

Based on the constructed examples we came up with in the first class meeting, we saw that the verb *open* as used in the transitive construction has two closely related senses, which can usefully be described in terms of a difference in profiling.

Describe the shared semantics of the two senses briefly, and then explain the difference between the senses, using the concept of profiling. Try to do this in no more than a few paragraphs. (For those with less background: the concepts of base and profile are explained in many of Langacker's works, for example *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar* Vol. I.)

You can use any diagrams, image schemas, or other representational tools you find helpful. But the explanation in prose should give all the relevant semantic information, with the other representations playing a subsidiary role, and referred to in the prose.

Examples:

1. Type 1: I opened the box
2. Type 2: I opened the lid (of the box)

The two expressions of the verb *open* (types 1 & 2 in examples above) are grounded in the domain of a three-dimensional space, in particular, in the concept of a container, which serves as the base. Moreover, this container must be an entity that has a covering or at the very least one side or section that is able to be removed or manipulated so as to provide access to the space within.

The two expressions, however, actually embody two distinct images, and this can be explained in terms of contrasting profiles. In an instance of Type 1, the profile is the entire container, therefore, profile and base are in a whole to whole relationship. For example, when we conceptualise *opening the box*, the attention is on the entire container, in particular, manipulating the box in some way so as to attain a result where there is now access to the space within the box. In contrast, in an instance of Type 2, the profile is only a part of the whole, with the focus on the manipulatable covering or barrier. For example, when we conceptualise *opening the lid (of the box)*, the attention is on the manipulatable or removable part of the box. That the difference is essentially one of differing profiles is indicated by the fact that an actual act of *opening the lid* in some instances can be used interchangeably with *opening the box*.

In actual usage however, it is likely that distributions of the two expressions are not random. For example, the size, type and portability of the container appear to influence the expression selected, that is, where we have a smallish container with a completely removable covering such as a jar or bottle (and especially where there is some difficulty with the opening), Type 2 perhaps will be used more frequently.