ENCODING PATH IN MOTION EVENTS: BOUNDARY-CROSSING AS A RELEVANT TYPOLOGICAL CRITERION

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Talmy's seminal work on motion events representation in languages that lead to significant typological distinctions is primarily based on the differences in encoding (framing) of the Path, as one of the basic semantic components of such events, either in the V(erb stem) or in the S(atellite) - which accounts for the proposed typological language dichotomy V-framed (VLs) and S-framed languages (SLs). Although the above distinction is a very important one, having implication at the level of syntactic structure, crosslinguistic data indicate to some variations that further prompted researchers to question a clearcut binary typological opposition. Thus, more thorough data from Romance languages (besides Spanish, French and Italian) lead to re-considering their status as VLs and rather considering them belonging to the third class of "split" languages (Talmy). The paper analyzes the place of Romanian in this typological classification, including through making observation on the Path representation in motion events in contrasted narrative texts translated from English (a SL) into Romanian. The hypothesis is that Romanian might claim a mixed typological status, eventually belonging to the class of "split" languages based on the assumption that, first, it is not so poor in manner of motion verbs (MmV) as it is presumably the case of VLs (see the alternative labels sometimes attached to SLs vs. VLs, respectively - manner-rich vs. manner-poor languages) and, second, it does not exclude the possibility of using complex Path (particularly boundary-crossing, which can serve as a test to determine the typological class of language) as satellite to a MmV (e.g. a ţâșnit de după perdea 'rushed from behind the curtain', a lunecat de pe acoperis 'slipped from (on) the roof'). In this respect, the nature of the second preposition is discussed.