

Talmy: Motion

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Linguistics 795
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2017 Feb

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Features
- 3 Conflation
- 4 Conflation in Other languages
- 5 Conclusion

Talmy's Interdisciplinary Program [p. 22]

- 1 Which meanings (“semantic entities”) are realized by which surface patterns
- 2 Look for typological generalizations
- 3 Look for diachronic generalizations
- 4 Consider potential cognitive generalizations
- 5 Formally defined focus: morphemes, words (root + derivational morpheme) **Verb + satellite**

Satellites

Adpositions, particles, adjectives, and other stuff

- Path in(to), on(to), off(of), up, down, above, below,
 away, past
- Result (cut) open, (flap) dry, (rust) stiff, (wear) thin,
 (freeze) stuck, under(fill), over(hang), re(fill)

Motion

Definition of motion event

A situation containing motion or the continuation of a stationary location.

Components

Figure	The object moving or located with respect to ...
Ground	... the reference object
Path	the path followed or site occupied by the Figure object
Motion	MOVE OR BE _{Loc}

Co-event (Type A Conflation)

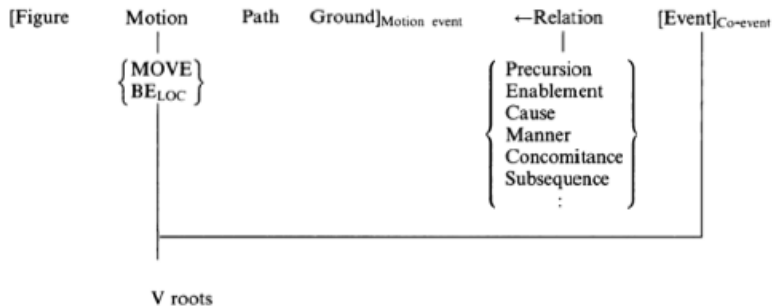
Co-event Examples

	Manner	Cause
Motion	[Fig The pencil] rolled off [Gd the table]	[Fig The pencil] blew off [Gd the table]
Location	[Fig The pencil] lay on [Gd the table]	[Fig The pencil] stuck on [Gd the table]

Conflation

Because each verb stem at once expresses both Motion and the Manner/Cause of the Motion, these examples also illustrate **conflation**, the combination of two semantic elements in single morpheme (or sometimes, word).

Conflation Schema



Co-event conflated in the Motion verb

MOVE + Manner

MOVE + Manner

Nonagentive

- c. The rock *slid/rolled/bounced* down the hill.
- d. The gate *swung/creaked* shut on its rusty hinges.
- e. Smoke *swirled/rushed* through the opening.

Agentive

- f. I *slid/rolled/bounced* the keg into the storeroom.
- g. I *twisted/popped* the cork out of the bottle.

Self-agentive

- h. I *ran/limped/jumped/stumbled/rushed/groped my way* down the stairs.
- i. She *wore* a green dress to the party.

MOVE + Manner (Subordination)

MOVE + Manner

Nonagentive

- c'. The rock rolled down the hill. = [the rock **MOVED** down the hill] **WITH-THE-MANNER-OF** [the rock rolled]
- d'. The gate swung shut on its rusty hinges. = [the gate **MOVED** shut (= the gate shut)] **WITH-THE-MANNER-OF** [the gate swung on its rusty hinges]

Agentive

- f'. I bounced the keg into the storeroom. = I **A****MOVED** the keg into the storeroom] **WITH-THE-MANNER-OF** [I bounced the keg]

Self-agentive

- h'. I ran down the stairs. = [I **WENT** down the stairs] **WITH-THE-MANNER-OF** [I ran]

MOVE + Cause

MOVE + Cause

Nonagentive

- j. The napkin *blew* off the table.
- k. The bone *pulled* loose from its socket.
- l. The water *boiled* down to the midline of the pot.

Agentive

- m. I *pushed*/*threw*/*kicked* the keg into the storeroom.
- n. I *blew*/*flicked* the ant off my plate.
- o. I *chopped*/*sawed* the tree down to the ground at the base.
- p. I *knocked*/*pounded*/*hammered* the nail into the board with a mallet.

MOVE + Cause (Subordination)

MOVE + Cause

Nonagentive

- j'. The napkin blew off the table. = [the napkin **MOVED** off the table] **WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF** [(something) blew on the napkin]
- k'. The bone pulled loose from its socket. = [the bone **MOVED** loose from its socket] **WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF** [(something) pulled on the bone]

Agentive

- m'. I kicked the keg into the storeroom. = [I **A****MOVED** the keg into the storeroom] **WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF** [I kicked the keg]
- o'. I chopped the tree down to the ground at the base. = [I **A****MOVED** the tree down to the ground] **WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF** [I chopped on the tree at the base]

Spanish

How do these facts play out in Spanish?

Floating/Kicking: Consider these paraphrases!

Concept	Example
float ₁ (BE _{Loc} ?)	The craft floated ₁ (= was afloat) on a cushion of air (in the hangar).
MOVE-WITH-MANNER float ₁	The craft moved into the hangar, floating ₁ on a cushion of air. The craft floated ₂ (≠ was afloat) into the hangar.
Kick	I kicked the wall with my left foot. (cf. <i>hit</i>)
CAUSE MOVE-WITH-MANNER kick ₁	I moved the ball across the field, by kicking it with my left foot. I kicked ₂ the ball across the field (with my left foot).

Mandarin example

- (15) a. Wǒ yòng zuó jiǎo tī₁ le yī xià qíang
 I use(-ing) left foot kick PERF one stroke wall
 'I kicked the wall with my left foot.'
- b. Wǒ yòng zuó jiǎo bǎ qiú tī₂ guò le cǎo-chǎng
 I use(-ing) left foot D.O. ball kick across PERF field
 'I kicked the ball across the field with my left foot.'

Predicate Formation

We (with Talmy) conclude English and Mandarin have predicate formation processes that turn motion-activity verbs into motion+path verbs.

Unambiguous verbs

- (17) a. The pen lay on the plank.
b. *The pen lay quickly down along the incline.
- (18) a. *The canoe drifted/glided on that spot of the lake for an hour.
b. The canoe drifted/glided halfway across the lake.

One verb allows only a conflating semantics. The other does not allow conflation. Which is which? Discuss *hold*, *carry*

Spanish *float* I

(29) *Spanish expressions of Motion (nonagentive) with conflation of Path*

- a. La botella entró a la cueva (flotando)
the bottle **MOVED-in** to the cave (floating)
“The bottle floated into the cave.”
- b. La botella salió de la cueva (flotando)
the bottle **MOVED-out** from the cave (floating)
“The bottle floated out of the cave.”

Spanish *float* II

- c. La botella pasó por la piedra (flotando)
 the bottle MOVED-by past the rock (floating)
 "The bottle floated past the rock."
- d. La botella pasó por el tubo (flotando)
 the bottle MOVED-through through the pipe (floating)
 "The bottle floated through the pipe."
- e. El globo subió por la chimenea (flotando)
 the balloon MOVED-up through the chimney (floating)
 "The balloon floated up the chimney."
- f. El globo bajó por la chimenea (flotando)
 the balloon MOVED-down through the chimney (floating)
 "The balloon floated down the chimney."

Spanish *float* III

- g. La botella se fué de la orilla (flotando)
 the bottle MOVED-away from the bank (floating)
 “The bottle floated away from the bank.”
- h. La botella volvió a la orilla (flotando)
 the bottle MOVED-back to the bank (floating)
 “The bottle floated back to the bank.”
- i. La botella le dió vuelta a la isla (flotando)
 the bottle to-it gave turn to the island (floating)
 (= ‘MOVED around’)
 “The bottle floated around the island.”
- j. La botella cruzó el canal (flotando)
 the bottle MOVED-across the canal (floating)
 “The bottle floated across the canal.”

Spanish *float* IV

- l. La botella andaba en el canal (flotando)
the bottle MOVED-about in the canal (floating)
“The bottle floated around the canal.”
- m. Las dos botellas se juntaron (flotando)
the two bottles MOVED-together (floating)
“The two bottles floated together.”
- n. Las dos botellas se separaron (flotando)
the two bottles MOVED-apart (floating)
“The two bottles floated apart.”

Spanish conflation?

se fue de	move -away
volvio a	move -back
dio vuelta a	move -around
cruso	move -across
andaba en	move -about
se juntaron	move -together
se separon	move -apart

Type B Conflation

Typological Pattern for Spanish

2.2 Motion + Path

In the second typological pattern for the expression of motion, the verb root at once expresses both the fact of Motion and the Path. If a Co-event of Manner or Cause is expressed in the same sentence, it must be as an independent, usually adverbial or gerundive type constituent. In many languages—for example, Spanish—such a constituent can be stylistically awkward, so that information about Manner or Cause is often either established in the surrounding discourse or omitted altogether. In any case, it is not indicated by the main verb root itself. Rather, languages of this type have a whole series of surface verbs that express motion along various paths. This conflation pattern can be represented schematically as in the accompanying diagram.

Questions

- 1 Does the Spanish pattern extend to caused-motion?
- 2 How do *put* and *take* enter into the discussion?
- 3 Discuss the importance of the following example with respect to English path-incorporation: *I twisted the cork **out of/ into** the bottle.*
- 4 Give some examples of English path incorporation verbs:
- 5 Are there any other languages of this type besides Spanish?

put/take English v. Spanish

Table 1.1

Spanish 'putting' verbs, differing according to distinctions of Path (A = Agent, F = Figure object, G = Ground object)

A poner F en G	A put F onto G
A meter F a G	A put F into G
A subir F a G	A put F up (on)to G
A juntar F ₁ y F ₂	A put F ₁ and F ₂ together
A quitar F de G	A take F off G
A sacar F de G	A take F out of G
A bajar F de G	A take F down from G
A separar F ₁ y F ₂	A take F ₁ and F ₂ apart

Aske (1989)

- (7) **Juan bailó en círculos/de un lado para otro/hacia la puerta/hasta la puerta**
"John danced in circles(=around)/from one place to another(=about)/ towards the door/(all the way) to the door"
- (8) **La botella flotó hacia la cueva**
"The bottle floated towards the cave"
- (9) **El libro se deslizó hasta el suelo**
"The book slid down to the floor"
- (10) **Mi ejercicio consiste en caminar a la biblioteca dos veces al día**
"My exercise consists of walking to the library twice a day"
- (11) **La pelota rodó desde el tercer piso hasta el segundo**
"The ball rolled from the third floor to the second floor"
- (12) **La botella flotó por el canal**
"The bottle floated along/about the canal"
- (13) **Empujamos el coche cuesta arriba**
"We pushed the car up (the) hill"
- (14) **El globo flotó p'arriba, p'abajo, p'adentro y luego p'afuera**
"The balloon floated up, down, in, and then out"

Aske's Generalization

It seems that activity/manner verbs that strongly imply motion work best with the English-pattern, whether **intransitive**, e.g. correr, 'run', nadar, 'swim', rodar, 'roll', and even flotar, 'float', or **transitive/causative**, e.g. arrastrar, 'drag', empujar, 'push', rodar, 'roll'. Somewhat worse seem to be verbs in which the manner of the activity is more salient, e.g. cojear, 'limp', and saltar, 'jump', etc. Finally, verbs that do not imply motion do not seem to work at all. Thus we do not get in Spanish the equivalent of, e.g., *They squeezed through the crack*, *I twisted the cork out of the bottle*, or *I grabbed the book off the shelf*.

Type C Conflation

2.3 Motion + Figure

In the third major typological pattern for the expression of Motion, the verb expresses the fact of Motion together with the Figure. Languages with this as their characteristic pattern have a whole series of surface verbs that express various kinds of objects or materials as moving or located. This conflation type can be represented schematically as in the accompanying diagram.

- (i) It rained in through the window.
- (ii) I spat into the cuspidor.
- (iii) The rain [_v ?] through the window.
- (iv) The mud [_v ?] through the crack under the door.
- (v) The ash [_v ?] onto their upturned faces.
- (vi) The snake [_v ?] out the door.

The Schema

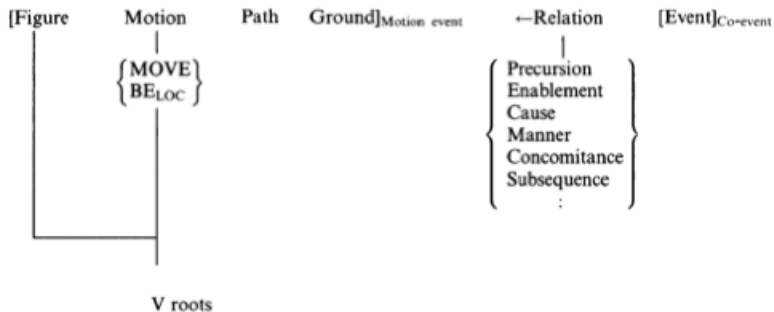


Figure conflated in the Motion verb

Atsugewi

(35) *Atsugewi verb roots of motion with conflated Figure*

- lup- 'for a small shiny spherical object (e.g., a round candy, an eyeball, a hailstone) to move/be-located'
- i- 'for a smallish planar object that can be functionally affixed (e.g., a stamp, a clothing patch, a button, a shingle, a cradle's sunshade) to move/be-located'
- caq- 'for a slimy lumpish object (e.g., a toad, a cow dropping) to move/be-located'
- swal- 'for a limp linear object suspended by one end (e.g., a shirt on a clothesline, a hanging dead rabbit, a flaccid penis) to move/be-located'
- qput- 'for loose dry dirt to move/be-located'
- staq- 'for runny icky material (e.g., mud, manure, rotten tomatoes, guts, chewed gum) to move/be-located'

Constructing an Atsugewi clause I

(36) *Atsugewi expressions of motion with conflated Figure*

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| a. <i>Locative suffix</i> | -ik· | ‘on the ground’ |
| <i>Cause prefix</i> | uh- | ‘from “gravity” (an object’s own weight) acting on it’ |
| <i>Inflectional affix set</i> | ’- w- -ʰ | ‘3rd person–subject; factual mood’ |

[’-w-uh-staḡ-ik-ʰ] ⇒ [wṵstaḡik·a]

Literal: ‘Runny icky material is located on the ground from its own weight acting on it.’

Instantiated: “Guts are lying on the ground.”

Constructing an Atsugewi clause II

b. <i>Directional suffix</i>	-içt	'into liquid'
<i>Cause prefix</i>	ca-	'from the wind blowing on the Figure'
<i>Inflectional affix set</i>	'- w- -ʰ	'3rd person–subject, factual mood'

/'-w-ca-stač-içt-ʰ/ ⇒ [čwastačičta]

Literal: 'Runny icky material moved into liquid from the wind blowing on it.'

Instantiated: "The guts blew into the creek."

Constructing an Atsugewi clause III

c. <i>Directional suffix</i>	-cis	'into fire'
<i>Cause prefix</i>	cu-	'from a linear object, moving axially, acting on the Figure.'
<i>Inflectional affix set</i>	s- ' - w- - ^a	'I-subject (3rd person- object), factual mood'

/s-'-w-cu-stač-cis-^a/ ⇒ [sčustáčc^ha]

Literal: 'I caused it that runny icky material move into fire by acting on it with a linear object moving axially.'

Instantiated: "I prodded the guts into the fire with a stick."

Hey, where are the nouns?

The broad picture: MOVE +

Languages differ greatly with respect to what they can express in one clause when describing motion. Co-event below refers to Cause/Manner (manner is a separated subordinated event).

A. Coevent	B. Path	C. Figure
most of IE	Romance	Northern Hokan
Chinese	Tamil	Navaho
Finno-Ugric	Polynesian	
Ojibwa	Nez-Perce	
Warlpiri	Semitic	
	Japanese	
	Korean	

Aske's issue

Run is certainly a manner of motion verb, in the same sense that Talmy intends *float* to be, but *correr* (= *run*) takes (some) paths. In fact, so does *flotar*.

Constructions

- 1 Verbs that Talmy has called motion verbs: *rain, blow, fork, wave, scare, float, ...*
- 2 An alternative view: The language has various *motion* related **constructions** which can be imposed onto various verbs, allowing them to be used in sentences entailing motion, e.g., Goldberg's Goldberg (1995) Caused Motion Construction.
- 3 On the constructionist view, the difference between English and Spanish is **not** a Lexicalization Pattern but the availability of a certain construction.
- 4 The **broad** use of motion verb may obscure English's genuine obsession with manner incorporation (English *walk* verbs: *walk, saunter, trudge, limp, amble, hike, tiptoe*, cf. Japanese *aruku*)

Aske, Jon. 1989.

Path predicates in english and spanish.

In *BLS 15*, 1–14.

Goldberg, Adele. 1995.

Constructions: A Construction Grammar Approach to Argument Structure.

Chicago: University of Chicago Press.