

The Description of Motion Events in Contemporary Spoken Russian:
Data Analysis of Experimental Study

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Following Talmy's classification (1991) of languages into verb-framed and satellite framed languages, the Russian language is considered a satellite-framed language, as well as English, German, Hungarian, etc. However, the Russian language has a lot of unique qualities which are left out of the picture, when the focus is only on the distribution on Manner (M) and Path (P).

Russian data were gathered in the process of the experimental study of the collaborative project "Japanese and the Typology of Linguistic Expressions for Motion Events: A Crosslinguistic Experimental Study with a Focus on Deixis" conducted by NINJAL (National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics), and led by Prof. Matsumoto Yo from Kobe University, Graduate School of Humanities. In the present research we will be following a new approach to the typology of the description of motion events that has been worked out within the framework of the abovementioned NINJAL collaborative project. Thus, we will use the term head-externals instead of the term satellite, etc.

Twenty native speakers of Russian were presented 53 video clips demonstrating different types of motion events. Russian native speakers were asked to describe the motion events in video clips in a natural way, their answers were recorded and later on processed and analyzed.

Our research introduces the analysis of the distribution of Manner-Path-Deixis in Contemporary spoken Russian paying special attention to the problem of Deixis in Contemporary spoken Russian. Since the Russian language does not have an explicit deictic verb pair like English go-come, it finds different ways of expressing Deixis with the help of prefixes and prepositional phrases (see Tables 1 and 2).

In addition, we introduce a new analysis of caused motion data having a deeper insight into how types of causation influence the choice of constructions. Data show that calling caused motion event is different from kicking and carrying caused motion events (see Tables 3, 4).

Present study gives a new perspective on the problem of Deixis expression and distribution in Contemporary spoken Russian, compares the different caused motion events, and thus can contribute cross linguistic analysis of Motion events in different languages within the framework.

Table 1 MPD Distribution in Russian

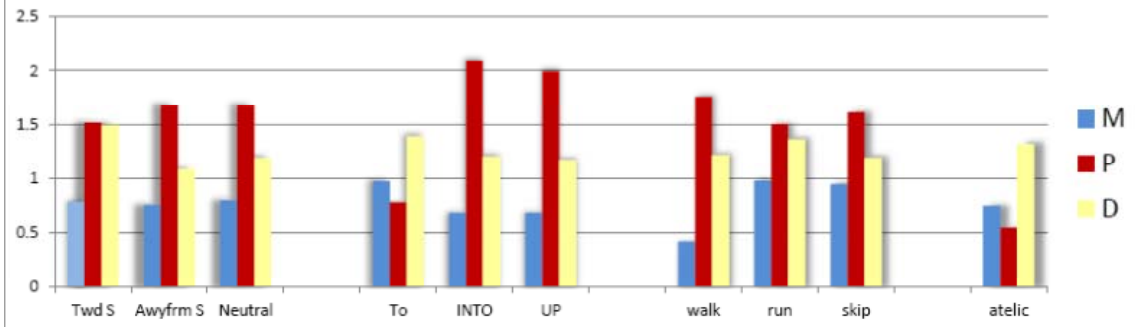


Table 2 Distribution of Deixis in Russian depending on the Location of Speaker

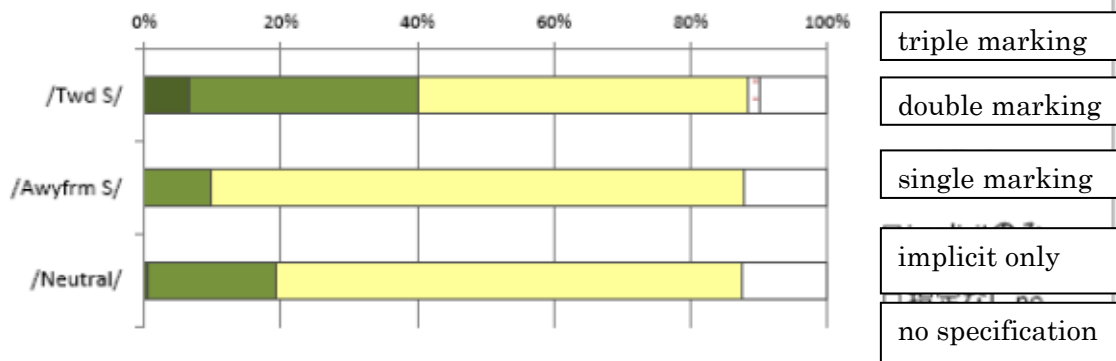


Table 3 Causation in Answers

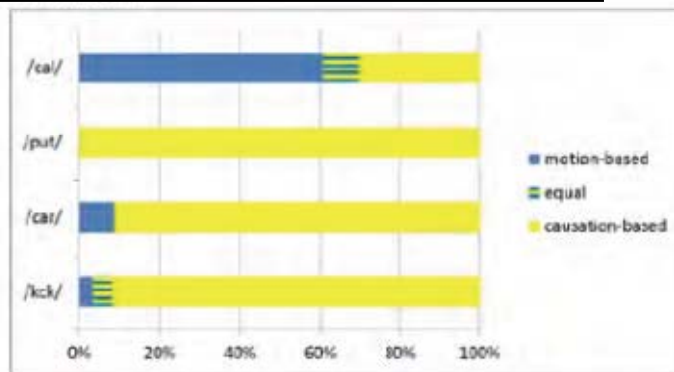


Table 4 Type of Causation and Choice of Construction

