

Lexicalization Typology and Event Structure Templates : Toward Isomorphic Mapping between Macroevent and Syntactic Structures

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This thesis is concerned with explicating the lexicalization of motion events in terms of scale-based event structure templates. First, we argue that Talmy's well-known typological dichotomy between satellite-framed and verb-framed languages should be superseded by the view that verb-framed lexicalization is universal and thus in principle possible in almost all languages, whereas satellite-framed lexicalization is made possible by an add-on module included only in satellite-framed languages. Then we examine event structure templates proposed by Beth Levin and Malka Rappaport Hovav. They have recently characterized them by scalar and non-scalar changes. Given this, we integrate the two types of changes with the process of event coidentification, which is proposed by them to express the semantic conflation between manner of motion verbs and goal prepositional phrases. We further incorporate the result into the configuration of Talmy's motion macroevent. Finally, we buttress our argument with examples from novels and their translations.

Overall, we have reached the following conclusions: (i) In the case of verb-framed expressions, the configuration of the macroevent is isomorphic to the syntactic structure, whereas, in the satellite-framed pattern, the components of the macroevent are related but not isomorphic to the syntactic constituents. This suggests that verb-framed expressions are linguistically more basic than satellite-framed ones. (ii) Satellite-framed lexicalization needs an add-on conceptual apparatus to the basic verb-framed lexicalization ubiquitous in the language system, and is therefore limited to the languages traditionally classified as satellite-framed. The apparatus is the mechanism of event coidentification, which is a scale addition, and can be regarded as an instantiation of the structuring function the framing event exercises over the subordinate event. (iii) By event coidentification, the framing event loses its status as a discrete semantic entity and is integrated into the subordinate event, which in turn is mapped isomorphically onto syntactic structure.