
MAÏA PONSONNET

Metacategories

Cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural and cross-temporal perspectives

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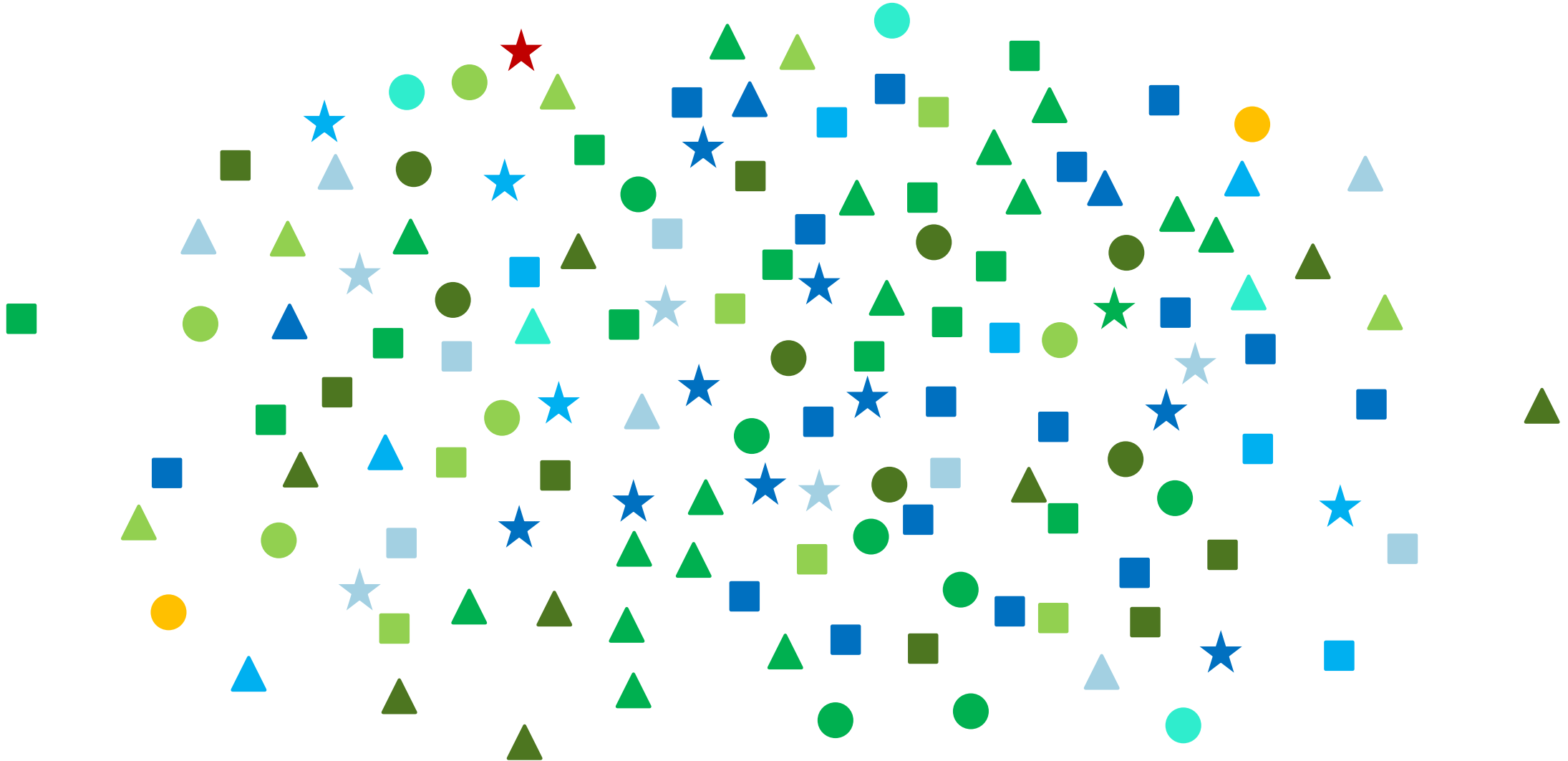
CoE for the Dynamics of Language

[Excerpt]

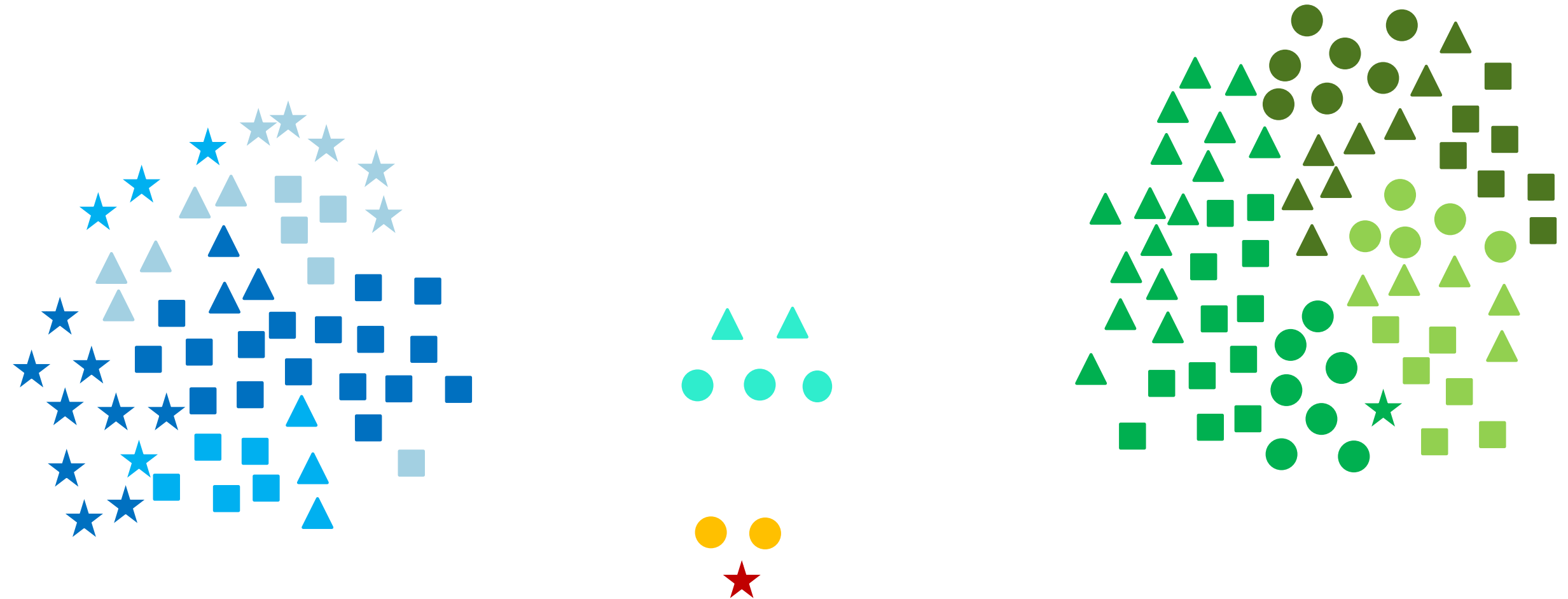
Lest we get fooled by our own tools:

A Wittgensteinian perspective on categories

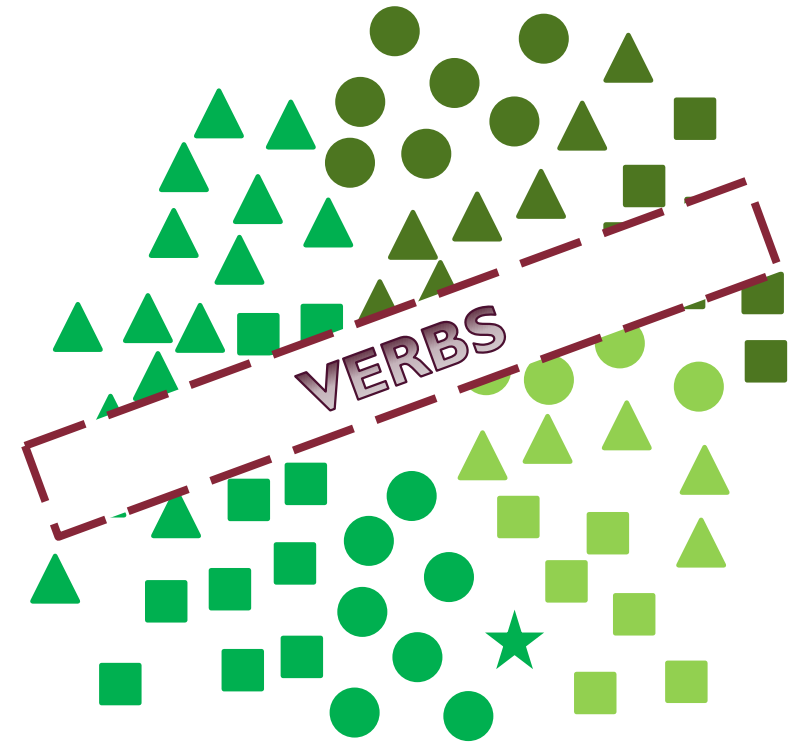
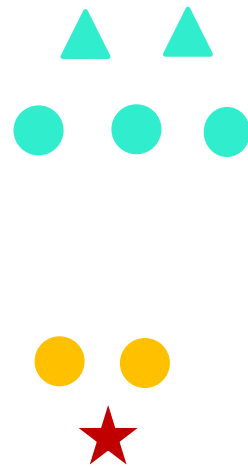
Step 1. We are faced with a messy range of phenomena but we can identify common properties.



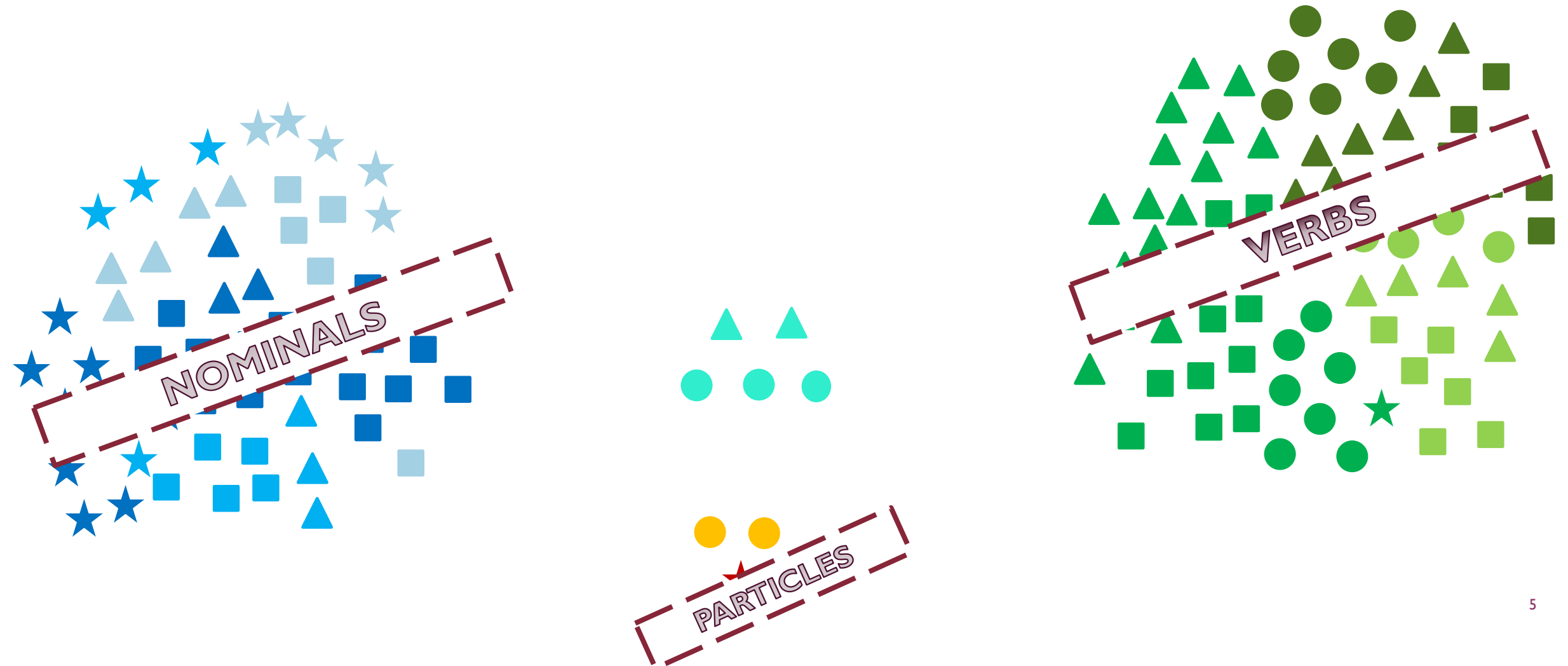
Step 2. We group phenomena based on some common properties to create order, which is useful when describing.



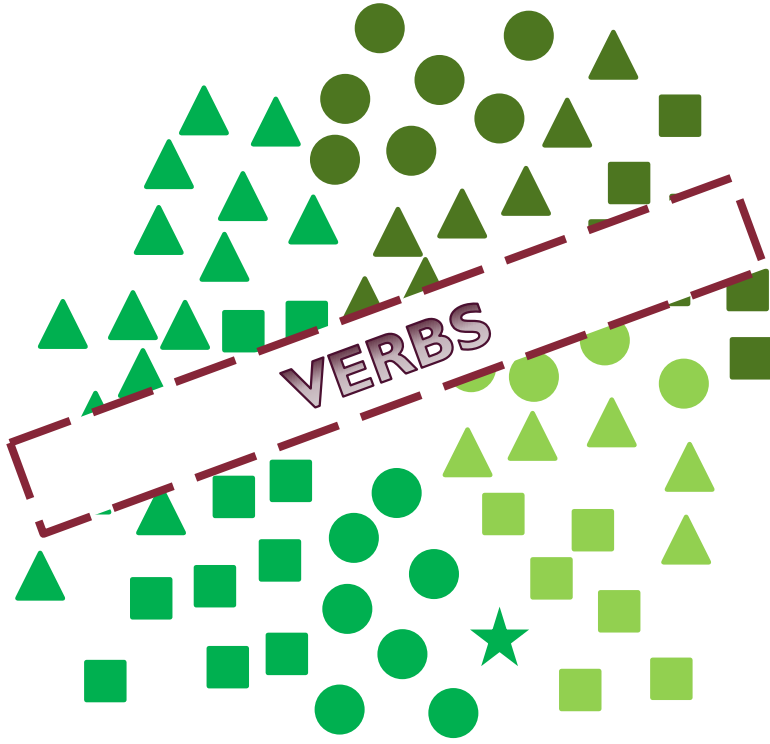
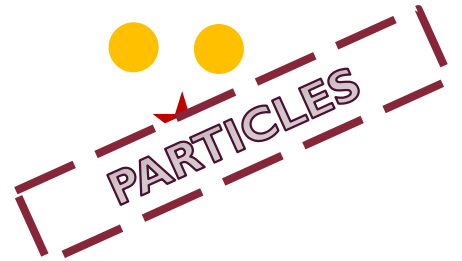
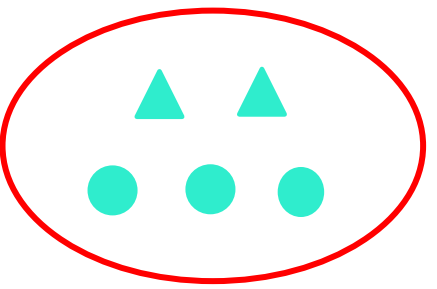
Step 3. We label these groups, based on best approximation when comparing with other languages.



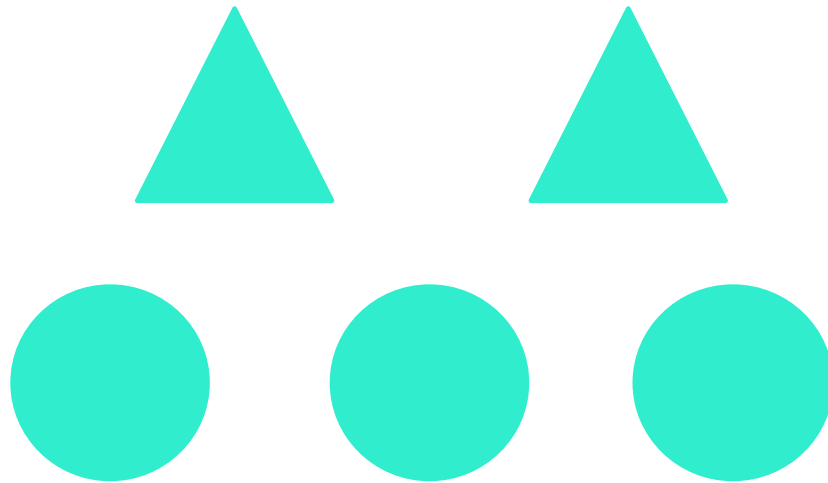
Step 4. We are usually annoyed that not everything fits in, but the 'other' category is convenient.



Step 5. But borderline phenomena are what cause real trouble.



Step 6. We get really confused and panicked (or fascinated?) with borderline phenomena that fall between categories.



OMG
where do I put this???

Not really green?!
But not really blue either?!

Word classes
are nothing at all!!

