/une activité humaine).

**prosperer**: se développer rapidement (une activité économique).

**s'épanouir**: se développer harmonieusement dans le domaine moral/affectif/intellectuel.

**grandir**: continuer à exister en devenant plus grand (les êtres humains).

**croître:** continuer à exister en devenant plus grand (animaux/plantes).  
**pousser:** continuer à exister en devenant plus grand (la végétation).  
**rester<sup>1</sup>:** continuer à exister (après élimination des autres éléments).  
**rester<sup>2</sup>:** continuer à être dans tel état/situation/disposition.  
**demeurer:** continuer à être dans tel état/situation/disposition (soutenu).  
**se maintenir:** continuer à être dans le même état.

#### CONTINUER A EXISTER DANS LE TEMPS

**continuer:** continuer à exister dans le temps.  
**passer/s'écouler:** continuer, en arrivant à son terme.  
**durer:** continuer pendant un certain temps.  
**persiste:** durer (insistance sur l'idée de continuité)  
**subsister:** durer après élimination des autres éléments ou malgré l'écoulement du temps.  
**se perpétuer:** durer longtemps.  
**se prolonger:** durer plus longtemps qu'il n'était prévu/prévisible.  
**traîner:** durer trop longtemps.

#### CESSER D'EXISTER

**mourir:** cesser d'exister ou de vivre.  
**décéder:** mourir (style juridique/administratif).  
**claquer:** mourir (familier, populaire).  
**crever:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**casser sa pipe:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**passer l'arme à gauche:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**manger les pissenlits par la racine:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**avaler son bulletin de naissance/sa chique:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**sortir les pieds devant/sortir entre quatre planches:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**boire le bouillon d'onze heures:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**déposer le bilan:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**faire couic:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**ramasser ses outils:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**faire sa malle/valise:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**aller chez les taupes:** mourir (fam., pop.).  
**expirer<sup>1</sup>:** mourir (soutenu).  
**périr:** mourir (littéraire)  
**rendre l'âme:** mourir (vieilli).  
**se noyer:** mourir accidentellement par immersion.  
**se tuer:** mourir dans un accident.  
**s'électrocuter:** mourir accidentellement par une décharge électrique.

#### FAIRE MOURIR QQN/UN ANIMAL

**tuer:** faire mourir qqn/un animal de mort violente.  
**abattre:** tuer qqn/un animal en le faisant tomber à terre.  
**assommer:** tuer qqn/un animal en le frappant violemment sur la tête.  
**égorger:** tuer qqn avec une arme tranchante/tuer un animal en lui coupant la gorge.  
**avoir/faire la peau de:** tuer qqn (pop.).

**assassiner**: tuer qqn avec préméditation/par guet-apens.

**zigouiller**: tuer/assassiner qqn (pop.).

**massacrer**: tuer avec sauvagerie et en grand nombre des personnes qui ne peuvent se défendre.

**exterminer**: tuer entièrement jusqu'au dernier.

**liquider**: tuer qqn pour s'en débarrasser.

**exécuter**: tuer qqn en vertu d'un jugement.

**fusiller**: exécuter qqn par une décharge de coups de fusil.

**décapiter**: exécuter qqn en lui tranchant la tête.

**guillotiner**: décapiter qqn au moyen d'un instrument de supplice servant à trancher sa tête.

**pendre**: exécuter qqn en le suspendant par le cou au moyen d'une corde.

**crucifier**: exécuter qqn en le suspendant à une croix.

**électrocuter**: exécuter qqn par une décharge électrique.

**lyncher**: tuer qqn sans jugement régulier.

**étrangler**: tuer qqn en lui opprimant la gorge pour l'empêcher de respirer.

**étouffer**: tuer qqn par asphyxie.

**noyer**: étouffer qqn en le plongeant dans un liquide.

**empoisonner**: tuer qqn en lui faisant absorber du poison.

**lapider**: tuer qqn à coups de pierre.

**poignarder**: tuer qqn avec un poignard/un couteau.

**se suicider**: se tuer par une action volontaire.

**se brûler la cervelle**: se suicider (fam.).

**se pendre**: se suicider en suspendant une corde à son cou.

#### CESSER D'EXISTER DANS LA PERCEPTION DES AUTRES

**disparaître**: cesser d'exister dans la perception des autres.

**s'évaporer**: disparaître subitement (qqn) à l'insu des autres (fam.).

**se dissiper**: disparaître progressivement.

**se volatiliser**: disparaître très rapidement.

**s'évanouir**: disparaître sans laisser de traces.

#### FAIRE DISPARAITRE COMPLETEMENT QQCH

**effacer/enlever/éliminer**: faire disparaître complètement qqch.

**gratter**: effacer qqch sur une surface frottée avec qqch de dur.

**gommer**: effacer qqch avec une gomme.

**raturer**: effacer qqch par des ratures.

**rayer**: effacer le nom de qqn d'un ensemble/d'une liste/d'un registre.

**barrer**: rayer qqch d'un trait pour l'annuler.

**détruire**: effacer qqch de sorte qu'il n'y ait plus de traces.

#### CESSER D'EXISTER DANS LE TEMPS

**finir/(se) terminer/cesser/s'achever**: cesser d'exister dans le temps.

**expirer**<sup>1</sup>: finir parce que cela est arrivé à son terme.

### Appendix 3: Paradigmatic structure of the English domain of EXISTENCE

#### TO EXIST

**be:** to exist (formal) (technical).

**prevail:** to exist everywhere as common/general.

**grow:** to exist esp. in a particular place (plants).

**predominate:** to exist in greater numbers/degree/importance.

#### TO CAUSE TO/MAKE EXIST

**make<sup>1</sup>:** to cause to be.

**render:** to make (formal).

**create:** to cause to/make exist (sth new/original).

**make<sup>2</sup>:** to create, forming it by a work/action.

**beget<sup>1</sup>:** to create sth (formal) (old-fashioned).

**produce<sup>1</sup>:** to create (emphasis on the result/effect).

**engender:** to produce sth (usu. a situation/condition/atmosphere/feeling) (formal).

**reproduce<sup>1</sup>:** to produce offspring (animals/people/plants).

**procreate:** to reproduce (animals/people) (formal).

**beget<sup>2</sup>:** to procreate (esp. of a male parent) (formal) (old-fashioned).

**sire:** to beget as the father (old-fashioned).

**propagate:** to reproduce (animals), thus increasing in numbers (formal).

**lay:** to produce eggs (of insects and esp. hens).

**spawn:** to lay eggs in large quantities together (of fishes and frogs).

**establish:** to create sth (system/organization/state of affairs).

**found:** to establish usu. by supplying money.

**resurrect:** to cause sth to exist again after having disappeared.

#### TO EXIST IN THE PERCEPTION OF OTHERS

**show:** to exist in the perception of others.

**seem:** to show as.

**look:** to seem by expression/appearance.

**look like/as if:** to seem to be going to.

**date:** to seem to be (old-fashioned).

#### TO EXIST AS A REPRESENTATION OF SOMETHING

**represent:** to be a sign/picture/symbol/example of sth.

**stand for:** to represent (informal).

**mean:** to represent sth/a likely result of sth.

**express:** to represent by a symbol/character/formula, etc.

**signify:** to represent sth, being a sign of it (formal).

**indicate:** to be a sign of sth else.

**symbolize:** to represent sth by being a symbol of it.

**denote:** to represent sth by being a sign/symbol of it.

**exemplify:** to represent by being an example of.

**instance:** to exemplify (formal).

**personify<sup>2</sup>:** to exemplify sb/sth perfectly.

**typify:** to represent as a genuine symbol/characteristic of.



**depict:** to represent in a painting/drawing.

**embody:** to represent by including/comprising.

**personify**<sup>2</sup>: to represent sth abstract/inanimate in the form of a person in literature (tech).

**incarnate:** to represent a concept/quality in human form.

TO CAUSE TO EXIST AS A REPRESENTATION OF STH

**copy:** to make sth exactly like another thing.

**duplicate:** to make an exact copy of sth, usu. sth written/drawn.

**reproduce**<sup>2</sup>: to make a fairly accurate copy.

**fake:** to reproduce sth to make it appear genuine, esp. to trick/deceive others.

**forge:** to reproduce sth exactly, usu. documents, handwriting, paintings in order to deceive.

**counterfeit:** to reproduce sth, usu. money in order to deceive.

TO EXIST IN TIME

**happen:** to be/become real in time (of events).

**take place:** to happen in a particular place or at a given time.

**transpire:** to happen.

**occur:** to happen (esp. of unplanned events) (formal).

**befall:** to happen (esp. of unpleasant events) (formal) (literary).

**coincide (with):** to happen at the same time.

**resume:** to happen again after a pause.

**ensue (from):** to happen after/as a result (formal).

**become of:** to happen to (esp. as time passes), in (direct/indirect) questions.

**threaten:** to seem to be about to happen.

TO CAUSE STH TO EXIST IN TIME

**produce**<sup>2</sup>: to cause sth to happen.

**bring about:** to cause sth to happen.

**occasion:** to bring about (formal).

**effect:** to bring about (formal).

**spark:** to cause sth to happen, being the direct cause of it.

**prompt:** to cause sth to happen.

**provoke:** to cause sth often violent/unpleasant to happen.

TO BEGIN TO EXIST

**start**<sup>1</sup>: to begin to exist/do/feel.

**originate**<sup>1</sup>: to begin to exist.

**commence**<sup>1</sup>: to begin to exist (formal).

**erupt**<sup>1</sup>: to begin suddenly.

**develop**<sup>1</sup>: to begin to exist, becoming larger/fuller/better.

**germinate**<sup>1</sup>: to develop (formal) (literary).

**dawn**<sup>1</sup>: to begin to develop (formal).

**be born**<sup>1</sup>: to begin to exist by birth (living beings).

**be born**<sup>2</sup>: to be born of particular circumstances.

**be born**<sup>3</sup>: to be born with certain characteristics .

**hatch:** to be born by coming/breaking out of an egg.

**reincarnate:** to be born again in the body of sb/sth else after having died.

TO CAUSE TO BEGIN TO EXIST

**start**<sup>2</sup>: to cause sth to begin to exist.

**originate**<sup>2</sup>: to cause sth to begin to exist.

**institute:** to start sth, bringing it into being (formal).

**instigate:** to start sth, causing it to be by your own efforts.

**commence**<sup>2</sup>: to cause sth to begin (formal).

**loose:** to cause sth (usu. sth unpleasant) to begin (literary).

**develop**<sup>2</sup>: to cause sth to begin to exist, becoming larger/fuller/better.

**germinate**<sup>2</sup>: to develop sth (formal) (literary).

**give birth to:** to cause sb/sth to / make sb/sth begin to exist.

**bear:** to give birth to, producing young/fruit.

**produce**<sup>3</sup>: to bear (as the result of a natural process).

**deliver:** to help a woman give birth.

**miscarry:** to give birth too early for life to be possible.

TO BEGIN TO EXIST IN THE PERCEPTION OF OTHERS

**appear:** to begin to exist in the perception of others.

**dawn**<sup>2</sup>: to begin to appear (formal).

**surface:** to appear, becoming obvious/known.

**materialize:** to appear suddenly, after being invisible.

**erupt**<sup>1</sup>: to appear suddenly (of a rash/sore).

**haunt:** to appear/be regularly in a certain place, usu. causing fear/problems/worry.

**form**<sup>1</sup>: to appear, beginning to be visible and having a clear shape/outline.

**arise:** to begin to exist in the perception of others.

**come up:** to arise unexpectedly.

**crop up:** to arise suddenly/unexpectedly (usu. sth difficult/unpleasant) (informal).

**form**<sup>2</sup>: to begin to exist in the perception of others and develop.

TO BEGIN TO EXIST IN TIME

**start**<sup>3</sup>: to begin to happen.

**commence**<sup>3</sup>: to begin to happen (formal).

**open**<sup>1</sup>: to start (of a public event).

**originate**<sup>3</sup>: to begin to happen (formal).

TO CAUSE TO BEGIN TO EXIST IN TIME

**start**<sup>4</sup>: to cause sth to begin to happen.

**initiate:** to start sth.

**open**<sup>2</sup>: to start (of a public event).

**inaugurate:** to start sth, establishing it firmly (esp. with an official ceremony).

**induce:** to cause sth to begin to happen.

**commence**<sup>4</sup>: to cause sth to begin to happen (formal).

TO CONTINUE TO EXIST

**live:** to continue to exist (living beings).

**live on:** to continue to live, usu. for a long time (emphatic).  
**survive:** to continue to live longer than/after (esp. after coming close to death).  
**flourish:** to continue to exist being successful/strong/healthy.  
**endure:** to continue to exist without loss in quality/importance.  
**remain:** to continue to exist esp. when similar things do not.

TO CONTINUE TO EXIST IN TIME

**go on:** to continue to exist in time (events) esp. over a length of time.  
**pass:** to go on/by, beginning, continuing and finishing.  
**elapse:** to pass (formal).  
**last:** to continue to exist in time.  
**linger:** to continue to exist for a longer time than people expected.  
**persist:** to continue to exist, esp. after trying to make it disappear.  
**rage:** to continue to exist with great violence (of a storm/fire/battle).

TO CEASE TO EXIST

**die:** to cease to exist.  
**expire<sup>1</sup>:** to die (literary).  
**pass away/on:** to die (euphemism).  
**kick the bucket:** to die (informal).  
**give up the ghost:** to die (old-fashioned).  
**perish:** to die as a result of very hard conditions (formal) (literary).  
**drown<sup>1</sup>:** to die by being under the water and unable to breathe.  
**be killed:** to die as a result of an accident.  
**suffocate<sup>1</sup>:** to die from lack of air to breathe.  
**starve<sup>1</sup>:** to die from lack of food.

TO CAUSE TO DIE

**kill:** to cause to die.  
**murder:** to kill sb on purpose and unlawfully, using violence.  
**assassinate:** to murder an important politician, for political reasons/reward.  
**eliminate<sup>1</sup>:** to murder sb (informal, euphemism).  
**do in:** to kill/murder sb (very informal).  
**bump off:** to kill/murder sb (very informal).  
**do away with:** to kill/murder sb, esp. secretly (informal).  
**liquidate:** to do away with sb (informal, euphemism).  
**exterminate:** to kill all the animals/people (esp. a certain group/race) in a place.  
**massacre:** to kill (esp. defenceless) people in large numbers on a given occasion, in a cruel way.  
**butcher:** to kill animals preparing them for food.  
**slaughter:** to butcher in large numbers.  
**execute:** to kill sb as a punishment for a serious crime.  
**behead:** to execute sb by cutting off their head.  
**decapitate:** to behead (formal).  
**guillotine:** to execute sb using a guillotine (a device used in France, esp. in the past with a sharp blade to cut off sb's head).

**hang:** to execute by tying a rope around their neck and taking away the support under their feet.

**lynch:** to hang sb without a lawful trial.

**crucify:** to execute sb by tying/nailing them on a cross and leaving them to die.

**electrocute:** to execute sb by means of an electrical apparatus.

**starve<sup>2</sup>:** to kill sb from lack of food.

**strangle:** to kill sb by squeezing their throat so that they cannot breathe.

**suffocate<sup>2</sup>:** to kill sb by stopping their supply of air.

**smother:** to suffocate sb by covering their face with sth.

**gas:** to kill sb by making them breathe poisonous gases.

**drown<sup>2</sup>:** to kill sb by keeping them under the water so that they are unable to breathe.

**commit suicide:** to kill oneself purposefully.

**slay:** to kill (poet) (BrE).

**destroy<sup>1</sup>:** to kill an animal usu. because it is dangerous/ill.

#### TO CEASE TO EXIST IN THE PERCEPTION OF OTHERS

**disappear:** to cease to exist in the perception of others.

**evaporate:** to disappear (feeling).

**vanish:** to disappear suddenly in a way that cannot be explained.

**fade:** to disappear gradually, often remaining to some extent.

**dissipate:** to disappear completely.

#### TO CAUSE STH TO DISAPPEAR

**destroy<sup>2</sup>:** to cause sth to disappear.

**remove:** to cause sth to disappear by taking it away/off/out.

**rub out:** to remove a mark/writing by moving sth on the surface of sth.

**scrape:** to remove sth from a surface by pushing sth rough along it.

**delete:** to remove sth by rubbing/striking/cutting it out.

**efface:** to remove sth by rubbing/wiping (formal).

**erase:** to remove writing/sound from a surface/ tape by rubbing it out.

**eliminate<sup>2</sup>:** to remove sth completely, esp. because unnecessary or unwanted (formal).

**expunge:** to remove sth completely because it causes problems/bad feelings.

**obliterate:** to remove all signs of sth.

**eradicate:** to cause sth bad to disappear (crime, disease).

#### TO STOP HAPPENING

**end:** to stop, continuing no further.

**expire<sup>2</sup>:** to come to an end (usu. after a particular length of time).

**finish:** to end, usu. esp. being completed.

**conclude:** to finish, coming to an end (formal).

**finalize:** to finish, becoming final/complete.

**terminate:** to end officially/definitely/suddenly.

**lapse:** to stop, coming to an end.