Typological properties and construction choices in video descriptions of motion events in Kusapiny (Nilotic, Uganda) and Sidaama (Cushitic, Ethiopia)

The present study analyzes data in which 12 speakers of Kupsapiny (the Southern Nilotic language of Ethiopia) and 14 speakers of Sidaama (a Highland-East Cushitic language of Ethiopia) described self-agentive motion events in 30 video clips as macro-events (Kupsapiny: 171 instances, Sidaama: 158 instances), where path and/or deixis and manner were mentioned. It describes typological properties of these languages by examining constructions used in the video descriptions (basically, Kupsapiny: satellite-framed, Sidaama: verb-framed), and questions Croft et al.'s (2010) hypothesis that more typical or natural situations are likely to be expressed in a more integrated way than those that are less so.

Croft et al. hypothesize that different constructions have different degrees of integration (in the order of the tightness of integration: double framing, satellite framing < verb framing, compounding < coordination), and more typical or natural situations are likely to be expressed in a more integrated way than those that are less so. Thus, according to this hypothesis, in the case of the motion events with different manners that the present study dealt with ('walking', 'running', and 'skipping' events), it is predicted that a more integrated construction is likely to be used for 'walking' events than for 'running' events, and for 'running' events than for 'skipping' events.

However, this hypothesis is based only on five languages, and the results of the present experimental study on Kupsapiny and Sidaama do not necessarily support it.

Kupsapiny has various constructions that can be classified as satellite-framed, non-verb-framed, verb-framed, and mixtures of some of these. The satellite-framed construction, where the verb expresses a manner, and a combination of the satellite verb suffix for deixis and that for the ALONG vector and/or that for another vector, is possible with limited combinations of path components, and is used when the described path components fit in the range of any of these combinations. Otherwise, a multi-verb construction consisting of a main verb and a participle has to be used. A prediction from Croft et al.'s hypothesis would be that the most integrated construction in Kupsapiny, namely a satellite-framed construction, is more likely to be used for 'walking' events than for 'running' events, and for 'running' events than for 'skipping' events. However, the satellite-framed construction was less frequently used for 'walking' events (57.9%: 11 out of 19 instances) than for 'running' events (75.5%: 74 out of 98 instances) (Figure 1).

Sidaama has two multi-verb constructions, a gerundive-like manner-instrumental construction and a converb construction. If the negation scope test (e.g. Noonan 1985, Bohnemeyer et al. 2007) is applied to these constructions, the manner-instrumental construction turns out to be more integrated than the converb construction. According to Croft et al.'s hypothesis, it is predicted that the manner-instrumental construction is more commonly used for 'walking' events than for 'running' events, and for 'running' events than for 'skipping' events. However, this construction was the least commonly used for 'walking' events (71.4%: 10 out of 14 instances), and was more commonly used for 'running' events (91.6%: 76 out of 83 instances) and 'skipping' events (95.1%: 58 out of 61 instances) (Table 1).

Therefore, as far as the video descriptions are concerned, the choice of the constructions does not necessarily depend on the typicality or naturalness of the described complex event. Nevertheless, in both languages, the manner of motion was the least frequently mentioned for 'walking' events (11.1%: 19 out of 171 instances in Kupsapiny; 8.9%: 14 out of 158 instances in Sidaama), perhaps because walking is the most common manner of motion.

Figure 1: Frequencies of the use of the constructions for different manners of motion
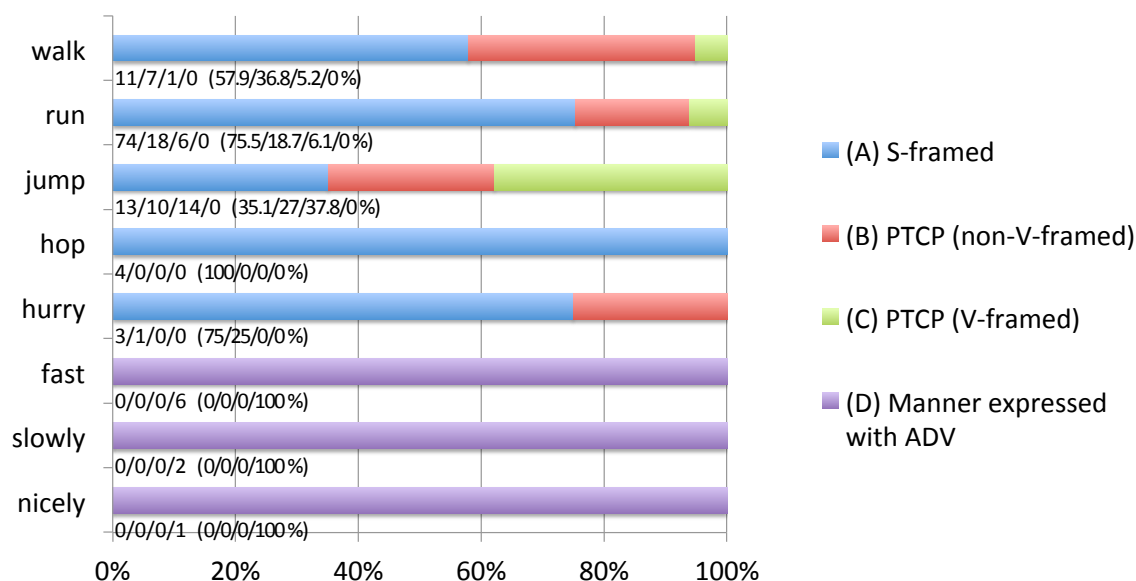in Kupsapiny

Table 1: Frequencies of the converb and manner-instrumental constructions
used for different types of event in Sidaama

	total	Converb construction	Manner-instrumental construction
'walking' events	14 (100%)	4 (28.6%)	10 (71.4%)
'running' events	83 (100%)	7 (8.4%)	76 (91.6%)
'skipping' events	61 (100%)	3 (4.9%)	58 (95.1%)

References
Bohnemeyer, Jürgen, Nicholas J. Enfield, James Essegbey, Iraide Ibarretxe-Antuñano, Sotaro
    Kita, Friederike Lüpke, and Felix K. Ameka. 2007. Principles of event segmentation in
    language: the case of motion events. *Language* 83(3), 495-532.
Croft, William, Jóhanna Barðdal, Willem B. Hollmann, Violeta Sotirova, and Chiaki Taoka.
    2010. Revising Talmy's typological classification of complex event constructions. In
    Boas, Hans. ed. *Contrastive Studies in Construction Grammar*, 201–236. Amsterdam:
    John Benjamins.
Noonan, Michael. 1985. Complementation. In Shopen, Timothy. ed. *Language Typology and
    Syntactic Description, Vol. 2: Complex Constructions*, 42-140. Cambridge: Cambridge
    University Press.