

Interactions between Associated Motion and the tense-aspect system of the Nganasan language

The grammatical category of Associated Motion has recently been defined as “a verbal grammatical category, distinct from tense, aspect, mood, and direction, whose function is to associate, in various ways, different types of translational motion (spatial displacement/change of location) with a (typically non-motion) verb event” (**Guillaume, Koch 2021: 3**). It is evident that the category of Associated Motion holds significant theoretical interest, as it demonstrates the capacity of certain languages to grammatically encode the 'fact-of-movement' through affixes or other grammaticalized elements, rather than relying exclusively on lexical means. Based on how motion trajectory is encoded, Leonard Talmy categorized languages into 'satellite-framed languages' and 'verb-framed languages' (**Talmy 1991: 486**). Complementing this typology, the notion of 'equipollently-framed languages' was later introduced, wherein both motion and trajectory are conveyed through grammatically equivalent forms (**Slobin 2004**).

From a typological standpoint, it is widely recognized that Associated Motion exhibits notable interactions with the tense-aspect verbal system in both polysynthetic and fusional languages. In this context, one need only refer to David Wilkins's seminal study on Mparntwe Arrernte, a language in which Associated Motion is specifically employed to indicate that the action denoted by the verb occurs against the backdrop of a motion event with a particular spatial orientation (**Wilkins 1989: 270-298**). The existence of similar grammatical categories, such as 'Associated Posture' in Lao (**Enfield 2002: 242-254**), further challenges the inclusion of Associated Motion in the T-A-M system, thereby invalidating certain earlier theoretical assertions.

Focusing more narrowly on the Yeniseian region, little systematic research has been conducted on Associated Motion, though an areal perspective may yield scientifically significant insights. In this regard, recent work on certain Tungusic languages warrants mention, including discussions of Evenki, a language spoken in areas adjacent to the Samoyedic region. In Evenki, we find a productive *-ndA* suffix meaning 'to go and V' or 'to go in order to V'. This suffix has been variously categorized, with some scholars considering it an aspectual or a modal marker, although it is generally regarded as a derivational suffix, as it remains compatible with the full range of mood, tense, and person-number inflections (**Pakendorf, Stoyanova 2021**).

The objective of this paper is to examine the interaction between Associated Motion and the tense-aspect system of Nganasan. The study has two primary goals: firstly, to contribute to the

descriptive grammar of Nganasan, and secondly, to enhance the typological framework through which Associated Motion can be examined. The analysis is based on data from the *Nganasan Spoken Language Corpus* (NSLC 2017), which was developed through studies on the grammar of Nganasan conducted by the Institute of Uralic Studies at the University of Hamburg. Data from this *corpus* will be analysed from two perspectives: qualitatively, through an examination of individual occurrences within their specific syntactic contexts, and quantitatively, by comparing data to derive broader insights regarding the relationships between the temporality of the action encoded by Associated Motion (whether prior, concurrent, or subsequent) and other grammatical categories of the verb (tense, mood, aspect, person, number). Additionally, leveraging the metadata section of the *corpus*, it will be possible to explore the frequency of Associated Motion forms in relation to the geographical distribution of speakers and the degree of control over communicative situations, allowing for sociolinguistic inferences. Ultimately, this analysis will contribute to shed light on the complex interplay between motion, temporality, and verbal morphology across languages.

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