

Beyond motion event typology: Minority languages, linguistic resources and variation

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Talmy (1991, 2000) proposes that the world's languages can be divided into two main typological groups, verb-framed and satellite-framed, in terms of the way the core feature of a motion event, i.e. Path, is expressed linguistically, and in the way languages express the components of a complex event. These lexicalization differences are directly reflected in the online use of language, and consequently, speakers of verb-framed and satellite-framed languages differ in their rhetorical styles when describing the same motion event (Slobin 1996, 2004, 2006). Despite their undeniable importance and usefulness, these models give rise to certain problems and limitations since they fell short of explanations for some of the characteristics that certain languages show for the expression of motion. In this paper, I examine and focus on some of these caveats: the role of minority languages in the general description of lexicalisation patterns (e.g. Catalan, Aragonese in Romance family, Basque), the existence and usage of less-known linguistic resources for motion description (e.g. ideophones), and finally, the issue of intratypological and dialectal variation (e.g. Path salience cline).