

B.5: Verbalization of motion events in Uralic

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The core principle of lexical typology, that there is cross-linguistic variation in the structuring of semantic spaces, is highly salient when it comes to the verbalization of motion events. The division of labor between different forms habitually challenges language learners, translators, and authors of reference materials. This symposium is centered around approaches to delimit variation and alternation found in, and between, Uralic languages.

One such approach is Leonard Talmy’s cognitive-based typology of motion events (**Talmy 1985, 2007**). It introduces an atomistic view at the verbalization of motion events, where different semantic elements such as *Manner* (e.g., 🏃, 🚶) and *Path* (e.g., ⬆️, ⬇️) are identified and their structuring is analyzed. He distinguishes between satellite-framed structures in which the (generally) finite verb marks the Manner and a so-called satellite, “a bound affix or a free word [...]: English verb particles, German separable and inseparable verb prefixes, Latin or Russian verb prefixes, [...]” (**Talmy 2007: 139**), marks the Path, as exemplified by English in Figure 1.

MOTION, MANNER	PATH	SOURCE/GOAL
↓	↓	↓
VERB _{finite}	SATELLITE	N+(adposition, case)
↓	↓	↓
<i>go, run</i>	<i>out</i>	<i>of the house</i>
<i>go, run</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>to the house</i>

Figure 1: Satellite-framed motion events in English (**Slobin 2000: 109**)

Meanwhile in verb-framed structures (**Talmy 2007: 138**), the (generally) finite verb marks the Path, while the Manner can optionally be indicated by a non-finite verbal form, as illustrated by Spanish in Figure 2.

MOTION, PATH	SOURCE/GOAL	MANNER
↓	↓	↓
VERB _{finite}	N+(adposition, case)	VERB _{nonfinite}
↓	↓	↓
<i>salir</i> ‘exit’	<i>de la casa</i> ‘of the house’	<i>corriendo</i> ‘running’
<i>entrar</i> ‘enter’	<i>en la casa</i> ‘in the house’	<i>corriendo</i> ‘running’

Figure 2: Verb-framed motion events in Spanish (**Slobin 2000: 109**)

This typology has been at the core of an ample body of research into the verbalization of motion events in the languages of the world, with empirical research (especially using the textless picture book *Frog, Where Are You?* by Mercer Mayer, youtu.be/BwDc3aOb-E0) having been carried out

to delimit the coexistence of and division of labor between these strategies in the languages of the world. The view of Uralic in general linguistic and typological literature has, however, remained rather shallow: Finno-Ugric [sic] languages are described as satellite-framed in the literature (e.g., **Kohl-Dietrich 2019: 85**, **Asbury et al. 2008: 21**; **Filipović 2007: 19**; **Talmy 2007: 72**; **Slobin 2006**, **Slobin 2000: 113**), with a dearth of empirical evidence for this claim at the end of the citation chain. While satellite-framed structures indeed dominate in Uralic languages writ large, verb-framed structures have been documented especially, but not exclusively, in Uralic languages that have been subject to contact influence from (strongly verb-framing) Turkic languages: Mari, Udmurt, Erzya, Kamas, Selkup, but also Finnic (cf. **Bradley 2016**). In Mari (see Example 1), verb-framed structures seem to strongly dominate.

- (1) Mari
vaša pušenge gêč töršt-en βol-en
 Vasya tree out.of jump-CVB descend-PST2.3SG
 ‘Vasya jumped down (lit. jumping descended) from the tree.’ (elicited)

Excessively simplistic abstractions about Uralic/Finno-Ugric are a product of lacking accessible typological data: surveys exist on motion events in individual Uralic languages (e.g. **Pajusalu et al. 2013** for Estonian, **Kajita 2021** for the role of derivation in the verbalization of motion events in Finnish) and comparative studies of a limited scope have been carried out for a few Uralic languages (for example **Söder 2001** for Hungarian, Northern Khanty, Northern Saami; **Lander et al. 2013** for verbs of aquamotion in Finnish, Komi-Zyrian, Nganasan, Selkup, and Udmurt, and numerous non-Uralic languages), but there has to date been no systematic contrastive review of this subject matter in the language family as a whole. This workshop aims to be a starting point for just this.

We invite contributions that either present empirical, quantitative data (corpus-based or elicitation-based) on the verbalization of motion events in Uralic languages, or in specific Uralic languages. Contributions can adhere to any theoretical approach. We also welcome contributions that dive into points of investigation regarding the verbalization of motion not detailed here, be it analyses of this semantic domain in an individual language through the lens of lexical typology or a contact-linguistic/areal view on the distribution of strategies across different languages/varieties. Contributions dealing with the connection between verbalization of motion events and aspect marking with a special attention to grammaticalization and/or methodological issues are especially welcome.

A long-term goal is the compilation of an edited volume containing an expansive typological survey of the verbalization of motion events in Uralic languages, as well as any individual case studies that arise through the symposium.

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