3 verb classes: 
Transitive

1. **Transitives**: the described event involves (at least) two arguments (participants): one so called **internal argument** (IA, first Merge) and one so called **external argument** (EA, further Merge, mediated by light $v$).

- **UTAH** (Baker 1988, Marantz 2013): Principle governing the association of Th-roles to syntactic structures.

The kid hugs the dog

$v$ as **light verb** mediates the relation between V and its **internal argument**/IA (direct object) of the first Merge operation with the other argument referred to as the **external argument**/EA.
3 verb classes:

Transitive

**Light verbs** are overtly visible in many languages more or less systematically.

Cfr. For Italian the expressions involving the (semi) functional verb *fare* which is present in several periphrases, typically of the type *fare* + N:

*fare una passeggiata, fare la spesa, fare caldo*

make a walk  make shopping  make hot

and also in causative periphrases of the type *fare* + Vinf:

*far ridere*-make laugh, *far guarire*-make healthy,... (cfr. *divertire*-amuse, *curare*-cure)

The **light verb** does not express a descriptive content (as V does).
It is a **functional verbal head** expressing a fix content/voice (more or less easily identifiable, such as e.g, *cause*, as in the example here). For a verb with three arguments we obtain the vP here on the left

Mary gave a book to John/ Maria ha dato un libro a Gianni  
Mary gave John a book
3 verb classes:
Intransitive/Unergative

2. **Intransitives/Unergatives:** the described event implies an external argument (EA) (+, possibly, other indirect arguments); the internal argument (IA; the direct object in the clause) is of a special limited nature (differently from the internal argument/direct object of pure transitives). Generally missing in the final sentence. It is usually called the *cognate object*; cfr. *dream a dream, speak a language*....

John spoke
John speaks English
3 verb classes: **Unaccusative**

3. **Unaccusatives**: the described event implies an internal argument (IA) (+ possibly other arguments and participants such as Loc, Experiencer).

There is no external argument (EA) with unaccusatives; hence, the verb phrase hierarchically expressing the argument structure is more reduced compared to the other two classes as it does not contain the functional light verb v, the introducer of the EA.

1st crucial **lexical** property of unaccusatives: no EA, no vP level

Cfr:
The boat sank vs The enemy sank the boat
3 verb classes

**Transitive**

**Intransitive/Unergative**

**Unaccusative**

(IT: Aspectual auxiliary *avere/have*)
Ex: leggere/abbracciare

(IT: Aspectual auxiliary *essere*)
Ex: essere, arrivare, succedere, arrivare, arrivare, affondare
More on unaccusatives

2\textsuperscript{nd} crucial property of clauses containing unaccusatives: a \textit{structural} property

Case: No accusative Case in clauses containing an unaccusative verb

**Crucial hypothesis about Case:**
All explicit noun phrases have (= must have) a Case
Case is a universal property of the (morphosyntactic) computational component of the language faculty (FL), independently of its overt morphological realization (often residually present in the pronominal paradigm. Cfr. English, Italian ....).

In Principle & Parameters, a difference is made between two types of Case (a distinction preserved in current minimalist approach)

\textbf{Structural Case} and \textbf{Inherent Case}