

Please cite as:

Bowerman, Melissa & Eric Pederson. 1992. Topological relations picture series. In Stephen C. Levinson (ed.), Space stimuli kit 1.2: November 1992, 51. Nijmegen: Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics.

You can find this entry on:

<http://fieldmanuals.mpi.nl/volumes/1992/topological-relations-picture-series/>

REGULATIONS ON USE

Stephen C. Levinson and Asifa Majid

This website and the materials herewith supplied have been developed by members of the Language and Cognition Group of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (formerly the Cognitive Anthropology Research Group). In a number of cases materials were designed in collaboration with staff from other MPI groups.

Proper attribution

Any use of the materials should be acknowledged in publications, presentations and other public materials. Entries have been developed by different individuals. Please cite authors as indicated on the webpage and front page of the pdf entry. Use of associated stimuli should also be cited by acknowledging the field manual entry. Intellectual property rights are hereby asserted.

No redistribution

We urge you not redistribute these files yourself; instead point people to the appropriate page on the Field Manual archives site. This is important for the continuing presence of the website. We will be updating materials, correcting errors and adding information over time. The most recent versions of materials can always be found on our website.

Be in touch

The materials are being released in the spirit of intellectual co-operation. In some cases the authors of entries have not had the chance to publish results yet. It is expected that users will share results garnered from use of these materials in free intellectual exchange before publication. You are encouraged to get in touch with us if you are going to use these materials for collecting data. These manuals were originally intended as working documents for internal use only. They were supplemented by verbal instructions and additional guidelines in many cases.

The contents of manuals, entries therein and field-kit materials are modified from time to time, and this provides an additional motivation for keeping close contact with the Language and Cognition Group. We would welcome suggestions for changes and additions, and comments on the viability of different materials and techniques in various field situations.

Contact

Email us via <http://fieldmanuals.mpi.nl/contact/>

Language and Cognition Group
Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics
Postbox310, 6500AH, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Instructions for the topological relations pictures (the BowPed Project)

(Melissa Bowerman, Eric Pederson)

1. For each picture, elicit one or more descriptions that represent what consultants feel is a natural response, in everyday speech, to the question “Where is the [object pointed at by arrow]?”.
2. Always tell the location of the object shown by the arrow, e.g.: (21) [Where is the shoe?] Answer: “It is on her foot” (Not, for example, “Someone is wearing it.”) Also, try to get the consultant to locate this object with respect to the other object shown; e.g., for the spider on the ceiling, aim for a description like “the spider is *on the ceiling*”, not “the spider is *in the house*”, even though being on the ceiling may also entail being in the house.
3. If possible, elicit alternative everyday ways of answering the “Where is...” question, for pictures where there are obvious other answers. How important it is to pursue this with individual consultants depends somewhat on how many consultants you have; if you have only one or two, it is far more important than if you have 20, where alternative responses will show up anyway.
4. Also very useful information is what you *cannot* say. E.g., suppose for some of the stimuli you elicit both *on* and *on top of*, or both *in* and *inside* (imagining for the moment that your field language were English). Do these forms have identical extensions? By questioning, you can determine that you could *not*, for instance, say “The raindrops are on top of the window” or “the fish is inside the water”, although *on* and *in*, respectively, are normal for these scenes. It’s too much to ask, for each picture, about all candidate spatial forms, but try to get a sense of this at least for close competitors.
5. For some pictures the identity of objects depicted may not be obvious.

The object shown by the arrow:

- (9) coat
- (12) butter
- (18) hole
- (23) hose
- (24) spoon
- (28) face
- (33) clothespin
- (42) belt
- (43) hose
- (45) fruit, apples
- (48) rain drops
- (53) chewing gum
- (60) fence
- (61) handle

- (67) owl
- (68) writing (“UCLA”)
- (72) writing (address)

The other object in the picture:

- (15) fence
- (19) a ring, not a plate or dish
- (25) wall
- (28) stamp
- (32) two answers: water AND bowl
- (35) leg
- (56) flagpole
- (61) cupboard door