

# Fictive motion event structure in Estonian

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In addition to the extensive research into the typology of real motion events, research into fictive (or subjective) motion has been of increasing interest since the key works of Talmy (Talmy 1983; Talmy 1996), Langacker (Langacker 1986), and Matsumoto (Matsumoto 1996a; Matsumoto 1996b). According to motion event typology, Estonian is a satellite-framed and high-manner-salient language (Taremaa 2017). Previous studies of Estonian have postulated semantic congruency in real motion clauses (something which overrides goal-over-source bias) and the windowing of attention in fictive motion events (Taremaa 2013; Taremaa & Kopecka 2022). According to Matsumoto (1996b), two conditions apply to expressions of fictive motion: the Manner Condition (the manner of motion cannot be specified, unless it is used to describe a related path feature) and the Path Condition (the path of motion must be specified).

This study set out to investigate what aspects of path and manner are expressed in different fictive motion expressions in Estonian. The study seeks to examine how the expression of manner and path depends upon the event type (whether the path event is travelling or non-travelling) and the verb type (path, manner, slow-neutral-fast). A corpus study of fictive motion expressions was conducted involving three Estonian fictive motion verbs and four frequent subject nouns. Three verbs were selected in order that one expressed fast motion (the manner verb *jooksma* 'to run'), one slow motion (the manner verb *kulgema* 'to move forward'), and one neutral motion (the path verb *minema* 'to go'). Two subject nouns expressed a travelling path (*rada* 'path, track', *tee* 'path, road') and two a non-travelling path (*piir* 'frontier', *toru* 'pipe, pipeline'). Up to 200 sentences with each verb + subject noun combination was randomly selected from the Estonian Reference Corpus (2021) and analysed (2077 sentences in total). Each fictive motion clause was coded for motion-related variables of space/path and manner (Source, Location, Trajectory, Direction, Goal, Manner). Correlation analysis was used to obtain an overview of the data.

The preliminary results of the study reveal that each verb shows a different event pattern. Trajectory is generally the most frequent category expressed in the FM sentences with the verb-noun combinations we studied (47% of all sentences contained Trajectory). However, there are differences between the preferences in different verb and noun combinations. For instance, the slow motion verb *kulgema*, with the noun *rada* 'path, track' as subject, often occurs in combination with Location (66% of all *kulgema+rada* sentences). The neutral motion verb *minema* 'to go', with the noun *toru* 'pipe, pipeline' as subject, often occurs in combination with Goal (67% of all *minema+toru* sentences). In this presentation, we shall discuss the patterns revealed and attempt to explain differences in the expression of fictive motion events as compared with real motion events. The results of the study suggest that the presence in the fictive motion clause of different path and manner expressions (Source, etc.) depends on both the verb type and the type of the path (i.e. the semantic type of the subject noun in the clause).

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