

Event Integration Patterns in Sidaama (Sidamo)

This study examines how Sidaama (Sidamo), a Cushitic language of Ethiopia, expresses components of different types of events to test Talmy's (1985, 1991, 2000) typological hypotheses concerning event integration. It shows that although this language clearly exhibits the verb-framed language pattern in the event domains of motion, state change, and realization, it does not clearly exhibit this pattern in the domains of temporal contouring and action correlation.

According to Talmy's typology, verb-framed languages (v-languages) (e.g. Romance languages) typically encode the core-schematic, framing event (i.e. main event) component of an event complex in the main verb, and express a co-event component (e.g. manner, cause) in an adverbial subordinate clause, whereas satellite-framed languages (e.g. Germanic languages) characteristically use a satellite to express the framing event component, and encode the co-event component in the verb root. This contrast applies not only in the event domain of motion, but also in four other domains: state change, realization, temporal contouring, and action correlation.

Sidaama clearly shows the v-language pattern in the event domains of motion, state change, and realization. It has multi-verb constructions where a co-event component appears in the non-main verb (V1) and a framing event component is expressed by the main-verb predicate (V2) (e.g. *motion* V1: 'run'—V2: 'enter' *to mean* 'run in'; *state change* V1: 'blow'—V2: 'put out' *to mean* 'blow something out'; *realization* V1: 'drown'—V2: 'kill' *to mean* 'drown someone').

However, Sidaama does not necessarily follow the v-language pattern in the event domains of temporal contouring and action correlation. Although this language can show the v-language pattern in expressing such types of temporal contouring as completion/termination, initiation, and continuation, it cannot in expressing repetition, habitual action, gradualness, and frequency, whose framing event components are expressed in various ways, for example, with a non-main verb of one of the multi-verb constructions, an adverbial, a verb suffix, or an idiomatic construction. Sidaama seldom shows the characteristics of a v-language in any type of action correlation other than demonstration — specifically, surpassment, concert, accompaniment, or imitation. With respect to action correlation, the framing event component usually emerges as an adverbial or a non-main verb of one of the multi-verb constructions. (1) and (2) show examples of a type of temporal contouring (repetition) and a type of action correlation (surpassment), respectively, in which the framing event component is expressed by a verb in the connective (underlined) and the co-event component is expressed by the main verb (*italicized*).

- (1) ise hiq-g-e (hiq-g-e) *dag-g-u*.
3SG.F.NOM return-3SG.F-CONN return-3SG.F-CONN come-3SG.F-PERF.3SG.F
'She came again (and again).' (*lit.* 'She returned, (returned,) and came.')
- (2) ise isi-nni roors-it-e *dod-d-u*.
3SG.F.NOM 3SG.M.GEN-from exceed-3SG.F-CONN run-3SG.F-PERF.3SG.F
'She ran better than him.' (*lit.* 'She exceeded from him, and ran.')

The present study also points out that a set of patterns quite similar to the one in Sidaama is found in Japanese and Korean as well. Sidaama and these languages seem to constitute a subtype of v-languages distinct from other v-languages in the two event domains.

In sum, although it follows the v-language pattern described by Talmy closely in expressing the event domains of motion, state change, and realization, Sidaama deviates from this pattern in its expressions of some types of temporal contouring and of most types of action correlation, just as at least a few other languages that are also classified as v-languages do.

References

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