



Manner of motion: A privileged dimension of German expressions

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Since Talmy (1985) and (2000) and Slobin (1996) and (2000)

- differentiation between satellite-framed and verb-framed languages is well-known;
- German belongs to satellite-framed languages, French to verb-framed languages;
- many studies with concrete languages, e.g.
 - Berthele (2004) for comparison French/German,
 - Pourcel & Kopecka (2005) for comparison French/English,
 - Lemmens & Perrez (2010) for Dutch/French,
 - Hottenroth (2002) for German/French,
 - De Knop & Perrez (fc.) for Dutch/German/French,...

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German = satellite-framed language, e.g.

(1a) *Er rannte aus dem Zimmer raus*
'He ran out of the room (out)'

Path expression → with satellite (*aus/raus*)

Manner expression → in the main verb (*rannte*)

French = verb-framed language, e.g.

(1b) *Il sortit de la chambre (en courant)*
'He exited the room (while running)'

Path expression → with main verb (*sortit*)

Manner expression → often not expressed or
→ with adverbial or gerund.

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In most studies less attention has been paid to the manner dimension (except for a few isolated studies, e.g. Pourcel (2009) for English as compared with French):

- (i) Talmy: path= most basic information, core component
manner= subsidiary dimension
- (ii) Differentiation between satellite-framed and verb-framed languages is based on the path expression;
- (iii) the manner dimension is not salient in verb-framed languages; Slobin (2000) has shown that in translations of English sentences into e.g. Spanish often the manner expression is missing.

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Aim of our presentation:

1. Show that German is characterized by a manner salience;
2. Show that manner salience is not restricted to motion verbs as the core of the lexicalization pattern but that it pervades several levels;
3. Highlight the «German way of thinking and speaking»;
4. Didactic implications for learners from a typologically different language, e.g. French.

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1. Realization of manner dimension in German

1.1. Simplex verbs: Motion verbs

Obligation to express the way individuals are changing places or objects are being moved with different motion verbs (see De Knop 2008):

e.g., *fahren* ('to drive with a boat, car, ship'), *gehen* ('to go on foot'), *fliegen* ('to fly'), *stellen* ('to put in an upright position'), *setzen* ('to put in a sitting position'), *legen* ('to lay'),...

=> (2) **Ich gehe nach Peking* ('I go to Beijing')

In French (or even the Germanic language English):
general verbs, e.g. *aller* 'to go' or *mettre* 'to put'.

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Test with French-speaking students:

- 34 Students, B2/C1 level
- Translation of 20 motion and location sentences F > Dt.

Results:

- only 31 % with correct motion V → underuse of motion V;
- 69 % wrong V:
 - (i) general *gehen* 'to go' (-> reproduction of French pattern);
 - (ii) wrong motion V: *setzen* 'to set' (esp. for a bottle!)

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1.2. Simplex verbs: Location verbs

Obligation to use different verbs for the expression of location of human beings, animals or objects
(= motion in wider sense, see Talmy 2000: 28):

- (3) *Die Vase steht auf dem Tisch*
'The vase is (standing) on the table'.
- (4) *Das Buch liegt auf dem Tisch*
'The book is lying on the table'.

(See also the studies by Kutscher & Schultze-Berndt for German and by Lemmens (2002) and Lemmens & Perez (2010) for Dutch).

In French (or even the Germanic language English):
general verb, e.g. *être* 'to be' or *se trouver* 'to be found'.

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Test with French-speaking students:

- 15 Students (B2/C1 level)
- Translation of 20 motion and location sentences F > Dt.

Results:

- 38 % right V → underuse of location V;
- 62 % wrong V: mostly use of *sein* 'to be'

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1.3. Complex local adverbs or postpositions

Complex local adverbs or postpositions consist of two elements:

- (i) a manner preposition as second element of this adverb, e.g. *unter, hinter, über, an, ...* and
- (ii) a particle expressing the vantage point (Langacker 1987: 122-126) or the perspective of the speaker, i.e. to the speaker (with *her-*) or away from him/her (*hin-*).

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Local adverbs are favoured in German but hardly translatable into other languages (See De Knop 2011), e.g.

- (5) *Dann kam der Tornado bis auf den See herunter*
*'Then came the tornado up to on the lake downwards'
*'Alors la tornade descendit/tomba jusque sur le lac'
- (6) *Das Wetter bringt Schnee bis an den See hinunter*
*'The weather brings snow up to the lake downwards'
*'Le temps apporte de la neige jusqu'au lac (en bas)'
- (7) *Der Weg führt bis zur Universität hinauf*
*'The path leads up to the university upwards'
*'Le chemin conduit jusqu'à l'université (en haut)'.

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1.4. Complex prepositional groups with *bis*

- (i) The preposition *bis* ('up to'/'until') expresses the path,
- (ii) the following preposition introducing a nominal group expresses the manner.

A great diversity of manner prepositions is possible after *bis*:
bis an die Grenze ('up to the border'), *bis in die Nacht* ('up to in the night'), *bis in den Tod* ('up to into death'), *bis über den Kopf* ('up to over the head'), *bis unter das Dach* ('up to under the roof'), *bis hinter den Horizont* ('up to behind the horizon'), *bis zum Gartentor* ('up to the garden gate'), *bis ans Knie* ('up to at the knee'), *bis vor Jahren* ('until before years'),...

Translation difficulties because such structures are typically German:

- (8) *Ich werde dich lieben bis in den Tod*
*'I will love you till into death'
- (9) *Die Wut steht ihm bis über den Kopf*
*'Anger stands till over his head' = 'is overwhelming him'.

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1.5. Constructions with complex particle verbs

which combine

- (i) a particle expressing a path of motion
- (ii) with a simplex verb that expresses a manner (but not a motion), e.g.
- (10) *in eine Familie einheiraten*
 **to marry into a family (a country, etc.)'
- (11) *sich (durch das Leben) durchboxen*
 **I had to box myself through (through life)'.

The use of these verbs affects the whole construction in which they are embedded (See Talmy 2000: 248 and Gallez in prep.).

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Some more examples:

- (12) *Du hast etwas (in den Text) hineininterpretiert*
 **You have interpreted something into the text'= 'You've added a meaning to the text'
- (13) *Sie konnten das Problem wediskutieren*
 'They could eliminate the problem by discussion'.

The motion is often metaphorical:

- sich zurückkämpfen* ('to fight and come back'),
sich durchlügen (**to lie oneself through'= 'to lie to achieve smt'),
- (14) *Die Regierung hat sich bis Oktober durchgelogen.*
 'The government came through until October by lying'

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Translation test D>F

- 18 French-speaking students (Dpt translation studies/interpretation), (B2/C1 level)
- 10 sentences with complex particle verbs

Results:

- Translation of path (30,56 %)
- Translation of manner (40,56 %)
- Differentiation of manner translation:

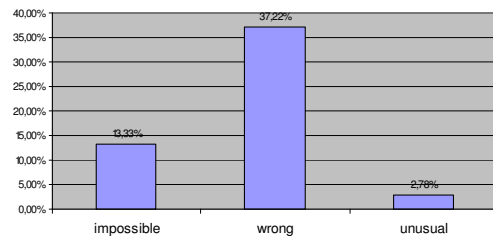
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• results

Translation of manner with particle verbs



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1.6. Constructions with non-motion Manner V + Path Satellite

- (15) *Die Mutter hat ihren kleinen Sohn in den Schlaf gewiegt.*
 **The mother has rocked her little son into sleep'
- (16) *Ein Unbekannter klingelte die Bundeskanzlerin Merkel aus dem Schlaf.*
 'An unknown person rang the chancellor Merkel out of the sleep'.
- (17) *Er heiratete nach Amerika.*
 'He married to America'.
- (18) *Colin Firth hat sich im neuen Film «The King's speech» zum Oscar gestottert.*
 'Colin Firth stuttered himself in his new film «The King's speech» to the Oscar'.

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Translation test D>F

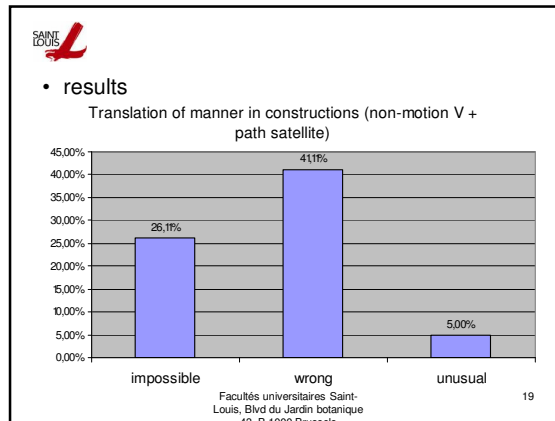
- 18 French-speaking students (Dpt of translation studies/interpretation) (B2/C1 level)
- 10 sentences with non-motion V + path satellite

Results:

- Translation of path (31,11 %)
- Translation of manner (37,22 %)
- Differentiation of manner translation:

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1.7. Patterns with Modal Verb + Path Satellite

The infinitive expressing motion is missing (but in a deeper structure present):

(19) *Mein Bruder will in die Schule (gehen)*
'My brother wants (to go) to school'

(20) *Er darf über die Straße (gehen)*
'He may (go) over the street.'

- The main V expressing the path of motion can be skipped because the path of motion is expressed by the prepositional group (*in die Schule/über die Straße*) (compare 'economy-of-form factor', Filipovic & Vidokovic 2010: 284).
- With the modal verb it is the expression of a manner which is prevailing.

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2. Summary

2.1. Observations

- Expression of manner at all levels of linguistic complexity:
simplex V, complex local adverbs, complex prepositional groups, whole constructions with non-motion V or with complex particle V, structures with modal V;
- Expression of path is often combined with expression of manner: conflation of path and manner expression in complex local adverbs, in complex prepositional groups, in particle V (see blue boxes in table);
- Strength of German language: its great flexibility in the combination of path and manner expression in compact/synthetic groups
(= compounds, prepositional groups,...):

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	SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE	PATH EXPRESSION	MANNER EXPRESSION
(i) Motion verbs	Simplex V	(Satellite)	Different Vs
(ii) Location verbs	Simplex V	(Satellite)	Different Vs
(iii) Complex local adverbs	Compound adverb	Particle for expression of vantage point (<i>hin-/her-</i>)	PREP 2
(iv) Complex prepositional groups	Complex prepositional group (<i>bis</i> + PP introduced by PREP2)	PREP <i>bis</i>	PREP 2
(v) Construction with complex particle verbs	Compound V (+ Satellite)	Particle (+ Satellites)	Non-motion V (simplex V)
(vi) Constructions with non-motion verbs	Simplex V + Satellite	Satellite	Non-motion V
(vii) Patterns with modals	Modal V + Satellite	Satellite	Modal V

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- Often need to consider the whole construction:
- Greater translation difficulties:
 - the greater the conflation of path and manner in one (compound) expression (e.g. categories in blue)
 - if manner expressed by a non-motion V and path only expressed by satellite (e.g. categories in pink)
- Claim by Talmy (2000: 152) that path is the most basic info in a motion situation, while manner is a subsidiary one should perhaps be revisited – not true for German.

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2.2. Implications for FLT

Tests with our French-speaking students learning German showed that

- the manner dimension is often skipped, e.g. with motion and location verbs;
- that often students do not understand constructions with particle V, non-motion V or patterns with modals (categories v/vi/vii).

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For FLT need to:

- (a) do awareness-raising exercises:
 - different conceptualizations in Germanic languages
 - tell students about manner saliency in German;
- (b) show in which patterns manner saliency is realized in German;
- (c) Develop a methodology for the teaching of more difficult constructions
 - future perspective

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Thank you!

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