We postulate that human cognition is not only rooted in the human body, but also inherently viewpointed in language, as defended by Dancygier & Sweetser 2012. We also hold that when we propose a special sort of location of perspective point underlying events of motion, we place our “mental eye” to look out over the rest of the scene, as formalized by Talmy (2000: 68, 216).

In the present paper we shall discuss three different locations of perspective point underlying events of motion in Portuguese: two of them are distinct motion perspectivizations in European Portuguese (EP), one physical and one fictive (both of them different from the Brazilian Portuguese (BP) usages), and the last one is the Portuguese systemic time-as-space perspectivization of the organization of a week unit of time.

In the case of physical motion, we focus on some conceptual and contextual specificities underlying the EP expression ‘ao fundo’ (at the bottom; also: at the end) when used in space directions, where the vertical reference to the depth is purely deictic, indicating the end of the prototypically horizontal path getting as far as the point at which the speaker’s “mental eye” can get. In the case of fictive motion, we present two spatial highly polysemic expressions used currently in EP: ‘à frente’ (in front of; also: ahead, after) vs. ‘atrás’ (behind; also: back, at the back, before, above, among others) in the specific context of text construction and production (cf. Batoréo 2000, 2004, Teixeira 2001 and Silva & Batoréo 2011). In the third case, which discusses the Portuguese systemic time-as-space perspectivization, we shall show how the location of different perspective point in the chronological organization of the days of the week changes its conceptualization in Portuguese (i.e., both EP and BP) when compared with other languages.

Keywords: Talmyan cognitive semantics; events of motion; perspective point; European Portuguese; expression of space, interlinguistic studies.

References
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