

PERSPECTIVE POINT (VIEWPOINTING) AND EVENTS OF MOTION IN EUROPEAN PORTUGUESE

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Theme session: Consolidating a Map of Talmyan Cognitive Semantics –

Looking within, across, and beyond its systems.

Perspective point, vantage point, Viewpointing in language

- 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.
- **Perspective point (vantage point)** underlying events of motion, placing one's "mental eye" to look out over the rest of the scene, as formalized by **Talmy** (2000).
(Talmy 2000, 1: 68-76, 216-217, 269, 282, and 2: 440-442, 474-475).
Langacker (2000: 5, 207 and 2010:6).
- **Viewpointing in language: Dancygier & Sweetser 2012**

EP perspectivization: three cases

- **Three cases** of the use of linguistic devices that mark and reflect **conceptual viewpoint** and can be considered instances of **linguistic viewpoint** used typically in European Portuguese:
 - **Two distinct motion perspectivizations in European Portuguese (EP)**, one of them **physical** and one **fictive** (and both of them different from the Brazilian Portuguese (BP) usages)
- +
- The case of the **Portuguese systemic time-as-space perspectivization** in the representation of the concept of the week (both EP and BP).

Perspective point 1

- Physical Motion and its extentions in EP:
the Case of the Expression '*ao fundo*' (*to the bottom*)

Physical Motion and its extensions in EP: the Case of the Expression '*ao fundo*' (1)

(1) *O barco acaba de ir ao fundo.*
The ship has just go to the bottom

'The ship has just hit the bottom/sunk.'

(2) *É preciso investigar as coisas com rigor e ir ao fundo das questões.*
is necessary examine the things with strictness
and go to the bottom of the issues

'It is necessary to examine these issues in detail and get to the heart of the matter.'

Physical Motion and its extensions in EP: the Case of the Expression '*ao fundo*' (2)

(3) *Atravessamos uma sala enorme e vazia, com um palco **ao fundo** e uma «jukebox» e chegamos à sala de refeições, onde somos recebidos (...) por duas(...) cozinheiras (...).*

(In *Linguateca*: *par=ext815075-clt-95b-2.*)

‘We walked across a huge and empty room with a stage **at the back** and a jukebox and we came towards a dining room where we were received by two cooks’.

Physical Motion and its extensions in EP: the Case of the Expression '*ao fundo*' (3)

(4) *Tínhamos decidido que a câmara ficaria empoleirada nas rochas, lá **ao fundo**, onde termina a longa fita de areia.*

(In *Linguateca*: *par=ext7271-nd-95a-2*).

‘We decided the camera would be perched on the rocks, there **at the end** where the extended ribbon of sand ends’.

Perspective point 2

Fictive Motion in EP: the Case of the Expressions '*à frente*' (*in front of*) and '*atrás*' (*behind*)

Ex. 5

Vasco da Gama

Fictive Motion in EP: the Case of the Expressions '*à frente*' and '*atrás*' (1)

(5) *No caso do nome 'Vasco da Gama',*
in.the case of.the name '*Vasco da Gama*'

'da' fica atrás do apelido 'Gama'.
'*da*' stays behind of.the family.name '*Gama*'

'In the case of the name '*Vasco da Gama*', '*da*' is written ***behind*** of the forename '*Gama*.'

Fictive Motion in EP: the Case of the Expressions '*à frente*' and '*atrás*' (2)

(5) *No caso do nome 'Vasco da Gama',*
in.the case of.the name '*Vasco da Gama*'

'da' fica atrás do apelido 'Gama'.
'*da*' stays behind of.the family.name '*Gama*'

'In the case of the name '*Vasco da Gama*', '*da*' is written ***behind*** of the forename '*Gama*.'

Cf. (6)

Put the little word 'de' in front of your family name, as in 'de Castro' (Coubild Dictionary).

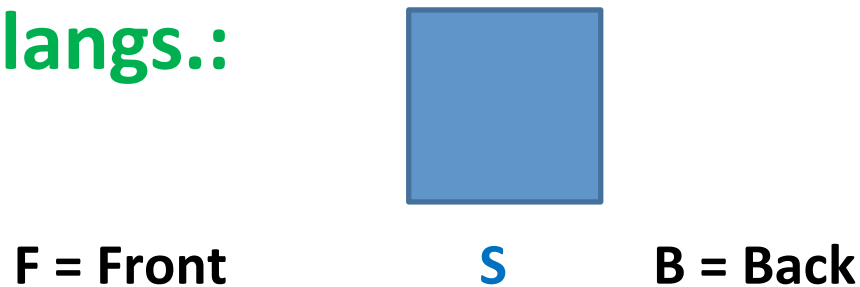
Fictive Motion in EP (4)

European Portuguese:



Production of a text unit with the **internal speaker** moving to the right

Other langs.:



External speaker, text as a **product**

Perspective point 3

**Portuguese systemic time-as-space
perspectivization:**

**chronological organization in the names
of the days of the week**

Portuguese chronological organization in the names of the days of the week

Modern Portuguese + meaning	Old (Arcaic)Portuguese	Spanish	Italian	French	Galician
Domingo (Lord's Day)	Domingo	Domingo	Domenica	Dimanche	domingo
Segunda-feira (2nd day)	Lues	Lunes	Lunedì	Lundi	luns/ segunda- feira
Terça-feira (3rd day)	Martes	Martes	Martedì	Mardi	martes / terza feira
Quarta-feira (4th day)	Mércores	Miércoles	Mercoledì	Mercredi	mércores / cuarta- feira
Quinta-feira (5th day)	Joves	Jueves	Giovedì	Jeudi	xoves / quinta-feira
Sexta-feira (6th day)	Vernes	Viernes	Venerdì	Vendredi	venres / sexta-feira
Sábado (Sabbath)	Sábado	Sábado	Sabato	Samedi	Sábado

Conclusions and final remarks

The specific EP cases of space constructions discussed in the present study allow us to render visible the **importance of *viewpointing* in our lives**, specifically in human cognition and verbal language, as Dancygier and Sweetser 2012 put it: “**A stretch of country with a human in it is no longer just a stretch of country – it is also a human’s egocentric conceptualization of that physical area**” (2012: 1). Our examples show that viewpoint is constructed on the **physical bases**, with numerous specific extensions in the abstract domain, for instance in the case of **fictive motion**, and **time as space conceptualization**.

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