

SUMMARY¹

This volume presents the main results of a project devoted to the description and cross-linguistic comparison of aqua-motion predicates, i.e. predicates denoting motion in a liquid medium — like *swim*, *sail* and *float* in English, *nager*, *naviguer*, *flotter* and *surveiller* in French or *plywać* and *plwać* in Polish. At the heart of the project there was an assumption that despite the fact that the lexicons of different languages show considerable variation, this variation is predictable to some degree. To test this assumption by the example of aqua-motion predicates was even more important given that motion verbs in general constitute a part of the core lexicon of any language. Importantly, however, we concentrated more on the manner component of motion rather than on its path component — unlike most of the previous investigations of motion verbs (such as those of Leonard Talmy and Charles Fillmore).

Within the project's framework some data have been collected on aqua-motion predicates in more than forty languages, either with the help of a special questionnaire or by examination of text corpora. This made it possible to compare aqua-motion systems in various parameters, whose virtual presence, however, varies from language to language.

The data collected by the authors of the volume suggest a number of generalizations concerning systems of aqua-motion predicates in different languages. In particular, an important distinction has been made between the three **semantic domains of aqua-motion**, namely those of SWIMMING (“active motion”), SAILING (motion of vessels or aboard a vessel) and FLOATING (“passive motion”). Some languages manifest further distinctions, especially in the domain of FLOATING, where occasionally one can observe a contrast between drift and being on the surface.

The distinction between SWIMMING, SAILING and FLOATING shows itself in the composition of the aqua-motion lexicon and certain (semantic and grammatical) properties of particular aqua-motion predicates but also, for example, in certain tendencies governing the distribution of general verbs of motion such as ‘come’ and ‘go’ (which apparently prefer the SAILING domain) and metaphorical extensions of aqua-motion verbs. The borderlines between the three domains are not always clear-cut, however, and this points to the fact that in reality these domains are only the result of interplay of several semantic parameters (e.g., controllability, the presence of special efforts etc.). Such parameters manifest themselves also within the semantic domains, which occasionally display some heterogeneity.

At the same time, the distinction between SWIMMING, SAILING and FLOATING appears to be a suitable basis for the **typology of aqua-motion systems** describing them in terms of their “richness” and “poorness”, depending on whether a system elaborates on some of the domains or conversely neutralizes certain basic distinctions. Curiously, the typology attributing aqua-motion systems to *standard*, *poor* and *rich* ones turns out to be a useful tool not only in characterization of a language but also in establishing relations between a language's cultural and geographical environment and its lexicon (thus, for instance, poor systems are found predominantly in languages of peoples, for which the very role of aqua-motion is extremely low; cf. the aqua-motion systems of Caucasian mountain-dwellers).

The volume consists of ten parts and an appendix. The first part includes three papers devoted to general issues. A paper by Vladimir Plungian and Ekaterina Rakhilina focuses on the goals and

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peculiarities of lexical typology (as compared to grammatical typology) and summarizes its main principles. A paper by the editors, Timur Maisak and E. Rakhilina, outlines the major distinctions found within and among aqua-motion systems as well as overall tendencies for combining various senses in a single lexeme. The final paper of this part written by E. Rakhilina elaborates on cross-linguistic regularities in metaphorical extensions of aqua-motion verbs.

Next follow those parts that give detailed portraits of individual aqua-motion systems. These parts are organized on the basis of linguistic areas and include those devoted to

- Latin, Romance and Germanic languages (papers on Modern English by Ekaterina Golubkova and E. Rakhilina, Swedish by Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Dutch by Maarten Lemmens and Dagmar Divjak, German by Olga Shemanaeva, Portuguese by T. Maisak, and Latin against modern Romance languages by Elena Grountova),
- Slavic and Baltic languages (papers on Russian by E. Rakhilina, South Slavic languages by Dmitry Ganenkov, Polish by Irina Prokofieva and Lithuanian by Peter Arkadiev),
- Persian (Julia Kuznetsova) and Ancient Greek (Maxim Kisilier),
- Uralic and Turkic languages (papers on Finnish by Arto Mustajoki and Ekaterina Protassova, Selkup, Komi and Udmurt by Natalia Vostrikova, Nganasan by Valentin Goussev, and Karachay-Balkar, Khakass and Turkish by T. Maisak),
- Semitic languages (papers on Classical Arabic by Alexander Letuchiy and Modern Hebrew by Maya Arad),
- languages of South Asia (papers on West Indo-Aryan by Liudmila Khokhlova and Charanjit Singh, Bengali by Yana Kolotova, Tamil by Anna Smirnitskaya as well as a paper on the diachronical aspects of Indo-Aryan aqua-motion verbs by Boris Zakharyin),
- languages of East and South-East Asia (papers on Chinese by Maria Rukodelnikova, Japanese by Anna Panina, Korean by Lee Su Hyoun and T. Maisak and Standard Indonesian by Yury Lander and Svetlana Kramarova),
- languages of the Caucasus (a paper by T. Maisak in collaboration with Alexander Rostovtsev-Popel and Victoria Khurshudian),
- the African language Maninka (a paper by Valentin Vydrine).

The appendix contains a paper by V. Plungian and E. Rakhilina, who show that the expression of the different, yet semantically related zone of FLYING can coincide not only with that of aqua-motion but also with the expression of jumping and falling. Thus, this paper makes a bridge between the zone of aqua-motion and other lexical zones.

In general, the authors hope that despite the fact that this volume is only the first experience of this kind of investigation, it nevertheless may provide useful methodology for future studies in lexical typology.