## Time traveling to Wonderland: diversity in motion event encoding Annemarie Verkerk

One of the fundamental elements of human experience that can be expressed in language is motion. We can talk about motion events like 'diving into the sea' or 'running out of the forest' in every language. However, languages differ in their ways of encoding semantic aspects of the motion event. In Spanish, for instance, the path of movement is typically indicated by the verb, while in English, manner of movement is typically expressed on the verb while path is expressed with particles. Because of these different patterns of encoding Talmy (1991), in his typology of motion events, calls Portuguese verb-framed and English satellite-framed. An example is presented below.

English original (Through the Looking Glass and what Alice found there, by Lewis Carroll):

... and then the Knight rode slowly away into the forest.

MANNER PATH

*Portuguese translation:* 

e o Cavaleiro afastouse,

and DEF.ART.M.SG knight.M move.away.IND.PFV.3SG-REFL

**PATH** 

cavalgandolentamentepelafloresta.ride.horseback.PRS.PTCPslow.F-ADVthrough-DEF.ART.F.SGforest.FMANNER

However, we have little knowledge about the diachronic factors that have shaped the current distribution of diversity of motion event encoding. In this paper I will investigate the evolution of motion event encoding using a parallel corpus of translated motion events from three literary works: *Alice's adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass and what Alice found there*, both by Lewis Carroll, and *O Alquimista* by Paulo Coelho. Included in this corpus are fourteen Indo-European languages (English, Dutch, German, Portuguese, French, Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, Irish, Greek, Armenian, Albanian, Hindi and Farsi). This material allows us to establish some measure of comparison between the languages and to have a quantitative, fine-grained perspective on motion events at the same time. On the basis of this parallel corpus I will present results of a quantitative test in which I analyze whether phylogenetic, geographic, or random explanations provide the best account for the current distribution pattern of encoding strategies in these languages. This will contribute to a better understanding of diachronic change in motion event encoding and, more generally, the syntax-semantics interface.

The second question that will feature in this paper is 'How can typologies deal with diversity?'. In recent papers, various researchers have proposed that we should not characterize languages as strictly satellite-framed or verb-framed, but we should try to account for the fact that many languages have aspects of multiple systems (see for an overview Beavers et al., 2010, see also Croft et al., to appear). Kopecka (2006), for instance, shows how French, which is typically characterized as verb-framed, makes use of a pattern that encodes the path of motion in satellites, rather than in the verb. Aside from looking at diachronic processes, we should also aim to produce a multivariate account for synchronic language-internal variation within the motion event typology. Some initial pointers on how we can do this within the motion domain will be discussed.