Manner of motion verbs in Latin
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0. Introduction

In this talk I present the theoretical premises, methodology, corpus, and preliminary
results of an ongoing research carried on with Egle Moccio (University of Palermo) and
Claudio Iacobini (University of Salerno) on the encoding of motion expression in Latin.
Some data concerning manner of motion expression in Classical Latin are presented and
commented.

- Main aim:
  - to make a first approach towards the manner-of-motion encoding strategies in Latin

- Outline:
  1. Overview of the main proposals about the typology of motion event encoding
     - Talmy’s classification of motion event lexicalization patterns
     - Definitions of the manner component in motion encoding
     - Connection between manner saliency and Satellite-framed languages
     - Variationist objections to Talmy’s bipartite typology
  2. Manner of motion encoding in Latin
     - Previous studies
     - Corpus
     - Data
  3. Conclusions: high-manner-salient ↔ Satellite-Framed?

1. Overview of the main proposals about the typology of motion event encoding

- Talmy 1975, 1985 and 2000
  - Latin (along with other ancient Indo-European languages) encodes motion events in a
typologically different fashion from that observed in the Romance languages.
- Talmy’s definition of a motion event
  - four basic components:
    ✓ MOTION → (primarily) a change of location
    ✓ FIGURE → a physical object
    ✓ GROUND → the reference point, with respect to which the figure moves
    ✓ PATH → the direction of motion
  - two additional components:
    ✓ Manner
    ✓ Cause.

- A motion event is an event in which a dynamic FIGURE moves along a PATH against a static
GROUND in a particular Manner.

- Definitions of ‘manner of motion’:
  - Talmy 1985: 128: «Manner refers to a subsidiary action or state that a Patient manifests
currently with its main action or state»
  - Slab in 2006: 81: «“Manner” is a cover term for a number of dimensions, including motor
pattern [e.g., hop, jump, skip], often combined with rate of motion [e.g., walk, run, run-
 sprint] or force dynamics [e.g., step, tread, tramp] or attitude [e.g., amble, saunter, stroll],
and sometimes encoding instrument [e.g., sled, ski, skateboard], and so forth»
  - Cardini 2008: 541-9 (more detailed definition)
    «In order for a motion verb to be “mannered” this will have to carry at least one of the
following kinds of semantic information:

A) Information about aspects of motion directly referring to input material perceived by our senses
   - A1) Information about some fundamental movements which can be performed both
        by animate and inanimate entities interacting with surfaces during translation (Eng.
        roll/At. rotołare, Eng. bounce/At. rimbaltare, Eng. slide/At. scivolare)
   - A2) Information about kinds of body movements peculiar to some living entities,
        performed during translation (Eng. walk/At. camminare; Eng. trot/At. trottere)
   - A3) Information about particular trajectories traced in space by some entity during
        translation (It. zigzagare)
   - A4) Information about vehicles used for translational motion, or about actions
        required for propelling them into such a motion (Eng. cycle, canoe, sail, paddle, ride)
   - A5) Information about particular sounds associated with translational motion (Eng.
        rattle, whistle, It. zoccolare)

B) Information about aspects of motion evoking fundamental concepts
   - B1) SPEED (Eng. zoom, hurtle, drift)
   - B2) ENERGY/FORCE (Eng. barge, totter; It. prorompere)
   - B3) WEIGHT (Eng. trundle, trip)
   - B4) EFFORT (Eng. coast, clamber; It. fluire, arrancare)
   - B5) CONTINUITY (Eng. flow, pace, joggle)
   - B6) HARMONY (It. bailare, Eng. lollop)
   - B7) STEADINESS (Eng. march, stagger; It. barcollare)

C) Information about aspects of motion evoking emotional states
   - C1) Information about aspects of motion evoking emotional states (Eng.
        hurry/It. affrettarsi, Eng. sneak/At. sgattaiolare, Eng. stroll/It. passaggiare)

- Internal structure of a motion event
  - the figure proceeds from a source at some time t1 to a goal at t2; during the interval t2-t1,
the figure moves through any number of points along a path from source to goal
o Verb-Framed languages
  - in a verb-framed language, (or V-language, e.g. Romance, Semitic, Japanese, Basque, Korean), PATH is characteristically packaged in the verb: in 1. the Italian verb ‘avanzare’ means ‘move forward towards a destination’;
  1) Cesare avanza nel campo nemico
     “Caesar moves forwards towards the enemy’s camp”
     - the manner component is optional, often left out of the verb and expressed by means of various kinds of subordinate elements (adjuncts): gerunds or other kind of adverbial expressions.

o Satellite-framed languages
  - in a Satellite-framed language (or S-language, e.g. Ancient Indo-European languages, Finno-Ugric, Germanic, Slavic) the main verb encodes manner, and PATH is coded by a satellite, as in 2. and 3.;
  2) A child toddles down the street
  3) A messenger rushes up to the king (examples in Hyman 2003)

o Further differentiations (Slobin 1996, 2004, 2006 and elsewhere)
  - Satellite-framed and V-framed languages further differ in the amount of information about manner of motion they normally provide
    - a Satellite-framed strategy provides a ‘lower cognitive cost’ option compared to Verb-framed adjectival expression of manner (e.g. It. uscire correndo, uscire di corsa ‘to go out running’)
    - S-language speakers will be facilitated in expressing manner information
    - V-language speakers tend to provide such information only when it is really important to the context (cf. also Cardini 2008: 534).

o Manner salience
  - level of attention paid to manner in describing events (Slobin 2004, 2006)
    - S-languages → high-manner-salient
    - V-languages → low-manner-salient (cf. also Cardini 2008: 534).

o Graduality of manner salience
  - also within high-manner-salient Satellite-framed languages is possible to distinguish among:

✓ languages in which every context describing a motion event is expressed by means of a manner verb (e.g. Russian, cf. Slobin 2006)
✓ languages in which the use of a manner verb is less necessary and the occurrence of verbs of generic motion is frequently found, i.e. equivalents of ‘to come’, ‘to go’ (English, German).

o Variationist objections to Talmy’s bipartite typology
  - recent studies on motion encoding (Slobin 2004, 2006; Filipović 2007; Croft et al. 2010; Beavers, Levin & Tham 2010 inter al) maintain Talmy’s bipartite typology as a starting point, displaying a growing attention to the several phenomena of variation whose understanding requires a more flexible theoretical model.
  - the study of the language specific strategies and the peculiar contexts fostering or restraining the use of a given pattern has scaled down the Talmyan claim that a language has one pattern as its dominant type
  - synchronic and diachronic analyses focussing the interaction between different pattern in the event lexicalization of a given language have been proposed.

2. Manner of motion encoding in Latin

o the connection between its alleged satellite-framed type and the presence, use, and amount of Manner verbs has not yet been deeply investigated
  - since Latin is classified as a Satellite-framed language, this classification should include it among the high-Manner-salient languages
  - it is necessary to verify the correctness of this implication and the degree of pertinence in the inclusion of Latin among prototypically Satellite-framed languages.
  - Baldi 2006:17: Talmy’s typology predicts that Latin, as a satellite-framed language, must have a way of saying ‘the girl danced across the room’ with the conflation of motion and Manner components in the same verb and PATH encoded by means of a satellite - a preverb and/or a preposition and/or an adverbial (see also Meini 2010).

o Scarcity of directional manner verbs in Latin
  - it is actually quite rare in Latin to find occurrences such as: navigo ad Sidam (Cicero, Epistulae ad Familiares book 3, letter 6, section 1, line 8), labor in proxumum mare (Tacitus, de origine et situ Germanorum, 45.5), flecto ad delubra (Ovidius, Metamorphoses, 1.372).
  - Slobin 2006: sit is not satellite-framed alone that accounts for the rate of use of manner verbs; morphosyntactic structure and lexical availability also contribute to a language’s ‘rhetorical style’.
  - Baldi 2006: 18: ‘the absence or presence of a given manner+motion verb may be a lexico-cultural, not a typological feature, for example the fact that a Greek in the ancient world could hardly conceive of running unless out of necessity, and certainly never for pleasure (there is no verb to jog recoverable for any ancient IE language, since running for pleasure is a wholly alien concept). Thus a sentence such as John sprinted to the finish line, in which sprint is a manner+motion verb in English, would in Greek simply be John ran quickly to the finish line, with a general verb of motion and a lexical adverb of manner. Thus we have no direct way of knowing whether you can sprint to the finish line in Ancient Greek.’
o Corpus
  ▪ about 350 passages expressing motion (including generic motion verbs and manner verbs) manually selected from an analytic reading of:
    ✓ Ovidius Metamorphoses (books 1, 2, 6)
    ✓ Phaedrus Phaenoeaae Aeropiae
    ✓ Sallustius Catilinae Coniuration
    ✓ Tacitus De Origine et situ Germanorum.
  ▪ results compared via the Diogenes corpus database (a software package developed by Durham University providing a useful interface to the Packard Humanities Institute 5 corpus of Latin texts)
  ▪ the set of manner verbs of the first subcorpus were queried within the works of
    ✓ Caesar de Bello Gallico, Bellum Civile
    ✓ Cicero’s Epistulae (ad familiares, ad Atticum, ad Quintum fratrem).

o List of manner verbs (underlined examples co-occur with directional phrases):
  cirkno ‘to make round, to round’
  curro ‘to run’
  erro ‘to wander’
  festino ‘to hasten’
  flecto ‘to curve, turn round’
  fluo ‘to flow’
  fugio ‘to run away’
  gradior ‘to step, walk’
  labor ‘to slip’
  mico ‘to quiver’
  nato ‘to swim’
  navigo ‘to sail’
  no ‘to swim’
  palpito ‘to throb, palpitate’
  propego ‘to hasten’
  ruo ‘to fall with violence’
  salto ‘to jump’
  salto ‘to dance’
  scando ‘to climb up, to ascend’
  serpo ‘to crawl’
  sinno ‘to bend down’
  spatio ‘to walk about (slowly)’
  tremo ‘to tremble’
  tremulo ‘to quiver, tremble’
  vado ‘to go, walk (hastily or rapidly)’
  vago (r) ‘to wander’
  verso (r) ‘to turn, twist, bend’
  velo ‘to fly’
  volvo ‘to roll, turn about’

o Data
  ▪ contexts in which the Figure doesn’t shift from one point to another in space (Slobin 2006; Baldi 2006).
    ✓ no directional satellites
    ✓ activities rather than displacement event

4) C. Salustius Crispus, Catilinae Coniuration 25. 2. 3
  litteris Graecis Latinis docta, psallere [et] saltare elegantius quam necesse est probae

“she was skilled in Greek and Roman literature; she could sing, play, and dance, with greater elegance than became a woman of virtue.”

5) P. Ovidius Naso. Metamorphoses 2.709
  Hinc se sustulerat paribus caducéf alis,
  Munchiosaque volans agros gratamque Minervae
  despectabant humum cultique arbusta Lycei
  “High in the dome of Heaven, behold the bright
  Caduceus-Bearer soared on balanced wings;
  and far below him through a fruitful grove,
  devoted to Minerva’s hallowed reign”

6) Phaedrus. Fabulea Aeropiae 4. 3. 2
  Fame coacto valpes alta in vinea
  Uvam appetebat summis salis viribus
  “A hungry fox with fierce attack sprang on a vine”
  ▪ instances of ‘self-contained’ motion (Talmy 1985:141) in which the Figure retains its position:

7) P. Ovidius Naso. Metamorphoses 6. 560
  radix micat ultima linguae,
  ipsa icet terraeque tremens immuratur atrae,
  utque salire solet mutiatae cauda colubrae,
  palpitat et moriens dominae vestigia quietae.
  “The mangled root still quivered, but the bleeding tongue itself,
  fell murmuring on the blood-stained floor. As the tail
  of a slave snake still writhes upon the ground,
  so did the throbbling tongue; and, while it died,
  moved up to her, as if to seek her feet”
  ▪ presence of a meaningful directional preverb:

8) M. Tullius Cicero. Epistulae ad Atticum 1. 18. 1. 15
  cum ad forum stipati gregibus amicorum descendimus,
  reperire ex magna turba neminem
  possimus quocum aut locari libere aut suspicari familiaerum possumus.
  “And as I go down to the forum surrounded by troops of friends, I can
  find no one out of all that crowd with whom to jest freely, or into whose
  ear I can breathe a familiar sigh”

9) C. Iulius Caesar. De Bello Gallico 7. 53. 2. 2
  cum Vercingetorix nihil minus <infra munitiones remaneret neque> in aequum locum
  descenderet, levi facto equestri proelio, atque eo secundo, in castra exercitum redit.
  “When Vercingetorix, nevertheless, would not descend to the level ground,
  a slight cavalry action, and that a successful one, having taken place, he led back his army into the camp”
  ▪ directional information distributed in the sentence

1 All translations are taken from the “Perseus Digital Library Project”: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman
✓ preverb semantically redundant (Brucal, Iacobini & Mocciaro 2011)

10) C. Julius Caesar, Bellum Civile 1. 75. 2. 5

improviso ad vallum advolat
“he instantly flew to the rampart”

11) C. Sallustius Crispus. Catilineae Coniuratio 60. 7. 3

Catilina [...] in confertissimos hostis incurrit
“and Catiline [...] rushed into the thickest of the enemy”

- preverbs still highly meaningful

✓ verbs derived from eo -> the very general meaning of the base possibly motivates the significant character of the preverb (Brucal, Iacobini & Mocciaro 2011):

12) Cornelius Tacitus. De Origine et Situ Germanorum 21. 3. 1

proximum domum non invitat adeunt
“and without invitation they go to the next house”

13) M. Tullius Cicero, Epistulae ad Familiares 7. 1. 2. 3

nam primum honoris causa in scaenam redierant iti quos ego honoris causa de scaena decessisse arbitrabam
“For, to begin with, as a special honour to the occasion, those actors had come back to the stage which I, thought, had left it for their own”

- preverbs without directional meaning

✓ in spatial contexts per- does not express direction -> scattered trajectory within which the Figure doesn’t shift from one point to another in space:

14) C. Julius Caesar. De Bello Gallico 7. 45. 2. 1

Hac re cognita Caesar mittit complures equitum turnas eodem media nocte; imperat his ut paulo tumultuosius omnibus locis pervengentur.
“Caesar, on being informed of this circumstance, sends several troops of horse to the place immediately after midnight; he orders them to range in every quarter with more tumult than usual”

15) Cornelius Tacitus. De Origine et Situ Germanorum 46. 2. 3

nam quidquid inter Pucinos Fennisque silvarum ac montium egitur latrocinis pererrat.
“in their plundering expeditions they roam over the whole extent of forest and mountain between the Pucini and Fenni”

✓ per- can also convey an abstract value (actional or emphatic) not altering the spatial sense of the base (cf. Brucal-Mocciaro 2010; Brucal, Iacobini & Mocciaro 2011):

16) C. Sallustius Crispus. Catilineae Coniuratio 57. 1. 7

reliquos Catilina per monts asperas magnis itineribus in agrum Pistoriensem abducit eo consilio, uti per tramites occulte perfugeret in Galliam Transalpinam.
“The remainder Catiline conducted, over rugged mountains, and by forced marches, into the neighborhood of Pistoria, with a view to escape covertly, by cross roads, into Gaul”

- the semantic component of manner can easily get lost when the verb is prefixed (Brucal, Iacobini & Mocciaro 2011):

17) C. Julius Caesar. De Bello Gallico 4. 23. 1. 3

His constitutus rebus nactus idoneam ad navigandum tempestatem tertia fere vigilia naves solvit equeisque in ulterioris portum progradit et naves concenderede et se sequi iussit.
“These matters being arranged, finding the weather favorable for his voyage, he set sail about the third watch, and ordered the horse to march forward to the further port, and there embark and follow him”

18) Cornelius Tacitus. De Origine et Situ Germanorum 39. 3. 3

nemo nisi vinculo ligatus ingreditur; ut minor et potestatem numinis prae se ferens. si forte prolapsum est, atollit et insurget haurd licitum
“No one enters it except bound with a chain, as an inferior acknowledging the might of the local divinity. If he chance to fall, it is not lawful for him to be lifted up, or to rise to his feet”

- o Latin, unlike prototypical Satellite-framed languages, does not assign a great salience to the information concerning the manner in which a motion is performed

- o a more contextually relevant directional meaning can blur manner information.

✓ manner is preferably expressed through strategies more typically adopted by V-languages

✓ by adverbs:

19) C. Julius Caesar. De Bello Gallico 5. 46. 2. 1

iubet media nocte legionem profici celeriterque ad se venire.
“He orders the legion to set forward in the middle of the night, and come to him with dispatch”

20) M. Tullius Cicero, Epistulae ad Familiares 15. 4. 2. 2

et propter anni tempus ad exercitum mihi confestim esse eundum viderem, biduum Laudieceae fu
“and seeing that the time of year made it necessary for me to make all haste to the army, I spent but two days at Laodicea”

21) C. Julius Caesar. De Bello Gallico 2. 8. 3. 7

atque ex utroque parte lateris deiectus habebat et in fronte leniter fastigatus paulatim ad planitiem redibat
“and had steep declines of its side in either direction, and gently sloping in front gradually sank to the plain”

✓ by bare cases:

22) P. Ovidius Naso. Metamorphoses 10. 49

[...] et inessit passu de vulnere tardo
"she obeyed the call by walking to them with slow steps, yet halting from her wound"

23) Phaedrus, Fabulas Aeopiae 4. 23. 7
Redire in patriam voluit cursu pelagio
"Homewards by shipping he returned"

24) M. Tullius Cicero, Epistulae ad Atticam 13. 16. 1. 2
pedem in villa adnunc eressi non sumus
"I have not as yet stirred a foot outside my villa"
✓

by participial constructions:

25) M. Tullius Cicero, Epistulae ad Familiares 3. 7. 4. 9
currents Lepta venit mihisque cuntavit et iam castra praetegressum esse.
"Lepta came hurrying back and told me that you had already passed my camp"

26) P. Ovidius Naso, Metamorphoses 2. 455
nacta nemus gelidum dea, quo cum murmure labens ibat et attritas versabat rivus harenas.
"the goddess of the Chase observed a cool umbrageous grove, from which a murmuring stream ran babbling gently over golden sands"

27) Phaedrus, Fabulas Aeopiae 3. 19. 9
Hominem inquit quaeos, et abil festinans domum.
"He answered briefly, as he ran, 'Fellow, I'm looking for a man"

- the construction relating a verb of translational motion and the present participle of a manner verb (currents, labens, festinans) undoubtedly prelude to the Romance structure "main verb + gerund (of a manner verb)" (e.g. It. vado a casa zoppicando "I'm limp/hobbling home")

3. Conclusions
   - the data here presented clearly indicates the presence in Latin of non-prototypically satellite-framed strategies:
     ✓ relative scarcity of manner verbs
     ✓ their non directional use
     ✓ the frequent omission of manner of motion expression
     ✓ the encoding of manner by using adverbs, bare cases and, finally, present participle constructions
   ○ the Satellite-framed character of Latin could be simply presumed on the basis of the presence of derivational prefixes that differentiate a 'Latin type' from a Romance one (trans-o Romam vs. It. attraverso Roma).
   ○ the acknowledged connection between Satellite-framed languages and high-Manner-salience necessarily needs to be re-discussed also in the light of these results.

References


PH5 = Packard Humanities Institut [1991]: CD-ROM 5.3: Latin authors and Bible versions.


