

A contrastive study of Germanic satellite-framed languages: The role of prepositions, postpositions and morphosyntactic case-marking

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Dutch, English and German belong to the class of Germanic languages which, in typological terms, have been defined as satellite-framed languages (Slobin 2017; Talmy 2017). They express the path of motion preferably with satellites and the manner dimension in the main verb. Although these three languages belong to the same typological class, they differ in the way in which they realize these dimensions. With examples from the Sketch Engine our study aims to propose a more fine-grained description of the three Germanic languages and to show how expressions of motion and location are further dependent on morphosyntactic, semantic and pragmatic factors, thereby realizing the satellite-framed pattern in a more or less prototypical way (Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2017). More specifically, we will show how English has the possibility to make a difference between location and motion along a path with the use of different prepositions like *in*, *on* (location) vs. *into*, *onto*, *upon* (motion along a path), e.g. (1) *He is in the room/on the mountain* vs. (2) *He runs into the room/upon the mountain*. By contrast, in German, one and the same preposition can be used to express a location or a motion, as exemplified by the equivalent sentences (1a) *Er ist in dem Zimmer/auf dem Berg* (location) vs. (2a) *Er läuft in das Zimmer/auf den Berg* (motion). Still, the difference between both events is expressed, but with morpho-syntactic case-marking after the two-way prepositions, i.e. with the dative case for location (see 1a) and the accusative case for motion (see 2a). Dutch does not have case-marking but word order plays a predominant role: prepositions contribute to the expression of location whereas postpositions with the same form are used for motion along a path, e.g. (1b) *Hij is in de kamer/op de berg* vs. (2b) *Hij loopt de kamer in/de berg op* (Draye 1992; Leys 2014; Van Belle 2016). German has a similar construction as Dutch (2b) with “anadeictic particles” (Ágel 2017) as in (2c) *Er läuft in das Zimmer hinein/auf den Berg hinauf* (lit. ‘He runs into the room into/on the mountain upon’). This is only possible with “pleonastic directionals” (Olsen 1996) where the expression of path is expressed twice: in the preposition introducing the noun phrase in the accusative and the following anadeictic particle.

The presentation will further zoom in onto so-called German “verbless directives” (Jacobs 2008), e.g. (3) *Ab ins Bett* (lit. ‘off into the bed’) or (4) *rauf auf den Berg* (lit. ‘upon onto the mountain’), which are common in oral German speech but hardly used in English or Dutch. They constitute the prototypical instantiation of the satellite-framed pattern as they only consist of a nominal phrase with satellites. This is possible thanks to the complex interrelation of case-marking in German and the broad variety of prepositions and (deictic) particles for the expression of motion, e.g. (4) *rauf*[deictic part.] *auf*[prep] *den Berg*[accus.]. From a pragmatic point of view, these constructions express directive speech acts and are often accompanied by gestures.

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