"Trajectoire"

Video-clips for the elicitation of Path expressions

Preliminary note

The "Trajectoire" elicitation material was designed by members of the *Trajectoire* project (*Fédération de Typologie et Universaux Linguistiques*, CNRS, France) following visual methods systematized at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (Nijmegen, the Netherlands).

Objectives

The purpose of this material is to facilitate the investigation of the expression of Path of motion in an array of typologically varied languages. More specifically, its aim is:

1. to examine how speakers of typologically different languages describe the change of location of a Figure (a moving protagonist) with respect to a Ground (a reference entity such as a place, an object or a person), as in
   She [Figure] *walked* [Manner] *into* [Path] *the cave* [Ground]
2. to explore morpho-syntactic devices that languages use to describe Path of motion and its different portions such as Source (initial portion), Goal (final portion) and Median (intermediate portion), (see e.g. Talmy 1985, 2000; Slobin 1997, 2004), as in
   She walked out of the cave [Source]*, through the field* [Median]*, into the bushes* [Goal]
3. to examine the hypothesis of asymmetry in the expression of Source (e.g. from, out of) and Goal of motion (e.g. to, into) according to which languages tend to favor the expression of Goal by encoding it more systematically and in a more fine-grained way than Source (see e.g. Bourdin 1987, Ikegami 1987).

Stimuli material

The elicitation stimuli consist of 76 video-clips (8 up to 14 sc. long):
- 2 warm-up clips (_training)
- 55 target video-clips (_path) which show the motion of a protagonist (adult or child) in a natural environment (e.g. field, forest, sea)
- 19 fillers (_filler) which show static scenes or some other activities.

There are 3 versions of the material, each containing the same videos but arranged in three different orders. Each speaker will see one version only.

Procedure

1. Equipment: a laptop with Media Player (for Windows) or QuickTime Player (for Macintosh).
2. Accessing the clips: the clips can be accessed by clicking on *Versions* or on *Listes*:
   - the first option – *Versions* – is very convenient for visualizing one entire version (i.e. all the clips within a given version successively). You may prefer this option when working with the speakers
     → click on *Versions* and choose the version you want (*v1, v2* or *v3*)
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- the second option – *Listes* – is very convenient for visualizing specific clips individually. You may use this version if you divide the data session with a given speaker into several small sessions.
  → click on *Listes* and, within any version, choose the video you want.

To get a good view of the clip, adjust the image size on the screen.

3. Audio-record each individual elicitation session.
During the elicitation session, sit with the speaker in front of the computer and explain that she or he will see a series of scenes in which someone (a woman, a man or a child) does something, and that, after each scene, she or he will be asked to say what that person did. The first three clips are training videos and are aimed to practice the procedure with the speakers. You can repeat each clip as many times as the speaker needs. You can also take breaks or divide the elicitation session into two or three smaller sessions.

After each clip, ask the speaker "What happened in this clip?"

You can prompt this question after each clip. However, if you feel that the speaker does not need to be reminded the question that often and that she or he provides the descriptions spontaneously you can stop repeating the question.

N.B. Avoid using the following instruction: "Please, describe what you have just seen". This instruction tends to focus the speaker on the scene setting and prompt the descriptions of the background and the protagonists instead of eliciting the descriptions of motion. The instruction "What happened in this clip?" or "What did the person do?" is more likely to focus the attention of the speaker on the action.

Number of speakers
It would be good to elicit the data with three speakers per language at least (each performing one of the three versions). However, depending on the language you work on or on the field site the number of the speakers can vary. If you have easy access to speakers, you can run the elicitation with 9 or 12 speakers (three or four speakers per version). But, if you work on an endangered language or have no easy access to speakers, even one speaker would be precious!
A small number of speakers will allow you to investigate the morpho-syntactic devices that speakers use for describing Path of motion. A higher number of speakers will allow you, in addition, to examine in a more systematic way the hypothesis of asymmetry between Source and Goal of motion based on the descriptive strategies employed by the speakers of a given language.

Excel file for coding data
To facilitate data coding we created an Excel file. It contains 3 sheets which correspond to the 3 versions of the stimuli (v1, v2, v3). Inside each sheet, column A (scene_order) corresponds to the ordering of the clips within each version, and column B (scene_code_description) gives the code and a schematic description for each clip. The abbreviations used for these schematic descriptions are given in a separate sheet named "abbreviations".

You can use one sheet per speaker (version 1 for speaker 1, version 2 for speaker 2, etc.) and duplicate the sheets as many times as you need. You can use this Excel file to organize and analyze your data or export the data to some other application.

Optional elicitation

The "Trajectoire" material was conceived to elicit short descriptions of the video-clips. If you would like to collect descriptions of Path of motion in a narrative context you can ask the speakers to tell you her or his last journey or to tell you how to go from place X to place Y (e.g. from one village to another).

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