Verbs

1. **Brief Introduction**

There are several different categories of verbs in the English language. For the purposes of this course, **unaccusative, unergative** and **ditransitive** verbs are to be studied.

1. **Unaccusative Verbs**

These are a special category of verb that occur across the world’s languages. These kinds of verbs do not involve a projection of the little v category. They include verbs like *arrive* or *congeal*. For example:

1. The train arrived.

The verb *arrive* here is an unaccusative verb which signals that the subject is not a willing participant in the event action, but is experiencing a change in state.

1. **Unergative**

Unergative verbs are a category of verb in which the subject undergoes some kind of voluntary change of state. This category of verbs includes verbs like: *talk* or *eat*.

1. The professor talked.

The agent in these verbal constructions actively initiates the event action.

1. **Ditransitives**

Ditransitive verbs are verbs that take 2 objects: a transitive one and an intransitive one. These are verbs like *give* or *send*:

1. John gave **Mary the book**.

In this sentence, **Mary** is the indirect object **the book** is the direct object as the thing being given.