REGULATIONS ON USE

Stephen C. Levinson and Asifa Majid

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Background
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Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics
P.O. Box 310, 6500 AH, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

QUESTIONNAIRE: Space in Australian Languages, ALI.

Note:

(i) this questionnaire is necessarily angled by limited knowledge about limited languages; please note any interesting distinctions we haven't fished for!

(ii) it is likely you can only fill in part without a major research effort; please in the first instance be content to return with 'UA' wherever you current records suggest 'unattested'.

Please return to:

Steve Levinson, Cognitive Anthropology, Max PLanck Institute of Psycholinguistics, PB 310 NL-6500 AH, Nijmegen,

Netherlands (Fax: 0031 80 521300; email: cogant@mpi.nl)

Name of respondent: Address:

E-mail:

Name of Language: Location:

Published sources:

QUESTIONS

1. Questions words: how many distinctions?

whence?

whither?

where-at?

which-cardinal-direction?

which-PATH?

others:

2. Local Cases: how many (show conflations with brackets)?

locative
allative

ablative
superadjacent ('on')
abessive (into presence of person)
addessive (out of presence of)
inessive (in the presence of)
perlative (through, along, over)
origin (originating from)

Does the Locative show favoured specialized intepretations? e.g.

'car-LOC' = 'in the car'
'table-LOC' = 'on top of the table'
'wall-LOC' = '(vertically) on the wall'

see also below: Topological Notions

3. Local Deixis

+Dative, +Allative, + Ablative?

'here'
'there'
'yonder'
'there-cardinal-direction'

'this'
'that'
'that-yonder'
'that-cardinal-direction'

Is basis of distinction +/- proximal to Speaker, or proximal to Speaker vs. proximal to Addressee?

Are there gestural deictics like:

'voila!'
'thus'

Is there marking of height relative to speaker in demonstratives and deictic adverbs?

Is there marking of 'upriver'/'downriver' in demonstratives, etc.?

Are there deictics marking +/-visibility?

+/-audibility?

+/-other evidentiality?

Other interesting points:

4. Motion verbs

4.1 deictic sets

intransitives:

'go'
'come'
  can you say 'I'm coming (to where you are)'?
'return+here'
'return+there'
'pass+through'
'go & return'
 other, e.g. 'go+to+homebase'

transitives:

'take'
'bring'
(are these compounds, e.g. 'carry+go'?)

4.2 lexicalization patterns:

The question here is what is the most typical pattern (e.g. Engl. exit is untypical) conflation of MOTION + PATH (Spanish pattern) (take as paradigm case, e.g.

'the fly crawled up/down the wall',

'the fly crawled in/out of/past/through/across/along the box')

e.g. 'exit'

   'enter'

   'ascend'

   'descend'

   'pass'

   'traverse'

Others?

Nb possibility of serial verb constructions of the type

'crawl-ascend-go'

conflation of MOTION + MANNER (English pattern)

(here attend to possible contrast completive/incompletive, e.g. 'run towards the store' may be realized as 'run towards', while 'run to the store' may be lexicalized as 'enter running'

   'run (to the store)'
   'jump (into the box)'
   'float (across the river)'
   'hop', 'swim', 'sail' etc.

conflation of MOTION + FIGURE (many Amerindian languages)

   'move (of long thin thing)'
   'be located (of spherical object)'
   etc.

4.3 Do motion verbs have special syntactic roles?

4.3.1 Associated Motion (Koch, Wilkins)

e.g. 'speak coming-back' where the motion verb carries full lexical content typically understood as a while-clause, but is integrated into verb phrase like an auxiliary. If the category exists, what verbs are in opposition?

'do coming'
'do going back'
'do coming back'
'do downwards/ do upwards'
'do and then go' /'go and then do'

4.3.2 Motion verbs as auxiliaries

Where the motion component may be getting semantically bleached, in favour of intentional/aspectual intepretations e.g. 'go & do' meaning 'intend to do/will do'

4.3.3 Motion verbs in serial verb constructions?

(see also 4.2)

5. Abolute Directions (Cardinal Directions, up/down)

5.1 The roots

Is there a special sub-part of speech?   e.g. nominals with understood Locative case? Please give root forms, and correct the gloss:

'north'
'south'
'east'
'west'
'up'
'down'

Do 'up/down' terms form part of same set?

Basis for directions, if known (e.g. skewed compass points in line with coast, or river systems or whatever);

Is a cardinal direction conceived of as a point, or an edge along the horizon (or a quadrant)?

Tests -- can one say:

'south-ish' or 'not quite south'? (implying 'point')
'true south' (implying 'point')
'south (while gesturing SW)' (implying 'edge')
'South-West' (perhaps implying points?)
'West' or equally 'South' of same SW direction (implying edge)

5.2 Inflections on Cardinal Direction roots:

5.2.1 Cases:

+ABL?

+ALL?

+LOC?

+ADDessive?

+ABESSive?

Others

Can these cases compound with Genitives, Ergatives etc.:

e.g. 'that of the West-one'

   'done by the West-one'

Can the origo or reference point be made explicit ('north of the tree'? If so, what Case does the reference point take?

5.2.2. 'Modifiers': affixes that modulate meaning

Distance:

'right here'

'over there'

'far away'

Aspectual:

'focus on start-point'

'focus on end-point'

'focus on vector'

Visibility:

Others:

5.3 Derivations (see Evans MS re Kayardild for ideas here)

5.3.1 Reduplications: what meanings?

e.g. 'west-westward' may mean 'a bit west'

5.3.2 'side'/'edge' or 'end' derivations

e.g. 'on the northern-side'

   'at the northern end' (of e.g. beach)

5.3.3 'boundary' (Kayardild: 'exiting' vs. 'entering')

5.3.4 vectors: '(continuously) heading X-wards'

5.3.5 combination with verbalizers:

imperative: (cf. Furby on Garawa) 'move West!'

'he moved West' (intransitive)

'he moved it West' (transitive)

'turn to the West'

'look West' etc.

5.3.6 combination with deictics/determiners:

'this+Western+thing'

'the+Western X'

5.3.7 Wind-names, or other meteorogical phenomena

i.e. nominals formed from cardinal direction words

5.4 Functions

Can Cardinal Direction nominals also act (without derivation) as adjectives or determiners? Thus: 'west-LOC house-LOC' = 'in the western house'

5.5 Distinct Usages of cardinal directions

Usages vary in whether origo (center of compass rose as it were) is placed on speaker (deictic), on narrative protagonist (shifted), on designated objects, places or points. Pure motion or alignment describes an angle without a fixed terrestrial origo (e.g. wind directions). Finally, expect some 'frozen' usages, whereby e.g. 'the Western one' designates X by reference to past associations rather than present locations.

5.5.1 Deictic: 'north (of me)'

5.5.2 Shifted in narrative: 'north (of him then)'

5.5.3 Shifted to places/objects: 'north of the tree'

5.5.4 Vector of motion: 'the boat headed northwards' (no origo)

5.5.5 Frozen reference:

e.g. some socially salient place may be called 'north' etc. regardless of location of speaker. Is the use of cardinal directions grammatically obligatory in any context? (e.g. with motion verbs, determiners?) Is the use of cardinal directions overwhelmingly prominent in certain loci (e.g.with descriptions of motion rather than location?). Any idea of textual frequency?

6. Other ways of describing angles on the horizontal plane

6.1 Left/Right

What are the words for, and what other meanings do they have (e.g. 'correct', 'strong', 'weak' etc.): 'left-hand'; 'right-hand'.

Are there expressions like:

'to my left/right'

'to your left/right'

'at the truck's left'

'turn left'

'the pig is to the left of the tree'

Apart from humans, what animals and objects (like vehicles) have intrinsic right/left sides?

If there are expressions like 'to the left of the house', what do they mean?

(i) 'to the left of the house in my field of vision'

(ii) 'left from the point of view of the house' (or as if standing in the doorway looking out)

6.2 Designated facets of objects

Can one assign named sides to objects, then project regions from them? as in e.g.

'in front of the man/

      the store/

      the tree'

'to the front of the procession/

           queue'

'behind the man/

    the store/

    the tree'

'at the end of the procession/

      queue'

'to the side of the man/

      the store/

      the tree'

NB: humans, animals, trucks etc. may have clear fronts/backs; buildings, desks, tables may not be perceived to; trees, rocks, mountains are likely to have fronts, backs, sides, etc. only by reference to angle of view (but not always! e.g. trees may lean backwards!).

Please comment on these features, if relevant.

Alignment vs. Facing Strategy:

If you say 'the cat is in front of the tree' do you mean 'the cat is between me and the tree' or 'the cat is on the far side of the tree from me'?

7.0 Topological/Geometrical Notions

Assuming no prepositions, how do the so-called 'topological' and geometrical spatial notions get encoded? Some Australian languages have a limited set of 'positional' nominals (Evans), encoding 'in', 'on', 'near', etc. Others may use body-part metaphors. (If so, please indicate which expressions are such. If 'back' is involved, does it have human i.e. vertical or animal i.e. horizontal, prototype?)

For each of the following notions, there is likely to be a distinction between static (location) and dynamic (motion) interpretations (e.g. German prepositions take different cases for 'put on X' vs 'lies on X'). For example, 'go alongside' may be expressed with Comitative case, 'be alongside' simply with Locative.

7.1 'Topological' (Contact) Notions

How does one express:

SURFACE CONTACT & HORIZONTAL SUPPORT:

'Put the pot on table'
'the pot is on the table'

ABOVE (without support)

'the bird flew over the tree'
'the kite is above the tree' 'light above the table'

UNDER

'the cat ran under the table'
'the cat is under table'
'the chewing gum is stuck under the table'

CONTAINMENT

'the cat ran inside the box'
'the cat is inside the box'
'the fish is in the lake'

'the calf is inside the cow'

PARTIAL CONTAINMENT

'the cigarette is in his mouth'
'the spoon is in the cup'
'the key is in the door'

HANGING:

'Hang the clothes on the line'
'the apple is hanging on the tree'

PROJECTING

'the knob is on the door'
'the handle on the pan is broken'

MARKS ON SURFACE

'the writing on the paper'
'the footprints on the beach'
'the scars on his face'

ADHESION

'the stamp on the letter'
'the label on the bottle'
'dust on the wall'
'blood on his face'
'the fly on the ceiling'

FITTING:

'put the lid on the jar'
'the lid is not on the toothpaste tube'

ENCIRCLED (+CONTACT)

'the belt is around his waist'

'the ring on her finger'

PIERCED

'(put/look at) the meat on the spit'

'the beads on the string'

REMOVAL (motion):

'take the cup off the table, the ball out of the box and

the lid off the pan'

JOINING & SEPARATION:

'join the two paperclips together; take them apart'

7.2 'Geometrical' Notions (specified search-domains)

ORTHOGONAL

'The bridge is across the river'

'he walked across the ridge'

'the store is opposite the bank'

PARALLEL

'The road runs along the river'

'He ran alongside the sea'

DISTANCE MEASURES

'The camp is near the water-hole'

'Go near to them (so you can hear what they are saying)'

'Is it far from X to Y?'

'next to (the man/the tree/the house)'

ENCIRCLED (-CONTACT)

'they walked right around the campsite'

'the fence around the church'

8.0 Place-Names

Do place names clearly belong to a separate part of speech?

Are they e.g. proper names, or are they not clearly distinguished from descriptive phrases?

Do they take Locative, Allative, Ablative (etc.) cases?

Impressionistically, are they dense over the landscape, so that every hill, clump of trees, etc. seems to have a community-wide designation?