

Static and Dynamic Location Events: Typological Differences between French and Swedish and Its Implications for Learning L2 Swedish

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Abstract

Static and dynamic location is predominantly encoded with a posture verb in Swedish: *ligga*, *stå*, *sitta* ('lie', 'stand', 'sit') for static location and *lägga*, *ställa*, *sätta* ('lay', 'put standing', 'put sitting, set') for dynamic location. This is in accordance with Talmy's theory that S-languages confl ate the Co-event Manner in the main verb when it comes to spatial expressions. French on the other hand uses positionally neutral verbs, like *être* and *mettre*, *poser* ('be' and 'put', respectively), and encodes Manner in a Satellite outside of the verb, almost only in non-canonical situations, just like V-languages tend to do. Our results in L1 Swedish and French confirm the typological differences observed for Germanic and Romance languages. Our results in L2 Swedish accounts for the difficulties of French learners of L2 Swedish when encoding positional expressions, switching from a general one-term semantic system to a semantically specific, multi-term system. The L2 grammars of our two groups of learners (i.e., B1, C1) show an over-use of one of the posture verbs (*ligga*, 'lie'), the use of a static posture verb instead of a dynamic one, and the L1-transfer of a positionally neutral verb (*vara*, 'être', or *finnas*, 'il y a'). The learners show a certain conscience about the typological differences and take them into account, adapting to the L2-system.

Keywords

L2 acquisition, location verbs, typology, Swedish