Location events in Danish-Turkish bilingual language contact

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Abstract

Talmy defines motion events as situations "containing movement or the maintenance of a stationary location" (1985: 85). Talmyan (1991, 2000) typology divides languages into satellite-framed ("S-languages") and verb-framed ("V-languages"). The former expresses the semantic components of the motion event, Motion and Manner, conflated in the verb, and the Path in a satellite. Typology focuses on the means of expression of the path of movement. In V-languages path is expressed by the main verb in a clause ('enter', 'exit', 'ascend', etc.), whereas in S-languages path is expressed by an element associated with the verb ('go in/out/up', etc.).

Expression of location compose of one object (Figure) dynamic or static with conform to another object (reference object or Ground). Location event designates the Figure with respect to the Ground (i.e. *the book is on the table*). And languages differ from each other with respect to the designation of location event either centering on the manner of verb or on the objects and the end-states of motion. The former is a typical of Danish as an S-language and it make use of several verbs for location events. On the other hand, the latter is characteristic of V- languages like Turkish, which encodes location in the periphery of the verb (see Talmy 1985, 2000).

First, this study aims to reveal what are the differences between Danish and Turkish bilinguals and monolinguals in the expression of location events. Secondly, it aims to explicate whether these differences can be interpreted as language change. Thirdly, it tries to find out how to interpret the data in typological perspective. Besides, the study aims to reveal to whether extra-linguistic factors such as age, gender, the size of the speech community and/or the time spent in either of the languages play any role in the location events regarding the bilinguals.

Data for the analysis have been gathered through a picture based elicitation in a picture questionnaire developed by Bernhard Wälchli. The informants are native speakers and bilinguals from different ages and cities in Denmark - Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense- and Turkey – Adiyaman-. Bilingual informants were asked to use Danish in the first round and Turkish in the second round. The written data have been glossed using Excel and then manually entered into Access for the analysis.

The main verb for each picture has been extracted from the informants' answers. Other linguistic devices such as adverbs, converbs, prepositions and postpositions encoding information on path and manner have been extracted. Then the data is analyzed according to the frequency of occurrence of the verbs describing the location event in each picture. And then together with Simpsons' Diversity index, a cluster analysis taking into account frequency of occurrence of a verb is carried out so as to get an overview of which verbs can be used for which picture. And lastly, the results have been interpreted according to the extra-linguistic factors such as age, gender, the size of the speech community and/or the time spent in either of the languages.

Keywords: *location events, bilingualism, language contact, bilingual typology, bilingual corpus*