

The importance of ideophones in the lexicalisation of motion events

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One of the semantic fields that ideophones cover is that of motion and space. “Movement imitatives” (Hinton et al. 1994) are found in languages with and without alleged large ideophone inventories (Sp. *zangolotear* ‘butter, loaf (around)’, Arag. *china-chana* ‘walk in small steps’, Eng. *pitter-patter...*). The first question that this talk addresses is what kind of motion information (i.e., Manner, Path, Ground, Figure...) these ideophones provide. For this purpose, I compare the semantics of motion ideophones in Basque and Japanese, two languages with well-known and big ideophone repertoires (Akita 2015, Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2006). The second question focuses on the role that these motion ideophones play with respect to the discourse tendencies observed in the lexicalization of motion events (Slobin 1996, 2004; Talmy 2000). Satellite-framed languages are said to have large linguistic resources to lexicalise Manner of motion, and as a consequence, speakers, guided by their languages, tend to describe this semantic component more frequently and in more detail. Verb-framed languages, on the other hand, just behave the opposite way: poor manner resources and, therefore, little attention to this semantic component in the verbalisation of the motion event. But, a paradox arises: What happens with speakers of verb-framed languages with large manner of motion ideophone inventories? This is the last question examined in this talk.