

Abstract

In my presentation, I will deal with morpho-syntactic realization of the notion of the path 'INTO' in German, exploring in what case this particular notion tends to be doubly coded in a sentence and in what case not (Cf. Talmy 1991).

In German, the notion of the path 'INTO' together with its own ground can be expressed with the prepositional phrase headed by *in* 'in/into' as shown in (1). In addition to this, it is also possible to express the same path notion further with the verbal prefix *hinein/herein*, which roughly means 'into'. This yields the pattern as in (2), where the notion of 'INTO' is realized by both a preposition and a verbal prefix in one and the same sentence.

An experimental study reveals that the pattern illustrated by (2) is not attested at random. In a motion event description where the figure moves away from the speaker (= 'GO'-event), the double coding of the 'INTO'-notion is found more frequently than in a motion event description where the figure moves toward the speaker (= 'COME'-event). Considering the fact that the speaker, in general, pays more attention to motion toward himself/herself rather than to motion away from himself/herself, it might be the case that deictic expressions especially in a 'COME'-event description, if any, compete with other notions for a motion event, blocking the additional and rather unnecessary path coding by means of *hinein/herein* (Cf. Matsumoto 2011). In fact, the data collected by the experimental study noted above shows that at least one deictic expression such as *kommen* 'come', *auf mich zu* 'toward me' or *zu mir* 'to me' is found in almost all the motion event descriptions involving both 'COME'- and 'INTO'-notions. In this respect, 'COME'-event descriptions sharply contrast with 'GO'-event ones, where purely deictic expressions do not occur frequently. This does not mean, however, that all the deictic expressions indicating motion toward the speaker are equally relevant for preventing the double path coding in the above sense from taking place. While *hinein/herein* in its additional use is found together with prepositional phrases *auf mich zu* and *zu mir* in many cases, the same verbal prefix rarely co-occurs with the verb *kommen*. Having pointed out this, I will try to explain what the difference between prepositional phrases *auf mich zu* and *zu mir* on the one hand and the verb *kommen* on the other hand results from.

Appendix

- (1) Ein Mann geht in den Pavillon.
a man walks in the pavilion-ACC
“A man walks into the pavilion.”
- (2) Ein Mann geht in den Pavillon hinein.
a man walks in the pavilion-ACC inside
“A man walks into the pavilion.”

References

- Matsumoto, Yo (2011) Typologies of lexicalization patterns and event integration: Clarifications and reformulations. In: Adele Goldberg (ed.) *Cognitive linguistics* (Critical concepts in linguistics), Vol. III, 422–439. London: Routledge.
- Talmy, Leonard (1991) Path to realization: A typology of event conflation. *Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*, 480–519.