Chapter 5

Argument Structure Construction and Event schema in Assamese

5. Introduction

Schemas are defined by Langackar (2013:17) "as the process of extracting the commonality inherent in multiple experiences to arrive at a conception representing a higher level of abstraction". Thus, schemas are mental organization which helps us categorize frequently recuring expressions. A speaker tends to find the commonalities between the frequently recuring experiences and then categorize them, which helps in understanding new concepts. For instance, a speaker would categorize 'BIRD' in terms of certain features, like the ability to *fly*, *lay eggs*, have *feathers* etc. Thus, the concept of the word 'BIRD' involves the features that a speaker experiences by his sensuous interaction with the world around him. The prototypical member of the category 'BIRD', would include all the features that belong to define the category 'BIRD'. Thus, results in a schematic meaning of 'BIRD'. Thus, when the speaker comes across any creature that possesses the features of the schematic 'BIRD', the speaker would immediately categorize the newly encountered creature as a member of the category 'BIRD'. Apart from this, when a speaker finds a creature which does not possess all the (sufficient) qualities of 'BIRD', but still would categorize the newly encountered creature in the category 'BIRD', due to the minimum similarities that the new creature possesses. Thus, any kind of similarities that are found to the existing schemas, the language user would categorize it according to the features of that existing schema; either all the features or at least a few of them. Thus, Langacker (2008:34) comments "each notion can be characterized semantically in terms of both a prototype, valid for central instances, and a schema instantiated by all instances". That is, the schema 'BIRD' would include all the members of the category, possessing all the features of a bird, the central instances, say a 'crow' or 'sparrow' to possessing only a few (necessary) features of the category 'BIRD', say 'a penguin' or 'an ostrich'. Such schematic meaning aids in the conceptualization of new ideas based on earlier experiences. This categorization pattern also reflects the way a speaker or the speech community conceptualizes the world around them. Along the same line, verbs, which denote

an event of the world, and the ASCs with which the verbs are linguistically expressed, are also categorized based on the type of event each designates.

As discussed in the previous chapters, ASCs encode basic human experiences, which are stored as independent form-meaning pairs. The basic human experiences like, something moving, someone causing to move something, someone causing a change of location or state etc. are encountered by speakers frequently and are thus expressed in the language by using linguistic expressions. The speakers gradually abstract away from the 'frequently recurring patterns' and store them as abstract ASCs. The ASC then represents generalized events which provide a template to express more specific events. For instance, the ASC 'SVO' is a result of frequently recurring events which involve two participants, where one acts on another. Thus, the semantics associated with the construction is a generalized meaning of two participant event, at the same time the 'SVO' also provides a template to denote more specific events, like *'Ram$_s$ killed$_v$ the tiger$_o$'*, *'Ram$_s$ loves$_v$ Sita$_o$'*.

The language user tends to find similarities among verbs, which denote specific events. The ASCs are generated from recurring similar instances; the specific events denoted by the verbs are also conceptualized according to their similarities. This similarity is based on the participant roles of the verbs, which gives rise to a schema, termed as 'event schemas'. Thus, Dirven and Verspoor (2004:78) define event schema as "a conceptual schema of an event, i.e., an event schema, combines a type of action or state with its most salient participants, which may have different "roles" in the action or state". Thus, event schemas are characterized by the participant roles. Radden and Dirven (2007:270) observes: "The configuration of thematic roles determines the schematic meaning of a situation…Such configurations of roles are known as event schemas". For instance, the participant role of an action like 'kill' and 'write' will involve a 'killer' & 'victim' and 'author' & 'text', respectively. Based on their similarities, i.e. both involve a human participant who volitionally acts on a theme/patient, the actions will be grouped together under the same schema.

The event schemas are conceptualized based on a speaker's embodied experience of the event, and are expressed using the ASCs. Each ASC is, thus, related to an event schema. The number of ASCs are limited to represent innumerable types of events, hence a one-to-one

correspondence of the event schemas and the ASCs is not strictly maintained. That is, some of the ASCs may be part of the more than one schema. Dirven and Verspoor (2004:79) list seven types of event schemas:

1. "Being" schema:	What is some entity (like)?
2. "Happening" schema:	What is happening?
3. "Doing" schema:	What is someone doing? What does he or she do?
4. "Experiencing" schema:	What does someone feel, see, etc.?
5. "Having" schema:	What does an entity have?
6. "Moving" schema:	Where is an entity moving? Where does an entity move?
7. "Transferring" schema:	To whom is an entity transferred?

The next section will discuss each of the above-mentioned schemas in Assamese with its primary focus on the ASCs discussed in the previous chapters and a few verbs that are part of these schemas.

5.1 The being schema

Things in the world do not exist in isolation. Thus, things are often conceptualized in relation to other things. The verbs that give rise to the 'being' schema denote the existence of an entity, based on the instance of its existence (e.g *He is a doctor*) or the location of its existence (e.g. *He is in London*). The ASC that is associated with the 'being' schema in Assamese is the copula construction '*S-ø Comp*$_s$ ***ha'*** and the Intransitive locative construction (the existential construction) '*S-ø Obl* $_{(loc)}$ *V'*: Consider the following examples:

1. *ram daktor hoi* (class membership)
   ram daktor ho-i
   Ram doctor exist-PRES
   '*Ram is a doctor.*'

2. *ram ukho hoi* (attribution)
   ram ukho ho-i
   Ram tall exist-PRES
   '*Ram is tall.*'

3. *ram tezpurot ase* (location)
   ram tezpur-ot as-e
   Ram Tezpur-LOC COP-3
   '*Ram is in Tezpur.*'

Examples (1) and (2) relate an entity, the subject '*Ram*' with another class member, i.e. 'doctor' and attribution 'tall', respectively. Thus, the subject complement can be a NP or an adjectival phrase. Example (3) locates an entity, the subject 'Ram', with respect to a ground (i.e. *Tezpur*), marked by the oblique, locative marker '*-t*'. Thus, the two constructions '*S-ø Comp*$_s$ ***ha'*** and *'S-ø Obl* $_{(loc)}$ *V'* are associated with the meaning of 'X is Y' and 'X is in Y', respectively, both of which belongs to the 'being' schema.

5.2 The happening schema

The 'happening' schema is associated with the experience of an event or process where the entities involved do not initiate the event but is only taking part in it involuntarily. In such events, the referent of the subject is not responsible for the event. In Assamese, the simple Intransitive Construction 'S-*ø V'* is prototypically associated with the happening schema, as in:

4. *ram xule*
   ram xu-l-e
   Ram sleep-PERF-3
   '*Ram has slept.*'

5. *ram moril*
   ram mor-il
   Ram die-PERF.3
   '*Ram has died.*'

The referent of the unmarked subject in the examples (4) and (5) does not initiate the event of 'sleeping' and 'being dead', but is passively involved in the event that is happening to the subject '*Ram*'.

5.3 The doing schema

In contrast to the 'happening' schema, which occur independently of the participants involved, the participants of the events under 'doing' schema are responsible for the events. That is, the subject is seen as the initiator of an event; while the other is being affected or perceived to be affected by the event. The initiator is prototypically a volitional human which occupies the subject position and is marked by the ergative '-e' in Assamese, as in the examples below:

6. *rame nasise*
   ram-e nas-is-e
   Ram-ERG dance-ING.PROG-3
   '*Ram is dancing.*'

7. *rame bag^{h}tu marile*
   ram-e bag^{h}-tu mar-il-e
   Ram-ERG tiger-CLF kill-PERF-3
   '*Ram has killed the deer.*'

8. *rame johnok guriale*
   ram-e john-ok guria-l-e
   Ram-ERG John-OBJ kick-PERF-3
   '*Ram has kicked John.*'

9. *rame dorzak^{h}onot guriale*
   ram-e dorza-k^{h}on-ot guria-l-e
   Ram-ERG door-CLF-LOC kick-PERF-3
   '*Ram has kicked at the door.*'

10. *rame thelak^{h}on bozaroloi nile*

ram-e	thela-k^{h}on	bozar-oloi	ni-l-e
Ram-ERG	cart-CLF	market-ALL	take-PERF-3

'*Ram has taken the cart to the market.*'

11. *rame johnoloi sithi lik^{h}ise*

ram-e	john-oloi	sithi	lik^{h}-is-e
Ram-ERG	John-DAT	letter	write-ING.PROG-3

'*Ram has written a letter for John.*'

12. *rame johnok kitapk^{h}on dile*

ram-e	john-ok	kitap-k^{h}on	di-l-e
Ram-ERG	John-OBJ	book-CLF	give-PERF-3

'*Ram has given John a book.*'

Examples (6)-(12) involve a prototypical volitional human agent, 'Ram', who is responsible for and the initiator of the event. Different ASCs are associated the 'doing' schema. The underlying construction of (6) is the agentive Intransitive construction; in (7) and (8) it is the Transitive construction; in (9), it is the Conative construction; in (10), it is the Caused-motion construction (CMC); in (11), it is the Caused-transfer construction (CTC), while it is the Ditransitive construction in (12).

The intransitives '*S-e V*' and *'S-e Obl V'* are prototypically associated with the 'doing' schema. The verbs that are used in these constructions are all dynamic verbs. As said, a particular ASC is associated *basically* with a particular verb class, but the Transitive construction is the one that is quite *flexible* in accommodating verbs of different classes (see section 4.1.8).

The CMC is the combination of the 'doing' schema and the 'motion' schema. This is because of the semantics of the constructions, 'X causes Y to move to Z'. The subject acts on the object, which belongs to the 'doing' schema, while the affected object changes its location, which involves the motion schema. One of the aspects of the 'motion' is the 'Source-Path-Goal' schema (SPG). Thus, the oblique phrase in the CMC denotes the 'SPG' schema. The

different elements of the path are subjected to the construal of the motion event, as discussed in the previous chapter, in section 3.2.1. Thus, the CMC can accommodate different construal of the path as in:

13. *rame thelak^{h}on bozaroloi nile*

ram-e	thela-k^{h}on	bozar-oloi	ni-l-e
Ram-ERG	cart-CLF	market-ALL	take-PERF-3

'*Ram has taken the cart to the market.*'

14. *rame thelak^{h}on bozaropora nile*

ram-e	thela-k^{h}on	bozar-or-pora	ni-l-e
Ram-ERG	cart-CLF	market-GEN-ABL	take-PERF-3

'*Ram has taken the cart to the market.*'

15. *rame thelak^{h}on bozarorloike nile*

ram-e	thela-k^{h}on	bozar-or-loike	ni-l-e
Ram-ERG	cart-CLF	market-GEN-till	take-PERF-3

'*Ram has taken the cart to the market.*'

16. *rame thelakhon bozarorfale nile*

ram-e	thela-khon	bozar-or-fale	ni-l-e
Ram-ERG	cart-CLF	market-GEN-towards	take-PERF-3

'*Ram has taken the cart to the market.*'

The CTC is also a combination of two schemas, the 'doing' schema and the 'transfer' schema. This is because of some common semantics of the both constructions, 'X intends Y for Z'. The subject acts on the object, which belongs to the 'doing' schema, and then the object is intended for a beneficiary, which involves the 'transfer' schema. Although the oblique phrase is present in the CTC construction, the nature of the oblique is different from that of the CMC. The oblique in the CMC can be subjected to different construal of the 'SPG' schema as in (13)-(16), expressing motion events. However, the same is not applicable with to the oblique phrase of the CTC, as in the following examples:

17. *rame johnoloi sithi lik^{h}ise*

ram-e	john-oloi	sithi	lik^{h}-is-e
Ram-ERG	John-DAT	letter	write-ING.PROG-3

'*Ram has started writing the letter for John.*'

18. **rame johnofale sithi lik^{h}ise*

ram-e	john-or-fale	sithi	lik^{h}-is-e
Ram-ERG	John-GEN-towards	letter	write-ING.PROG-3

19. **Rame johnorloike sithi lik^{h}ise*

Ram-e	john-or-loike	sithi	lik^{h}-is-e
Ram-ERG	John-GEN-till	letter	write-ING.PROG-3

This is because, although a sense of intended transfer is associated with the construction, it does not imply actual transfer (see section 4.5.3), hence only a 'dative' marker, unlike other oblique markers in a motion event, is applicable in the oblique phrase. 'The "transferring" schema implies two states. 'There is an initial state where one participant has something and passes it on to another participant' (Dirven and Vespoor, 2004:85).

5.4 The experiencing schema

The 'experiencing' schema includes those experiences which are human internal, bodily, and mental. The 'experience' schema includes those verbs which are not agentive or lack transitivity. That is, such actions *happen* and the experiencer subject is the "registration center" (Dirven and Vespoor, 2004:82). Few verbs semantically belong to this schema, but are used in a construction which is not prototypically associated with the schema. The prototypical ASC that is associated with this schema is the intransitive and transitive non-canonical constructions, as discussed in the previous chapters. The ASCs that are associated with this schema and the verbs the schema subsumes are typically verbs of experience or involutional action, as used in the following examples:

20. *ramor jor ut^{h}ise*

ram-or jor ut^{h}-is-e

Ram-GEN sick stand-PERF-3

'*Ram is sick.*'

21. *ramor b^{h}uk lagise*

ram-or b^{h}uk lag-is-e

Ram-GEN hungry attach-ING.PROG-3

'*Ram is hungry.*'

22. *ramor sitakloi sinta hoise*

ram-or sita-k-loi sinta ho-is-e

Ram-GEN Sita-OBJ-DAT worry happen-PERF-3

'*Ram is worried about Sita*.'

23. *ramoloi biar nimontron ahise*

ram-oloi biar nimontron ah-il-e

Ram-DAT marriage invitation come-PERF-3

'*There is a marriage invitation for Ram.*'

24. *ramok kitap duk^{h}on lage*

ram-ok kitap du-k^{h}on lag-e

Ram-OBJ book two-CLF want.PRES-3

'*Ram wants two books'.*

The construction that underlies (20)-(21) is the genitive subject construction '*S-r [Cj V]*'. Example (22) is the genitive subject dative object construction. Here, the object is marked by the dative case 'loi', serves as the stimulus of the experiencer event. The dative subject construction in (23) includes a receiver subject, with the object being a canonical one, i.e., an unmarked object. Example (24) is the object-subject construction. The argument in the object slot is a canonical object.

Verbs of emotion, perception, and cognition are associated with the 'experiencing' schema. That is, a speaker conceptualizes such events as happening inactively. However, certain verbs within these categories are used in the Transitive construction, which prototypically denotes 'doing' rather than inactive happening. As used in the following examples:

25. *rame sitak [b^{h}al pai]* (emotion)
    ram-e sita-k [b^{h}al pa-i]
    Ram-ERG Sita-OBJ [love get-PRES]
    '*Ram loves Sita.*'

26. *rame johnok dek^{h}ile* (perception)
    ram-e john-ok dek^h-il-e
    Ram-ERG John-OBJ see-PERF-3
    '*Ram saw John.*'

27. *rame kot^{h}atu pahorile* (cognition)
    ram-e kot^{h}a-tu pahor-il-e
    Ram-ERG word-CLF forget-PERF-3
    '*Ram has forgotten the word.*'

The verbs in (25)-(27) is are associated with the 'experiencing' schema. The above examples are in the transitive construction, which is typically used to denote the semantics of 'X affects Y', belonging to the 'doing' schema. Thus, there is not always a one-to-one correspondence between the verbs, event schemas, and ASCs. Thus, Radden and Dirven (2007:272) comment "not every event schema is matched with a sentence pattern of its own".

5.5 The having schema

The 'having' schema is a schema that includes the existence of an entity with a possessor. The ASC that is associated with this schema, along with the corresponding verb is in one-to-one correspondence. The underlying construction is the possessive construction '*S-r O as*e'. This is a partially filled construction, which is exclusive to this schema.

Examples include the following:

28. *ramor duk^{h}on gari ase*
    ram-or du-k^{h}on gari as-e
    Ram-GEN two-CLF car exist-3
    '*Ram has two cars.*'

29. *mur duta kukur ase*
    mur du-ta kukur as-e
    My two-CLF dog exist-3
    '*I have two dogs.*'

The examples above specifie the existence of the entities, a 'gari' (car) and a 'kukur' (dog), with a possessor, 'ramor' and 'mur'.

5.6 The transfer schema

The transfer schema is associated with the experience of an agent's action on an object due to which the object changes its possession. That is, the object was in possession of the agent before the action, and after the action, the object changes its possessor. The ASC that is associated with this schema is the Ditransitive construction, 'S-e O-ø O-k V', examples include:

30. *rame kitapk^{h}on johnok dile*
    ram-e kitap-k^{h}on john-ok di-sil-e
    Ram-ERG book-CLF John-OBJ give-PST-3
    '*Ram gave John the book.*'

31. *rame garik^{h}on johnok bikile*
    ram-e gari-k^{h}on john-ok bik-il-e
    Ram-ERG car-CLF John-OBJ sell-PERF-3
    '*Ram has sold the car to John.*'

32. *rame kothatu johnok kole*

ram-e	kotha-tu	john-ok	ko-l-e
Ram-ERG	word-CLF	John-OBJ	say-PERF-3

'*Ram has told the words to John.*'

Examples (30)-(32) are in the Ditransitive construction and the verbs that are used are associated with the 'transfer' schema. The second object, i.e., the recipient, is in possession of the object due to the agent's action. Hence the 'having' schema is also a part of the 'transfer' schema.

5.7 The moving schema

The moving schema is a combination of the 'happening' schema and/or the 'doing' schema. The moving schema is a result of the movements of various entities of the world from one place to another, which is denoted by an element of 'path', thus being central to the motion events. Movements are one of the basic human experiences where 'X moves to Y', or 'X causes Y to move to Z'. The former experience is manifested in the IMC, '*S-ø Obl V*', and the latter in the CMC, '*S-e O-(k) Obl V*'. The IMC involves the independent change of location of a theme entity from one location to another. Hence, the IMC is a combination of the 'happening' schema and the 'moving' schema. The CMC also involves the change of location of a theme entity from one location to another, however, not on its own. But due to an external force or action on the theme, typically an agent. Hence, the CMC is a combination of the 'doing' schema and the 'moving' schema. The examples of the IMC and the CMC belonging to the motion schema are:

33. *ram tezpuroloi gol*

ram	tezpur-oloi	gol
Ram	Tezpur-ALL	go-PERF

'*Ram went to Tezpur.*'

34. *ram* *tezpuror pora* *guwahati hoi* *delhiloi* *jabo*
ram tezpur-or-pora guwahati hoi delhi-loi ja-b-O
RAM Tezpur-GEN-ABL Guwahati-via delhi-DAT go-FUT-3
'*Ram has gone from Tezpur to Guwahati.*'

35. *rame sokik^{h}on roomorpora anile*
ram-e soki-k^{h}on room-or-pora an-il-e
Ram-ERG chair-CLF room-GEN-ABL bring-PERF-3
'*Ram has brought the chair from the room.*'

36. *rame thelak^{h}on bozaroloi nile*
ram-e thela-k^{h}on bozar-or-fale ni-l-e
Ram-ERG cart-CLF market-GEN-towards take-PERF-3
'*Ram has taken the cart to the market.*'

37. *botahe sokik^{h}on tarloike [susorai nile]*
botah-e soki-k^{h}on ta-r-loike [susora-i ni-l-e]
strom-ERG chair-CLF there-GEN-till drag-CP take-PERF-3
'*The storm dragged the chair till there.*'

Examples (33)-(37) involve motion events. The underlying construction of (33) and (34) is the IMC, which involves different construals of the path. Example (33) only profiles the 'goal' of the motion event '*go*' (go), and the 'source' and 'route' are not syntactically profiled, while example (34) profiles all the elements of the motion event 'go'. The underlying construction of (35)-(37) is the CMC, which involves Cause + motion verbs, i.e., an external force causes the change of location of the theme. Examples (35) and (36) involve a human agent, while example (37) involves a non-human agent. This is because of the semantic frame associated with a noun like '*dhumuha*' (strom), which includes a natural force, which has the capability to cause such actions, i.e. destruction.

5.8. The relation between ASCs and Event Schemas

Thus, these event schemas are formed by generalizing the different types of specific events denoted by the verbs based on their semantics, or more specifically, the participants of the event. Hence, 'Event schemas are defined by a small set of thematic roles. These conceptually prominent roles, which are typically associated with the conceptual core of a situation, are known as participant roles' (Radden, 2007: 270). That is, event schemas are characterized by verb specific participant roles, which are used with different ASCs. ASCs, on the other hand, denote generalized events, which are categorized according to the verbs that are used in the constructions. The number of actions of the world denoted by the verb is innumerable, but the number of ASCs are limited. Hence based on the similarities of the ASCs and the verbs, an ASC can be used with a verb that objectively belongs to a different event schema.

The table below lists all the ASCs that are dealt with in the current work and their corresponding event schemas with examples:

SL no.	**ASCs**	**Event schema (s)**	**Examples**
1.	S V	Happening	*john moril* john die-PERF '*John has died.*'
2.	S-e V	Doing	*john-e nas-ib-o* John-ERG dance-FUT-3 '*John will dance.*'
3.	S-e Obl $_{(loc)}$ V	Doing	john-e dorza-k^{h}on-ot guria-l-e John-ERG dorza-CLF-LOC kick-PERF-3 '*John kicked at the door.*'

4.	S Obl V	Moving+happening	*hill-tu tol-oloi bagor-i por-is-e* Stone-CLF down-ALL crawl-CP fall-ING.PROG-3 '*The stone is rolling down.*'
5.	S $Obl_{(loc)}$ as	Happening	*ram ghor-ot as-e* ram house-LOC exist-3 '*Ram is at home.*'
6.	S Comps ho	Being	*ram daktor ho-i* Ram doctor COP-PRES *'Ram is a doctor.'*
7.	S-r [Cj V]	Experiencing	*ram-or jor ho-is-e* Ram-GEN sick COP-ING.PROG.3 '*Ram is sick.*'
8.	S-k NMZ ho	Happening	*bag^{h}tu mor-a ho-l* Tiger-CLF die-NMZ COP-PERF '*The tiger was killed.*'
9.	S-e O V	Doing	*ram-e glass-k^{h}on bang-il-e* Ram-ERG glass-CLF break-PERF-3 '*Ram broke the glass.*'
10.	S-e O Obl V	Doing + Transfer	*ram-e thela-k^{h}on bozar-oloi ni-l-e* Ram-ERG thela-CLF markt-ALL take-PERF-3 '*Ram took the cart to the market.*'
11.	S-e Obl O V	Doing + Transfer (Intended)	*ram-e sita-loi b^{h}at rand^{h}-il-e* Ram-ERG sita-DAT rice cook-PERF.3 '*Ram has prepared rice for Sita.*'
12.	S-e O O_{comp} V	Doing	*ami Ramok hovapoti pat-il-u* We ram-OBJ president made-PERF-3 '*We have made Ram the president.*'

13.	S-r O V	Having	*ram-r jor ho-is-e* Ram-GEN sick COP-ING.PROG-3 '*Ram is being sick.*'
14.	S-loi O V	Happening	*ram-loi bia-r nimontron ah-il-e* ram-DAT marriage-GEN invitation come-PERF-3 '*Ram has received a marriage invitation.*'
15.	S-t O V	Being	*delhi-t ban pani ho-is-e* delhi-LOC flood water COP-ING.PROG-3 '*Delhi is being flooded.*'
16.	S-r O(-k)-loi V	Happening	*ram-or john-ok-loi sinta ho-is-e* ram-GEN John-OBJ-DAT worry COP-ING.PROG-3 '*Ram is being worried for John.*'
17.	S-k O V	Happening	ram-ok kitap-k^{h}on lag-e Ram-OBJ book-CLF want-3 '*Ram wants the book.*'
18.	S O O-k V	Doing+transfer+having	*ram-e john-ok kitap-k^{h}on di-l-e* Ram-ERG John-OBJ book-CLF give-PERF-3 *'Ram has given the book to John.'*

Table. 5.1. The Assamese Argument Structure Constructions

Thus, the present work proposes that Assamese has 18 ASCs that are associated with different event schemas, some ASCs are unique to their specific event schemas. However, some ASCs are shared across different schemas. The conceptualization of an event also plays a major role in the syntactical realization of the event. For instance, 'b^{h}al pa' (love) and 'b^{h}al lag' (like) both prototypically belong to the experiencing schema, however, 'bhal pa' (love) is conceptualized as more agentive; the subject participant is more involved in the event than the participants of 'bhal lag' (like). Hence, the (conjunct) verb 'bhal pa' (love) is used in the transitive construction, while the (conjunct) verb 'bhal lag' (like) is used in the genitive subject

construction. As the thesis takes a constructionist approach, such division are not dealt with. The classification of the ASCs is based on the prototypical verbs that are used in the constructions. Constructions may, however, extend their prototypical meaning and accommodate verbs which deviate from their semantics, similar to the Transitive construction. The overlapping of event schemas and their ASCs, based on the prototypical verbs are grouped in Figure 5.1, below:

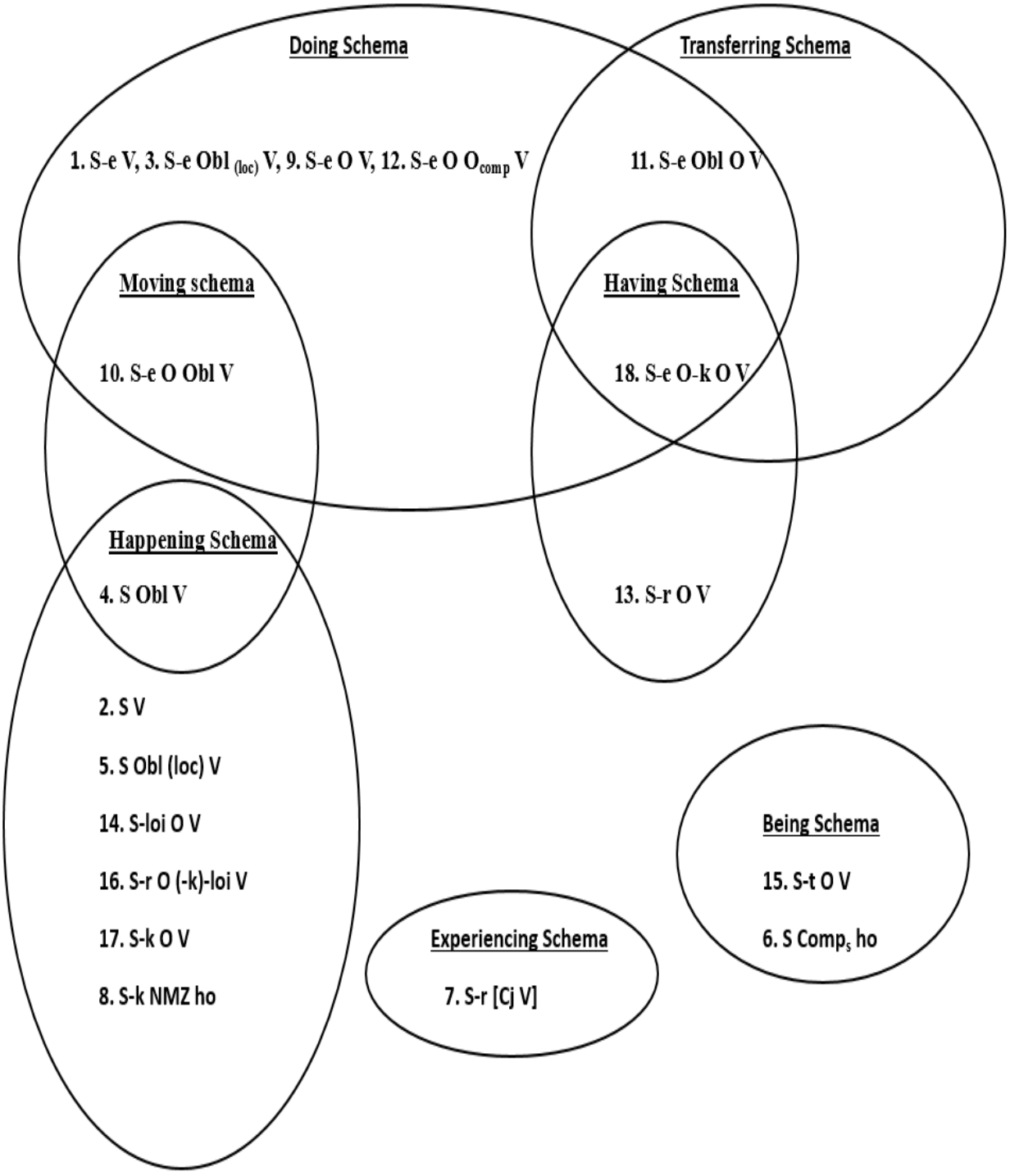

Fig. 5.1. The overlapping of ASCs and event schemas

Fig. 5.1 represents the ASCs and its associated schemas. The serial numbering of the ASCs in Fig. 5.1 is based on the Table 5.1, i.e., the number (7.) in Fig 5.1 corresponds to the serial no.

(7) in the table 5.1. Each of the ASCs is grouped according to the schemas they are associated with. Most of the ASCs are specific to their associated schemas. A few of the ASCs are shared between two schemas and only one is shared between three schemas.

As seen from 5.1, the ASC '*11. S-e O-k O V*', i.e., the Ditransitive construction, is shared between three schemas, the 'transferring' schema, the 'having' schema and the 'doing' schema. Consider the following examples:

38. *rame johnok kitapk^{h}on dile*

ram-e	john-ok	kitap-k^{h}on	di-l-e
Ram-ERG	John-OBJ	book-CLF	give-PERF-3

'*Ram has given the book to John.*'

39. *rame johnok garik^{h}on bikile*

ram-e	john-ok	gari-k^{h}on	bik-il-e
Ram-ERG	John-OBJ	car-CLF	sell-PERF-3

'*Ram has sold the car to John.*'

The examples above are a combination of three schemas, the 'doing' schema, the 'transferring' schema, and the 'having' schema. The types of verbs that are used in the ditransitive construction typically involves three participants, the 'agent', the 'theme' and the 'recipient'. The role of the agent is to volitionally initiate the event denoted by the verb. Thus, due to the role of the agent, the Ditransitive ASC is a part of the 'doing' schema. The 'theme' undergoes a change of possession, i.e., after the action of the 'agent' the recipient now possesses the 'theme'. Thus, due to the role of the 'theme', the Ditransitive ASC is a part of the 'transferring' schema. The 'theme' is transferred from one possessor, the 'agent', to another, the 'recipient'. The 'recipient' now possesses the 'theme', hence is a part of the 'having' schema. Thus, the Ditransitive construction is associated with these three schemas.

The next ASCs that are part of more than one schema are the '*S-e Obl O V*', the CTC; the '*S-e O Obl V*', the CMC and the '*S Obl V*', the IMC. As discussed in section 4.5.3, the CTC and the Ditransitive construction share some a similar meaning, i.e., 'semantic synonymy', while

differ in their syntactic representation, hence termed as ‘alloconstructions’. The Ditransitive construction is associated with three schemas, while the CTC is associated with two schemas. The verbs that are used in the construction typically involve two salient participants and a goal-like participant, the beneficiary. The role of the agent is to volitionally initiate the event denoted by the verb, hence is a part of the ‘Doing’ schema. The theme then undergoes an intended change of possession, hence a part of the ‘Transferring’ schema. Both the constructions are similar in terms of the ‘agent’ and the ‘theme’, but differ in terms of the ‘goal-like’ participant. The ditransitive includes a recipient, while the CTC includes a ‘beneficiary’. This is what makes the constructions differ in terms of its associated schemas. In contrast to the ‘recipient’ of the Ditransitive construction, the ‘goal-like’ beneficiary may not successfully receive the ‘theme’, hence the construction is only limited to the ‘transferring’ schema, not the ‘having’ schema like the Ditransitive construction. Examples includes the following:

40. *johne ramoloi tinik^{h}on kitap kinise*

john-e	ram-oloi	tini-k^{h}on	kitap	kin-il-e
John-ERG	Ram-DAT	three-CLF	book	buy-PERF-3

‘*John has bought three books for Ram.*’

41. *marye ramoloi sithi lik^{h}ibo*

mary-e	ram-oloi	sithi	lik^{h}-ib-o
Mary-ERG	Ram-DAT	letter	write-FUT-3

‘*Mary will write a letter to Ram.*’

The examples above are in CTC, which express an intended transfer; the role of beneficiary is not salient in the event, hence marked by an oblique phrase ‘-olio’, in contrast to the recipient of the Ditransitive construction, which is a prominent role in the event, so marked by the object marker ‘-*k*’.

Like the CTC, the CMC is also associated with two schemas, the ‘doing’ schema and the ‘moving’ schema. The verbs that are used in the construction typically involve two salient participants and a goal-like participant. The two salient participants are the ‘agent’ and the

'theme' represented by the subject '*S-e*' and 'O', respectively. The goal-like participant is represented by the oblique phrase. Examples includes the following:

42. *johne tablek^{h}on roomor pora otorale*

john-e	table-k^{h}on	room-or-pora	otora-l-e
John-ERG	table-CLF	room-GEN-ABL	remove-PERF-3

'*John has removed the table from the room.*'

43. *rame thelak^{h}on bozarloi anise*

ram-e	thela-k^{h}on	bozar-loi	an-il-e
Ram-ERG	thela-CLF	market-ALL	bring-PERF-3

'*Ram has brought the cart to the market.'*

The examples above are in the CMC, where the role of the 'agent' is to volitionally initiate the caused motion event denoted by the verb. Thus, due to the role of the agent, the CMC is a part of the 'doing' schema. The 'theme' then undergoes a change of location, from one place to another, due to the agent's action, because of which the CMC is also a part of the 'moving' schema. In the CTC, the oblique marker is the 'dative' case. Whereas, in the CMC, the oblique marker is the 'allative', which is a case of polysemy.

The next ASC that is associated with two schemas is the '*S Obl V*', i.e., the IMC. The verbs that are used in the construction typically involve one salient participant, the 'S', and a goal-like oblique phrase. The IMC denotes a change of location of the figure. The subject participant is unmarked, hence a part of the 'happening' schema. The subject participant also changes its location from one ground to another, denoted by the oblique phrase. Examples includes the following:

44. *appletu gosorpora xoril*

apple-tu gos-or-pora xor-il

apple-CLF tree-GEN-ABL fall-PERF

'*The apple has fallen from the tree.*'

45. *ram tezpuroloi gol*

ram tezpur-oloi go-l

Ram. Tezpur-ALL go-PERF

'*Ram has gone to Tezpur.*'

The subject participants 'apple' and 'Ram', i.e., the figures, change their locations in the physical space. We claim (45) as non-agentive because of the marking of the subject because the subject involved is unmarked. In Assamese, when the subject is marked for the ergative marker '*-e*', it denotes an agentive action, while the unmarked subject denotes non-agentive action. The way an event is construed or represented via the syntax reflects how the speaker conceptualizes the event. Assamese does have an (intransitive) conative construction '*S-e Obl V*', where the subject is marked for the ergative marker, yet in IMC the subject is left unmarked. This implies that the Assamese speaker construes intransitive motion events as non-agentive.

All the other constructions, apart from the four constructions discussed above in the current chapter, are associated with their individual respective schemas, as represented in the Table 5.1 and figure 5.1.

The next chapter summaries the major findings of the thesis.