predicate determines the range of expressions which can fulfill the relevant argument function", (164) as illustrated by the increasing degrees of anomaly represented by the symbols ? and ! as shown in sentences (19).

19.

(i) *Her mother* has finally realized that she is a lousy cook.
(ii) ? *Her dog* has finally realized that she is a lousy cook.
(iii) ! *Her frying pan* has finally realized that she is a lousy cook.

These restrictions depend on the semantic properties of the predicate , on the one hand, and on the semantic (= thematic) role played by the argument on the other. In sentences (18) ,the EXPERIENCER argument (i.e. the subject) of a cognitive predicate like *realize* has to be an expression denoting a *rational* entity.

As for how the theta-roles are assigned to arguments , the thematic role of the complement in the V-bar constituents of the form verb + complement is determined by the semantic properties of the verb. In other words, it is the verb that directly assigns a theta-role to its internal argument(s). As for the theta -role assigned to the external argument , it is the whole V-bar constituent (i.e. the verb + complement) as a whole that determines its theta-role ; and this is called indirect theta marking (see Marantz (1984,pp.23 ff) and Chomsky (1986 a, pp. 59-60)). This may be illustrated by sentences (20).

20.

(i) John threw a ball.
(ii) John threw a fit.

The verb + complement *threw a ball* requires the theta-role AGENT ;while the verb + complement *threw a fit* requires the theta-role EXPERIENCER.