

**Scramble, scurry, and dash: correlated evolution between
motion event encoding and the size of the manner verb class.**

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Languages allow their speakers to talk about motion in different ways (Talmy 1985, Slobin 2004). The analysis of motion event encoding has mostly been concerned with syntactic differences between motion event construction types, such as satellite-framed and verb-framed constructions. However, the lexical semantics of the words used in these constructions, as well as their potential relationship with the motion event construction types, is an interesting avenue of investigation in its own right.

Slobin (2004) proposed that if a language becomes more manner-salient, i.e., when there is an increase in the usage of constructions which feature manner expressions, speakers of that language will elaborate the domain of manner expressions. This would involve that many more new manner expressions, such as manner verbs, adverbial expressions or ideophones, come into existence. These manner expressions are predicted to have more and more specific semantics (such as the English verbs ‘scramble’, ‘scurry’, and ‘dash’). In this paper, a first attempt at answering the following question derived from Slobin’s (2004) claim will be presented: do languages which use more satellite-framed constructions (in which the main verb of the sentence is a manner verb) also have a larger class of manner verbs?

The data are taken from a parallel corpus of translated motion events from three literary works: *Alice’s adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass and what Alice found there*, both by Lewis Carroll, and *O Alquimista* by Paulo Coelho. Included in this corpus are twenty-one Indo-European languages (English, Dutch, German, Swedish, Portuguese, Italian, French, Russian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Irish, Breton, Greek, Armenian, Albanian, Hindi, Nepali, Persian, and Kurdish). The use of a parallel corpus enables access to a maximally comparable data set on the motion event constructions used by these different languages. At the same time, this dataset can be used to assess the manner verb inventory in each language.

Bayesian phylogenetic comparative methods will be used to model both changes in the encoding of motion events and in manner verb class size by mapping the variability found in both of these variables onto a set of phylogenetic trees of Indo-European. These methods are then used to track the mostly likely evolutionary changes each of the variables has undergone. They allow us to formally investigate whether it is more likely that change in manner verb inventory size is dependent on an increase in the use of satellite-framed strategies, or whether it is more likely in this case that the lexical domain develops separately from the syntactical domain. Some first results indicate that there is indeed a correlation between an increased use of satellite-framed constructions and a bigger class of manner verbs. However, other factors seem to be involved as well. The correlation between an increase in the use of satellite-framed constructions and an increase in the number of manner verbs, as well as other factors that potentially influence the size of the manner verb inventory, will be fully assessed in this paper.

**Information structuring by multilingual speakers:
code-switching as a marker of topic-comment or focus-background.**

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Information structure refers to how linguistic resources in a clause reflect what, according to the speaker, the addressee already knows (Lambrecht 1994; Erteschik-Shir 1997). These resources may highlight, amongst others, the distinction between the referent that the proposition is about (topic) and new information conveyed about that particular referent (comment). In addition, they may also mark the distinction between the referent that the addressee supposedly least expects (focus) and the other referents in the proposition (background).

Speakers have been found to organize both topic-comment and focus-background through a range of linguistic resources (Vallduví & Engdahl 1996; Erteschik-Shir 2007), such as word order and prosody. By contrast, code-switching has been understudied as an information structuring element. Code-switching is defined as the locally meaningful “juxtaposition of two languages within one speech exchange” (Auer 1999), such as in the *Spanish-English* clause *Además yo no soy head of year* [‘Besides I am not head of year.’] (Moyer 1998: 230). This paper wants to bridge the above-mentioned gap by investigating the relationship between code-switching and information structure, and more in