

Abstract

The spatial properties of languages are one of the core topics among cognitive linguists. Our attention will be focused on just one spatial property – the so-called vector. It is a spatial category expressing the direction and/or basic shape of the path of motion. The vector has been given more attention within noun phrases expressed by cases, prepositions or postpositions, where it is more apparent. Our main concern, however, will be directed at the expression of this particular category on verbs.

The current thesis has the form of a pilot study done on three languages from different parts of the world and language families: Standard Mandarin Chinese, German and Manambu (East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea). Utilising a basic typological method of comparing the reference grammars of selected languages, we focus on the existence of this phenomenon, type and position of the marker, semantic-functional distinction and cumulation with other grammatical categories. The main part of the thesis is the thorough analysis of vector as a part of spatial system in each language. In the last part we compare the behaviour of the vector and according to our findings we present the typological results.

Keywords

space, motion, path, vector, direction, typology, semantics, verbs of motion, verb complex, verbal derivation