

Title: Expressions of motion events in ‘Alle (East Cushitic)

Presentation type: Oral

Abstract:

‘Alle (East Cushitic; Ethiopia) is considered a verb-framed language. There are two constructions of the co-event in motion events, although the main verb expresses the framing event in both cases. One of the constructions is the adverbial gerund that consists of a gerund with an instrumental case-marking suffix, which is syntactically adverbial within a clause of the main verb. The other is use of the consecutive verb, which fully inflects for the person, gender and number but lacks the tense, aspect and mood notions.

In the motion event domain, the adverbial gerund and the consecutive verb are interchangeable, as in the below pair of examples (1-2):

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|-----|--|--------------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| (1) | koʔase | gangalad-e-tta=kki | manne | gala | xull-iti. |
| | ball | roll-INF-INSTR=FOC | house | under | enter-PST.3FS |
| | “A ball rolled into a house. (Lit. By rolling, a ball entered a house.)” | | | | |
| (2) | koʔase | gangalat-ti=pa | manne | gala | xull-i. |
| | ball | roll-PST.3FS=LNK | house | under | enter-CNS.3FS |
| | “A ball rolled into a house. (Lit. A ball rolled and entered a house.)” | | | | |

However, two problems arise when the consecutive verb is used: (a) the sentence with the consecutive verb is considered a multi-clause sentence; and (b) the main verb expresses the co-event while the consecutive the framing event. As a multi-clause sentence, the same sentence (example 2) would be understood that “a ball rolled (as a fact), and it entered a house (but two events are not necessarily simultaneous or happening one after another without gap).”

It can therefore be said that events of the main and the consecutive verbs are less integrated in terms of TALMY (2000). The consecutive verb is comparable in usage to the converbial construction of Sidaama, which is analysed as an expression of event integration (KAWACHI 2012). A key to this issue would be the comparison with Ethiopian converbs that are morphologically finite (with subject marking) but syntactically dependent.

References:

- Kawachi, K. (2012) "Event integration patterns in Sidaama." *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society* 34. 175-186.
- Talmy, L. (2000) *Toward a Cognitive Semantics, Volume II: Typology and process in concept structuring*. Cambridge, MA & London: The MIT Press.