

Equivalence Description

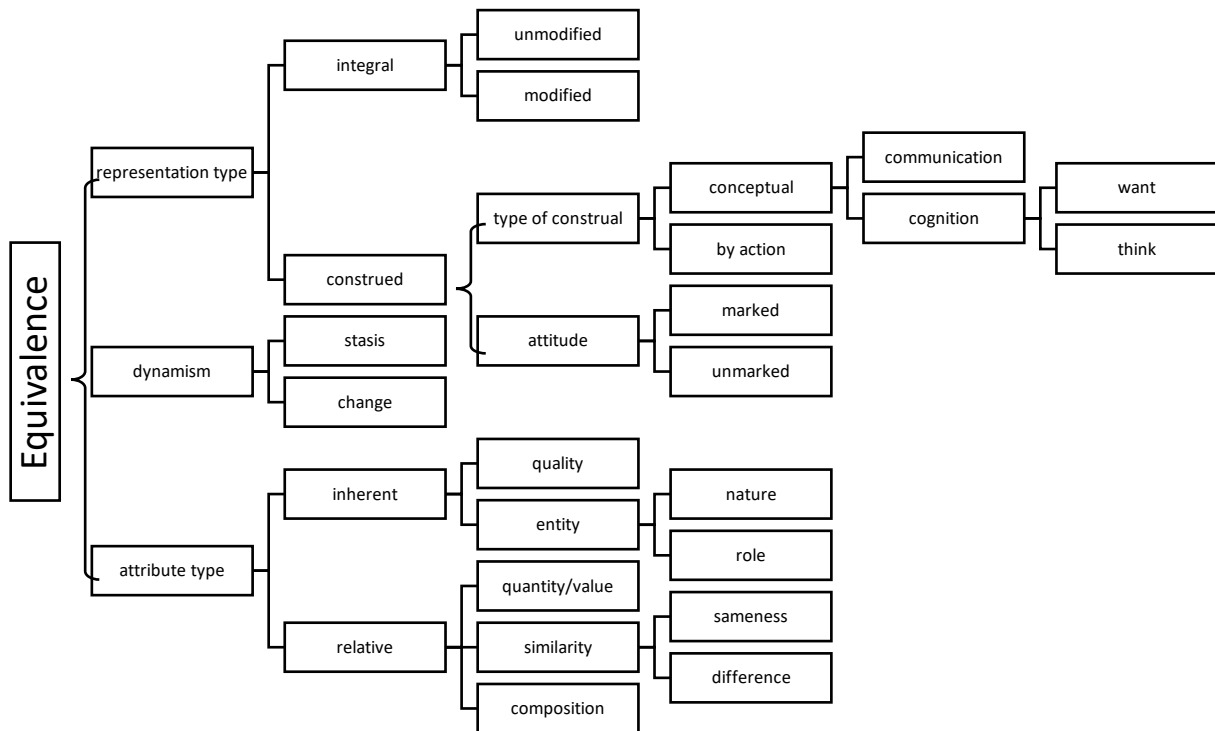
The term ‘Equivalence’ refers to those constructions that indicate that something has an identity or quality. The canonical form is ‘x is y’, and the canonical participant roles are Carrier and Attribute.

There are 106 constructions that express this meaning, drawing on 26 verb complement constructions.

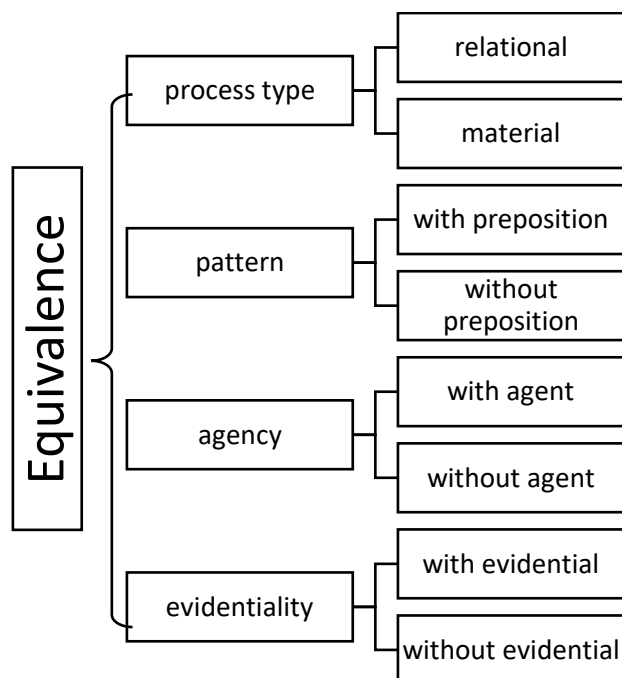
The Systemic Network. The Systemic Network shows independent choices in meaning and form, though the distinction between them is somewhat arbitrary. Under the heading of ‘meaning’ there are three major independent choice systems: the type of representation, the presence or absence of dynamism, and the attribute type.

- The type of representation distinguishes assertions that something is the case (‘integral’) from assertions that something is construed by speech, thought or action to be the case (‘construed’). This distinguishes ‘He is foolish’ from ‘She considered him foolish’.
- The ‘construed’ system distinguishes both type of construal and attitude, which may be marked or unmarked. Unmarked attitude does not make a judgement of truth by the speaker or of value by the reported person, while marked attitude does. This distinguishes ‘She considered him foolish’ from ‘She denounced him as foolish’ or ‘She mistook him for a fool.’
- Under ‘dynamism’, a distinction is made between constructions indicating a process of change (e.g. ‘He became older.’) and those indicating a state (e.g. ‘He was old.’).
- ‘Attribute type’ distinguishes between attributes that are inherent, such as quality or identity, and those that are relative to other entities, such as quantity or degree of similarity or the things something is composed of.

The ‘meaning’ part of the Systemic Network looks like this:



Under the heading of ‘form’, four systems are identified: the process type, the pattern, whether agency is expressed or not and whether there is an evidential or not. The ‘form’ part of the Systemic Network looks like this:



The full Systemic Network can be seen in the document ‘Equivalence Systemic Network’.

The Meaning Network. The Meaning Network combines choices from ‘meaning’ and ‘form’. The primary distinction combines the representation and dynamism systems, and distinguishes between ‘being’, ‘construal’ and ‘becoming’. Below are the main distinctions, with examples. These are shown under the headings ‘Entity is: being’, ‘Entity is construed as: construal’, and ‘Entity becomes: becoming’.

The ‘Equivalence: being’ Meaning Network: choices and examples

- The quality/identity is inherent
 - The construction indicates a quality
 - V adj
 - Unmodified. Cx1 e.g. ‘Sid is clever.’ and Cx4 e.g. ‘Sid arrived exhausted.’
 - Modified. Cx3 e.g. ‘Sid seems clever.’
 - V with n
 - Cx8 e.g. ‘The musical brimmed with joy.’
 - Cx9 e.g. ‘The room blazed with light.’
 - Cx10 e.g. ‘The house echoed with laughter.’
 - The construction indicates an entity
 - V n (Relational)
 - Unmodified. Cx1 e.g. ‘Sid remained a recluse.’ and Cx5 e.g. ‘Sid departed a bitter man.’
 - Modified. Cx4 e.g. ‘Sid seemed a bitter man.’
 - V as n. Cx5 e.g. ‘The phone box functions as a spaceship.’ and Cx8 e.g. ‘Sid came out as a devil-worshipper.’
- The quality/identity is relative
 - The construction indicates a value or quantity

- V at n. Cx2 e.g. ‘The price stands at £200.’ and Cx3 e.g. ‘The shares sell at £2.’
- V for n. Cx18 e.g. ‘The chairs sell for £45 each.’
- V in n. Cx4 e.g. ‘Becca lay in 2nd place.’
- The construction indicates a degree of similarity
 - The construction indicates resemblance
 - V like n. Cx1 e.g. ‘Becca looked like a goth.’ and Cx2 e.g. ‘Becca dressed like a goth.’
 - V of n. Cx6 e.g. ‘The perfume smelled of roses.’
 - V to n. Cx10 e.g. ‘The line on the graph corresponds to the increase in prices.’
 - V towards n. Cx3 e.g. ‘The garden tends towards a wilderness.’
 - The construction indicates difference
 - V from n. Cx16 e.g. ‘The garden differs from a wilderness.’
 - V n from n. Cx18 e.g. ‘The presence of cultivated shrubs distinguishes the garden from a wilderness.’
- The construction indicates how something is composed
 - V n (Relational). Cx2 e.g. ‘A collection of tents constitutes the camp.’ and Cx3 e.g. ‘Several tents comprise the camp.’
 - V of n. Cx7 e.g. ‘The camp consists of several tents.’

The ‘Equivalence: construal’ Meaning Network: choices and examples

- Construal by communication
 - Unmarked
 - V n n. Cx12 e.g. ‘Becca called Sid an idiot.’
 - V n adj. Cx5 e.g. ‘Sid called Becca stupid.’ and Cx6 e.g. ‘Sid professed himself baffled.’
 - V n as n/adj. Cx4 e.g. ‘Sid described Becca as the worst driver he had seen.’
 - Marked
 - V n as n/adj. Cx5 e.g. ‘Sid denounced Becca as a terrible driver.’ and Cx6 e.g. ‘Sid misrepresented Becca as a terrible driver.’
- Construal by cognition
 - Desiderative
 - V n n. Cx20 e.g. ‘Sid envied Becca her composure.’
 - V n adj. Cx1 e.g. ‘Becca liked her tea strong.’ and Cx2 e.g. ‘Becca wants her tea strong.’
 - Cognitive
 - Inherent
 - Quality
 - V n n. Cx13 e.g. ‘Becca considered Sid an idiot.’
 - V n adj. Cx3 e.g. ‘Becca believed Sid stupid.’ and Cx4 e.g. ‘Becca imagined the house larger.’
 - V n as n/adj. Cx1 e.g. ‘Becca regarded Sid as stupid.’ And Cx3 e.g. ‘Sid struck Becca as intelligent.’
 - V n to n. Cx35 e.g. ‘Becca attributed great intelligence to Sid.’
 - Relative
 - Similarity
 - Unmarked
 - V n from n. Cx19 e.g. ‘Sid could not tell Becca from a goth.’
 - V n to n. Cx34 e.g. ‘Becca compared Sid to a Greek god.’
 - V n with n. Cx1 e.g. ‘Sid contrasted the house with a palace.’
 - Marked
 - V n for n. Cx13 e.g. ‘Sid mistook his wife for a hat.’
 - Quantity
 - V n at n. Cx6 e.g. ‘Becca estimated the value of the chair at £200.’

- Construal by action
 - V n as n/adj. Cx2 e.g. ‘The party revealed Sid as their candidate.’ and Cx8 e.g. ‘Sid used his umbrella as a weapon.’

The ‘Equivalence: becoming’ Meaning Network: choices and examples

- Change: becoming without cause
 - Inherent
 - Quality
 - V adj. Cx2 e.g. ‘Mo became stronger.’
 - V n (Relational). Cx8 e.g. ‘The machine developed a fault.’ and Cx9 e.g. ‘The problem reached a crucial stage.’
 - Entity
 - V into n. Cx7 e.g. ‘The caterpillar turned into a butterfly.’ and Cx8 e.g. ‘The image faded into the background.’
 - V to n. Cx1 e.g. ‘Sid converted to Buddhism.’
 - State
 - V between n. Cx2 e.g. ‘Becca alternated between fear and anger.’
 - V into n. Cx12 e.g. ‘Mo burst into laughter.’ and Cx13 e.g. ‘Mo lapsed into depression.’
 - V to n.
 - Cx38 e.g. ‘The victim bled to death.’
 - Cx39 e.g. ‘The train ground to a halt.’
 - Cx40 e.g. ‘Mo dropped off to sleep.’
 - Cx41 e.g. ‘Mo coasted to victory.’
 - Role
 - V as n. Cx6 e.g. ‘Becca qualified as a vet.’
 - V to n. Cx3 e.g. ‘Sid progressed to a qualified teacher.’
 - V n as n. Cx9 e.g. ‘Mo replaced Sid as the candidate.’
 - Relative
 - Quantity
 - V at n. Cx1 e.g. ‘The shares peaked at £2 each.’
 - V between n. Cx1 e.g. ‘The price varies between £150 and £200.’
 - V to n. Cx2 e.g. ‘The price has increased to £200.’
 - Composition
 - V into n. Cx9 e.g. ‘The road divided into two carriageways.’
- Result: becoming with a cause
 - Inherent
 - Entity
 - V n in n. Cx24 e.g. ‘Sid couched the criticism in flowery language.’
 - State
 - Without an agent
 - V adj
 - Cx8 e.g. ‘The door slammed shut.’
 - Cx 9 e.g. ‘The prisoner broke free.’
 - Cx 10 e.g. ‘Mo jumped higher.’
 - Cx12 e.g. ‘The lake froze solid.’
 - With an agent
 - V n adj
 - Cx7 e.g. ‘The failure made him stronger.’

- Cx8 e.g. ‘Mo pushed the door open.’
 - Cx9 e.g. ‘Sid wiped the table clean.’
 - Cx10 e.g. ‘Becca kept the cat safe.’
 - Cx11 e.g. ‘Mo cranked the volume higher.’
 - Cx12 e.g. ‘Sid coloured the clouds grey.’
 - Cx13 e.g. ‘Mo served the soup cold.’
 - Cx14 e.g. ‘The shares began the day higher.’
 - Cx15 e.g. ‘He left the second victim alive.’
 - Cx16 e.g. ‘He captured the second victim live.’
 - Cx17 e.g. ‘He buried his victim alive.’
- V n n Cx15 e.g. ‘Sid held Jake prisoner.’
- V n into n
 - Cx1 e.g. ‘Jake changed the curtains into blinds.’
 - Cx2 e.g. ‘Jake compressed the dough into a tiny ball.’
 - Cx3 e.g. ‘Mo translated the book into English.’
 - Cx 16 e.g. ‘The decision plunged the meeting into gloom.’
- V n to n
 - Cx9 e.g. ‘Becca turned the curtains into blinds.’
 - Cx10 e.g. ‘Sid attached the tow line to the car.’
 - Cx11 e.g. ‘Jake almost frightened Mo to death.’
 - Cx12 e.g. ‘The government deported Jake to Canada.’
 - Cx13 e.g. ‘The contract shackled Jake to his job.’
 - Cx14 e.g. ‘The committee broadened the conversation to a general discussion of the result.’
 - Cx36 e.g. ‘The decision brought a sense of relief to the proceedings.’
- V n with n. Cx19 e.g. ‘His failure imbued the atmosphere with gloom.’ and Cx21 e.g. ‘Sid tempered his remarks with humour.’
- Role
 - V n n. Cx14 e.g. ‘Mo appointed Jake secretary.’
 - V n as n. Cx7 e.g. ‘The committee elected Mo chairman.’
 - V n for n. Cx11 e.g. ‘Mo recruited Jake for the position of secretary.’
 - V n to n. Cx15 e.g. ‘Mo promoted Jake to the position of secretary.’ and Cx16 e.g. ‘Mo delegated the position of secretary to Jake.’
- Relative
 - Quantity
 - V adj. Cx11 e.g. ‘The share price closed higher.’
 - V n at n. Cx7 e.g. ‘Becca set the price at £20.’ and Cx8 e.g. ‘Becca priced the table at £20.’
 - V n to n. Cx8 e.g. ‘Sid increased the price to £20.’
 - Composition
 - V n in n. Cx1 e.g. ‘Mo divided the apple in two.’
 - V n into n.
 - Cx4 e.g. ‘Mo organised the participants into groups.’
 - Cx5 e.g. ‘Sid amalgamated the departments into one larger department.’
 - Cx6 e.g. ‘Mo chopped the apple into pieces.’
 - V n out of n. Cx4 e.g. ‘Becca constructed the hut out of spare timber.’