

pairs a nominal with a noun; while each of the following:

John's death was *painful*
It is *unlikely* that he died

ascribes an adjective to a nominal. With verbs, there are two main possibilities: the nominal may be the subject of the verb, as in

John's death *surprised* me
His death *occurred* at noon
Mary's arrival *caused* the confusion

or the nominal may be the object of the verb, as in

I *denied* John's death
I *heard* his singing.

At the end, the correctness of our conclusions will be subject to an indirect test: we shall see that the nouns, adjectives, and verbs that prove to be applicable to the same type of nominal fit one another as well. This result will not only reinforce our classifications, but will at the same time elucidate the concepts of fact, event, process, situation, and so on, and give us a hint concerning their ontological status.

5.5. Before trying to fit nominals into containers, we must take a closer look at the nominals themselves. As I mentioned before, the essential ingredient of the relevant kinds of nominal is a verb derivative. This ordinarily consists of the verb root plus the suffix *-ing*. In addition, many verbs form second nominals by means of other suffixes: think of *death*, *refusal*, *explanation*, *move* (in this case the suffix is zero), and so on. Some verbs even have the luxury of possessing three or four nominals: *disposing*, *disposal*, *disposition*, for example, or *moving*, *move*, *movement*, *motion*. For-

tunately, these variations do not materially affect our discussion. There is another form, however, which will have an independent role to play, and this is the familiar noun clause—for example, *that he arrives*.⁴

Next we have to consider other ingredients that may complete a nominal. First of all, the verb can take tenses, auxiliaries, and adverbs. The *that*-clause, obviously, is open to all of them: *that he arrived*, *that he is able to arrive*, *that he arrives unexpectedly*. The *-ing* form is equally liberal: *his having arrived*, *his being able to arrive*, *his arriving unexpectedly*. Other forms exclude these moves: *death* and *arrival* are immune to tenses or auxiliaries, and adverbs have to be changed into adjectives. This gives us the transformation exemplified by

his arriving unexpectedly—his unexpected arrival
his dying painfully —his painful death.

The subject of the source sentence is left untouched in the *that*-clause, but has to be brought in by a genitive in other cases. Thus we have: *John's arrival*, *his death*, or, optionally,

⁴ It is easy to show that even in contexts like

We know that he arrived
We know how he died

that and *how* belong to the verb object (which is a nominal) and not to the preceding verb. By forming the passive we get:

That he arrived is known by us.
How he died is known by us.

The situation is quite different in the case of, say,

We found out the solution.

In this case *out* belongs to *found*; the passive is

The solution is found out by us

and not

* Out the solution is found by us.