Cross-linguistic differences in the interpretation of and memory for action sentences

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ABSTRACT:
Talmy (1991) identified a typological difference between languages that concerns how the direction of path of motion events is conveyed. In Satellite-framed languages (S-Languages), such as English, path is often conveyed by prepositional phrases, whereas in Verb-framed languages, such as Korean as well as Italian, the path is often conveyed by verbs (e.g., compare, "You are walking down the stairs" and "Stai scendendo le scale"). This difference also is reflected in English having more verbs conveying manner of motion (e.g., Slobin, 1996; 2006; Verkerk, 2013). I will present research examining the effects of this typological difference on speakers of English, Korean, & Italian's interpretation of and memory for sentences describing action events.