

A Cognitive Study on Come and Go:  
Reflection of Home Base and a Viewpoint in Image Schemata  
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### 1. Introduction

Fillmore (1972, 1997), Kuno and Takami (2017)

The home base and a viewpoint are the factors by which the conceptualizer determines to use either come or go.

*Come* denotes locomotion into the home base of the speaker or another person in question or into a domain where the speaker puts their viewpoint

*Go* indicates motion away from the home base or a place where the conceptualizer puts their viewpoint.

(1) Thank you very much for telling me that you would like to host Hiroshi when he visits Boston. He is looking forward to seeing you and your family soon. He is {coming / going} to Boston next month. I will let you know more in detail soon.

(Kuno and Takami 2017: 170)

Purpose of this study:

To reflect the home base and a viewpoint in image schemas;

Domain-setting observation;

Change state;

Diachronic study.

### 2. Image Schema

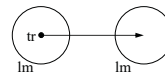


Fig. 1: Motion schema (i)

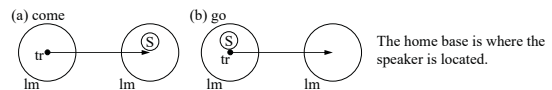


Fig. 2: Motion schema (ii)

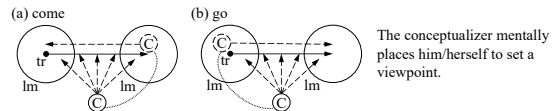


Fig. 3: Motion schema (iii)

### 3. Domain-setting Observation

How can *come* indicate motion into a place where someone else is located?  
The conceptualizer's observation makes their own domain.

VISUAL FIELDS ARE CONTAINERS (Lakoff and Johnson 1980: 30)

- (2) a. The ship is coming into view.
- b. I have him in sight.
- c. He's out of sight now.



Fig. 4: Visual field mapping onto a container

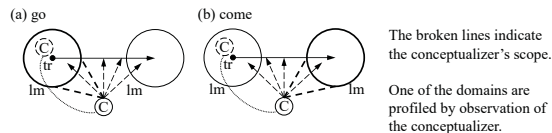


Fig. 5: Domain-setting observation

### 4. State Change

- (3) a. {come / \*go} alive {close / good / loose / true / undone / unstuck}
- b. {\*come / go} bad {blind / dead / mad / rusty / wild / wrong}

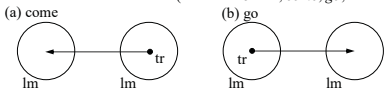


Fig. 6: Mono-directional change

- (4) a. My bow tie came undone. (Genius<sup>5</sup>: s.v., *come*)
- b. Things sometimes go bad but they usually come good again. (Genius<sup>5</sup>: s.v., *go*)

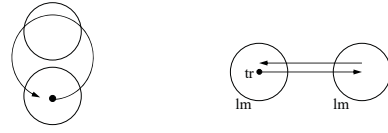


Fig. 7: Circular change

Fig. 8: Return change

### 5. Old English

- (5) a. *Hwæðr cwom mearg?*  
*Where did the horse go? The Wanderer* (Translated and italicized by the authors)
- b. ... ælc þe geleafan hæbbe and godes æ recce *gange him to me.*  
*... anyone who has belief and heeds God's law, let him come to me.*  
*Ælfric's Lives of Saints* vol. 2 (81-82) (Italicized by the authors)
- c. *Ðā cōm in gā[a]n ealdor ðegna,* (1644)  
*Then came walking in the chief of the thanes,*  
*Beowulf* (Translated by Suzuki (1969), italicized by the authors)
- d. *Ðā cōm beorht scacan,* (1802)  
*Then sunrise came,*  
*Beowulf* (Translated by Chickering (1977), italicized by the authors)

- (5a)... *Hwæðr* (where) is followed by *cwom* (come).
- (5b)... The motion of *him* with *gange* (go) is toward *me*.
- (5c)... *cōm* (came) is followed by infinitive *gān* (go)
- (5d)... *cōm* (came) designates emergence of *beorht* (brightness = sunrise)

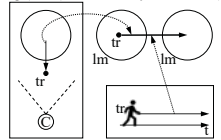


Fig. 9: Abstraction of *cuman* and *gān*

Both verbs may have not been strictly distinct.  
*Cuman* indicates emergence into the conceptualizer's scope; *gān* describes walking.  
Only locomotion is abstracted into motion schema.

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**Dictionaries used**  
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**Web sites**  
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Ælfric's Lives of Saints vol. 2, URL: <https://archive.org/details/aelfricslivesofs02aelfluoft>

Viewed on 2019/05/22