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

(a) come
(b) go

(The home base is where the speaker is located.)
(a) come
(b) go

(The conceptualizer mentally places himself/herself to set a viewpoint.)

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)
(2a) 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
(a) go
(b) come

The broken lines indicate the conceptualizer's scope.
One of the domains are profiled by observation of the conceptualizer.

4. State Change

(a) come
(b) go

(cf: Genitive: s.x., come/go; Wisdom: s.x., go)
(a) come
(b) go

(Genitive: s.x., come/)
(Genitive: s.x., go)

5. Old English

5a. Hēow∂s comen mean?
Where did the horse go?
The Wanderer (Translated and italicized by the authors)

5b. ...heke for gelahad harweode and goode his reece gonge hit to me.
... anyone who has belief and hearing God’s law, let him come to me.
Lover’s Lovers Saints vol. 2 (81-82) (Italicized by the authors)

5c. Hit côm in gealge healle beana. (1644)
Then came walking in the chief of the fames,
Beowulf (Translated by Suzuki) (1899), italicized by the authors

5d. Hit côm ond wite acan. (1802)
Then sunrise came,
Beowulf (Translated by Chichering 1977), italicized by the authors

Both verbs may have not been strictly distinct.
Come indicates emergence into the conceptualizer’s scope; go describes walking. Only locomotion is abstracted into motion schemas.

References

Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson 1986. Metaphors We Live By, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Economics uses


Website

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