1. Motion in language

1.1 Definitions
Motion event semantics consists of event frames and a set of semantic properties.
Event frame: set of conceptual elements and relationships that are evoked together or co-evoked each other; incidental elements or weakly evoked elements are outside the event frame.

- motion events: a semantic key issue
- motion events are reflected in basic word order: SOV/SVO in 80% of all languages
- cognitively salient, reflect gestalt perception principles (figure-ground segregation etc.)

1.2 Typological arguments

Motion events are reflected in basic word order: SOV/SVO in 80% of all languages → different languages exhibit typologically significant differences (manner, path etc., cf. Talmy).

2. Motion event parameters and conflation

2.1 The typological approach

Talmy defines 6 parameters of a motion event: figure, motion, path, ground, manner, cause.

(1) The boat floated under the bridge

| FIGURE  | MOTION+MANNER | PATH | GROUND |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| motion events: - a semantic key issue         |
| - cognitively salient, reflect gestalt perception principles (figure-ground segregation etc.) |

2-way typology:

a.) English, German, Chinese: manner languages
b.) Spanish, Greek, Japanese: path languages

framing function of path parameter:
satellite-framed languages: conflate motion + manner
verb-framed languages: conflate motion + path

2.2 Language-specific event framing: Conflation

Conflation: process of lexicalization in which certain parameters of an event/proposition are merged.

Conflation features in English
1. figure rendered as subject (Bleriot)
2. path and ground: adverbials (across...)
3. motion and manner: verbs (fly)

Conflation features in Spanish
1. figure rendered as subject (Bleriot)
2. path is rendered as verb (traversar) → traversa...en avion instead of volar (fly)
3. manner is rendered as adverbial (en avion)

2.3 A language-specific conflation sketch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fahren</td>
<td>drive/go by car</td>
<td>ir en coche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hinausgehen</td>
<td>go out/leave</td>
<td>salir</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuum of conflation effects:

2.4 Differences between German and English

German speakers [...] tend to orient to some marking of boundedness. [...] English, by contrast has gone in a different historical direction among the Germanic languages, grammaticizing the progressive. [...] we find that [...] English-speaking narratives tend to mark durability more than termination in their descriptions. (Slobin 1997:81)

3. Identify motion events in English texts and compare with their German translations

ac-burr - 199
If the orbit passes over the poles the Earth will spin under it every 24 h, so that any point on the surface will pass below the orbit every 12 h.

Führt die Bahn über die Pole, bewegt sich die Erde einmal in 24 Stunden unter ihr hinweg, so daß jeder Punkt der Oberfläche alle 12 Stunden von der Bahn passiert wird.

ac-burr - 470
The satellites have a cylindrical form. They are stabilised to spin about an axis parallel to the Earth's axis at a rate.

werden durch eine Rotation mit einer Rate von 100 Umdrehungen pro Minute um eine zur Erdbahn parallele Achse.

ac-burr - 211
If the orbit radius is chosen at a certain value, then the period of the orbit can be exactly 24 h which means that the Earth will rotate beneath at precisely the same angular velocity.

So die Erde unterhalb der Bahn exakt mit der gleichen Winkelgeschwindigkeit wie der Satellit rotiert, so daß dieser ständig über ein und demselben

ac-davies - 294
To return the particle to its initial state it is necessary to rotate it through 720°.

Um das Teilchen in seinen Ausgangszustand zurück zu versetzen, muß es um 720° gedreht werden.

ac-newc - 47
It swivels about its centre point on huge roller-bearings and is operated by hydraulic pressure.

Es drehst sich mittels Hydraulik auf riesigen Kugellagern um ihren Mittelpunkt.