In this talk I will examine the nature of mapping among three cognitive domains, namely, space, time and conditionals. For the illustration of the mapping, I will take up the word tokoro, a Japanese word meaning space, or location. Tokoro can take a clause to express ‘location’ as in (1). It takes a tense/aspectual clause as in (2) to mean ‘just before’, ‘just after’ and ‘progressive’ depending on the tense and aspectual form of the clause it takes. It can also attach to a consequent of a conditional as in (3), in which case the conditional can only be interpreted as a counterfactual.

(1) Kore wa John ga sun de i ru tokoro da.
   This TOP John NOM live PROG PRES TOKORO COP
   ‘This is the place where John lives.’

(2) a. John wa hon wo yon u tokoro da.
   John TOP book ACC read PRES TOKORO COP
   ‘John is about to read a book.’

   b. John wa hon wo yon da tokoro da.
   John TOP book ACC read PAST TOKORO COP
   ‘John has just read a book.’

   c. John wa hon wo yon de i ru tokoro da.
   John TOP book ACC read PROG PRES TOKORO COP
   ‘John is reading a book.’

(3) Kare ga kono kusuri wo non de i tara, sin de i ru tokoro da.
   he NOM this medicine ACC take PERF COND die PERF PRES TOKORO COP
   ‘If he had taken this medicine, he would be dead.’

I claim that the properties of tokoro can be accounted for if we assume that tokoro is a two place predicate that takes a reference point and the point to be located. Words that express spatial and temporal relation such as mae (before) or ato (after) can be characterized as a two place relation that takes a reference point and orders the point to be located relative to a reference point, precedence in the case of mae and succession in the case of ato. I argue that tokoro serves to locate a point in question to be located at the reference point, i.e. a sort of an identity function.

I will try to explain how the spatial identity property of tokoro can account for the temporal and conditional properties of tokoro, if the spatial property can be properly mapped to temporal and conditional domains.