Revisiting Talmy’s Framing Typology

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Speaker 1: Kimi Akita (Osaka University)
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Speaker 3: Ryan Spring (Tohoku University)

Talmy’s (1985, 1991, 1996) proposal that languages across the world can be divided into two major types: verb-framed and satellite-framed languages, is one of the most intriguing proposals in cognitive approaches to linguistic typology. In so-called satellite-framed languages like English, motion events are typically expressed in terms of MANNER verbs combined with PATH denoting satellites, as in John walked to school. In verb-framed languages like Japanese, the same motion events are typically expressed via verbs denoting both MOTION and PATH (e.g. iku “go”) with the MANNER component encoded elsewhere, such as in subsidiary verbs in participial form (e.g. aruku “walk”), as in Taro-wa gakko-ni aruite it-ta “Taro walked to school”.

Talmy’s typology of event-framing patterns has been studied from many different angles. For example, proposals have been made that a third type of language, equipollent-framed languages, should be included in the above dichotomy (Slobin 1996), that the distinction between the verb and the satellite has been reconstructed from the difference between head and non-head constituents (Matsumoto 2003), and that the typology arises not from distinct language types, but from the inventory of lexical resources for encoding different lexicalization patterns (Beavers et al. 2010). There is also ample research in the realm of second language acquisition to show the validity of the effect of framing differences on speakers across distinct language types (Cadierno 2008).

This workshop aims to discuss some of the important issues that arise from recent research trends concerning the cross-linguistic typology of event framing. The workshop starts with the organizer’s introduction to the framing typology and some relevant theoretical and empirical problems, and is then followed by three presentations dealing with independent but cross-related topics. After all of the papers are presented, the commentator will make remarks about the papers and raise questions to promote discussion with the audience.

Summaries of the papers to be presented in the workshop follow below.

Speaker 1: Kimi Akita (Osaka University)
Manner and the Framing Typology

The majority of studies in the framing typology has been concerned with how each language encodes framing information, such as path of motion, in a clause. The typology of manner
expressions appears to be correlated with the framing typology (Wienold 1995), but only to some extent (Matsumoto 2003/2011; Beavers et al. 2010). The present study focuses on prototypicality of manner (“Manner-Concomitance” continuum in Talmy 1991, 2000) as another essential factor in manner typology (cf. Slobin 1997; Croft et al. 2010). The relevance of prototypicality will be discussed for three facets of the typology of manner-of-motion expressions: lexicalization patterns (whether a type of manner can be encoded in the verb), event integration (whether a manner verb can cooccur with a path satellite), and manner salience (what kind of morphosyntactic realization is preferred for a type of manner). Importantly, the proposed generalizations are expected to hold across framing types. The present discussion thus stresses the significance of fine-grained, encyclopedic semantics in a cognitive typology (cf. Iwata 2002; Boas 2008).

Speaker 2: Tamayo Saito (Tohoku University)

**Semantic Focus in the Framing Typology**

The premise of this presentation is that semantic focus in sentence constructions affects where languages fall in Talmy’s (1985) typology. I claim that satellite-framed expressions are result-focused and that verb-framed expressions are action-focused. This semantic focus is a by-product of the interaction of several factors such as: figure and ground (Talmy 1978), assertion and presupposition (Levinson 1983), deletion principle of discourse (Kuno 1982), profile determinant (Langacker 2008), and information structure (Fukuchi 1985). When the culmination of these principles is applied to Talmy’s typology, we can see that the semantic focus tends to be placed on action in verb-framed sentences and on result in satellite-framed sentences.

Speakers select framing patterns depending on whether they choose to emphasize action or result, which explains why a single language has both framing patterns available to it.

Speaker 3: Ryan Spring (Tohoku University)

**Talmy’s Typology and Second Language Acquisition**

Several studies on the acquisition of second language motion event framing have been conducted (Cadierno 2004, Inagaki 2002, Navarro and Nicoladis 2005, amongst others). Some studies have focus on language production (Cadierno 2004, Spring and Horie 2013, etc.) while others have focused on language comprehension (Inagaki 2001, 2002). This talk will report on some of the major findings in the field of second language framing acquisition and compare and contrast the results to show the similarities and differences in the effects on second language production and second language comprehension. It will also examine some new research, conducted by the author, which indicates similar results in the second language acquisition of change-of-state events. In examining these studies, I conclude that Talmy’s typology has an influence on the second language acquisition of both motion events and change-of-state events and that it affects both second
language production and comprehension, although in slightly different ways.

References


