Diachrony and usage: the English manner verbs of human self-movement

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Talmy (1985, 1991, 2000, 2007) proposes that languages fall into two main typological categories "on the basis of where they characteristically express the schematic core of the event complex—in the verb or in a satellite to the verb" (Talmy 2000: II, 213). In other words, based on how Path and Manner of motion are encoded and combined in one clause, Talmy distinguishes between:

a. Satellite-framed languages (S-languages), such as English, German or Russian, which encode Path as a satellite to a manner main verb or 'verb root'. E.g. *He ran into* (the house).
b. Verb-framed languages (V-languages), such as Spanish, French, Japanese, or Basque, which encode Path as a main verb, and Manner as a subordinate adjunct. E.g. Fr. *Il est **entré** (dans la maison) **en courant*** / Sp. *Él **entró** (en la casa) **corriendo***.

It has been suggested in the literature (e.g. Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995: 300, Slobin 2006) that these different patterns of behaviour found across languages as regards the lexicalization of verbs of motion have to do with psycholinguistic factors such as processing load and with cognitive forces such as habitual and increasing attention to semantic domains that are readily encoded in a given language. These and other factors will be examined in my presentation at 15 ICEHL in light of the historical development of the rich lexicon of English manner verbs of human self-movement.

References:

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