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Abstract Title: Towards a sociolinguistic typology of spatial reference. Evidence from Germanic and Romance varieties.

In this talk, spatial language data from Romance (Romansh, French) and Germanic (Standard High German, Swiss German dialects) varieties are presented. In his notorious typological distinction of verb- and satellite-framed languages, Talmy (1985 and 2000) identifies different lexicalization patterns in Romance languages on the one hand and in Germanic languages on the other hand, depending on whether the path of motion is expressed in the verb (thus *verb-framed*, e.g. French) or in a particle (*satellite-framed*, e.g. German, English). As a result of these differences, Talmy, Slobin (1996) and others have observed significant crosslinguistic variation in the expression of spacial scenes. Satellite-framed languages, according to this line of research, are claimed to systematically express more manner of motion and also more dynamic path description than Verb-framed languages.

Using evidence from lesser researched varieties of both Romance and Germanic, as well as data from corresponding standard languages, this paper will show that a linguistic typology based only on standard language data leads to wrong predictions. Patterns of covariation with sociolinguistic variables (age, education, gender) will be outlined. Systematic co-variation of manner- and path-saliency with the size of the speech community rather than with the genetic language type are demonstrated: E.g., within the group of satellite-framed languages (German), high manner-saliency turns out to be a feature of demographically bigger varieties, whereas small dialects are not significantly more manner-salient than a verb-framed language such as French.

One of the main claims of this presentation is that real usage-based typology of spatial language has to be a sociolinguistically and dialectologically enriched typology of standard AND non-standard varieties.

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