

## **Manner verbs: a first attempt at a lexical typology**

oral / poster

Lexical typology has become an increasingly important subfield of typology in the last two decades (for a recent overview see Koptjevskaja-Tamm et al. 2007). In this paper, we try to contribute to subfield by this presenting some initial results of a study on the lexicalization of manner in five different semantic verbal domains: motion (*run, fly*), placement (*shovel, wipe*), perception (*glare, squint*), eating and drinking (*gorge, nibble*), and communication (*screech, groan*).

The most well-studied of these semantic domains is that of motion verbs, from which we know that so-called satellite-framed languages, such as English, German, and Dutch, commonly use manner of motion verbs such as 'walk' and 'crawl' (Talmy 1991, Slobin 1996), while so-called verb-framed languages, such as French and Spanish, do not commonly use this type of verb. Some efforts have been made to compare the semantic domain of motion to that of perception (Slobin 2008), although the emphasis has not yet been on verbs.

In this paper, we present some preliminary results on the lexicalization of manner in these different semantic domains for English, Dutch, and French. The data come from a parallel corpus of *Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (by J. K. Rowling). We focus on the following questions:

1. Do English and Dutch, which commonly use manner verbs to encode motion, commonly use manner verbs in semantic domains other than motion?
2. Does French, which does not commonly use manner verbs to encode motion, show the same tendency in the other semantic domains?
3. Are there any differences between the various semantic domains in terms of size, i.e. do some domains feature more manner verbs than others?
4. Are there any differences between the various semantic domains in terms of lexical structure, i.e. are there some concepts that are always lexicalized while others are only lexicalized in individual languages?

While the emphasis of the paper is on an across-domain comparison of manner verbs in these three different languages, efforts are made to address issues which will be relevant for the study of manner lexicalization on a much wider scale. Our ultimate goal is to study manner lexicalization in more languages, using specially designed questionnaires.

Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Maria, Martine Vanhove & Peter Koch (2007). Typological approaches to lexical semantics. *Linguistic Typology* 11: 159-185.

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