

The Symmetry and Asymmetry of the Complements *guòlái*/come over and *guòqù*/ go over from the perspective of Macro-event

Zifan Li, Thomas Fuyin Li
Beihang University, lizifan@buaa.edu.cn

Keywords: complement, macro-event, collocation analysis

As a distinctive type of closed-class forms, verb complements have received extensive attention in linguistic research. Previous research has made thorough qualitative induction and analysis of the meaning of each single verb complements. Yet, little attention has been paid to the comparison in terms of their usages. In fact, when comparing complements *guòlái* and *guòqù*, both symmetrical and asymmetrical usage patterns can be found. The term 'symmetry' is used here to refer to usage patterns found to be the same for both constructions, as *pǎo/run* can collocate either with *guòlái* or *guòqù*. Under the theoretical framework of macro-events proposed by Talmy (2000), both *guòlái* and *guòqù* are semantic components categorized as "satellites". Even though satellites are supplementary for verbs, they form core schema of motion events. By analogy to motions events, another four types of macro-events are proposed, viz. temporal-contouring events, action correlating events, realization events and state change events. But most of the research conducted on the theoretical basis of event typology tends to focus on motion events only, dis severing the intrinsic connections between different types of events.

In view of these research gaps, the present study focuses on *V guòlái* and *V guòqù* in Chinese, aiming to address the following three research questions: 1) What verbs are selected into constructions *V guòlái* and *V guòqù*? What kind of semantic preference can be found? 2) Do they express different types of events and if so, what are the interconnections between these events? 3) What gives rise to the symmetry and asymmetry in terms of complements *guòlái* and *guòqù*?

To answer these research questions, all concordances containing compound directional complements "guòlái" and "guòqù" in Chinese National Corpus are exhaustively retrieved. Methodologically, this study conducts a simple collexeme analysis (Stefanowitsch & Gries 2003) of *V guòlái* and *V guòqù*. It is found that: 1) There exists an overlap between verbs selected into both constructions, with all verbs that fit into both constructions being verbs of motion (Levin 1993), but the majority of verbs are different. 2) Both constructions can express motion events, state-of-change events as well as realization events. The latter two types of events are metaphorically conceptualized on the basis of motion event. 3) The reason why there exist symmetrical patterns in the usages of "guòlái" and "guòqù" lies in the undefined directionality of subject referent, while the different inferential meanings of "lái" and "qù" account for the asymmetry.

Based on the different types of macro-events expressed by the constructions *V guòlái* / *V guòqù*, this paper analyzes the symmetry and asymmetry of the complements "guòlái" and "guòqù". This study offers a new macro-event perspective to the study of compound complements.

References

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