Manner in Chinese coextension paths

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Outline

• Definition and examples
• Theoretical explanations
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Definition and examples

- Fictive motion expressions describe physical entities or situations with no actual motion using dynamic linguistic forms (motion verbs, directional prepositions, etc.) (Talmy, 2000, p. 99).

- This fence goes from the plateau to the valley.
- The sun is shining into the cave.
- I sat in the car and watched the scenery rush past me.
- The bakery is across the street from the bank.
Definition and examples

- **Emanation paths**
  - **Pattern paths**
  - fictive motion
    - **Frame-relative motion**
      - **Advent paths**
      - **Access paths**
      - **Coextension paths**
  - **Orientation paths**
    - **Radiation paths**
    - **Shadow paths**
    - **Sensory paths**
Definition and examples

- Coextension path sentences depict “the form, orientation, or location of a spatially extended object in terms of a path over the object’s extent” (Talmy, 2000, p. 138).

- The fence goes from the plateau to the valley.

- 从大陆伸展过来的道路在这里走到了尽头。from mainland extend-towards-here-AUX road at-here walk-to ASP end The road extending from the mainland walks to its end here.
Theoretical explanations

- Mental scanning
- Conceptual blending
- Conceptual metaphor & metonymy

- Experimental studies------mental simulation of motion
Theoretical framework

• Matsumoto (1996, p. 194)
  a. The path condition:
     Some property of the path of motion must be expressed.
  b. The manner condition:
     No property of the manner of motion can be expressed unless it is used to represent some correlated property of the path.
## Literature review

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<td>Use: directional verbs; meander verbs</td>
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<td>the sliding glass door.</td>
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Data

• Data source:
  written texts (geography magazines; geography books; travel essays).

• Exhaustive examination

• 661 sentences involving coextension paths.
Results

• A continuum in terms of the degree of encoding of manner information
  ➢ Absence of manner information
  ➢ Manner information conflated with path information in one grammatical form
  ➢ Manner information coexists with path information in separate grammatical forms
  ➢ Presence of manner information and no overt path information
Results

Absence of manner information

1. 大陆架是陆壳延伸到海中的
   continental-shelf is continental-crust extend-to sea-in AUX
   比较平坦的海地区域。
   relatively flat sea-continent area

The continental shelf is the relatively flat area between the sea and the continent where the continental crust extends into the sea.
Results

- Manner information conflated with path information in one grammatical form

1. 甚至 有 巨大的 树根 从 窑顶 直插
even have huge tree-root from kiln-top all-the-way-stick-into
地面。
ground
There are even huge tree roots sticking all the way into the
ground from the top of the kiln.
Results

2. 凯伦家有个巨大的露台，深深地探向一个幽暗寂静的山谷。
Kellen-house have a huge terrace deeply stretch-towards a dark-silent valley.

There is a terrace in Kellen’s house which stretches deeply into the silent dark valley.

3. （巴丹吉林沙漠）柔和地向上隆起，渐渐地抵达顶峰。
(Badain Jaran Desert) gently upwards rise gradually reach peak
(The Badain Jaran Desert) rises gently upwards and gradually reaches its peak.
Results

- Manner information coexists with path information in separate grammatical forms

1. 这万里长城，从燕山支脉的角山上直冲下来，一头扎进了渤海岸边。

   The Great Wall rushes down all the way from the Cape Mount of Yan Mountain, and jumps into the bank of the Bohai Sea.
2. 这条穿过大凉山山脉、大小相岭和大渡河峡谷的铁路，“强行”穿越了诸多复杂危险的地形。The railway which crosses Daliangshan-Mountain, Daxiaoxiang-Mountain and Daduhe-Gorge, passes through many complicated and dangerous landscapes forcibly.

3. 入夜，城市平静了，小巷子幽幽延伸。When the night falls, the city become quiet, and small alleys extend silently.
Results

Presence of manner information and no overt path information

1. Fanzi崖... 如一面折扇，独立无倚，高走云霄。
Shanzi-Cliff like a-CL folding-fan alone-stand-no-leaning-point high-walk-cloud
Shanzi Cliff stands alone like a folding fan, and walks highly in the clouds.

2. 美国66号公路堪称流动在北美大陆上的最壮伟的
US-Route 66 can-be-called flow PREP-North-America-on AUX most-magnificent
自然风景线。
natural scenery
US Route 66 can be called the most magnificent natural scenery flowing on North America.

3. 一座叫“安顺廊桥”的桥梁像长龙一样游荡在800米宽的锦江上。
a-CL name-Anshun-AUX bridge like-long-dragon wander PREP-800m-wide-AUX-Jin-River-on
A bridge named “Anshun” wanders on Jin River of 800 meters wide like a long dragon.
Discussion

• We propose that the degree to which the manner information is encoded is related with the function of the sentence.

• In geography texts, the salience degree of manner information is relatively low.

• It is well motivated to involve some manner information if the writer’s intention is to use coextension path expressions to meet the rhetorical needs.
Discussion

• It is necessary to distinguish semantic path information and grammatical forms encoding them.
References


Thank you!