

5SSEL026 – Language Construction
L3 Interactive session: Verbless Language

Andrew Carstairs-MacCarthy suggests that a language could be built without verbs¹.

For example:

- “Tom said that he would arrive on Tuesday” → “Tom’s previous statement about his arrival on Tuesday”
- “I’m pleased to meet you” → “my pleasure at our meeting”
- “I’m happy” → “my current happiness”

Why do you think this has never happened?

¹ Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy (1999). *The Origins of Complex Language*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK, ch4.