LACUS Forum 32 Referees

David C. Bennett
Lilly Chen
Douglas W. Coleman
Michael Cummings
Inga B. Dolinina

Connie Eble
Toby D. Griffen
Shin Ja J. Hwang
Sydney M. Lamb
David Lockwood

Arle R. Lommel
Alan K. Melby
Tim Pulju
Linda Stump Rashidi
William C. Spruiell

Lois Stanford
H. Stephen Straight
William J. Sullivan
Sarah Tsiang
Lucas van Buuren

LACUS FORUM XXXII

Networks

Edited by

Shin Ja J. Hwang, William J. Sullivan & Arle R. Lommel

THE LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

FIRST EDITION

Published by LACUS, the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States, in Houston, Texas, USA. Current address and contact information for LACUS can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.lacus.org.

Manufactured in the United States.

ISSN 0195-377X

CONTENTS

GRIFFEN, TOBY D. 2001. *The last battle of the Gododdin: The hidden poem in Armes Prydein*. Felinfach: Llanerch.

———. 2005. From art to writing: The megalithic impetus for ogam script. *LACUS forum* 31:227–33.

HODSON, F. R. 1964. Cultural groupings within the British pre-Roman Iron Age. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 30:99–110.

JAMES, SIMON. 1999. *The Atlantic Celts: Ancient people or modern invention?* Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

KHLEIF, BUD B. 1980. *Language, ethnicity, and education in Wales*. The Hague: Mouton.

LUCY, JOHN. 2004. The impact of language diversity on thought. Paper presented at the 31st LACUS Forum in Chicago, 30 July 2004.

LYONS, JOHN. 1968. *Introduction to theoretical linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

MACNEILL, MÁIRE. 1962. *The festival of Lughnasa: A study of the survival of the Celtic festival of the beginning of harvest*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

MORGAN, GERALD. 1966. *The dragon's tongue: The fortunes of the Welsh language*. Cardiff: Triskell Press.

PARRY-WILLIAMS, T. H. 1923. *The English element in Welsh*. London: Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion.

RENFREW, COLIN. 1987. *Archaeology and language: The puzzle of Indo-European origins*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

REES, B. R. (ed. and trans.) 1988. *Pelagius: Life and letters*. Woodbridge: Boydell Press.

SCHOLES, ROBERT J. 1968. Phonemic interference as a perceptual problem. *Language & speech* 2:86–103.

WILLIAMS, GLANMOR. 1979. *Religion, language and nationality in Wales*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

WINNER OF THE PRESIDENTS' 2005 POST-DOCTORAL PRIZE

PRESIDENTS' POST-DOCTORAL PRIZE

The Presidents' Post-Doctoral Prize is awarded annually to the lecture judged to make the greatest contribution to linguistic knowledge by an author who has completed a doctorate within the preceding ten years but who does not yet have faculty tenure. The judging panel consists of the current LACUS President and Vice President along with all past presidents in attendance at the meeting.

THE ENGLISH SIMULTANEITY NETWORK: THE CASE OF *AS* AND *WHILE*-CLAUSES

CRISTIANO BROCCIAS

ENGLISH CAN CODE SIMULTANEITY, i.e. total or partial temporal overlap, between two events by making use of various (simultaneity) markers (or connectors). Among them are *as*, *while* and *when*, as is shown in examples (1)a–b from Biber *et al.* 1999:

(1) a. An armed robber was mugged of his loot **as** he made his getaway. (BNC)
b. She said that the pain was a little better after the pethidine she had been given and she was able to rest quietly **while** she waited to be taken to theatre. (BNC)
c. **When** he was in the air force he flew Tornado jets. (LDCE)

Simultaneous (or temporal) *as* and *while*-clauses, in particular, are often compatible with additional interpretations (Biber *et al.* 1999:846–50). In addition to temporality, *as*-clauses can express causality, see (2)a, and *while*-clauses can convey a contrastive interpretation, see (2)b.

(2) a. She kept her head down **as** she spotted the newsmen. (BNC)
b. Schools in the north tend to be better equipped, **while** those in the south are relatively poor. (BNC)

Very little research has been carried out on simultaneity clauses in either English or other languages. Notable exceptions are Edgren 1971, Heinämäki 1978, Silva 1991, Morris 1996, and Declerck 1997 for English; see also Schmiedtová 2004 on the production of Czech simultaneity clauses by German and English learners. This paper aims to contribute to the study of the explicit coding of simultaneity in English by analysing and contrasting in some detail the behaviour of *as* and *while*-clauses. It shows that *as* and *while* simultaneity clauses tend to be used differently and attempts to account for this finding by postulating that only the connector *while* is specified as a default temporal marker in our mental lexicon.

1. DYNAMIC AND STATIVE EVENTS.[1] The most detailed treatment of *as*-clauses so far is also the most recent one, namely Morris (1996). She claims that an *as*-clause is interpreted temporally if and only if a multiphase event is evoked (see also Silva 1991 for a similar point). In a multiphase event, two successive configurations in time are different from each other. In other words, the term multiphase seems to be a synonym of the more current term dynamic. It follows that example (3), from Morris (1996), is correctly interpreted in temporal fashion since the event of growing implies change.

(3) As she grew older,...

By contrast, when no multiphase event is evoked, i.e. when a monophase event is depicted, allegedly only causality obtains. Since a monophase event is such that two successive configurations in time are identical to each other, the term monophase seems to correspond to the more common term stative. For example, since the events in the *as*-clauses in (4), from Morris (1996), are construed as being stative, causality is expected to obtain.

(4) a. As you are here...
b. As you know...
c. As he wore a red sweater...

In fact, it can easily be shown that temporal *as*-clauses do occur with monophase events. Verbs of posture (see (5)–(7)), verbs of watching (see (8)), verbs of keeping (see (8)) and verbs describing bodily states (see (9)) are all found in temporal *as*-clauses. Even the verb *wear* (cf. (4)c) and stative *be* (cf. (4)a) can appear in temporal *as*-clauses, see (10) and (11) respectively.

(5) The wind whips round us **as** we **stand** on the seafront. (Morrall 2003:281)
(6) He says it in a whisper, with his eyes upon her, **as** she **sits** at the window bent over her work. (Waters 2002:237)
(7) The company commander then moves in **as** Iman **lies** wounded and helpless. (*The Guardian*, 24.November 2004, p.2)
(8) The bottle of Sylvaner from the cellar was cool and sweet. It reminded him even more of Heidi. [...] Her slow smile **as** she **watched** him. The quivering strength of her grip **as** she **held** him to her. (Millar 2004:197).
(9) ...a day after eight blinging pieces of jewellery were snatched from his bedroom **as** he **slept** with his wife, Sharon, in their Buckinghamshire mansion. (*The Guardian*, 24.November 2004, p.3)
(10) He pictured her laying (sic) on her bed back then, he sitting beside her, rubbing her belly **as** she **wore** panties and a cut off sleep shirt. (http://www.novelguides.com/ClassicNotes/Titles/wutheringheights/wwwboard/messages/2123.html)
(11) My pager went off **as** I **was** on the train on Nov. 3. (http://www.suntimes.com/special_sections/ transplant/cst-nws-liverone26.html)

It is debatable, however, whether (11) contains a truly stative *as*-clause. One could argue that the predicate *be on the train* refers metonymically to a motion event, hence a dynamic event. Admittedly, no unambiguously stative examples with the copular verb *be* have been found in the texts analysed for this paper. The other examples I came across, i.e. (12)–(14), all hint at change. In (12), *less and less* evokes dynamicity; the *as*-event in (13) describes a point along a path which is being traversed; (14) contains the participial *preparing* immediately after the stative predicate *be crouched*, thus pointing at impending change.[2]

(12) When items are arranged in this way, most of the 1s will appear as a peak at the bottom of the scale and there will be a gradual decrease in frequency **as** the attributes **are** less and less possible in human performance. (Hatch & Lazaraton 1991:204)
(13) That made me pause **as** I **was** halfway across the building's front plaza. (Connelly 2003:80)
(14) **As** I **was** crouched, preparing myself for a quick raid on the locker, a series of waves got me thinking. (Martel 2002:169)

In sum, monophase *as*-events are compatible with temporal readings (*contra* Morris 1996, Silva 1991) although no truly stative *be* examples have been found in *as*-clauses. These facts are explored further in the next two sections.

2. *AS* VS. *WHILE*-CLAUSES. It is a truism that both *as* and *while*-clauses refer to temporary configurations, hence the impossibility of (15)a with a temporal interpretation, since knowledge is usually regarded as a relatively permanent state. Nevertheless, the contrast in (15)b remains to be accounted for.

(15) a. {*As/*While} you know...
b. {*As/While} you are here...

In order to tackle this problem, it is useful to investigate the behaviour of *as* and *while*-clauses in more detail by relying on authentic data. I first conducted a preliminary investigation using the first 443 of the total 833 pages of Faber's (2003) novel *The Crimson Petal and the White*. It emerged that temporal *as*-clauses are more frequent than temporal *while*-clauses (255 vs. 64). Further, *while*-clauses occur in contexts where either a (relatively) long action is evoked or states/properties, expressed through the verb *be* (or a modal verb), are profiled. Some representative examples are provided in (16)–(19).

(16) 'Besides, I occupied myself quite usefully **while** I **was waiting**'. (p.117)
(17) Instead, he eats his sausage **while** it's still warm. (p.133)
(18) 'Because I must do *something* **while** I still **can**'. (p.182)
(19) Nor, **while we're** on the subject of her disadvantages, does she consider herself ugly. (p.209)

These findings were later checked against authentic data obtained from the BNCWeb (*http://escorp.unizh.ch*). The data were retrieved using the BNCWeb Query System. Two text types were chosen, namely imaginative written and leisure spoken, so as to collect examples from two (potentially) opposite types along the written-spoken continuum. The leisure subcorpus contained a total of 241 instances of *while* tagged as a CJS (= subordinating conjunction). An identical number of examples of *while* as a CJS was randomly selected from the imaginative written subcorpus. Similarly, in the case of *as* as a CJS, 241 examples were randomly selected from each of the subcorpora. Of course, not all *as* and *while*-clauses thus

obtained were simultaneity clauses, since some examples conveyed causality or contrast only. Therefore, the data had to be inspected manually so as to discard non-temporal examples.

The results can be summarised as follows (see the Appendix for a more detailed breakdown of the data). In the case of *while*-clauses in the 'imaginative written' subcorpus, dynamic verbs par excellence, i.e. verbs of change (of position/state), account for only 21% of the data. In more detail, change-of-position verbs are much more frequent than change of state verbs, accounting for 17% of all data (i.e. 84% of all change verb cases). Importantly, only about 14% of change-of-position verbs have a subject which is identical to that of the main clause. This figure (here as well as in the statistics below) also includes cases where the relation between the subject of the temporal clause and the subject of the main clause is a part-whole one (this would be the case of sentences like *While they were talking, she was thinking that...*, where *she* refers to a person who is part of the group of people denoted by *they*). More generally, even considering *while –ing* cases (e.g. *while driving, she...*), only about 21% of the *while*-examples have the same subject in the *while*-clause as in the main clause.

The overall picture differs greatly when one considers *as*-clauses in the imaginative written subcorpus. First, only one *as*-example out of a total of a hundred was found that contains the verb *be*. By contrast, *be* examples account for 19.5% of the written *while*-data (which also include three negative examples, a pattern never found in the *as*-data). Further, the only *as*-example with *be* is actually a pseudo-progressive construction, i.e. *as [she] was there standing*. In other words, it cannot be taken as a genuine stative example on a par with *while she was there* (see (14)). The second important point concerning the behaviour of *as*-clauses is the fact that change verbs account for 72% of the data. Change-of-position verbs alone account for 62% of the data and in almost 50% of such cases the subject in the *as*-clause is the same as the subject in the main clause. More generally, in 54% of all *as*-examples the subject in the *as*-clause is the same as the subject in the main clause.

Moving on to the spoken data, one observes less lexical variability in both *as*-clauses and *while*-clauses, as might easily be expected. Despite this, the tendencies outlined for the written data hold good for the spoken data as well. In the case of *while*-clauses, the use of the verb *be* is much more frequent in the spoken language than in the written language (46.6% vs. 19.1%). By contrast, the use of change verbs is approximately constant (19.9% in the spoken subcorpus vs. 19.1% in the written subcorpus). The percentage of same-subject cases is higher than in the written data, amounting to 34% (also including three *while -ing* cases). This may be due to the higher percentage of *be* examples, which can often be used to introduce a temporal frame within which events involving the subject of the *while*-clause are narrated (e.g. *What were you keeping watch for **while** you were on board?*).

As-clauses greatly differ from *while*-clauses in the spoken language as well as the written language. The percentage of change verbs in *as*-clauses is even higher than in the written language, amounting to 86%. One fourth of them are change-of-state verbs and most change-of-place verbs (11 tokens out of 18) are instances of *go*. Finally, the percentage of same-subject cases is higher than in the written data, amounting to 63%.

It can be concluded that the behaviour of *as* and *while*-clauses remains roughly constant in the two text types examined. The data show that *as*-clauses often involve change verbs (especially in the spoken language), which might explain why previous analyses such as

Morris (1996) stress that *as*-events must be dynamic. It should be remembered, however, that stative verbs are also possible (see section 1). By contrast, *while*-clauses do not show any strong preference for change verbs. They seem to evoke more stable configurations (especially in the spoken language, where *be* instances account for almost 48% of the data). This confirms the tendencies observed in Faber's novel. Further, *as*-clauses show a stronger preference for subject identity, i.e. the subject of the main clause is often either the same as that of the temporal *as*-clause or is linked to it by a part-whole relation. This finding represents textual support for Silva's (1991) intuition that the degree of conceptual integration between an *as*-event and its main clause event is stronger than that between a *while*-event and its main clause event. Finally, the main difference between the two text types considered in this analysis is that both *as* and *while*-clauses exhibit less lexical variability in the spoken language.

3. DIFFERENT LEXICAL ENTRIES. The greater flexibility of *while*-clauses in comparison to *as*-clauses is illustrated in (20)–(22). Only *while*-clauses seem to be compatible with truly stative *be*, modal verbs and negation:

(20) Instead, he eats his sausage **{while/*as}** it's still warm. (Faber, p.133)
(21) 'Because I must do *something* **{while/*as}** I still **can**. [...]' (Faber, p.182)
(22) Fat lot of use I'd be to any girl **{while/*as}** I **don't** have a job. (BNC:FRR 572)

Again, the asterisk indicates that these sentences cannot be understood with a temporal meaning, not that they are ungrammatical per se. I contend that these facts can be accounted for by invoking a lexical semantic solution. The hypothesis I would like to advance here is that the lexical item *while* evokes temporality (i.e. susceptibility to change in the sense of Williams 2002) on its own (cf. also the temporal noun *while* in phrases like *in a while*). By contrast, the lexical item *as* is unspecified for temporality (since it has a wider inventory of uses than *while*, including comparative, causal and parenthetical uses). In other words, a temporal interpretation is assumed by default in the case of *while*-clauses whereas it is evoked constructionally in the case of *as*-clauses. Since *be warm*, *can* and *not to have a job* do not obviously contribute any temporal exponent to their respective *as*-constructions (i.e. they do not refer to events with a high degree of susceptibility to change), a temporal meaning cannot be retrieved for the *as*-constructions in question. This line of reasoning for the contrast in (20) is represented in the hopefully self-explanatory schema in (23).

(23)

	temporality	*temporality*		
a. as		it is warm		
[unspecified]		[stative]	→	temporality cannot be retrieved
b. while		it is warm		
[+temporal]		[stative]	→	temporality can be retrieved

An apparent problem for the present analysis is the occurrence of stative verbs (e.g. verbs of posture, see (5)–(7)) in *as*-clauses. Since *as* does not contribute a temporal exponent on its own,

in what sense can we say that the corresponding *as*-clause evokes temporality? My contention is that verbs like *sit*, *stand*, and *lie* evoke a high degree of susceptibility to change when they are predicated of animate referents. Since they can describe activities performed by animate entities and since change is intimately connected to animacy, it is easy to conceptualise the events evoked by such verbs as pointing to unstable equilibrium states, that is a high potential for change. *Sit*, *stand* and *lie* describe temporary states in our daily routine, in which we move from one to the other(s) frequently and/or repeatedly. Moreover, in context, (5)–(7) are precisely temporary, relative to the surrounding narrative. A similar analysis can easily be extended to other verb types, such as verbs of watching, keeping and bodily states in that they all depict temporary configurations. In sum, I will say that *as*-clauses construe **path events**, i.e. events with a high degree of susceptibility to change.

4. CONCLUSION. This paper has shown that *as* and *while*-clauses tend to be used differently, despite what is commonly reported in English dictionaries. For example, the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (CD-Version) glosses temporal *as* as '*while* or *when*'. Interestingly, however, all three illustrative examples provided in the dictionary, see (24), contain change verbs (i.e. *get off*, *pass*, *leave*).

(24) a. I saw Peter **as** I was getting off the bus.
b. **As** time passed, things seemed to get worse.
c. Just **as** the two men were leaving, a message arrived.

This accords with the finding that *as*-clauses code path events, especially change events (i.e. events evoked by change verbs).

Unlike *while*-clauses, *as*-clauses are not compatible with stative *be*, modals or negated VPs because temporality could not otherwise be retrieved. *While* is regarded as a default temporal subordinator; it can combine with a wider range of verb types since temporality can always be retrieved. By contrast, *as* has been analysed as being unspecified for temporality in our mental lexicon. Further, since change verbs are not specific to *while*-clauses, *while*-clauses can be regarded as being more stative than *as*-clauses.

In sum, we can view *as* and *while*-clauses as defining a simultaneity network. They are obviously related to each other in that they both can code simultaneity but they construe simultaneous events differently by focussing on either susceptibility to change (*as*-clauses) or (relative) permanence (*while*-clauses).

[1] As is pointed out by a reviewer, some linguists may object to the use of the phrase 'stative event' because they consider 'events' as dynamic by definition. Here I use the term 'event' in a more general sense (see also Morris 1996 and the use of the similar term 'process' in Langacker 1987).

[2] I analyse *crouched* as an adjective. If *be crouched* is analysed as a passive, then (14) is not an example of static *be* (but of the verb *crouch* in the passive). In other words, (14) is, in either case, debatable as a genuine instantiation of static *be*.

REFERENCES

BIBER, DOUGLAS, STIG JOHANSSON, GEOFFREY LEECH, SUSAN CONRAD & EDWARD FINEGAN. 1999. *Longman grammar of spoken and written English*. Harlow: Longman.

DECLERCK, RENAAT. 1997. When-*clauses and temporal structure*. London: Routledge.

EDGREN, EVA. 1971. *Temporal clauses in English*. Uppsala: Almqvist and Wiksell.

HEINÄMÄKI, ORVOKKI. 1978. *Semantics of English temporal connectives*. Bloomington: Indiana University Linguistics Club.

LANGACKER, RONALD. 1987. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*, vol. 1: *Theoretical prerequisites*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

MORRIS, LORI. 1996. Time and cause in the English connector *as*. *LACUS forum* 23:417–28.

SCHMIEDTOVÁ, BARBARA. 2004. *At the same time... The expression of simultaneity in learner varieties* (Studies on Language Acquisition 26). Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

SILVA, MARILYN. 1991. Simultaneity in children's narratives: The case of *when*, *while* and *as*. *Journal of child language* 18:641–62.

WILLIAMS, CHRISTOPHER. 2002. *Non-progressive and progressive aspect in English*. Fasano: Schena editore.

SOURCES OF EXAMPLES

BNC. British National Corpus, Web Version (http://escorp.unizh.ch).

CONNELLY, MICHAEL. 2003. *Lost light*. London: Orion.

FABER, MICHAEL. 2003 [2002]. *The crimson petal and the white*. Edinburgh: Canongate.

HATCH, EVELYN & ANNE LAZARATON. 1991. *The research manual: Design and statistics for applied linguistics*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle.

LDCE. *Longman dictionary of contemporary English*. 2003 (CD version). Harlow: Longman.

MARTEL, YANN. 2002 [2001]. *Life of Pi: A novel*. Edinburgh: Canongate.

MILLAR, CORMAC. 2004. *An Irish solution*. Dublin: Penguin Ireland.

MORRALL, CLARE. 2003. *Astonishing splashes of colour*. Birmingham: Tindal Street Press.

WATERS, SARAH. 2002. *Fingersmith*. London: Virago Press.

APPENDIX

Only the first verb has been counted in coordination cases. If a verb occurs more than once, this is indicated explicitly (by giving the total number of occurrences in parentheses). Negative cases, for the sake of analytical convenience, have exceptionally been grouped under NOT in OTHER VERBS.

While-clauses in the written imaginative subcorpus:

CHANGE OF POSITION (31 tokens, 17.4%)

approach, bend, back out, be sent, bring down, carry, collect, crawl, dance, fall, feel my way along, fetch (2), flit, go to + infinitive (2), go try, hurtle off, jump down and open, meander towards him, open and shut, perambulate, put on (2), put the washing out, scout, slip off, step forward, sway back and forth, take out, walk

CHANGE OF STATE (6 tokens, 3.4%)

boil dry... burn to a crisp, change, grow up, achieve his deepest wish, secure the devices

BE (34 tokens, 19.1%)

be + away, like this, on the Commons, up, a slave to, absent, alive, at it (2), at school, away (3), black, busy provoking each other, free, gone, good, here, hot (2), in bed, in desertion, in hospital, in prison, like that, on, out, out working, there (3), turned, under the same roof

OTHER VERBS (107 tokens, 60.1%)

ask (2), await, beam, call, can (2), carry on, cast, clean, cook (2), cope, deal with, decide, discuss, do (6), drink, dwell upon, eat (2), endure, examine, explore, feel for, fight about, give, go ahead making their preparations, go on, go shopping [change of position classification also possible], gorge yourself, grin, haunt, have visions of, help, hold (4), indulge, iron, last, look, look round for, lose herself (in a book), make (2), make the game, **NOT** (3) (be here, have a job, move), play (5), present oneself as, read, recall, regain, remain (2), rest (2), rub, sing, sit (2), sleep (2), sort (things) out, speak (2), stand (5), stare, stay (3), subdue, swallow, talk (4), tell, trample, translate, try to catch, wait (4), wash, watch (2), weave and prepare food, work (3), write

_As_-clauses in the written imaginative subcorpus:

CHANGE OF PLACE (62 tokens, 62%)

approach (2), come (2), cross the room and leave, crumble back into the clay, curl, draw (2), drift in and out, drive (3), fetch, get into the car, give the canoe a push, go (3), guide, kneel down and start to dust, lean to retrieve, leave (2), lift (2), move in and out, pace, pass (2), pick it up, pull (2), put down her basket and take off her shawl, raise, reach, return, rise (2), set the glass down, sift through, slide her hands down and smooth them over the... swell of his hips, slip (2), sneak in, snuggle closer to him, spatter, spit out, spread the hake, stop the jeep, take (2), thumb through the ledger and take out, thump into, tilt to catch the sunlight of space, trample behind the horses, tread, turn, unfold, unwrap, walk (2)

CHANGE OF STATE (10 tokens, 10%)

become aroused, close (2), end, finish with, get better, go on (2), prepare for, start the car and move away

STATIVE (14 tokens, 14%)

be there standing, clasp, cling tightly, contemplate, have, hold her and kiss her lips, lie in life-support, look (2), sit with a whisky and wait for, smile, stand, stare, watch

OTHER VERBS (14 tokens, 14%)

absorb (2), caress (2), clean away the dishes, count, feel the water beneath me slop and gurgle, frisk me for weapons, let herself out into the garden, read, realise, ring off, strike, work

While-clauses in the written leisure subcorpus:

BE/CAN (61 tokens, 46.6%)

be +NP/AP/PP (59), can (2)

CHANGE OF POSITION (20 tokens, 15.3%)

carry him to pit bottom, chase, collect, come, come ashore, cross to safety, fold this net up, follow, get round the chair, go (8), pour, progress, take

CHANGE OF STATE (6 tokens, 4.6%)

chop, get it erected, get used to, hot, raise prices, turn off the television

OTHER VERBS (44 tokens, 33.6%)

camp in, continue, do (4), eat, enjoy, get a ticket, have (7), lie, look, look after, make, mend, negotiate, promote, protect and preserve, say, seem impotent and indecisive, serve as a detective, set new standards, shoot and kill, sign, talk (5), test, wait, watch, work (6)

_As_-clauses in the written leisure subcorpus:

CHANGE OF STATE (6 tokens, 21.4%)

be sworn in, become, get older (2), grow older, run out of processing power

CHANGE OF PLACE (18 tokens, 64.3%)

come home, enter, go (11), hand, leave Downing Street, move, pop it off, take the big piece out

OTHER VERBS (4 tokens, 14.3%)

hit, plough, stay still