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Motion Events in English Novels: Evidence for a Satellite-framed Language

Abstract: This paper discusses language typological characteristics and motion events. As Talmy proposed, languages can be divided into two types: satellite-framed languages and verb-framed languages. The construction of satellite-framed languages is [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground]. In satellite-framed languages, the motion information is conveyed by the main verbs ([Motion + Manner]), and the path of motion is expressed by a subordinate element ([Path]). The subordinate element is called a *satellite*, which is similar to the particles in English. The construction of verb-framed languages is [Motion + Path + Ground + Manner]. In verb-framed languages, the main verbs ([Motion + Path]) convey the core information of the path of movement, and the manner of motion is described in a subordinate place ([Manner]). The present study focuses on the typological characteristics and lexicalization patterns in English by analyzing the expression of motion events in literary works. This paper chooses an English novel written by Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*, which has fruitful descriptions of motion events, to analyze the habitual language pattern of English native writers. The results show that English writers tend to use the language pattern of satellite-framed language, which provides evidence to testify and strengthen the fact that English is a typical satellite-framed language.

Keywords: language typology; manner verbs; motion event; path of motion; *The Call of the Wild*

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1 Introduction

Motion is a common activity in our everyday life which involves an entity

moving along a path in a certain manner or a change of state. Talmy (1991, 2000) has conducted fundamental work and studies on the expression of motion events in different languages and has definitely and clearly categorized languages as satellite-framed languages (henceforth, S-languages) or verb-framed languages (henceforth, V-languages). In S-languages (such as English and Russian), the main verb contains the manner of motion, and the path of the movement is expressed in a satellite, whose role is similar to prepositions and adverbs. Motion events are often expressed in the pattern of [main verb + satellite]. The satellite can be seen as an additional element, which is either a bound affix or a free word. It refers to a type of grammatical form such as the English particle and Chinese verb complements (Talmy 1991, 2000). In V-languages (such as Spanish and Japanese), the language pattern combines the path of motion information in the main verb and leaves the manner information in a subordinate place.

When it comes to the motion events, it is necessary to introduce the notion of macro-event. With the results of studies based on event perception, conceptual construction, and language typology, Bohnemeyer et al. (2017) propose the notion of Macro-Event Property. A macro-event can be defined as an event complex combining two simple sentences into a unitary event with some relation (Talmy 2017). On the other hand, this kind of event can also be conceptualized as a fused event, and the representation of the syntactic structure is always a clause. For example:

- (1) a. *The aerial toppled because I did something to it.*
 b. *I toppled the aerial.* (Talmy 1991)

Both of these two syntactic structures describe the same event that “the aerial was toppled.” The distinct difference is that (1a) is a causal sequence separating the event into two simple clauses with the effect in the former and the cause in the latter. The sentence in (1b) can be reconceived as a neo-simplex event compared with (1a) (Talmy 1991), which seems more highly concentrated, and the cause and effect are conflated into one syntactically causing structure. Talmy terms this type of event unity as a macro-event, with the syntactic structure as [main event + subordinate event (or co-event)].

A macro-event can also be seen as a combination of the framing event and the supporting event. The framing event provides the main point related to the whole event (Talmy 1991). The supporting event termed here is a subordinate event used to elaborate or motivate the framing event. The supportive relation between the two events is termed an S-relation (Talmy 1991).

In his research on framing theory, Talmy (2017) proposes the notion of event frames, which include five types: motion event frames (path, manner, and cause), causal-chain event frames, cycle event frames, participant-interaction event frames, and interrelationship complex event frames. With the analysis of Langacker's Figure-Ground theory, Talmy (2017) claims that motion event frames mainly consist of path, manner and cause events, and the most basic motion event involves a figure (the motion entity) and a ground (the reference). Furthermore, it is necessary to introduce two notions of motion and path to describe motion events. Motion refers to motion acts (manner), and path indicates the motion trajectory or stationary location (Zhang 2007). For example:

(2) English original: *I ran out the kitchen door.*

Spanish translation: *Salí por la puerta de la cocina.*

'I exited [by] the kitchen door.' (Chen and Guo 2009)

In English, the path of *I* is expressed by the preposition *out* and the manner of motion expressed by the verb *run*. However, in Spanish, the path is expressed by the verb *salí*, and the manner of motion is expressed in *por* as a subordinate element. Thus, English and Spanish use different ways to express motion events, and they belong to different language typologies.

Although the theory of language typology by Talmy is highly generalized, there are always controversies on the typology of some languages (e.g. Chinese) that do not have a certain classification. These controversies show that the language typology classified by Talmy has limitations that make it not adequate for all languages. Slobin (2004) proposed the term *equipollently-framed languages* (henceforth, E-languages) and argued that both manner and path information is expressed in E-language. Furthermore, there are also many researchers both here in China and abroad who have great interest in the comparison of language typology by analyzing motion events, and many scholars focus on using the theory of language to facilitate the development of translation, language education, and second language acquisition.

There are various ways to do studies on language typology, and one of the most popular research approaches on this topic is to analyze the expression of motion. The present study is based on Talmy's motion event theory and typology of motion events and focuses on the encoding of motion events in English. This paper aims to examine the different ways of describing motion events in the English novel *The Call of the Wild* in order to identify its characteristic description of motion events. In doing so, the research offers

more evidence for the typological properties of English.

2 Review of Studies on Language Typology Theory

As Johnson (1987) defined, “motion events involve an entity moving from one place to another, and are among the earliest, most basic and persuasive events in our lives” (cited in Chen and Guo 2009: 1749). They can occur in the form of real human body movement in the literary works or can even be seen as a motion tendency based on human experience or mental simulation. The studies on motion events often occupy significant places in the domain of cognitive linguistics, which has attracted a number of scholars to do studies from various perspectives.

Every language has its own frame and characteristics. As Talmy proposed and developed, language typology can be divided into two categories on the basis of the characteristic expressions of the core information of frame event: S-language and V-language. In his studies of lexicalization patterns, Talmy (2000) distinguishes two notions: meaning and form. The elements of meaning are also seen as the sematic components of motion events, including motion, path, figure, manner and cause. In the linguistic expression of form notion, the elements involve categories of words such as verb, preposition, noun or sentence, and clause. The satellite morpheme proposed by Talmy belongs to form elements. On the basis of these notions, Talmy’s studies of lexicalization patterns focus on the matching relation between meaning and form.

2.1 Motion Expressions in Different Languages

Research focusing on language typology has shown that languages are different from each other in terms of their characteristic expression of motion events. Thus, there is quite a distance between languages, especially when they belong to different language families.

According to Talmy (1985, 1991), generally, languages can be classified as S-language and V-language by their typological characteristics. The core schema is [Path + Ground], which refers to path information and details. On the one hand, if the core schema is coded in a satellite, the language belongs to an S-language and it has a framing satellite. In satellite-framed languages, the main verb containing the manner of a motion and the path of the movement is expressed in a satellite, whose role is similar to prepositions and adverbs. And

the motion events are often expressed in the pattern of [main verbs + satellite]. The satellite can be seen as an additional element, which is either a bound affix or a free word. It refers to a type of grammatical form such as English particles and Chinese verb complements (Talmy 1991). Typical S-languages include most Indo-European languages minus Romance (e.g. English), as well as Finno-Ugric and others (Talmy 1991: 486). In English, the manner of motion, simply termed Manner, is incorporated in the main verb, for example *run*. As for the direction of motion, or Path, this is encoded in an external prepositional phrase, termed a particle or satellite. The following English sentence is quoted from the study done by Tusun and Hendriks (2019) and illustrates how S-languages typically encode a motion event:

(3) *Mary* [F] *ran* [Mo+Ma] *into* [P] *the room* [G].¹

On the other hand, if the core schema is mapped into a verb, the language belongs to V-language, and it has a framing verb. In a V-language, the language pattern combines the path of motion information in the main verb and leaves the manner information in a subordinate place. Typical V-languages include Romance languages, Japanese, Turkish, Spanish, French, Polynesian, and others (Talmy 1991: 486). In French, the information is packaged in a different way: the path is encoded in the main verb while the manner is encoded in an optionally external phrase. The following French sentence is also quoted from the study done by Tusun and Hendriks (2019: 70), showing how V-languages typically encode a motion event:

(4) *Marie est* [F] *entrée dans* [Mo+P] *le salon* [G] *en courant* [Mo+Ma].
(optional)
'*Mary* [F] *entered* [Mo+P] *the living room* [G] *running* [Mo+Ma].'

Because the description of Manner information is dispensable in V-languages, speakers of V-languages like French tend to use manner only when it is related to the contexts. In contrast, speakers of S-languages like English tend to lexicalize both manner and path of motion information with equal frequency.

In (5) and (6) below, Mary's motion takes place within a confined space, which does not involve crossing a physical boundary [in contrast to (3) and (4)],

¹ F: Figure; G: Ground; Mo: Motion; Ma: Manner; P: Path.

and as such the lexicalization pattern characteristic of S-languages can also apply for V-languages, indicating that Talmy's language typology is useful for telic and bounded motion.

(5) *Mary* [F] *is running* [Mo+Ma] *around* [P] *the room* [G].

(6) *Marie* [F] *court* [Mo+Ma] *dans* [P] *le salon* [G]. (French)

Above all, the idea is that languages fall into different types on the basis of their patterns of conflation. Therefore, a classification or typology can be established by means of what motion components are conflated in the main verb.

However, there are many different voices on the typology of Mandarin Chinese. "Mandarin is a strongly satellite-framed language, regularly using its satellites to specify path, aspect, state change, some action correlation and much realization" (Talmy 2000: 272), i.e., Talmy claims that Chinese is an S-language. The reason is that in Chinese motion events, the manner information is internalized in the motion while the path information is expressed by the other lexical unit, the satellite, and this process is called the *lexicalization pattern* by Talmy. However, Talmy's dichotomy of language typology has faced a big challenge from other researchers. Slobin (2004) suggests that languages should be divided into three types. Apart from the two categories of Talmy's theory, he introduces a third, called E-languages, which can be defined as a kind of language with characteristics of both S-language and V-language. Furthermore, Slobin (2004) points out that the typologies of English and Chinese are different: English is a typical S-language, and Chinese is classified as an E-language. In this aspect, Chinese researchers Chen and Guo (2009) agree with Slobin's theory. They focus on the expression of motion events in Chinese novels and make a comparison with English, Spanish, and Turkish. Deng and Li (2017) suggest that Mandarin is not a typical E-language and that the general trend of Mandarin typological features is "satellite-framed > verb-framed > equipollent-framed." Above all, in Mandarin Chinese, sentences with features of S-language and V-language can be cited freely and easily, so it is difficult to categorize Chinese into any specific type.

In addition to the great interest in Chinese, there is also active interest in research on motion expressions in other languages. In recent years, studies based on motion events and Talmyan typology of the V-framed and S-framed patterns in Portuguese have been very popular. The finding is that in both Portuguese national varieties (European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese),

S-language and V-language patterns, both frequent in language-in-use, can be preferred and/or privileged by one language variety but not the other (Batoréo and Ferrari 2016). Rojo and Valenzuela (2003) report a study to analyze fictive motion expressions in English and Spanish with two aims. The first aim is to find out whether the differences in the expression of motion in English and Spanish also apply to fictive motion. The second aim is to examine whether the similarities and differences for English and Japanese also apply to English and Spanish. The results indicate that when dealing with the translation of actual motion, there are some informational differences shown when translating English into Spanish: the manner information is frequently omitted and complicated path details are often simplified (Rojo and Valenzuela 2003: 143). Nevertheless, when dealing with the translation of fictive motion, it shows that translators are much more faithful to the original text and much less information has been left out.

2.2 Motion Descriptions in Different Discourses

Studies of different discourse such as spoken and written discourse have shown that the different structures between S-language and V-language have important implications for the organization of connected discourse in both language types (Chen and Guo 2009). According to Slobin (1997), different language typologies make differences in speakers' rhetorical styles and habitual patterns of language use, and actually influence the structure of an entire narrative. Slobin (1997) makes some proposals with respect to the motion event descriptions in S-language versus V-language. Concerning the manner, S-languages have a more fruitful and diverse lexicon of manner verbs than that of V-languages; manner verbs in S-languages are more expressive and vivid than those in V-languages. In the aspect of path, S-language speakers use more path information details than V-language speakers do when describing comparable motion events. In terms of ground, S-language speakers use more ground elements per clause than V-language speakers do. And compared to S-language users, V-language users tend to use motion verbs without any ground information in the clause. As for the rhetorical style, S-language users pay more attention to the expression of the motion process, whereas V-language users pay more attention to descriptions of stationary scenes that provide the physical context or circumstance for a motion event. Some independent researchers, such as Slobin (1997) and Stromqvist and Verhoeven (2004), who deal with various languages, have confirmed this contrasting pattern between S-languages and V-languages in language use. Furthermore, it is apparently "independent of

language family, geographical area and culture” (Slobin 2003: 164).

In the previous studies, many scholars examine Slobin’s proposals using elicited spoken narratives. When asking the participants to tell a frog story from the wordless picture book *Frog, where are you?* written by Mercer Mayer, Chinese speakers’ expression of motion events is different from the expression of motion events of both English and Spanish speakers (Chen and Guo 2009). However, the studies have limitations on elicited spoken narratives, and the speakers are under pressure when telling a story from a wordless book, which may influence the results. For those reasons, Slobin (1996) compared references to ground objects in the motion event expressions in five English and five Spanish novels. He finds that English novelists make more frequent use of ground objects associated with verbs of motion than Spanish novelists do. Slobin (2000) also conducted a study comparing the use of manner verbs in seven novels from two S-languages (English and Russian) and two V-languages (Spanish and Turkish). Through the comparison, he found that the two S-languages use manner verbs more frequently, with more various and expressive descriptions. Later, Chen and Guo (2009) conducted a study on written narratives to examine whether the discourse characteristics of motion events in oral narratives would also show up in written narratives in Chinese. They used various ways to research the motion events in nine novels written in Chinese. Eventually, they found evidence that a third language type exists and that Chinese belongs to this type, i.e., the E-language.

Papafragou et al. (2008) reported a study on the effects of motion event structures in message planning and linguistic formation. They monitored the eye movements of adult speakers of both English and Greek as the participants viewed and described motion events. The participants were asked to do a linguistic task (a verbal description task) and a nonlinguistic task (a memorization task) to examine whether cross-linguistic differences affect speakers’ attention to the manner of motion. And the results suggested that speakers from the two language groups pay attention to the two tasks differently.

From the previous studies, it has been shown that the focusing points of motion events and language typology are often on the motion expressions of different languages and patterns in discourses. It is a fact that English is an S-language, and there are also many studies on the motion events with comparison between English and Chinese, English and Spanish, English and Korean, etc. However, there are few studies that attempt to find evidence from literary works themselves. Thus, the present study focuses on motion events in the English novel, *The Call of the Wild*, which provides plentiful descriptions of motion events to do the research. The goal of this paper is to investigate

how English novelists express motion events in creative fiction and to find evidence to testify that English is an S-language, thus making a contribution to confirming Talmy's proposal for the typology of English.

3 Methodology

3.1 Motion Expressions in an English Novel

Previous studies suggest that the language use patterns in discourses are sensitive to the structural typological differences between S-languages and V-languages in the encoding of motion events (Chen and Guo 2009). The typological characteristics and features in discourses proposed by Slobin may serve as indices for determining the typological category of English. The findings of previous studies suggest that English, Spanish, and Chinese written discourse could make a fundamental contribution to the typological categorization of English, Spanish, and Chinese. As a consequence, the study in this paper examines how an English writer describes and expresses motion events in creative fiction. The aim is to see whether the discourse characteristics and features of motion event expressions found in previous studies of both spoken and written narratives are also revealed in specific creative fiction in English. The research methodology will imitate the method of Guo and Chen's study in finding evidence to testify to Chinese belonging to E-language by analyzing the descriptions of motion events in Chinese novels.

This study examines the data on motion event expressions from an English novel and compares the data with the typological characteristics of S-language. Specifically, the present study addresses the following three research questions:

- (i) Is the use of motion verbs and motion constructions in the English novel equal or similar to that in S-languages?
- (ii) Do motion event expressions in the English novel frequently contain dynamic path expressions and details as in S-languages?
- (iii) Are the references to the ground elements in the English novel equal or similar to those in S-languages?

3.2 Samples and Selection Procedures

The samples include motion event expressions in an English adventure

novel, *The Call of the Wild*, written by Jack London, an American writer. The novel is set against the historical background of the high demand for sled dogs when the gold rush swept through Canada and the USA. The series of stories was published in novel form in the twentieth century. The selection of this novel is largely based on the availability of an electronic version of literary works from the literature website: <http://www.online-literature.com>. There are fruitful episodes and descriptions of motion events in English novels. When Slobin (1996) worked on English and Spanish novels, he noted that it was easy to find explicit descriptions of motion events in an English novel. And the novels he selected gave him a feeling that “English writers pay more attention to moving the characters from one place to another, while the characters in Spanish novels often simply appear at a new place” (Slobin 1996: 207). The novel *The Call of the Wild* consists of seven chapters, and two episodes are selected at random from each chapter to be further analyzed. An episode is defined as “the movement of a major protagonist, beginning from a stationary position and continuing to move until arriving at another stationary position where a plot-advancing event occurs” (Ozcaliskan and Slobin 2003: 260). An episode can be a brief trajectory (tracking) as in (7) or an extended (stretched) journey as in (8) with motion event clauses. What matters is that the protagonist ends in a different place with a continuous (uninterrupted) narrative (Slobin 1996: 207).

(7) *Several times he fell down.* (Chapter 4)

(8) *The rabbit sped down the river, turned off into a small creek, up the frozen bed of which it held steadily.* (Chapter 3)

In order to make the method and results comparable with the previous studies on the expression of motion events in novels, the present study follows the practice of focusing on the expressions of self-initiated motion. Therefore, caused motion as given in (9) is not included for further analysis. Here caused motion refers to a motion event in which the movement of the figure (e.g. *he*, referring to Buck) is caused by the action of another agent (e.g. the clerks).

(9) *He was trucked off the steamer into a great railway depot, and finally he was deposited in an express car.* (Chapter 1)

Basically, the motion events can be divided into actual motion and fictive motion. The selected samples in this paper include both kinds of motion events

that capture both actual or fictive motion and path information. As a result, the clause in (10b) is chosen to be a sample, and the expressions such as *time is flying* are not included. This kind of expression can be seen as a rhetorical technique, a metaphor. Moreover, the motion events can also be classified by state, that is, motion events with dynamic displacement and static motion events. Dynamic motion events refer to the figure carrying motion with physical displacement, while static motion events refer to the stationary site of the figure. According to Talmy, path is equal to site, which indicates that “Path” in dynamic motion events is equal to the “Site” in static motion events (Li 2017: 2). In this paper, static motion events, for instance *Buck is on the bank*, are not included.

In the following part, three relevant categories – motion verbs, motion verb constructions, and ground phrases – are coded and analyzed respectively. The main evidence is provided by the detailed analysis of the samples and by the data.

3.3 Coding

3.3.1 Motion Verbs

To examine the diversity of different types of motion, two categories will be identified and analyzed in terms of their motion meanings: path verbs and manner verbs. Path verbs refer to the direction of movement, or especially the moving trajectory of a figure, typically regarding the reference object (i.e. the ground), such as *cross*, *follow*, and *pass*. In English, the paths of motion are often described in the pattern of [main verb + satellite], for example [verbs + through, down, into, out of]. The separate part associated with the verb is called the particle in English, or a satellite. However, the path verb may fail to describe all the manner information. Manner verbs refer to a kind of distinct motion expressed by a figure by using particular verbs, such as *run*, *rush*, *swing*, *pull*, etc. According to Slobin (2004: 255), manner verbs refer to “an ill-defined set of dimensions that modulate motion, including motor pattern, rate, rhythm, posture, affect, and evaluative factors.” The categorization of S-language or V-language is based on how the motion path is expressed. In English, the path of motion is described by the particle or satellite, while the manner information is often shown by a particular verb, such as *go through*, *run into*, *fall down*, etc. This is one of the typical characteristics of S-language, and it can provide evidence for English as a S-language. However, there are

some exceptions where the English verbs are derived from Latin, such as *ascend*, *exit*, and *enter*, in which the path information is included in the motion verbs and the manner motion is left out or expressed in a manner complement or a particle.

3.3.2 Motion Verb Constructions

According to Langacker's Figure–Ground mapping theory and Talmy's typology of lexicalization patterns, when the framing events refer to the motion event, the S-language construction type is “[Motion + Manner] (Verb^{finite}) + Path (satellite) + Ground,” and the V-language construction type is “[Motion + Path] (Verb^{finite}) + Ground + Manner (Verb^{nonfinite}).” The core schema is coded in [Path + Ground] (Chen and Guo 2009). The categorization of S-language or V-language is related to the core schema coded in the verb root (V-language) or in a satellite (S-language). The sample episodes from *The Call of the Wild* are given below with two types of motion verb construction: [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground] and [Path + Ground].

(10) [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground]

a. Motion event with physical displacement

No one saw him and Buck go off through the orchard on what Buck imagined was merely a stroll. (Chapter 1)

([Manner]: go [Path]: off, through [Ground]: orchard)

b. Fictive motion event

A hundred yards ahead the path turned and sloped steeply into the main street. (Chapter 5)

([Manner]: turned, sloped [Path]: ahead, into [Ground]: the main street)

c. Motion event with physical displacement

They threw themselves against the breast-bands, dug their feet into the packed snow, got down low to it, and put forth all their strength. (Chapter 5)

([Manner]: threw, dug [Path]: against, into, got down [Ground]: the breast-bands, the packed snow)

d. Motion event with physical displacement

So saying, he slammed a sack of gold dust of the size of a bologna

sausage down upon the bar. (Chapter 6)

([Manner]: slammed [Path]: down, upon [Ground]: bar)

e. Motion event with physical displacement

The leaders lifted the yelp of the pack and sprang away into the woods.
(Chapter 7)

([Manner]: lifted, sprang [Path]: away, into [Ground]: the woods)

(11) [Path + Ground]

a. Motion event with physical displacement

A whiff of warm air ascended to his nostrils, and there, curled up under the snow in a snug ball, lay Billee. (Chapter 2)

([Path]: ascended [Ground: his nostrils])

b. Motion event with physical displacement

From the moment he left the tent to when he entered it again, Buck would follow at his heels. (Chapter 6)

([Path]: left, entered, follow [Ground]: tent)

c. Motion event with physical displacement

It was a hard day's run, up the Canon, through Sheep Camp, past the Scales and the timber line, across glaciers and snowdrifts hundreds of feet deep, and over the great Chilcoot Divide. (Chapter 2)

([Path]: up, through, past, across, over [Ground]: the Canon, Sheep Camp, the Scales and the timber line, glaciers and snowdrifts hundreds of feet deep, the great Chilcoot Divide)

d. Motion event with physical displacement

Across Marsh, Tagish, and Bennett (seventy miles of lakes), they flew so fast that the man whose turn it was to run towed behind the sled at the end of a rope. (Chapter 4)

([Path]: across [Ground]: Marsh, Tagish, and Bennett)

3.3.3 Ground Phrases

To deal with the third research question, the descriptions providing ground information in the same clause with the motion verbs are coded and analyzed. Ground consists of source (e.g. *from the tent*), medium (e.g. *run through*

the tent), and goal (e.g. *crawl into the tent*) against which the figure moves. According to Slobin (1996: 207), there is a distinction between plus-ground and minus-ground clauses, with ground clauses including one or more pieces of ground information. For instance, in (12a), there are six motion event descriptions and each of them contains a piece of ground information. As a result, these are plus-ground clauses. However, in (12b), the clause does not have any ground information, therefore it is a minus-ground clause.

(12) [Motion + ground + clauses]

a. Plus-ground clauses

He plunged through the wooded breast of the island, flew down to the lower end, crossed a back channel filled with rough ice to another island, gained a third island, curved back to the main river, and in desperation started to cross it. (Chapter 3)

b. Minus-ground clauses

He sat down. (Chapter 7)

4 Results

4.1 Motion Verb Use: Types and Tokens

The data on word frequency comes from Text Mechanic.com and is shown in the Appendix. Table 1 shows the manner verbs and their frequency of occurrence in the motion event expressions in *The Call of the Wild*. According to the shown data, there are 288 manner verbs in this novel. However, it is worthwhile to note that the phenomenon of inflection exists in English. Inflection is a grammatical phenomenon in English, referring to word forms based on the rooting word. For the inflection of English verbs, there are four basic forms: the present tense, the continuous tense, the past tense, and the perfect tense. For example, *hide, hiding, hid, and hidden*. With the phenomenon of inflection, there are form changes in the personal pronoun, for instance, third person singular. As a result, though Table 1 shows 288 manner verbs, there are actually 186 manner verbs. Furthermore, Table 1 also shows alternative expressions of manner information. For example, *walk, travel, stagger, march, limp, totter, linger, trot, prowl* are the verbs of manner-of-

walking in *The Call of the Wild*. Apart from the various manner verbs, English writers also tend to use adverbs to accompany and qualify the manner verbs (e.g. *He marched slowly and deliberately into their midst*). As Slobin (1996) reported, the majority of alternative expressions of manner are used to describe a specific manner vividly. There are plenty of expressions of other manner-of-verbs in this novel, which means that English writers prefer to use fruitful and various manner verbs when describing motion events.

Table 2 shows the paths of motion with their part of speech (e.g., *pre.*, *adv.* & *prep.*, *v.* & *prep.*, *adv.* and *v.*) and frequency of the motion event expressions in the novel. According to Table 2, there are five types of parts of speech related to the path information of the motion events. In terms of path information, there are 26 types of prepositions, 30 types of path verbs, and 7 types of adverbs. In addition, 10 types are both adverbs and prepositions, whereas 1 type is both path verb and preposition. In English, there is a class of words called particles, which are similar to prepositions and adverbs. Particles, also named satellites, have the word form of prepositions and some characteristics of adverbs. In the pattern of [main verbs + satellite] in S-languages, the satellite often modifies the manner verbs and complements the semantic relationships. The satellite cannot be seen as a single sentence constituent, and the satellite is part of the manner verb. The data in Table 2 indicates that English prefers to use path of motion or path segment to describe the process of motion events.

In terms of the previous studies, one of the obvious differences between S-languages and V-languages is in the number of manner and path verbs according to the type and token. The number of types refers to the variety of the lexicon, and the number of tokens refers to the frequencies of word occurrence. According to Ozcaliskan and Slobin (2003), S-languages have a richer vocabulary of manner verbs than V-languages. In their study on English and Turkish novels, they found that English novels include 64 types of manner verbs, while Turkish novels include 26 types of manner verbs. The data matches the characteristics of the language typology, that is, English is an S-language and Turkish is a V-language. Comparing the data of manner verbs and paths of motion in *The Call of the Wild* to the results of previous studies, it provides solid evidence to confirm that English is a typical S-language.

4.2 Motion Verb Constructions

In English, a sentence or clause containing the information of motion events is often expressed in the pattern of [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground] or using

plentiful paths of motion, such as prepositions and adverbs. As a consequence, the current study has selected five samples patterned in [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground] and four samples patterned in [Path + Ground]. In [Path + Ground], path refers to the path verbs or the path of motion.

According to Slobin (1996: 207), the language construction type in (13a) is a typical pattern of motion events in S-languages, in which the motion and manner are expressed by finite verbs, the path information is expressed by the satellite, and the ground elements are always described by nouns. The language construction types shown in (13b) are a specific pattern of motion events in V-languages, where the combination of motion and path are expressed by finite verbs, the ground information is depicted by nouns, and the manner of motion is described by nonfinite verbs. Analyzing the samples chosen from *The Call of the Wild*, the pattern of motion event sentences is totally identical to the pattern in (13a). It should be mentioned that sentences which express motion events are almost everywhere in *The Call of the Wild*; thus, it is easy to select typical samples. Furthermore, the five sentences shown in (10) can represent the whole novel. The verb contains the manner information and a satellite expresses the path of motion, which forms a complete sentence with semantic meaning. It is also clear that the core schema of the path information is coded in a satellite.

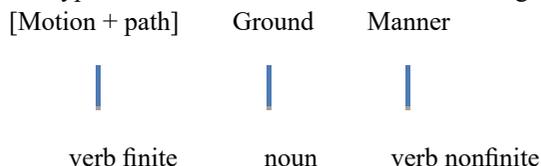
In the pattern of [Path + Ground], the given samples in (11) show two types of motion event expressions. The first type is shown in (11a) and (11b). Both *ascended* and *entered* are path verbs, conveying the path information of the figure when it catches a motion. There are also many other path verbs in *The Call of the Wild*, such as *pass*, *follow*, *cross*, and more in Table 2. The second type is depicted in (11c) and (11d); the main motion events are expressed by prepositions that describe the whole moving trajectory clearly. In particular, none of the samples in (11c) are motion verbs, as the vivid path information is all coded in the use of prepositions. This is also a great difference between English and Chinese in translation, where English is often seen as a static language while Chinese is a dynamic language.

All of these results match the structural characteristics of S-languages, and they provide evidence of another important dimension. It is obvious that English writers typically prefer to use both types of patterns when describing a motion event. The comparison of language construction types of motion events suggests that English is indeed an S-language.

- (13) a. The type of motion event construction for S-languages (Chen and Guo 2009)



b. The type of motion event construction for V-language



4.3 Expressions of Ground Information

The descriptions of ground information are shown in (12). When depicting the motion events in English, there are often numbers of pieces of related ground information. In the previous studies done by Slobin (1996), 96% of the descriptions in five English novels and 81% of them in five Spanish novels were plus-ground clauses. In the studies done by Chen and Guo (2009), they found that 83% of the descriptions in nine Chinese novels were plus-ground clauses. In *The Call of the Wild*, the descriptions of motion events are often followed by abundant ground elements. The ground information includes the geographical position, the surrounding scenery, the sound, etc. The result of previous studies also shows that among English, Spanish, and Chinese, English as an S-language has more descriptions of plus-ground information than Spanish (a V-language) and Chinese (an E-language). It indicates that English writers do not tend to limit themselves to using just one piece of ground information. On the contrary, they use more plus-ground clauses and fewer minus-ground clauses. In *The Call of the Wild*, the use of plus-ground information when describing motion events is much more fruitful than the minus-ground information, strengthening evidence for English being an S-language from the third dimension.

5 Discussion

Above all, the results have provided strong evidence that English is a typical

S-language from three dimensions in *The Call of the Wild*: the motion verbs with their types and tokens, motion verb constructions, and ground information for movement. Thus, the following part will give a further discussion of the results.

5.1 The Use of Motion Verbs and Motion Verb Constructions in *The Call of the Wild*

In terms of the types and diversity of the lexicon of manner verbs in *The Call of the Wild*, the characteristics of English are identical to the features of S-languages. In addition, S-languages such as English predominantly use manner verbs, while V-languages such as Spanish predominantly use path verbs. The results also suggest that English writers prefer to use alternative expressions of manner to augment the already refined manner of motion that has been coded in the vivid manner verbs. In terms of the path of motion, English prefers to use prepositions, adverbs, particles (or satellites), and path verbs to express the path information. In most cases, the motion event is described by [main verb + satellite] in English. What is more, in some instances, a single preposition or adverb can also be used to modify the motion event. Comparing Table 1 with Table 2, it can be seen that English writers prefer to use a high frequency of path of motion (e.g. the high frequency of *out*, occurring 142 times) and a diverse lexicon of manner verbs (e.g. *walk, travel, stagger, march, limp, totter, linger, trot, prowl*). It is obvious that apart from the alternative expressions of manner, English tends to add or mix some adjective or adverb meaning into the manner verbs as unitary verbs. However, Chinese tends to use adverbs or the ground information to qualify the manner verb in a single position. Possibly, this is the reason why there are various expressions of one manner and vivid descriptions of movement in English. The rich manner information is involved in the main verbs but not separated out as an additional element.

Moreover, the main English motion verb constructions are [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground] and [Path + Ground]. In English, the core schema of motion event clauses is shown in the path segment (or satellite), which is in accordance with S-languages. In previous studies, Slobin (2000) proposed that expressions of manner are mainly determined by the typology of the language lexicalization pattern, and in turn the specific language lexicalization patterns determine the kinds of grammatical constructions for motion events in different languages. As shown in the pattern in (13a), it is the type of motion event construction particularly used in S-languages such as English. In addition, the manner information is conveyed by the component in [Motion + Manner], thus, it is useless to add more manner of

motion through the main verb in an S-language. However, in a V-language, the manner of motion is described by the component in [Motion + Path], so it is effective to add some manner of motion to the sentences. As a consequence, the features of S-languages are a higher frequency of word use and a larger expressive lexicon of diversity of manner verbs than for a V-language (Slobin 2000: 110).

With the analysis of samples in (10) and (11), it is clear that the lexicalization pattern of English corresponds to the S-language construction type. The combination of [Motion + Manner] allows English writers to use fruitful manner of movement when describing motion events.

5.2 Expressions for Ground Information in *The Call of the Wild*

In terms of the expressions for the grounds of movement in *The Call of the Wild*, the results indicate that English tends to pattern according to S-language. The sample in (12a) shows that English writers prefer to move their characters to another place with some ground information associated with the path of motion, especially in this kind of adventure fiction. The ground information in (12a) shows not only the changing surroundings but also the transitional movement of the character. In other words, the ground element contains both ground information and path of movement. In *The Call of the Wild*, the writer tends to move the character with certain path information into a new ground in a direct way, rather than describing the surrounding ground elements or briefly inferring the transitional motion into another ground. The underlined parts in (12a) are the descriptions of the goal of the movement, and the pattern is identical to the pattern [Motion + Manner + Path + Ground]. To some extent, this lexicalization pattern has a great influence on ground element expressions and determines the features of ground information in English. As (12a) shows, the goal of ground information in the former can be viewed as the source of the ground information in the latter. In most instances, the path of movement is uninterrupted or continuous, and almost every path of motion contains the specific ground information.

In terms of ground information in motion event expressions, the previous studies involving the oral narrative task of telling frog stories showed that there is 82% of ground information for English and 63% for Spanish. The characteristics are also suited to the style of the English written discourse. The high frequency of ground information for movement is shown expressively in the novel *The Call of the Wild*, providing tangible evidence to corroborate that English can be classified as an S-language.

6 Conclusion and Future Study

Every language has its traits and habitual patterns, which are formed through historical processes, cultural background, and social experience. Although all of the languages in the world have more or less distance to each other, they can be divided into groups by standards based on their similar characteristics. As Talmy (1991) proposed, most languages can be classified into two kinds: S-languages and V-languages. In this paper, we focused on English typological features by analyzing the expressions of motion events in an English novel. Research on spoken narratives has inevitable limitations that some subjective and changeable factors may influence the results. To solve this problem, some researchers such as Slobin, Guo, and Chen have done significant work on motion events and the typology of language use in written narratives. One of the advantages of written narratives is that the language patterns are fixed and without much subjective intuition. As a consequence, we chose the English novel, *The Call of the Wild*, which is full of descriptions of motion events, to examine the results with the support of language typology and motion event theory.

In the present study, we randomly selected 14 representative episodes to provide evidence for English being an S-language by analyzing motion event expressions. To make a comparison with the characteristics of S-languages, three central features have been examined in *The Call of the Wild*: motion verbs, motion verb constructions, and ground phrases. The data collection and detailed analysis have given clear answers to the three research questions: firstly, the use of motion verbs and motion verb constructions corresponds to the pattern of S-languages; secondly, motion expressions in English novels use dynamic path information and details with high frequency; thirdly, the references to the ground information in English novels correspond to the characteristics of S-languages.

Therefore, with the comparison of representative features of motion descriptions between English and S-languages, the conclusion is that the expression of motion events using dynamic displacement provides sound evidence that English is a typical S-language. The study has added further verification to the theory of language typology and motion events.

Nevertheless, the study described in this paper has some limitations. On the one hand, the research does not have sufficient samples of fictive motion events. The total 14 episode samples contain 13 actual movement clauses and 1 fictive movement clause. Thus, the results of the study can only apply to actual motion events in English. On the other hand, samples of static motion events were not included for detailed analysis. Li (2017)

claims that there are mainly two distinctive features in this research field: unbalanced content and inappropriate methodology. The unbalanced content refers to most studies focusing highly on dynamic motion events with physical displacement. However, dynamic motion events are just one aspect of motion events; motion events are just one aspect of macro-events. Inappropriate methodology refers to all of the studies using various research materials and some of them being lacking in unitary and scientific methods. Talmy once suggested that the research materials of macro-events should obey the rules: “colloquial language with high frequency and universality” (Li 2017: 1). To some degree, the samples from *The Call of the Wild* correspond to the appropriate methodology, but do not have balanced content. As a consequence, in a future study, more fictive motion events and static motion events will be chosen and coded to explore whether it is possible to find evidence from fictive movement and stationary site to testify to English being an S-language in an overall view.

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Appendix

Table 1: Manner verbs with frequency counts in *The Call of the Wild* (188 types)

Order	Word	Frequency	Order	Word	Frequency
1	sprang	26	145	stretched	2
2	turned	22	146	thrash	2
3	ran	19	147	throw	2
4	fell	18	148	torn	2
5	run	16	149	tottered	2
6	dropped	15	150	trotted	2
7	pulled	14	151	wagged	2
8	drew	13	152	walked	2
9	struck	13	153	whirl	2
10	caught	12	154	whittling	2
11	cut	12	155	wiping	2
12	dragged	11	156	wrestled	2
13	carried	10	157	wriggled	2
14	threw	10	158	writhed	2
15	rushed	9	159	banked	1
16	staggered	9	160	break	1
17	circled	8	161	bucked	1
18	fled	8	162	chop	1
19	swung	8	163	cleansed	1
20	travelled	8	164	climbed	1
21	driving	7	165	clubbed	1
22	drove	7	166	clutched	1
23	driven	6	167	crawled	1
24	falling	6	168	crouch	1
25	flung	6	169	crumpled	1

Order	Word	Frequency	Order	Word	Frequency
26	leaped	6	170	dancing	1
27	pitched	6	171	deliver	1
28	running	6	172	dig	1
29	straining	6	173	digging	1
30	walk	6	174	dodge	1
31	closed	5	175	dodged	1
32	dragging	5	176	draped	1
33	drive	5	177	draw	1
34	flew	5	178	drawing	1
35	flying	5	179	dropping	1
36	jerked	5	180	dumped	1
37	leap	5	181	enveloped	1
38	pull	5	182	enveloping	1
39	rolled	5	183	escaped	1
40	rushing	5	184	fawned	1
41	sank	5	185	flapped	1
42	seized	5	186	flashing	1
43	snapping	5	187	flee	1
44	spring	5	188	fleeing	1
45	steal	5	189	flitted	1
46	strike	5	190	flitting	1
47	swept	5	191	flowing	1
48	crawling	4	192	flows	1
49	dashed	4	193	freighted	1
50	escape	4	194	grappled	1
51	fall	4	195	grappling	1
52	hiding	4	196	grasp	1
53	knocked	4	197	hammered	1
54	launched	4	198	heading	1
55	lean	4	199	heaped	1
56	leaping	4	200	hid	1
57	limping	4	201	hike	1
58	picked	4	202	hitch	1
59	plunge	4	203	hoisted	1
60	pulling	4	204	kick	1
61	slashed	4	205	lingered	1
62	stole	4	206	lingering	1
63	stretched	4	207	loped	1
64	swinging	4	208	lugged	1
65	thrown	4	209	lurched	1

Order	Word	Frequency	Order	Word	Frequency
66	travel	4	210	nip	1
67	travelling	4	211	overthrow	1
68	turn	4	212	overthrowing	1
69	whirled	4	213	overturning	1
70	buried	3	214	packing	1
71	crouched	3	215	penetrate	1
72	drawn	3	216	penetrated	1
73	drop	3	217	pitch	1
74	dug	3	218	ploughed	1
75	fallen	3	219	poked	1
76	jerk	3	220	poled	1
77	hanging	3	221	pour	1
78	hauling	3	222	poured	1
79	licked	3	223	pressing	1
80	licking	3	224	pricked	1
81	lifted	3	225	prodded	1
82	limped	3	226	prowled	1
83	nipped	3	227	reeled	1
84	pivoting	3	228	ripping	1
85	plunged	3	229	robbing	1
86	riding	3	230	rocking	1
87	rush	3	231	rolling	1
88	scattered	3	232	rolls	1
89	shaking	3	233	romped	1
90	snubbed	3	234	routed	1
91	spread	3	235	rubbed	1
92	stretch	3	236	runs	1
93	swayed	3	237	rushes	1
94	throwing	3	238	scraped	1
95	thrust	3	239	seize	1
96	twist	3	240	shrouded	1
97	twisted	3	241	slipping	1
98	wandering	3	242	shutting	1
99	bent	2	243	sinking	1
100	chase	2	244	sinks	1
101	clipping	2	245	slammed	1
102	crashed	2	246	slanted	1
103	crawl	2	247	slapping	1
104	creep	2	248	slashing	1
105	crept	2	249	slid	1

Order	Word	Frequency	Order	Word	Frequency
106	crouching	2	250	sloped	1
107	curled	2	250	smashed	1
108	drag	2	251	smashing	1
109	flashed	2	252	snub	1
110	flies	2	253	spinning	1
111	fling	2	254	spit	1
112	hang	2	255	split	1
113	hauled	2	256	spouted	1
114	headed	2	257	sprung	1
115	hidden	2	258	squatted	1
116	hung	2	260	squirmed	1
117	hurling	2	261	steeped	1
118	jerks	2	262	stooped	1
119	jump	2	263	strapped	1
120	knelt	2	264	strung	1
121	knock	2	265	stumbled	1
122	knocking	2	266	surrounded	1
123	lick	2	267	swam	1
124	lifting	2	268	sweeping	1
125	marched	2	269	swimming	1
126	marching	2	270	thrusting	1
127	nudge	2	271	thumping	1
128	pick	2	272	topped	1
129	pressed	2	273	towed	1
130	ride	2	274	trampled	1
131	robbed	2	275	tripped	1
132	rode	2	276	trucked	1
133	rounded	2	277	tumbled	1
134	scrambling	2	278	veered	1
135	scratched	2	279	washed	1
136	shaken	2	280	washes	1
137	sink	2	281	waving	1
138	slipped	2	282	whipped	1
139	snubbing	2	283	whittled	1
140	sprayed	2	284	wiped	1
141	staggering	2	285	wrap	1
142	stealing	2	286	wrapped	1
143	strain	2	287	wrenching	1
144	strained	2	288	wrenched	1

Note: There is a total of 32,316 words in *The Call of the Wild*.

Table 2: Path of motion with frequency counts in *The Call of the Wild*

Order	Word	Part of speech	Frequency
1	in	prep.	389
2	on	prep.	226
3	at	prep.	208
4	from	prep.	152
5	out	prep.	142
6	into	prep.	130
7	down	prep.	115
8	up	prep.	104
9	back	prep.	85
10	upon	prep.	80
11	through	prep.	74
12	over	prep.	59
13	away	prep.	41
14	under	prep.	39
15	about	prep.	36
16	off	prep.	33
17	left	v.	29
18	around	prep.	26
19	against	prep.	19
20	along	prep.	19
21	forth	prep.	18
22	straight	adv.	18
23	across	prep.	15
24	ahead	prep.	13
25	passed	v.	13
26	towards	prep.	13
27	followed	v.	12
28	fore	adv. & prep.	12
29	forward	adv.	12
30	above	prep.	11
31	outside	adv. & prep.	10
32	returned	v.	10
33	beyond	adv. & prep.	9
34	past	adv. & prep.	8
35	crossed	v.	7
36	backward	adv.	7
37	near	adv. & prep.	7
38	rise	v.	7

Order	Word	Part of speech	Frequency
39	below	adv. & prep.	6
40	follow	v.	6
41	pass	v.	6
42	passing	v.	5
43	pointed	v.	5
44	arrived	v.	4
45	backed	v.	4
46	following	v. & prep.	4
47	inside	adv. & prep.	4
48	rising	v.	4
49	rose	v.	4
50	alongside	adv. & prep.	3
51	leave	v.	3
52	entered	v.	3
53	overhead	adv.	3
54	reach	v.	3
55	reached	v.	3
56	return	v.	3
57	upward	adv.	3
58	advance	v.	2
59	advanced	v.	2
60	approached	v.	2
61	ascended	v.	2
62	beside	prep.	2
63	aback	adv.	1
64	aside	adv. & prep.	1
65	cross	v.	1
66	crosses	v.	1
67	enter	v.	1
68	neared	v.	1
69	pointing	v.	1
70	reaching	v.	1
71	returning	v.	1
72	shoreward	adv.	1
73	underneath	adv. & prep.	1
74	unto	prep.	1
Total			2306