

TALKS AND TUTORIAL

7-8 October 2015

Institut für Mehrsprachigkeit | Universität | PH Freiburg
Rue de Morat 24, 1700 Fribourg

CROSSLINGUISTIC INFLUENCE IN MOTION EVENT ENCODING

Prof. Dr. Teresa Cadierno, University of Southern Denmark, Odense (Denmark)

Prof. Dr. Juliana Goschler, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg (Germany)

Dr. Jan Vanhove, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Chair: Prof. Dr. Raphael Berthele, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

The talks and the statistics tutorial are open to all interested in this topic.

In the context of a PhD-Workshop, the Institute of Multilingualism organizes two talks on phenomena of crosslinguistic influence in the expression of motion events. In addition, Jan Vanhove will teach a statistics tutorial on fitting mixed effects models for investigating crosslinguistic influences.

Program

Wednesday, 9.00-10.30	Talk by Teresa Cadierno
Wednesday, 11.00-12.00	Statistics Tutorial by Jan Vanhove, part I
Wednesday, 13.30-15.00	Talk by Juliana Goschler
Thursday, 9.00-10.00	Statistics Tutorial by Jan Vanhove, part II

Registration

No Registration needed.

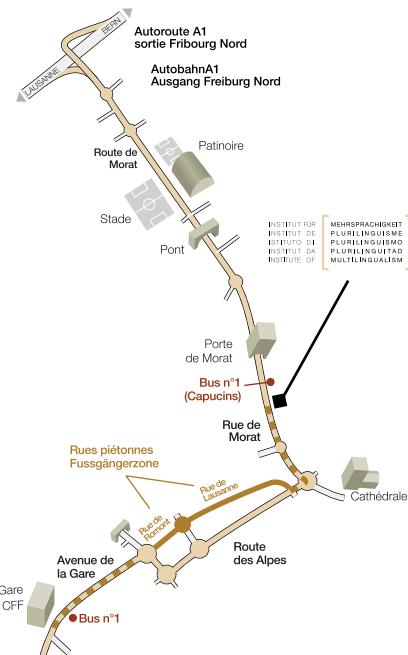
Information

Please contact Ladina Stocker: ladina.stocker@unifr.ch

Location

Institute of Multilingualism, rue de Morat 24, 1700 Fribourg

Access



From the train station: 15 min by foot or by bus (bus No 1 to Saint-Léonard/Portes de Fribourg, code No 10 to buy a ticket), get off at „Capucins“ (third stop after the station), go back about 50 meters.

Talking about placement events in L2 Danish and L2 Spanish: A bi-directional investigation - Teresa Cadierno

Cross-linguistic research in the last two decades has shown that languages differ widely in how they partition the world. This has been shown for domains such as color, emotions, artifacts, and topological relations (e.g., for recent reviews see Evans, 2011; Malt & Majid, 2013). Recently, however, research targeting semantic typology has turned its attention to event categorization, that is, the linguistic encoding of everyday events (e.g., carrying events, motion events and cutting and breaking events). One type of event that has attracted a great deal of attention lately is that of placement events, a type of caused motion event where typically an agent causes an object to move to a specific location, as in John puts a cup on the table.

The investigation of placement events is an interesting area for SLA as recent research (e.g., Kopecka & Narasimhan, 2012) has revealed considerable variation in the linguistic conceptualization of this domain by native speakers (NSs) of different languages. This variation has been observed both with respect the lexical semantics of the verbs, i.e., what verbs are used to distinguish among different types of placement events, and the type of constructions that are used. Following recent studies conducted on the expression of placement events in functional bilinguals (Berthele, 2012; Alferink & Gullberg, 2014) and adult L2 learners (Viberg, 1998; Gullberg, 2009, 2011), I will report about an ongoing investigation which examines how learners of L2 Danish and L2 Spanish talk about “putting” events. By using a bi-directional design, the study examines within one single study the relative difficulty of verb meaning reconstruction when moving from more general system to a more specific system or when moving in the opposite direction, an issue that has been examined in previous research by means of separate studies involving different combinations of L1 and L2 language pairs. Participants for the study consisted of two groups of native speakers (NSs), i.e., NSs of Danish and NSs of Spanish, and two groups of adult L2 learners with the same level of L2 proficiency, i.e., Danish learners of L2 Spanish and Spanish learners of L2 Danish. In addition to verb meaning reconstruction, I will report on current analyses being conducted on the types of constructions used by the four participant groups. The results suggest learning difficulties for both learner groups with respect to the semantic reorganization of placement verbs and the types of constructions that are used.

The encoding of motion events in L1 and L2: Development, transfer, variation, and change - Juliana Goschler

Although a number of studies found L1-L2 transfer effects based on the satellite- vs. path-framed distinction, they are less clear-cut than might be expected.

In my talk, I am going to discuss two potential reasons: First, there are a range of factors influencing L2 production; for example, smaller vocabularies and the preference for simpler constructions typical of interlanguage varieties. Second, transfer effects might not be a one-way track - instead, L1 encoding patterns can also be influenced by L2 patterns, thus creating intralinguistic varieties with constructional preferences not captured by a strict dichotomy of language types.

I will show empirical evidence by presenting two empirical studies: The first one is a comparison of elicited narratives of German L2 speakers with different L1 backgrounds: Russian and Polish (like German satellite-framed) and Turkish (unlike German verb-framed). I will show that L2 speakers' encoding preferences are influenced not only by typological characteristics of their L1 (for example the use of path encoding verbs slightly preferred by Turkish, but not Slavic speakers), but also by proficiency and time of exposure to the L2 (visible in differing preferences for generic, highly frequent motion verbs and simple paths).

The second one, an acceptability rating study, indicates a case of L2-to-L1 transfer: Our results show that the rejection of combinations of manner verbs with path satellites - typical for speakers of verb-framed languages as Turkish - is much weaker in Turkish-German speakers living in Germany than in Turkish speakers in Turkey.