The expression of motion events in Estonian

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In this paper, we provide a systematic review of the research that has addressed the structure of motion descriptions in Estonian. In particular, we focus on the core components of Talmy's (1985; 2000b) motion event model, Path and Manner. We also examine current evidence on the finer aspects of motion encoding, such as expressing Ground (e.g., Source and Goal) and Manner (e.g., force and speed) in relation to satellite- and verb-framing strategies.

Estonian, like Finno-Ugric languages in general, has been suggested has been suggested to adopt satellite-framing strategies (for claims regarding Finno-Ugric languages, see Talmy 2000b: 27, 60). This means that Estonian predominantly applies a strategy of expressing Manner in the verb and Path in the so-called satellite, i.e., verb particle (e.g., *Ta jooksis välja* 'S/he ran out'). At the same time, the verb-framed strategy is also commonly applied in Estonian (e.g., *Ta väljus joostes* 'S/he exited running').

Based on the available literature (e.g., Pool & Pajusalu 2012; Nelis & Miljan 2016; Montero-Melis et al. 2017), we measure the extensiveness of the satellite-framing strategy in Estonian. We demonstrate that although Estonian is best described as a satellite-framed language, corpus data suggests that path verbs are far more frequent than manner verbs, while manner verbs are substantially more numerous (Pajusalu et al. 2013; Taremaa 2017). We also show that the distribution between satellite- and verb-framing patterns, as well as the expression of fine-grained aspects of Ground and Manner, is heavily dependent on various factors, such as genre, experimental task, and context (e.g, Taremaa et al. 2022; Tuuri 2023).

In addition to a verb-centred focus, we also evaluate the usage and role of verb particles in motion event descriptions. Estonian verb particles (e.g., *sisse* 'in', *alla* 'down') are highly productive, and in Talmy's model, Path is key to lexicalisation patterns. Verb particles can combine with both manner and path verbs, convey aspectual information, and share categorial similarities with free adverbs or adpositions. Despite these characteristics, their role in motion encoding strategies is often overlooked within the framework of lexicalisation patterns.

Finally, by analysing existing data from Estonian and other languages (e.g., Finnish and English), we draw conclusions about the degree of Estonian's path-salience (Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2009) and manner-salience (Slobin 2006), aiming to place Estonian within these two clines of salience. While doing so, we also carefully consider the various ways Ground can be

expressed in Estonian, and the richness of manner features available for conceptualisation and linguistic encoding.

This systematic overview and analysis of existing data and research will significantly enhance the understanding motion event lexicalisation in Uralic languages, while also opening up future prospects for comparative research in the field.

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