

Motion Event Descriptions in Basque (Navarro-Labourdin Dialect)

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MEDAL

MOTION EVENT DESCRIPTIONS ACROSS LANGUAGES

Main findings

- Though Basque can be classified as a head-coding language, **Path is not always coded in the head.**
- The frequency of head-coding varies depending on:
 - the types of **motion** (self motion, caused motion, visual motion)
 - the types of **Path** (TO, INTO, UP)
 - (partially) the types of **Deixis** (Twd S or not)
 - the types of **causation** (PUT, CARRY, KICK)
- When Path in self-motion descriptions is coded only head-externally, the head usually codes **Deixis**.
- Manner is most often coded by **adverbs**.
- Head-external coding position of Path varies depending on type.

Basque as a head-coding language

- Many types of Path-verbs:** Path is usually coded in the head, while Manner is coded head-externally. (Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2015)

(1) *Joanes lasterka bizikleta-ra hurbil-tzen da.*
 J. runningly bike-ALL approach-IPFV PRS
 'Joanes runs to the bike.' (11-A9-06)

- A wide variety of sound symbolic expressions for Manner:**

The use of such expressions, though possible, is rather infrequent. (ibid.)

(2) *Ene adiskidea ari da ttaka ttaka kurri-tze-n.*
 my friend PROG be.PRS with.small.steps walk-GER-INE
 'My friend is walking with small steps.' (12-A9-30)

Experiment A

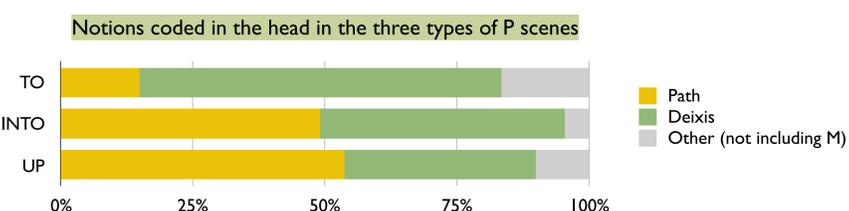
- Video-clip description by 12 Navarro-Labourdin Basque speakers
 - The dialect is spoken in the Northern Basque Country, France.
- Self motion (30 clips)
 - 3 Path (TO/INTO/UP) × 3 Deixis (Twd S/Awyfrm S/Neutral)
 - × 3 Manner (WALK/RUN/SKIP) (27 clips)
 - Atelic WALK × 3 Deixis (3 clips)
- Caused motion (19 clips)
 - KICK 3 Path × 3 Deixis (9 clips)
 - KICK Through.under.into Neutral (1 clip)
 - {PUT/CARRY/CALL} INTO × 3 Deixis (9 clips)
- Vision: LOOK INTO × 3 Deixis (3 clips)

Self motion

- Path** is not always coded in the head. TO is least often coded by the head verb.
- Path is often coded only head-externally (e.g. by cases, postpositions, or particles.)
 If so, the head usually codes **Deixis** rather than Manner.

(3) *Laguna lasterka heldu da eskalera-rik goiti.*
 friend runningly come be.PRS stairs-ABL up
 'My friend is coming up the stairs.' (02-A9-23)

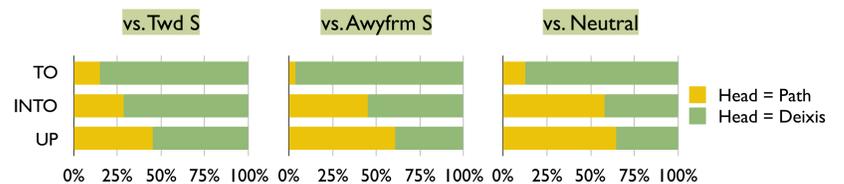
- The head almost never codes Manner. (Only 7 times with complex predicates)



- Manner** is mainly coded by adverbs and PPs (e.g. *lasterka* 'runningly', *jauzteka* 'skippingly', *kurri* 'walkingly' or *oinez* 'on foot'.)
 Sound symbolism is rarely used, as expected.

- Deixis competes with Path for coding in the head:

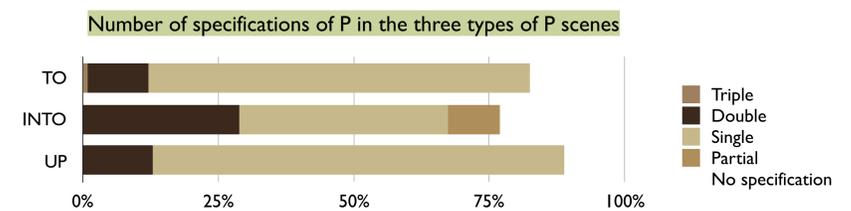
- TO** is usually lose to Deixis.
- Twd S** is more likely to be the winner in all three Path types.



- Coding position of Path varies depending on type:

- TO** is most often coded by spatial cases and postpositions.
- INTO** shows strong tendencies to be coded by spatial noun *barne* 'inside' taking the inessive or allative case.
- UP** is most likely to be coded in the head (*igan* or *igo* 'go up').
 Particle/postposition *goiti* 'up' is used with much the same frequency.

- INTO is coded twice (i.e. once in the head and once head-externally) more often than TO and UP.



- Basque often employs the *complete path construction* (Garai and Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2002) where both Source and Goal phrases are used with one head verb.

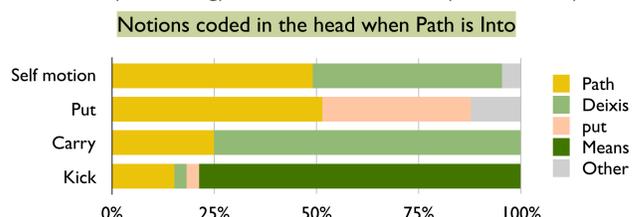
- This construction is mainly used to express INTO in the experiment.

(4) *Lasterka kanpo-tik barne-ra sar-tu da.*
 runningly outside-ABL inside-ALL enter-PFV PRS
 'He ran in from outside.' (04-A9-15)

- The frequency of pleonastic Path-coding and the use of the construction might be correlated.

Caused motion and visual motion

- The frequency of head-coding varies depending on the types of causation.
- PUT:** Path is as often coded in the head as in self-motion descriptions. Otherwise, *put*-verb *ezarri* is mainly used.
- CARRY** and **KICK:** Path is less often coded in the head.
 - CARRY: The head verb most often codes Deixis. (e.g. *ekarri* 'bring')
 - KICK: The head verb most often codes Means. (e.g. *igorri* 'send', *bota* 'throw')
- CALL** is expressed predominantly by coordinated clauses, one of which codes Means (i.e. calling) and the other Path (self-motion).



- For KICK, the only Path type the head codes is INTO. TO and UP are never coded in the head. TO is always coded by cases or postpositions while UP by particle *goiti*.

- In visual motion descriptions, Path is never coded in the head.

Spatial noun *barne* with allative is the most common coding position.

(5) *Laguna-k barne-ra begira-tzen du.*
 friend-ERG inside-ALL look-IPFV PRS
 'My friend looks into.' (02-A9-49)