An Empirical Study On Stationary Motion Event In Mandarin Chinese

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Overview

1. Theoretical Background
2. Two Serious Problems
3. Aims of Research
4. Methodology
5. Results and Conclusions

Tal**myan** Typology:

Talmy proposes that human languages fall into two categories: `verb-framed languages` **(VL)** `and satellite-framed languages` **(SL).**

VL: **Core schema** is expressed **in the** verb **root** ('enter' 'ascend', etc.)

SL: **Core schema** is expressed by an element associated with the verb, **called Satellite** ('go in/out/up', etc.).

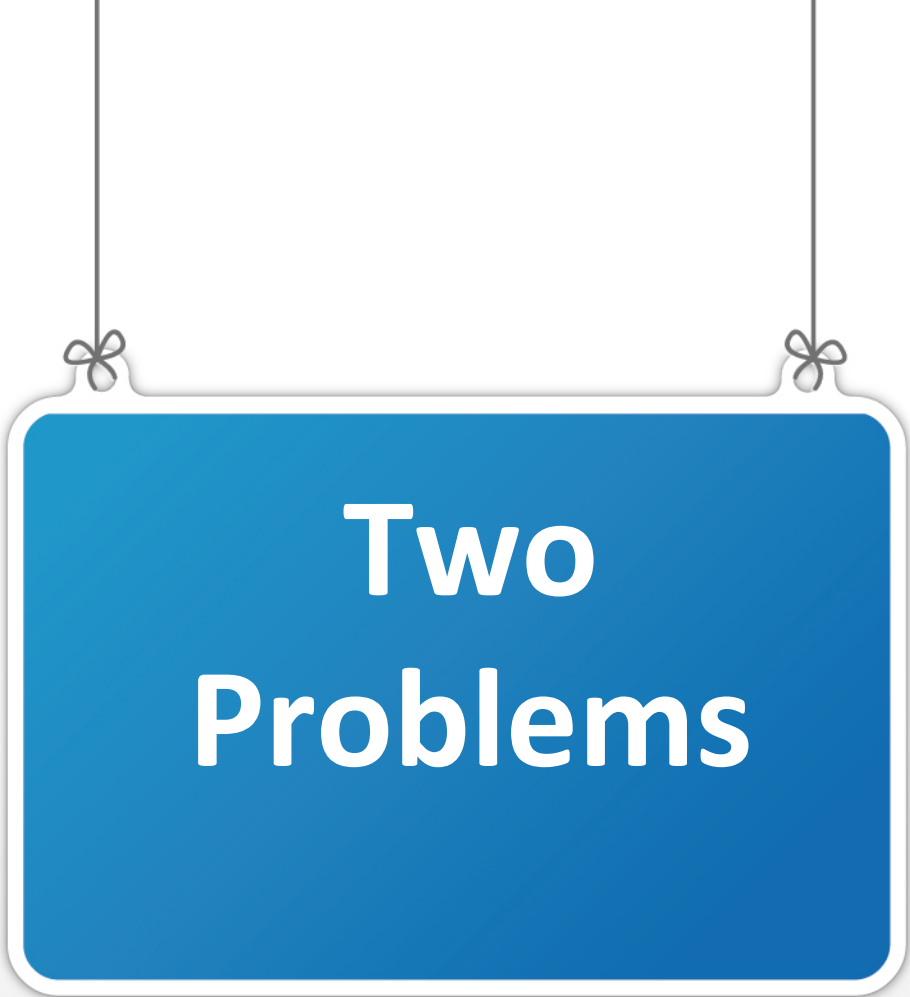| Macro-event	5 types of sub-event	Examples	Core-schema
	Motion event	*The ball rolled in.*	Sat (*into*)=PATH
	Event of temporal contouring	*They talked on.*	Sat (*on*)=PATH
	Event of state change	*The candle blew out.*	Sat (*out*)=PATH
	Event of action correlating	*She sang along.*	Sat (*along*)=PATH
	Event of Realization	*The police hunted the fugitive down.*	Sat (*down*)=PATH

Macro-event

- Motion-event
- Temporal Contouring
- State Change
- Action correlation
- Realization
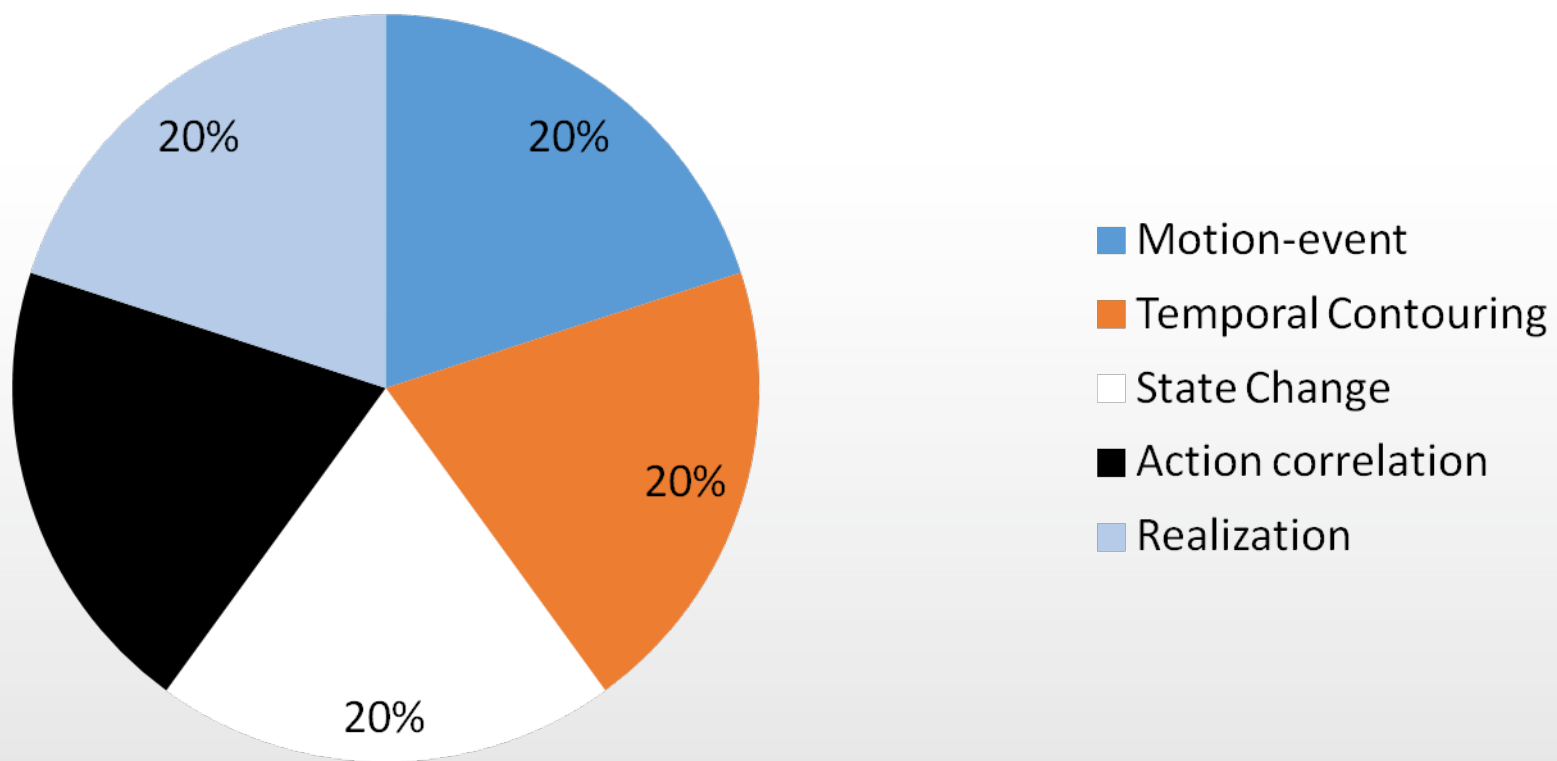
Total Research (99% on motion event)
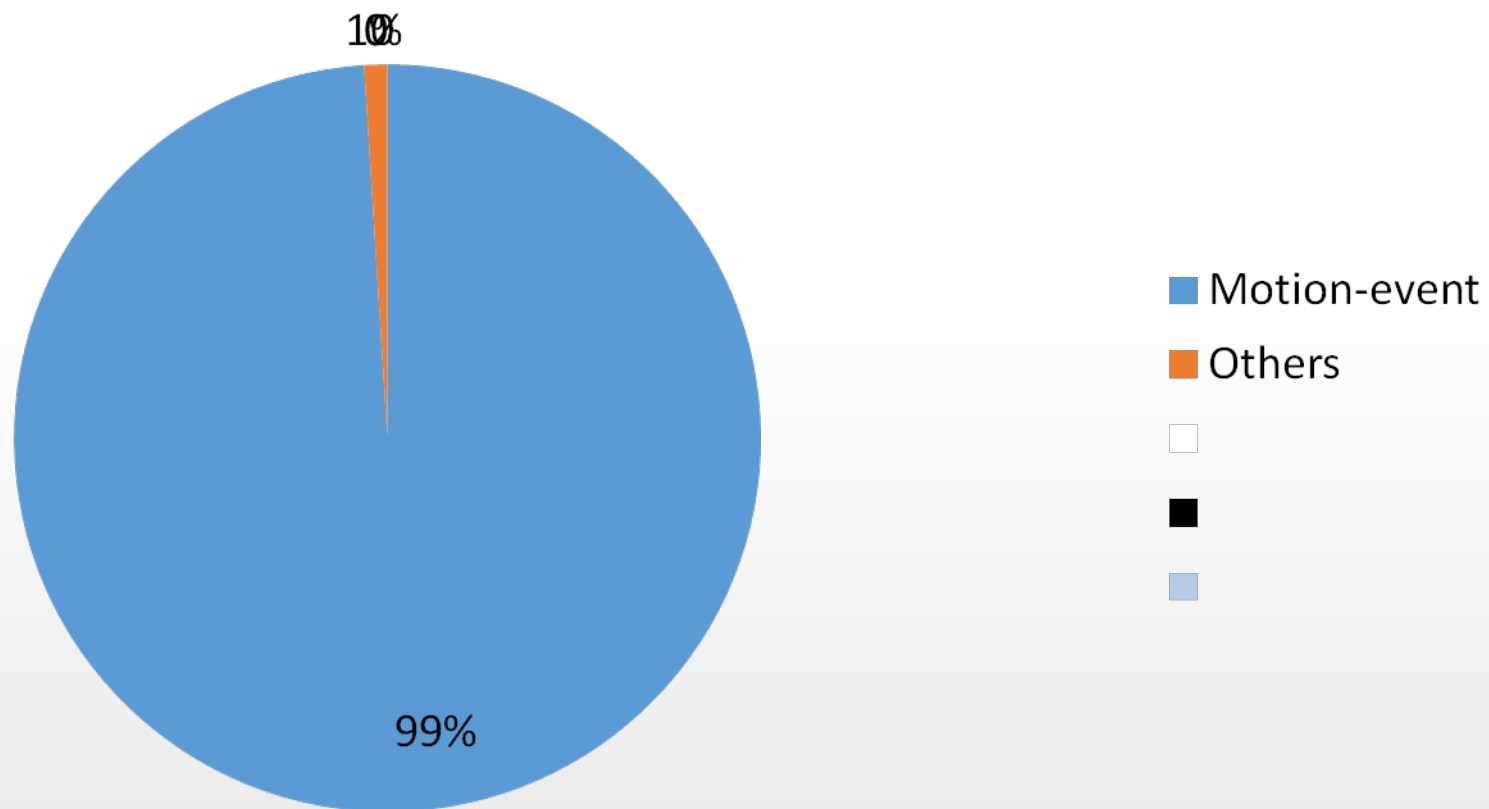
Total Research on motion event (99% on translocational)

Legend:
- Translocational
- Be-locatedness

99%
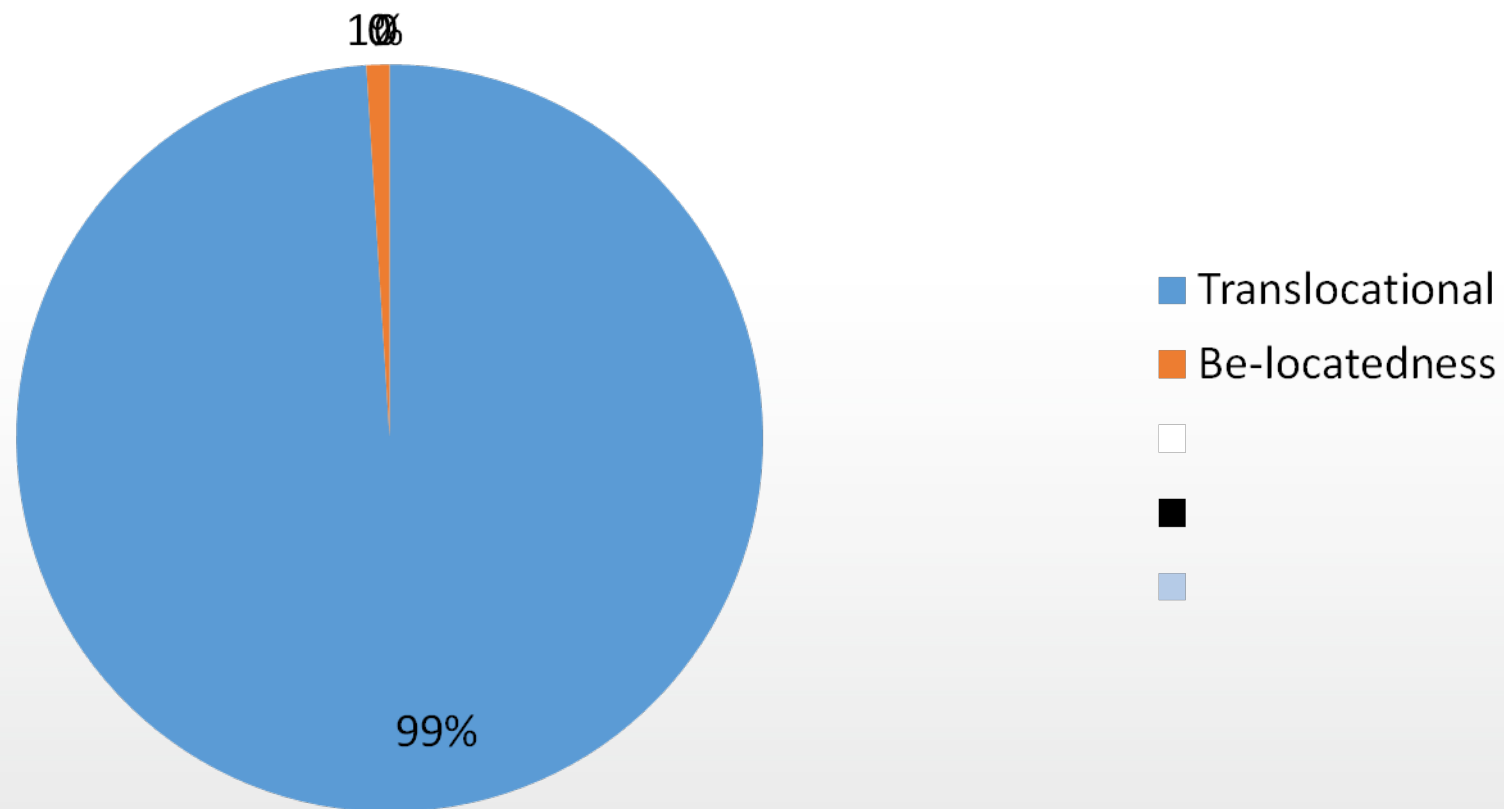
There seems to be a misunderstanding that Talmy had used a permissive methodology open to any form of data, with the result that a free-and-randomly selected data are used to attest the framework.

Talmy has strict methodological requirements on this type of research, including *colloquialism* in style, *frequency* in occurrence in speech, and *pervasiveness* in scope.

Ongoing debate over the status of mandarin Chinese

Talmy claims that "Mandarin is a strongly satellite-framed language..." (Talmy 2000b:272).

Slobin challenges this view with a proposal containing a third type, i.e. Equipollently-framed languages. Slobin treats Mandarin as Equipollently-framed language. (Slobin 2004:25).

Other voices

To empirically examine and locate the typological status of Mandarin Chinese across the full range of macro-event.

Present research: Sub-branch of the whole project, only to empirically examine and locate the typological status of Mandarin Chinese in the Be-locatedness of motion event.

--10 pictures were designed as stimuli.

--50 native speakers were interviewed.

-- 500 answering sentences were obtained and transcribed into a total corpus containing 13445 Chinese characters in length.

--- analyzed as containing 9 lexicalization patterns for conflating PATH.

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Pattern I: V$_{zai}$+LNP（verb "zai" (在)+Locative nominal phrase）

S10P1："这个书应该在书架第一个格子里。"

   Zhe ge shu ying gai zai shu jia di yi ge ge zi li
  This book should lay bookshelf first shelf
  This book should lay at the first shelf of the bookshelf.

"这个书在书架第一个格子里。"

"这个书在书架第一个格子。"

"#这个书书架第一个格子里。"

"这个书立在书架第一个格子里。"

Pattern I: Path=Verb（zai）= be located at

Pattern II：LNP (locative NP alone)
S9P2："树干上。"
       Shu gan shang
       Tree trunk on
       On the tree trunk.

Pattern II: Path=Verb

Pattern III：VP$_{manner}$+PP$_{zai}$（Verb$_{manner}$ + Prep "zai" phrase）

S5P2："刀子插在树上。"
　　　Daozi cha zai shu shang
　　　Knife insert at tree on
　　　The knife inserted on the tree.

Pattern III: Path=PP

Pattern IV：**VP**$_{zai}$ **+ NP**（verb "zai"+ noun phrase）
S12P1："书在书架的第一层。"

 Shu zai shujia de di yi ceng

 Book lay bookshelf of first shelf

 The book lays on the first shelf of the bookshelf.

Pattern IV: Verb(zai)=be located at=Path.

故宫在北京。

Gugong zai Beijing

Forbidden city be/exist Beijing

The forbidden city is located in Beijing.

Pattern V: PP$_{zai}$+VP$_{manner}$（prepositional phrase + verb of manner）

S3P2："在树的中间插着呢。"

    Zai shu de zhong jian cha zhe ne

    in tree of middle insert

    (It) is inserted in the middle of the tree trunk.

Pattern V: Path = PP

Pattern VI：NP
Example （6）
S25P1："柜子的顶层。"
　　Gui zi de ding ceng
　　Cupboard of top
　　Top of cupboard.

Pattern VI: elliptical of verb "zai", which conflates path

Pattern VII：LNP+VP_{manner}（locative nominal phrase + verb of manner）

S36P5："车前坐着。"

　　Che qian zuo zhe

　　Car front sit

　　Sitting in the front of the car.

Pattern VII: Path = LNP=Satellite.

Pattern VIII：VP_{manner} + NP （verb of manner + nominal phrase）

S12P10："绳子横跨山崖。"

> **Shengzi heng kua shan ya**
>
> **Rope hang across hill**
>
> **The rope hangs across the hills.**

Pattern VIII：Path = verb.

Pattern IX：VP _{manner}（verb of manner）

S11P10："绳子在两个悬崖之间，把两个悬崖连起来"。

    Shengzi zai liangge xuanya zhi jian, ba liangge xuanya lian qi lai

    Rope hang at two cliff between, make two cliff link

    Hanging between two cliffs, the rope links two cliffs together.

Pattern IX：Path = verb.

Patterns	Rate	Language type
Verb + LNP/NP	89.00 %	V-language
Verb(manner) + PP/LNP	11.00 %	S-language

type

Verb-L
S-L

As far as the data is concerned in this article, the findings support the following:

First, Mandarin Chinese characteristically expresses the site of the Be-locatedness, that is, the path of Motion Event, in the verb of ZAI, meaning be-located-at.

Second, in Mandarin Chinese, these verb-framed constructions are salient in colloquial use, and for many of which there are no parallel in satellite-framed expressions, for example, "jin cheng" (go downtown), "shengkong" (ascend), "shengjing".

And finally, the author calls on an exhaustive analysis of different semantic events, to study the semantic variations, before labeling Mandarin Chinese as a certain type.

**THANK YOU
for your kind
Attention**