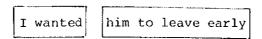
Reports on the Third Annual Meeting
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## Semantic Structures of NP-to-VP Complements

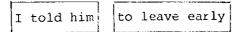
## Kozo Iwabe

I will propose three semantic structures for certain verbs with an NP-to-VP complement:

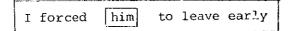
(1) WANT-type (like, prefer, want, etc.)



(2) TELL-type (ask, advise, tell, order, (persuade), etc.)



(3) FORCE-type (compel, force, persuade, etc.)



In former transformational analyses, these verbs were divided into two types: the WANT-type verbs and the PERSUADE-type verbs. But observation of certain syntactic and semantic phenomena supports the tripartite distinction which subdivides the PERSUADE-type verbs into two categories. The tripartite distinction is semantically natural in that the verbs of each type make a natural class: (1) EMOTION, (2) SPEECH ACT, (3) ENFORCEMENT. Further arguments for the distinction are provided by pseudo-cleft and other syntactic tests of the independence of infinitives, and the scope of main-subject's controllability, the semantic notion which entails the implicativity (in the sense of Karttunen) of the FORCE-type verbs. A detailed discussion is made on the ambivalent character of the verb

<u>persuade</u>. Finally, it is suggested that the VP-Prominence Principle, which governs the indirect speech act of requesting (i.e. the constrast between <u>Can you pass the salt?</u> and <u>Are you able to pass the salt?</u>), may be relevant to the semantic structures we proposed.