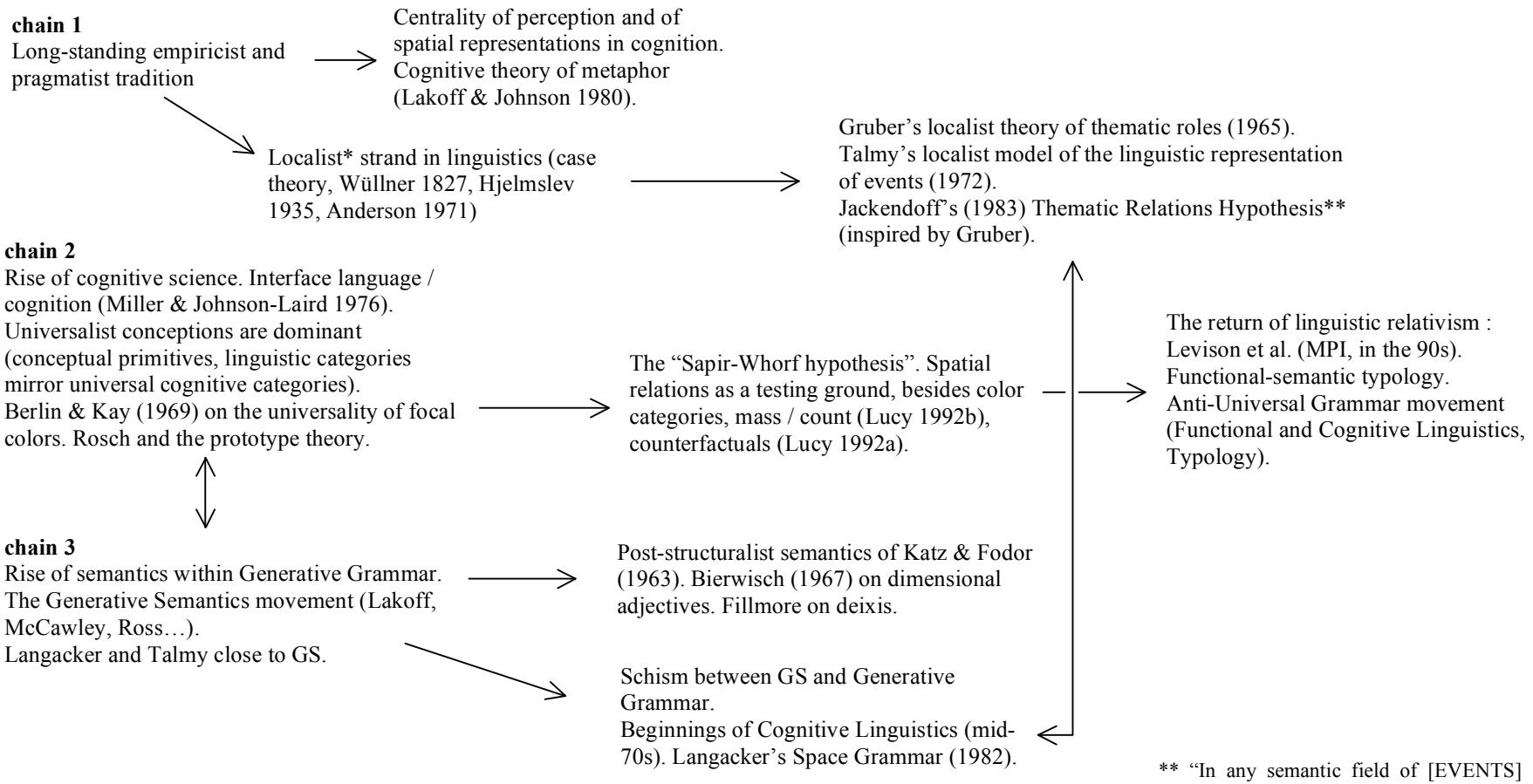
HISTORICAL RETROSPECT or why space became a central concern in today's linguistics



* Lyons (1977, vol. 2 : 718): Localism is "the hypothesis that spatial expressions are more basic, grammatically and semantically, than various kinds of non spatial expressions (cf. Anderson, 1971, 1973). Spatial expressions are linguistically more basic, according to the localists, in that they serve as structural templates, as it were, for other expressions ; and the reason why this should be so, it is plausibly suggested by psychologists, is that spatial organization is of central importance in human cognition (cf. Miller & Johnson-Laird, 1976 : 375ff)."

** "In any semantic field of [EVENTS] and [STATES], the principal event-, state-, path- and place-functions are a subset of those used for the analysis of spatial location and motion" (1983 : 188).
Ex. field : Possession
BE_{POSS} AT_{POSS} = 'belong to'
GO_{POSS} TO_{POSS} = 'receive'
CAUSE $STAY_{POSS}$ AT_{POSS} = 'keep' etc.