

Space, Events and Time in Cora

This paper presents a comprehensive overview of the linguistic expressions in a language, that express or evoke a range of temporal concepts, a topic that I have treated only briefly in my investigation of the spatial language of Cora. The linguistic expressions that designate temporal notions include topographic and temporal adverbs, locative verb prefix sequences in combination with motion verbs and adjective stems, as well as locative particles and certain sentence connectors. I hope to show that a careful analysis of the conceptualizations that motivate the usages of these temporals will fit compatibly with many of the observations Evans makes and the conclusions that he draws about the structure of time. He notes, for example, that events take place through time (Evans 2004:3). This fits with Langacker's view of all processes as constituting a temporal relation in which the evolution of a process through time is made salient to the configuration (Langacker 1990:23, 81, 88; 1999:10, 222).

The variety of temporal expressions in Cora leads me to conclude that Evans is correct in saying that when we talk about the role of time to structure events, we talk about time in terms which emerge from events and we are actually spatializing time (Evans 2003:5). There are several distinct models of conceived time as reflected in the lexicon and grammar of Cora. The first is the use of topographical adverbs in Cora to talk about the remote past, and the immediate future. Three models reflect a horizontal movement of time in four distinct ways. First, time, viewed wholistically, extends to the point of conceived time when a subsequent event occurs. Secondly, time is viewed imperfectively in the past, subsuming a path that is anchored to the conceived point in time of a second event. The third model is cyclical: the end point of the path impinges on another event that occurs at some conceived point in time. The fourth is complex, with Past Time moving forward to the Speaker's position at a conceived point in time. Future Time moves away from the Speaker's location at some conceived point in time.

The use of locative verb prefixes with verb stems to signal the difference between perfective and imperfective views of a process constitutes a very obvious example of talking about time in terms of conceptualizations drawn from non-temporal domains. Examination of all of these usages shows the need to invoke theoretical constructs from a variety of approaches within Cognitive Linguistics.

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