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TALKING ABOUT HUMAN LOCOMOTION: A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON THE ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN NARRATIVES

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In the last decades, an array of cross-linguistic research has been devoted to motion conceptualisation, Leonard Talmy's seminal work in typology (1978, 1985, 1991, and 2000) having a great contribution to it. Talmy (1991) divided languages into verb-framed and satellite-framed, depending on how they express Path, the "core schema" of a motion event. The verb-framed languages tend to encode Path in the verb and the Manner in a gerund, adverb or omit it, while satellite-framed languages express Path of motion in a verb particle called satellite and the Manner of motion in the verb. This paper analyzes human locomotion as a sub-type of motion by comparing the ways English and Romanian conceptualise it, particularly focusing, first, on the Manner component, in terms of information granulation levels and, second, on the Path component, in terms of motion directionality conceptualization.

Keywords: *motion, conceptualisation, verb-framed languages, satellite-framed languages, Path, Manner, narratives.*

MIȘCAREA UMANĂ: O ANALIZĂ CONTRASTIVĂ BAZATĂ PE TEXTELE NARATIVE ENGLEZE ȘI ROMÂNEȘTI

În ultimele decenii, o serie de studii interlingvistice au fost dedicate conceptualizării mișcării, cea mai mare influență având-o cercetările lui Leonard Talmy în tipologie (1978, 1985, 1991, 2000). L.Talmy (1991) a divizat limbile în două tipuri: limbi verbale sau limbi cu încadrare verbală sintetică și limbi satelitare sau limbi cu încadrare verbală analitică, în dependență de felul în care acestea redau Traseul – schema principală a unui eveniment de mișcare. Limbile verbale tind să codifice Traseul în verb, lăsând Modalitatea mișcării pe seama gerunziilor, adverbilor sau o omit, în timp ce limbile satelitare exprimă Traseul mișcării prin particule numite „sateliți”, iar în prim-plan redau Modalitatea mișcării (în verb). Prezenta lucrare analizează mișcarea umană ca un subtip de mișcare, comparând mijloacele prin care limbile engleză și română o conceptualizează, axându-se, în primul rând, pe componenta Modalitate, în termeni de gradul de granularitate al informației și, în al doilea rând, pe Traseu, în termeni de conceptualizare a direcționalității mișcării.

Cuvinte-cheie: *mișcare, conceptualizare, limbi verbale, limbi satelitare, Traseu, Modalitate, texte narrative.*

Introduction and Methods

Motion, including the human locomotion (HL), is one of the concepts found in every culture and language of the world, but, despite the capacity of the human body to perform the same set of universal gaits, speakers label those gaits differently and apply different means to express the translocation.

HL is perceived as simply a displacement, using one's feet or is viewed as self-propelled motion performed by means of all limbs. Certain authors [1, p.109] point out that human locomotion is characterised by visible individual properties (speed, direction) and inferred features (effort, goal), although, the latter are not expressed at all times: locomotion verbs do not always denote intentional goal-directed activities [2, p.30], fact that can be illustrated by the English verb 'to stroll':

(1) *They strolled along the lake.*

Human locomotion representation as a subtype of motion was chosen for a closer investigation, first, because HL verbs seem to have been less investigated and, second, because the Manner component of such motion events is very pertinent for the narrative text interpretation and, respectively, for its translation,

particularly in the case of typologically different languages like English and Romanian. Given the research interest in the Manner component of the motion events, narrative texts were considered as best meeting these purposes. In the present paper, English to Romanian HL verbs were analyzed based on examples retrieved from two The Lord of the Rings-based corpora (original and translation), representing motion events captured in natural settings: land and water; air was out of the scope of this study.

This comparative study of human locomotion conceptualization means in English and Romanian focuses on (a) the identification of elements constituting the Manner component in each language, along the objective (motor pattern, rate of motion, speed, degree of efforts, means of transport and instrument) and subjective (attitude, character's state/spirit) dimensions of the motion event conceptualization, (b) the impact of these distinctions upon the resulting lexical diversity in two languages, (c) on checking the sensitivity of these languages to the characteristics of the Path as a component element of the Motion event and (d) on evaluating the impact of different conceptualization patterns upon the translation strategies, based on the narrative texts.

Theoretical Background

As one of the fundamental concepts of the worldview, motion has been the subject of interest of Cognitive Linguistics and cross-linguistic research has been devoted to it for decades, some of them even assuming that the world languages "would treat the motion fairly similarly" [3, p.3]. Nonetheless, the crosslinguistic theoretical and experimental studies revealed typological differences in relation to the way motion is expressed in languages, since languages conceptualize it differently.

Of all these investigations, the greatest contribution was made by Talmy's seminal work in typology [4-7]. Originally, L. Talmy proposed a 'translatory situation' - an event that used to include only the Figure moving along a Path. Later on, Talmy [7; 8, p.70-71] specified that a motion event is made up of a framing event and a co-event and that the 'internal' or 'central' components of a motion event are the 'Figure', i.e., an object which moves or is located in relation to another object constituting the 'Ground', the 'Path' the Figure follows from the Source of motion to its Goal (going through a medium, as stated by D.I. Slobin [9, p.439]) and the 'Motion', which points to "the presence per se of motion or locatedness in the event" [7, p.61]. In addition, a motion event can have an external 'co-event' associated with it - the 'Manner' and the 'Cause'.

Path is a typologically relevant element or the core schema of a motion event, and therefore Talmy [5] distinguished between two different patterns of Path lexicalization¹, which constitute the base for the distinction between Verb-framed languages (VfLs) and Satellite-framed languages (SfLs). As stated by Talmy [6, 7], the former typically incorporate the information on the Path of motion into the verb, like in Romance Languages:

(2a) *Porniră* [Inchoative+Directed+Motion] *în grabă* [Manner] *în sus* [Path] *pe potecă* [Ground]², while the latter typically leave it out of the verb and convey it in a satellite, like in Germanic Languages:

(2b) *They rowed* [Manner+Motion] *along* [Path] *the shore*.

Compared to Manner, which is an optional element, Path is a mandatory category, since motion cannot occur in the absence of Path, be it encoded in a verb or a satellite. It was noticed that Path and Motion are less conflated by SfLs than the VfLs. Concerning English, although it is mostly conveying the Path through its satellites - *dance about*, *hop through*, it has a series of verbs borrowed from Latin through French that inherently express Path, similar to the Romanian motion verbs: *exit* (a ieși), *enter* (a intra), *ascend* (a urca), *descend* (a coborî):

(3a) *Outside the gate they stopped, and three black figures entered.*

(3b) *În dreptul porții se opriră și trei siluete negre intrară.*

When several pieces of information on Ground are attached to one verb, we speak about Complex Paths. In a study covering 18 languages, Bohnemeyer et al. [10] investigated the way complex motion events are packaged across languages. English, for example, has the possibility, due its linguistic means, to express the Path in one clause or in segments of Path. Romanian is not able to rely on this economical way of representing complex motion events, unlike English which can use motion verbs with a series of directional satellites

¹ The term 'lexicalization' was proposed by McCawley in 1968. In 1965 Gruber proposed 'incorporation', while Talmy suggested 'conflation' in 1972 for the same term.

² Romanian has the verb 'a se grăbi' as the equivalent of 'hurry', nevertheless, the inchoative expression was chosen in the translation of this example, because 'a se grăbi' lacks the necessary propelled dynamics, the inchoative character of displacement and does not embed the inherent movement as a central element.

encoding Path. Complex Paths are very seldom encountered in Romanian. Studies have shown that when an English sentence with a single motion verb with complex Path is translated into a VfL, the latter splits it into several clauses, each with its own verb and related preposition:

(4a) *They went down the slope, and across the stream where it dived under the road, and up the next slope, and up and down another shoulder of the hills.*

(4b) *Coborâră panta, trecură pârâul acolo unde acesta se ascundea sub drum, urcară povârnișul următor și apoi coborâră iarăși și urcară la loc un alt colnic.*

Manner is an associated or external element of the motion event. The satellite-framed languages consider Manner as a salient element, conflate it in the verb of motion, thus producing a rich class of Manner-of-motion verbs, whereas the Romanian language conveys Manner through such means as gerunds, participles, adverbs, adverbial constructions, noun phrases, idiophones or leave it out to the context. SfLs have a more differentiated lexicon of Manner of motion verbs compared to VfLs, which is particularly illustrated by the narratives. Therefore, the type and number of Manner-of-motion verbs (MmV) the two languages employ constitutes one of the major differences between those [11]. Although there is no definitive count of MmV in different languages, many comparative studies based on Talmy's typology have confirmed that SfLs have hundreds of MmV available for their speakers who need to differentiate between various nuances, and that in situations of intercultural communication it might represent a challenge for those whose mother tongues have a limited manner-of-motion vocabulary due to privileging the Path in its motion verbs lexicalization patterns. Respectively, from Manner lexicalization pattern in motion verbs, Slobin speaks about 'manner-rich' vs. 'manner-poor' languages. "If manner is easily accessible, it will be encoded more frequently and, over time, speakers will tend to elaborate the domain in terms of semantic specificity. Consequently, learners will construct a more elaborate conceptual space for manner, allowing each new generation to continue the cycle of attention to manner." [12, p.252] Thus, the speakers of English (a manner-rich language), for example, have the possibility to choose from a vast and expressive range of manner-of-motion verbs, the class of which is enriched due to conversion, self-contained motion verbs³, verbs of sound emission and metaphors: *They hammered joyously on the tables*; *The hawk hovered in the sky waiting to swoop down on its prey* (from Cambridge Dictionaries Online); *A bullet whistled past him* (from John Fitzmorris); *He shot⁴ the car onto the highway* (from Merriam Webster).

The present research is based on the previous works [13] in which we emphasized the importance of distinguishing between the objective and subjective dimensions that might be incorporated into the Manner component of Motion in tracking possibilities of creating MmVs in VfLs.

Research Data Processing

The collected HL examples from the two corpora were compared and analysed from the point of view of the challenges the typological differences between Source and Target languages create in narrative texts translation and from the point of view of the problem-solving strategies the translator followed when the Motion components were conveyed from English into Romanian. The data allowed us to explore relevant aspects in the translation of Manner verbs involving HL, departing from the assumption that the languages they belong to are typologically different.

The analysis helped identify the following **types of correlated patterns** in translation:

I. E. MV[Manner]⁵ + [Path] – Ro. MV[Path] + [Manner]

(5a) *He was slumping along with great yellow boots on his thick legs.*

(5b) *Venea tropăind cu cizmele lui galbene și uriașe, trase pe niște picioare butucănoase.*

(6a) *They hastened up the last slope.*

(6b) *Hobbiții urcară în grabă acel ultim povârniș.*

(7a) *They rode down the slope.*

(7b) *Coborâră panta în galop.*

(8a) *Frodo paddled⁶ away from the shore.*

(8b) *Vâslind, Frodo se depărtă de țărm.*

³ In a motion event, two types of motion can be found: translational motion and self-contained motion. In self-contained Motion, an object keeps its same location. Self-contained Motion generally consists of oscillation, rotation, dilation [14, p.26].

⁴ By analogy with the movement of a bullet.

⁵ In brackets are included the semantic elements conflated in the motion verbs (MV).

⁶ The verb lexicalizes the types of activities which are not common to Romanian.

For the respective motion events representation in (5a)-(8a), the English verbs *slump*, *hasten*, *ride* and *paddle* conflate the motion with additional semes expressing the way of moving – they all mean *to move* [Motion] plus [Manner] ‘heavily and suddenly’ (*slump*), quickly (*hasten*), using a vehicle (*ride*), and through the water in a boat using a paddle (*paddle*), the Path being assigned to the satellites *along*, *up*, *down*, *away*.

The Romanian translator uses unidirectional MVs with primary or secondary deictic value – *a veni*, *a se depărta* and *a urca*, *a coborî*, accompanied by the Manner expressing modifiers (verbids – *tropăind*, *vâslind* and adverbial prepositional constructions – *în galop*, *în grabă*).

The high frequency of the above corresponding patterns, illustrating the dominant lexicalization type of MVs in English and Romanian, is due to a specific characteristic of English, namely its openness towards creating innovative MmV through metaphor-based semantic shifts and the conversion of nouns and whole phrases into verbs, as shown by the verbs *duck*, and *hammer* in examples (9a) and (10a). Romanian cannot use conversion similarly to and with same ease as English. Therefore, it needs to explain more the things that are simply expressed in English through one-root verbs.

(9a) *They all ducked.*

(9b) *Toți se aplecară ferindu-se.*

II. E. MV[Manner] + [Path/Ground] - Ro. MV[Manner] + [Path/Ground]

Although these patterns formally seem similar in both languages, they do not necessarily imply a total equivalence.

(10a) *They hammered joyously on the tables.*

(10b) *Oaspeții bătură voioși în tăbliile meselor.*

(11a) *He wormed his way like a maggot.*

(11b) *Ca un vierme și-a sfredelit drumul.*

(12a) *The hobbits scrambled down a steep green bank.*

(12b) *Hobbiții mai mult se rostogoliră la vale pe o pantă înierbată abruptă.*

Thus, in the Romanian version (10b) the Manner nuances of the MmV *a bate* (motion implying rate and pattern) are slightly different from those of the English verb *to hammer*, which has an underlying acoustic metaphor – like sound produced by the knocking of the hammer.

Examples (11a)-(12a) display the way English MmVs were conveyed into MmVs in Romanian. All the vivid MmVs in these examples lend themselves to expressing the attitude and physical and internal states of the moving Figure, thus allowing the speaker to draw subjective descriptions and evaluations of the Figure.

The converted metaphorical verb ‘to worm’ encoding both Manner and Path in (11a), describes a crawl (meander)-type of forward motion, implying the position occupied by the body in relation to ground, the contact between the two and the effort to propel through, to create the path, similar to the motion performed by worms. In relation to worms, Romanian uses other verbs such as ‘a scormoni’ or ‘a săpa’, however, the translator opted for the metaphorical verb ‘a sfredeli’. ‘To worm’ denotes a slow motion, which implies difficulties/obstacles hindering the displacement. ‘A sfredeli’ encompasses effort, resilience, intensity, but, contrary to English does not denote the same trajectory as ‘to worm’, since motion in such a case is helical and not onward, as in the latter.

In (12a), Tolkien used the expressive verb *scramble* which belongs to the semantic field of “rapid bipedal motion” [15, p.316] or to the specialized subclass of the Manner of locomotion - rapid motion, according to Kemmerer [16, p.299]. The Romanian translation seems to also use a comparably expressive Manner of motion verb *se rostogoliră*, however, this is not an exact equivalent for the English verb, which makes the situation be mentally viewed as slightly different by the readers of the two languages.

III. E. MV[Path] – Ro. MV[Path]

This pattern is illustrated by examples with Latinized verbs in English conflating Motion and Path and their translation into Romanian.

(13a) *Your friends crossed after the flood had passed.*

(13b) *Prietenii tăi au trecut prin Vad după ce s-a scurs puhoiul.*

Usually, these English borrowed MVs are used in more formal registers than their native counterparts (e.g. *cross, traverse – go across; ascend – go up, etc.*), and in the translation process, they are likely to be rendered through neutral verbs.

IV. E. MV[Path] – Ro. MV[Path+Manner] (eventually + [Ground])

In much rarer cases, the compared examples from the two corpora displayed a correlation totally opposed to the typical one presented in the correlations of type I. In these cases, English MV conflates Path, while Romanian MV conflates Manner (along with the Path):

(14a) *Rangers passed at times beyond the hills.*

(14b) *Pribegii mai hălăduiau din timp în timp pe acele meleaguri.*

Unlike in type III correlation, the Romanian translator chose to use a colloquially marked verb, belonging to a different register, just changing the stylistics of the original.

V. E. MV[Manner]+ [Path1,2,...] + [Ground] – Ro. MV[Manner] + [Path1, 2] + [Ground]

(15a) *He was dragged out and down into the water, to the bottom.*

(15b) *Peștele l-a tras din barcă până-n adânc, pe fundul apei.*

Example (15a) is a typical illustration of the English complex paths or ‘journeys’ (terms used by Slobin, 1996) conceptualization, where a string satellites denoting Path have such a degree of independence, that they do not need the support of the nouns referring to the Ground or Goal, which are exceptions in Romanian (cf. *E. dragged out – Ro. l-a tras din barcă*). The dynamic force, the propulsion is maintained in English throughout the whole Complex Path (*out-down-into-to*) till it reaches the Goal, while Romanian segments the complex motion event differently, focusing on the caused movement *out of the boat* (*din*) and *up to the Goal* (*până-n*). Worth mentioning is the double reference to the Goal in Romanian: through the noun *adânc*, meaning *depth*, which in the case of another preposition (*înspre*) would have been an intermediary part of the complex trajectory (*down towards*), but with the limitative *până-n* gets the role of Goal, and through the noun *fundul* (*apei*), meaning (*water*) *bottom*, preceded by the locative, the static preposition *pe* just describes the Goal. Such detailing of the setting of the motion event, which comes to compensate for the implicated Manner components is characteristic of Romanian.

VI. E. MV[Manner]+ [Path1] + [Path2] – Ro. MV1[Path1] + MV2[Path2]

(16a) *He thrust a long arm out and downwards.*

(16b) *Întinse mâna afară și o îndreptă în jos.*

A significant difference between the motion event conceptualization represented by these two patterns has great impact upon the translation (for the stylistic colouring, the change in narrative perspective and tempo of the narrative). It refers to the level of event granularity in expressing Complex Paths. VfLs and SfLs differ in the number of Path clauses or segments they attach to the verb used in a motion event. In such cases, Romanian needs to employ additional verbs related to different segments of the complex Path, which makes these sentences less dynamic compared to the original ones. Thus, in (16a) two Path clauses or segments (*out/downwards*) are attached to the Manner of motion verb *thrust* expressing self-propelled, forward motion. Romanian needs to employ two Path verbs – *întinse* and *îndreptă* – to render the same trajectory; however, *a întinde* and *a îndrepta* do not imply the similar degree of force [Manner] as their English counterpart. This type of correlations comes to illustrate one of the most relevant implications of the typological distinction between SfLs and VfLs.

VII. E. MV[Manner+Path] – Ro. MV[Manner+Path]

The phenomenon of boundary-crossing is assigned a testing value within the SfLs-VfLs typology since it is considered that the languages of the former type can and of the latter type cannot use MmVs for its expression.

(17a) *Suddenly he hopped through the door.*

(17b) *Pe neașteptate, se repezi spre ușă.*

The motion events that reveal the traversal of a spatial boundary are considered to be illustrative of the differences between two types of languages, since they can serve as a reliable test to detect the typological class of a language. English uses Manner verbs in the case describing a Manner of motion scene involving

boundary-crossing. Conflation of Manner and Motion can happen in Romanian too, however, in non-boundary-crossing situations. Example (17b) employed a Manner of motion verb, but this is not a case of boundary traversal, contrary to the English sentence. D.Slobin [12] revealed that verbs which indicate instantaneous, rapid and punctual acts constitute an exception from the boundary-crossing constraint explained in relation to (17b) and they can occur with boundary-crossing in V-framed languages:

E. MV[Manner+Path] – Ro. MV[Manner+Path]

18. a) *He plunged into the water.*

b) *El se prăvăli în apă.*

VIII. E. MV[Cause+Manner] + [Path] +[Ground] - Ro. MV[Path] + [Manner] +[Ground]

(19a) *They galloped their ponies over the last furlongs*

(19b) *Ultimele câteva sute de metri le străbătură în galop*

The motion event represented in (19a) happens within the limits of a bounded Ground (E. *the last furlongs* – Ro. *ultimele câteva sute de metri*). For this reason, the translator picked the verb *a străbate*, which has the meaning of '(moving) into and traversing a space, eventually up to a Goal', corresponding to the English Path indicated by *over*. Still, the image that can be created in the Romanian reader's "mind's eyes" might be different from that in the English reader's narrative universe. Due to the English causative verb, with its double agentivity (the riders and the ponies), the situation is construed from the perspective of the riders (first agent in subject position) and the focus is on their action - urging the ponies (second agent) to gallop (eventually involving, depending on the reader's world knowledge and experience, a whip or the rider's spurs). In the Romanian translation the focus is just on the movement of the first agent (the riders) in subject position, although the reference to the ponies is indirect, expressed through the modifier *în galop*.

IX. E. MV[Manner]+[Path] – Ro. {InchoativeV+MV[Manner]} +[Path]/[Ground]

(20a) *The Black Rider was actually crawling towards us.*

(20b) *Călărețul ăla Negru se apucase să se târască spre noi.*

(21a) *They tramped off.*

(21b) *Se așternură la drum.*

(22a) *Through the trees he sped.*

(22b) *O luă val-vârtej printre arbori.*

In the above three examples, the Manner verb in English was conveyed through inchoative expressions in Romanian rendering the aspectual value of motion beginning. The aspective (inchoative) meaning is contributed by two verbs – *a apuca*, lit. 'to grasp' and *a lua*, lit. 'to take', both getting these meaning in expressions, in association with a motion verb encoding Manner - *să se târască* (20b) or with an adverbial – *val-vârtej* (22b). In Romanian, the expression *a se așterne la drum* (21b) implies 'to start a long way', but it does not render the force dynamics conflated by *tramp*, since the primary meaning of this verb is "to walk heavily". Still, the Romanian readers might be able to infer some Manner of displacement from the inchoative expression: a long way could mean that the movement on such a road is tiresome, lengthy and difficult.

X. E. MV[Manner]+ [Path] – Ro. Both MV and [Path] implicitated

Omission of the motion verb in the translation process can happen frequently in Romanian.

(23a) *An old man was driving it all alone.*

(23b) *De data asta, pe capră se afla un singur căruțaș bătrân.*

(24a) *Gimli was grumbling as he trudged.*

(24b) *Gimli gemea la fiecare pas.*

(25a) *They came again to a belt of trees.*

(25b) *Acolo se găsea o centură de copaci.*

The verb *to drive* in (23a), which conflates Manner of motion and Cause and denotes agentive motion, was not conveyed in Romanian, being ellipsed by the translator who opted for a reflexive verb of state that shows Agent's position or location (verb of spatial configuration). The displacement is mediated by the cart, although usually, the verb *to drive* is used in cases where a motor vehicle is employed. *Trudge* in (24a) is a

Manner-conflating verb that "inherently expresses a relatively low speed of motion" [17, p.56], which is the result of the character's psychological state (from the context: Gimli, although stout, is tired and, as the rest of the Company, is forced to walk through snow and wind). In the Romanian version (24b), displacement is implicit (*la fiecare pas* - continuous, repetitive character of the action) and Manner could be inferred from the physical setting in which the character is situated and its internal state (*gemea*).

In (25a) English uses a deictic verb and Romanian – a location/position verb. The difference in the meaning of verbs leads to a different perspective: English and Romanian readers will "visualize" differently the scene.

XI. E. MV implicated – Ro. MV[Manner]

In certain cases (26a), English uses 'zero verbs', while Romanian employs Manner-of-motion verbs (26b).

(26a) *The waggon seemed slower than a snail to Frodo.*

(26b) *Lui Frodo i se părea că se târau mai încet decât melcul.*

XII. E. Factual MV[Manner]+[Path] – Ro. Fictive MV[Path] +[Ground]+adverbial [Manner]

A factual motion in English text can be transposed into a fictive motion in Romanian.

(27a) *They were still climbing gently*

(27b) *Drumul continua să urce în pantă domoală.*

The factual movement in (27a), which depicted a situation when there is a physically moving entity (Multiple Figures *They*) was replaced with a fictive motion expression applied to an actually static situation that is conceptualized as dynamic in Romanian, with implicit displacement of the characters on the road. The Romanian reader accompanies imaginatively the characters in their displacement in space and time.

Conclusions

In this paper, the focus was on the impact of the typological distinctions between English and Romanian upon the possibilities of preserving same conceptualization of motion events involving HL in narrative texts translation. The hypothesis we started from was that the differences in lexicalization Path and Manner in two languages and the significant syntactic implications of these would present problem-solving situation to the Romanian translator of the novel *The Lord of the Rings* [18]. The contrasted examples from two corpora (original and translated versions) helped identify some basic correlation patterns, which showed that Romanian, although considered *a priori* a Manner-poor language, does not rely exclusively on the type of conceptualizing motion events characteristic of VfLs. The analysis focused on to which extent the manner information was conveyed in the translation text and to what effect, whether the translator chose to render manner verbs by other manner verbs which encode only a certain part of the information or a different type of manner information, and if the translator implicated some information contained, using other verbs instead.

All in all, English displayed a greater expressive range of Manner-of-motion verbs allowing rendering nuances of evaluation and subjective description, paying attention to the attitude/state of the moving Figure. The open, innovative and creative character of the lexico-grammatical group of MmVs in English is determined primarily by the ease with which English converses nouns and whole phrases into verbs and also by the ease with which it is enriched through the metaphor-based semantic shifts. Romanian primarily encoded Motion with Path, leaving the Manner to be either omitted or be expressed in subordinate elements such as gerunds and adverbs. There were cases when Romanian encoded Manner and Motion in the verb; however these cases were not frequent, and besides many of them led to a change in register.

Another significant typological difference with considerable implications for translation refers to the level of event granularity in expressing Complex Paths. In such cases, there is a distinction between VfLs and SfLs in relation to the number of Path clauses or segments they attach to the verb used in a motion event. Romanian is not able to rely on the economical way of representing complex motion events similar to English, which can use motion verbs with a series of directional satellites encoding Path for such purposes.

The satellites of the English motion verbs have acquired a higher degree of independence and they can show the complex Path without involving additional verbs, contrary to Romanian, which needs to employ more verbs for the segments of the complex Path and to mention rely more explicitly on the Source, Goal, and Ground.

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