

clear from the time adverbials. Furthermore, the decomposition of the event-types into subevents is quite arbitrary.

Our alternative analysis, incorporating the insights of Lys & Mommer (1986), overcomes these difficulties. Two mechanisms are called for. On the one hand, two primitives: P, a point in time, and R, a region in time (cf. the temporal tier in Jackendoff 1987). On the other hand, four temporal phases: Initial, Nucleus, Culmination and Result. The combination of these two mechanisms allows for the following paradigm:

	Initial	Nucleus	Culmination	Result	(___)
P					: John left.
		R			: John ran.
		P			: The light flashed.
		R	(P)		: The ice-cream cone melted.
		R	P		: John crossed the street.
		R	P	(R)	: John locked the door.
			P		: John died.

The presence of P or R in a particular phase is tested by the modifiability of time adverbials. For instance, the *in*-PP can be attached to the sequence of a Nucleus R plus a Culmination P. The *for*-PP is possible with an R, either in a Nucleus or a Result phase. The *at*-PP refers to a P, etc.