

HG2002: Tutorial 5

Situations

Francis Bond <bond@ieee.org>

1. Are the following verbs **stative** or **dynamic**? What are the tests that you have used in order to decide if they are stative or otherwise?

comprise, own, imitate, possess, know, resemble, lack, seize, last, think, lose

2. Some verbs may describe **telic** (bounded) or **atelic** (unbounded) processes, depending on the form of their complements. Below is a list of verb phrases. For each one, decide if it is telic or atelic, then see if you can change this value by altering the verbs complement.

ate oranges, swim, rig an election, ripen, walk to the station

3. Modal verbs can be used to convey **epistemic** or **deontic** modality. In the following sentences, discuss what the modal verbs tell us about the speakers attitude.

- (1) *This could be our bus now.*
- (2) *They would be very happy to meet you.*
- (3) *You must be the bride's father.*
- (4) *The bus should be here soon.*
- (5) *It might rain this afternoon.*
- (6) *I will study hard.*

4. These sentences be used to convey **epistemic** or **deontic** modality. Explain the difference between the two readings, then translate the sentences into a language of your choice, and see if the ambiguity remains.

- (7) *You must be very tactful.*
- (8) *You will not leave this room early.*
- (9) *We should be home before five.*
- (10) *Students may do their homework in groups.*

5. Although English does not mark **evidentiality** grammatically, it can be expressed in other ways. Consider the following situation: *S* "Kim bit Sandy". How could you express the following situations:

- (11) *You think S is true, but have no evidence*
- (12) *You saw S occur*
- (13) *You saw a bite mark on Sandy, matching Kim's dental work*
- (14) *Someone told you S*
- (15) *You are Sandy, and you experienced S*

Are any of these expressed grammatically in a language that you speak?

6. Some verbs allow the form of the verb in an embedded *that*-clause to be subjunctive (shown as subjunctive form).

(16) *Kim proposes that the meeting be recorded.*

(17) **Kim thinks thinks that the meeting be recorded.*

Which of the following verbs may take the subjunctive (show with examples):

require, urge, remember, command, report, suggested, insist, deny, promise

7. For each of the situation types (State, Activity, Accomplishment, Punctual, Achievement) try to find an example of its use in the text you are annotating for project one. Email the examples you found to your tutor, in the following format:

SID: sentence

SITUATION: verb

For example:

11903: One day , the Lord Buddha was strolling around the edge of the lotus lake in heaven .

ACTIVITY: stroll

Acknowledgments These questions are partially based on exercises from Saeed (2003).