Summary of theme session: Macro-events, Grammaticalization, and Typology

Fuyin Thomas Li
Beihang University, Beijing
thomasli@buaa.edu.cn

A "macro-event" is a fundamental concept on the basis of which Talmy proposes his two-way typology, verb-framed languages and satellite-framed languages. In this typology, languages characteristically adopt either verb roots or satellites to encode the core schema of a macro-event (Talmy 2000). Talmy has identified five types of macro-events, including motion, temporal contouring, change of state, action correlating, and realization, as illustrated in the five examples correspondingly (Talmy 2000:214).

a. The ball rolled *in*. (Motion event)
b. They talked *on*. (Event of temporal contouring)
c. The candle blew *out*. (Event of state change)
d. She sang *along*. (Event of action correlating)
e. The police hunted the fugitive *down*. (Event of realization)

The past few decades have witnessed a huge amount of literature focusing on various aspects of this typology. The majority of the literature studies the verb-framed and satellite framed nature of particular languages, with only a few studies revising the theory. Unfortunately, though, relatively little research has focused on the foundations of the theory, in particular, on the nature and **diachronic** basis of the macro-event. The majority of the resulting literature has predominantly focused on the macro-event of motion, while other types of macro-event draw little attention. A range of variables mainly involving PATH and MANNER has been explored, but an expansion ranging from the nuanced study of these elements to a study of construction is required. While a new perspective of **diachrony** was introduced (Slobin 2017), a full range of detailed study is otherwise scarce. An expansion from the original bipartite typological categorization into a broader area of general typology is necessary. The three key words contained in the theme session title, representing three important areas of linguistic pursuit, may at first seem to share no common denominator. But Li (2018) has shown that the three areas have mutually influenced each other, with the macro-event as an overarching term linking the others. This theme session aims to bring together research on the overlap of **macro-events, grammaticalization**, and **typology**, with a focus on the family of "verb + satellite" constructions.

This theme session contains 10 presentations. Each presentation is expected to focus on a specific area of the three with implications for the other two. The topics are as follows: *Evolutionary order of Macro-events in Mandarin (Thomas Li); The difficulty gradient of change-of-state events for human construal demonstrated in the expansion of Chinese framing satellites (Liulin Zhang); The conceptual boundary among break, cut and open: a diachronic semantic perspective (Jing Du and Fuyin Li); Beyond typology: how event integration works in motion events (Lin Yu); From lexical meaning to functional role: the case of complex noun-verb phrases(Sabine De Knop and Manon Hermann); Typology of English and Mandarin: taking spatial stationary events as examples (Longbo Ren); The grammaticalization of Chinese directional verb KAI: a constructional approach (Na Liu); Macro-events in verb-verb compounds from the perspective of baseline and elaboration: iconicity in typology and grammaticalization (Yiting Chen); The grammaticalization of Pleonastic negation: a case study of CHADIANMEI in Mandarin Chinese (Guannan Zhao); Typological differences influence motion event perception: evidence from similarity-judgment tasks and eye tracking (Eva Soroli).*

References

Li, Thomas Fuyin. 2018. Extending the Talmyan typology: A case study of the macro-event as event integration and grammaticalization in Mandarin. Cognitive Linguistics, 29(3):585-621.

Slobin, Dan I. 2017. Typologies and language use. In Ibarretxe-Antuñano,Iraide (eds.), Motion and Space Across Languages: Theory and applications. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp. 419-446.

Talmy, Leonard. 2000. Toward a Cognitive Semantics. Volume II: Typology and Process in Concept Structuring. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.