

Lexicalization Patterns of English and Armenian Verbs of *Speech Activity*

Lilit Badalyan

Yerevan State Linguistic University

Contemporary linguistic researches are characterized by attempts to reveal the nature of linguistic mechanisms that provide for the relations of man and extra-linguistic reality. Language is a means of the conceptualization of that reality and results in the creation of the linguistic picture of the world. It should be noted that the interpretive function of man's consciousness plays an important role in the construction of the meaning of words. It takes place both in the creation of the mental concept reflecting objects and phenomena of the reality, and in their linguistic representation, in the construction, development and usage of the word meaning.

Languages are thought to be comparable in conveying information, but they generally differ in the amount and type of information that can be expressed by lexical units. It is known that the more significant an object or concept is to a community, the greater is the tendency to lexicalize it, i.e. to coin greater number of lexical units to denote it. There can be identified semantic components which may or may not be lexicalized in particular languages. The identification of the semantic components characterizing classes of words in a language and of the possible combinations of such components within word roots leads to the revelation of lexicalization patterns varying across languages. Typological classification of languages can be made on the basis of the above-mentioned patterns, i.e. according to "characteristic ways in which language [...] packages semantic material into words" (Lehrer 1992:249).

A trend has recently emerged towards addressing the issues of identifying semantic components lexicalized within verb roots and stating a connection between specific components characterizing semantic classes of verbs and syntactic properties of the verbs themselves; there is a strong correlation between each combination of semantic components and the syntactic constructions allowed by the words displaying them.

One of the most widely discussed proposals concerning verb typologies is L. Talmy's (1985) idea that languages fall into two types according to how they encode primary events in verbs (particularly motion verbs) and satellites. In the so-called satellite-framed languages like English, German and Russian motion verbs tend to incorporate "manner" to their core meaning (e.g., *shuffle*, *tip-toe*, *crawl*, etc.) and "path" is expressed by a variety of other devices (satellites) such as particles (*out*), prepositions (*into the room*), verb affixes, etc, whereas in verb-framed languages like Modern Greek (Papafragou & Selimis 2002), Romance, Turkish and Japanese (Matsumoto 1996), Armenian (Badalyan 2011)¹ verbs tend to incorporate "path", expressing "manner" with an additional complement. The distinction is not meant to imply that the relevant languages lack certain kinds of verb altogether. For instance, English has path verbs, such as *enter*, *exit*, *ascend* and *descend*, and verb-framed languages have manner verbs. But the most characteristic (i.e.,

colloquial and frequent) way of describing motion in the two types of languages involves manner and path verbs respectively.

Talmy's typology of lexicalization patterns has received much attention in the domain of motion events in the literature (Slobin 1996, Matsumoto 1996); however, the validity of this typology in other domains of event types is not fully established.²

In our paper we will extend the analysis of Talmy's typology to the domain of English and Armenian verbs of *speech activity* that encode the semantic component of "the manner of speaking". In the current investigation 80 English and 60 Armenian verbs of *speech activity* have been analyzed alongside the data (2000 sentences) extracted from the British National Corpus (<<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>>) and the data (1500 sentences) – from Eastern Armenian National Corpus (<<http://www.eanc.net>>).

Various researches testify to the fact that verbs denote a whole situation with its various participants and in the definitions of the verbs not only the action itself and the possible participants are pointed out in the form of substantive semes, but also the relationship between them is revealed. As E. Paducheva states, "in its each usage the verb shows a situation with the participation of certain number of people; the qualities of participants and relations between them are to some extent reflected in the meaning of the verb" (Paducheva 1998:87).

The seme structure of a verb may comprise several components (for instance, "subject-tool-object-place-time") which are united through one action. The study of the English verbs of *speech activity* discloses the following semantic components (semes):

The agent of the action (the speaker)

The object of the action (the content of speech)

The addressee of the action

The purpose of the action

The manner of the action

It should be noted that the enumerated semantic components may have various configurations in the meanings of different members of the group, for instance, the seme structure of a verb may lack the seme of "the manner of the action" or "the purpose of the action", thus providing for the semantic differentiation of the verbs of *speech activity*. As mentioned above, we have focused only on the verbs that conflate the semantic component of "manner" in their meaning.

The study of the selected verbs in both languages shows that onomatopoeic words denoting sounds produced by animals and birds comprise the bulk of the groups under study. These verbs denote speech activity figuratively, through their secondary meanings.

The examination of the data also reveals that English verbs encoding manner of speaking outnumber the corresponding Armenian verbs, especially if we take into consideration the fact that some Armenian verbs are included in the group with their reduplicative variants, e.g. *qnnuw/qnnqnnuw*, *duw/duduw*, *nuw/nunuw*, *luw/luuw*. If we compile the selected verbs into subgroups based on their common semes, namely the semantic component of the type of manner, we see that in one of the groups the number of English and Armenian verbs nearly coincide: these are the verbs that denote the action of "complaining in an annoying way", such as *to whine, to wail, to rant, to grum-*

ble, to mutter; to snivel in English and *զանգատվել, փնթփնթալ, մրմնջալ, մղթմղթալ, թնգթնգալ, տնքալ* in Armenian (about 20 units in both languages), while in many groups the Armenian verbs yield to the English ones in number, e.g. there are more verbs in English to denote the action of “talking about silly, unimportant things” or “speaking quickly or incoherently” (about 20 units) than in Armenian (about 8 units): *to twitter, to prattle, to drivel, to prate, to gabble, to burble* and *բլբլալ, ծլվլալ, քչփչալ, շախախտալ, շախալիրախալ, դախալիրախալ, զառաւնցել*.

As we have already mentioned, the combination of the semantic components may determine the syntactic peculiarities of verbs. The analysis of the selected sentences reveals that the English and Armenian verbs of *speech activity* display both similar and different syntactic properties. Both English and Armenian verbs, particularly those that express the meaning under study figuratively, in most cases are used to introduce direct speech, either without any modifiers or with adverbial modifiers of cause or manner expressed by a noun, a noun phrase or an adverb. E.g.

“Life isn’t necessarily fair, Miss Levington,” he rapped.

“It’s on now,” he crowed triumphantly.

“I loved him,” moaned Gwendolen defiantly.

- *Ընկերոջս հանդիպեցի, - նորից փնթփնթաց Համբոն:*

- *Նեղն ընկար, հա՛, վրա էս փալիս, - հաղթականորեն ֆշաց*

Արդուքը:

- *Մեր պաշտոնը գրողի ծոցը, — հուզմունքից կակազեց Արամը:*

However, the analysis of the extracted sentences shows that the given verbs can display the syntactic properties of other verbs of *speech activity*, i.e. they appear in the syntactic structures typical of the dominants of the lexico-semantic group of verbs of *speech activity*, namely *to say, to tell, to speak and to talk*, as well as some other members of the group, such as *to complain, to shout, to call* that stand out with general meaning and can serve as identifiers for subgroups within the given lexico-semantic group. It should be noted here that if in Armenian we have only two dominants *սալել* and *խոսել*, in English we can point out four dominant members that display subtle differences in meaning and usage that provide more syntactical patterns for the verbs under study. In other words, the semantic components of the addressee of the action, object of the action and the purpose of the action that exist in the meanings of the selected verbs either as actual or potential semes find surface expressions, i.e. are expressed by verb arguments in sentences. E.g.

սալել ինչ-որ բան

Մինչև վերջապես մի կերպ, բառերն իրար խառնելով, բլբլաց

եղբոր պատվիրածը:

to say sth.

*His eyes darted from her to Nicolo and he **babbled an apology**, half in Italian, half in English.*

սալել ինչ-որ բան ինչ-որ մեկի հասցեին

Անմիտ-անմիտ նզովքներ **փնթփնթալով կյանքի, իմ հասցեին, ես քայլում էի, անձրևի ցանցի մեջ աղոտ վառվող լապտերներին նայելով:**

to say sth. about sth./smb.

All of a sudden, she **whined something about me** not knowing what I had done and she broke down into tears.

ասել, որ/թե...

Այնուհետև պառավը **տրտնջաց, թե** վերմակի երեսները քրքրվել են ու կրորեղեն չկա:

to say that...

Within five minutes Steve **hollered that** his ice hammer had broken.

to say sth. to smb.

He **crowed to me:** ‘The Queen won’t allow any negotiations between Andrew and Fergie and their lawyers to go on without me being present.’

“If she’d been herself,” Maisie **wailed to Robert**, “she’d have looked”.

ասել ինչ-որ լեզվով

Խոջան մրտաբար նայվածքով աստղագիրքը **թերթեց և ինչ-որ քրքմնջաց եբրայերեն, սպա սվեյացրեց հայերեն:**

to say sth. in a language

“Maldita, she is dead,” **gabbled Umberto in Spanish.**

Ինքն իրեն ասել

«Սա, հիրավի, սուկավի է», - **ինքն իրեն մրմնջաց** արդեն երկրորդ անգամ:

To say to oneself

“You can be a success,” he **chanted to himself**, “your mind is a chisel, your will is a hammer, and life is a rock.”

խոսել ինչ-որ լեզվով

Հեղո խենթացած պատեպատ էր խփվում, գրկում-համբուրում էր ինչ, հողի պես պրփվում, **խրալերեն զոռզոռում, նորից ինչ գրկում...:**

to speak (in) a language

I saw people springing up from the ground and letting down ropes out of the sky, boarding red buses, **jabbering in English.**

A militia spokesman **rambled on in Arabic** about the need for resistance, the nobility of the struggle against isolationism and the potentialities of the revolution.

Խոսել ինքն իրեն

Փոքրիկը միայն մի անգամ արթնացավ, բլբլաց **ինքն իրեն** ու նորից աչքերը փակեց...:

to speak to oneself

Ashen-faced, she was **gibbering quietly to herself**, her petrol-sodden hair plastered to her head and her dripping gown showing her legs almost to the crotch.

to speak to smb.

And while they were up there in the wide, blue yonder, they **jabbered non-stop to each other** over the radio.

խոսել/զոռայ ինչ-որ մեկի վրա

- Այնպես արա թող շարժվի-ի-ի-ի... - **վնգաց նա հոր վրա:**

- Ուրեմն էլ ինչո՞ւ եք **տրտնջում ձեր եղբոր վրա:**

to shout (sth.) at smb.

“All right, out!” he **boomed at** the others.

“The Smiths are here!” she **squawked at** him.

He **sarled the words at** her.

խոսել ինչ-որ բանի մասին/ինչ-որ բանից

Եթե բժիշկը **տրտնջում է ցածր աշխարավարձից**, վերևում նրան աչքով են անում, թե լավ բժշկին, միևնույն է, քաղցած չեն թողնի:

խոսել ինչ-որ մեկի հետ ինչ-որ բանի մասին

Մի երկու անգամ տրիկին Ռոբի պես պլպլեց, ձեռքի փաթեթը դրեց գոգին, գավաթը տնտնեց, տկտկացրեց մկույթի եղունգով, **վաճառողի հետ շաղակրատեց:**

to speak/to talk on/away (to smb.) (about sth.)

Adams is always **harping on about** her.

He **jabbered away to** his friends, and Ellie assumed he was explaining that item number one was a drink.

Here we would like to focus on the use of particles and prepositions, the so-called satellites such as *out, on, away, back* placed after the verbs. It should be noted that English has a well-developed system of satellites that enable to express direction or duration of the action thus making the speech laconic. Here are some other examples. E.g.

He sat his guest down in a cubbyhole office, mixed instant coffee with the help of a whistling electric kettle, and **rambled into a monologue** of his thoughts on Michael Holly.

He hemmed and hawed and **rambled through a number of subjects** before making a sideways approach to what he really seemed to need....

...he was **spluttering over the tale**, to whoever would listen....

He **roared down the passage**, “Louisa, LOUISA...”

As Armenian lacks the equivalents of such satellites, it needs to switch to descriptive means to express the same meaning. E.g.

Միայն Տիգրանիկն է, որ **բլբլում է շարունակ**, ու հայրը չի բարկանում նրա վրա:

Ավրոմեքենայում անընդհատ **շաղակրատում էր:**

- Հա մտնում էր, իսկ վարորդը **հա շաղախոտում էր:**

Շամպայնի առաջին շին հաջորդեց երկրորդը, երրորդը և մինչև անգամ չորրորդը Եվրոքսիան **անդադրում դադարակաբանում էր:**

Նրանք **սկսեցին** **սփռել** **հիշատակներ** **էին**, արցունքներ թափում, հայհոյում
ստենդերներ և ստենդերներ:

Other patterns that the Armenian verbs under study lack are:

to speak out (sth)

*“But my daddy **babbled out the truth.**”*

*He **rasped out the words** and stood with his hands on his hips to glare down at her.*

to answer back

*So when Jane asked him for a loan, he **snapped back**: “I think my first duty is to look after myself!”*

*“Are you, darling?” his mother **trilled back.***

to ask for

*I **hollered for fortified wines** and drank quarts of tongue-frazzling black coffee.*

*Although we shall be **grumbling for water**, shan't we?*

to tell/to say/ ask to do

*Below, in the kitchen, William **whined to go out**, a gentle, quivering, undemanding sound that meant, nevertheless, a fairly urgent need.*

to call/ask for smb. to do

*She **roared for the carriage to be brought round.***

*Kaas leant forward and dragged Adam to his feet as he **yelled for the guards to come in** and help him.*

to express smth.

*...Victoria **crowed her delight.***

*At the table the young man **murmured his pleasure** at something Father Reynard had pointed out, shook the priest's hand and quickly left.*

*At night she emerged, wandering the corridors of the upper floor, a lighted candle in her hand, **wailing her grief.***

As can be seen from the examples, the English verbs under study are more likely to be used in the syntactic structures proper to verbs of *speech activity* than the Armenian ones. Besides, the English verbs appear in the given structures irrespective of the fact whether they express speech activity directly, i.e. are nuclear members of the group or they express the given meaning figuratively, i.e. they are peripheral members. In Armenian it is mainly the nuclear members of the group that display such syntactic properties, and even their occurrence in the above mentioned positions is rather limited. This can be accounted for by the fact that in the meanings of the English verbs the semantic component of the speech act is a nuclear one, while the semantic component of the manner of speaking is a peripheral one. Whereas in the meanings of most Armenian verbs under study the manner of speaking or the sound made by the speaker is more important, i.e. a nuclear component and the speech act with its content and addressee are of secondary

importance. The given statement can further be proved by numerous examples of sentences where the peripheral members of the Armenian verbs of *speech activity* tend to function as adverbial modifiers for the predicate expressed by nuclear members, such as *ասնի, խոսնի, պատասխաննի, հարցնի, հրամայնի, խնդրնի, կանչնի, արտահայտնի* (about 80 examples out of 1500). E.g.

- Հեղրոն **սկսեց գոռոռոսլով** կանչել Վաչոյին. (...shouted out to...)
 - Հեռացեք, - **փսփսսլով պատասխանեցի** նրան: (...whispered back to ...)
 Հենց եկեղեցում էլ **փսփսսլով իրար հայրնում էին**, որ բանտարկյալներին անխնա ծեծում են, խոշորանգում, պահանջում հանձնել թաքցրած զենքերը: (...whispered to each other...)
 Ուրում էին, **քշփշալով գրուցում**, խեղդվում ծիծաղից: (...chattered on)
 Գնանք քո սենյակը, թե չէ Լյոլյային կարթնացնենք, նույնպես, - **շշնջալով պատասխանեց** նա: (...whispered back...)
 - Էդ սաս է, - **տնրալով արչազանքեց** մի ուրիշը: (...groaned out ...)

Whereas in English we have found only 6 examples out of 2000.

- "I'll kill him," repeated Bigwig, **spluttering through** his fouled whiskers and clotted fur.
 "It was her," said Rose, **gibbering with fear**.
 "That," I said, **whispering**, "can be our secret."

Thus, we can conclude that the differences in the usage of the English and Armenian verbs of *speech activity* come to prove the results of our previous analysis of *motion* verbs,³ i.e. Armenian may be ranged among verb-framed languages while English is a typical satellite-framed language.

Notes:

1. In the article *The Cognitive Aspect of Lexicalization in English and Armenian* (Badalyan 2011) we presented the results of the comparative analysis of sixty-five English and twenty-five Armenian motion verbs that led us to assume that Armenian may be ranged among verb-framed languages.
2. In the article *How to Say Things with Words: Ways of Saying in English and Spanish*, Rojo A. and Valenzuela J. (2001) made an attempt to apply Slobin's analysis of English and Spanish manner verbs to verbs of saying in English and Spanish and the way Spanish translators deal with them. They concluded that in contrast with Slobin's statement that verb-framed languages have a lower number of manner verbs than satellite-framed languages, their examples suggested that the difference between

English and Spanish manner verbs of saying is not very big. In the description of motion events, translators tended to omit information when going from English into Spanish, while their study showed that when dealing with verbs of saying, Spanish translators tended to add information, using more specific verbs.

3. See Note 1.

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Մասցակալսն բայերի բառայնացման կաղապարներն անգլերենում և հայերենում

Հոդվածում ուսումնասիրվել է անգլերենի և հայերենի *մասցակալսն* բայերի բառայնացման կաղապարների և շարահյուսական առանձնահատկությունների միջև կապը՝ հիմնվելով Լ.Թալմիի միջլեզվական տիպաբանության վրա, ըստ որի առանձնացվում են երկու տիպի լեզուներ՝ այսպես կոչված “*satellite-framed*” լեզուներ, որտեղ շարժման բայերի իմաստում բառայնացվում է գործողության ձևի իմաստային բաղադրիչը, իսկ գործողության ուղղությունը նախադասությունում արտահայտվում է այլ միջոցներով, և “*verb-framed*” լեզուներ, որտեղ բայիմաստում առկա է գործողության ուղղության բաղադրիչը: Փորձ է արվել Թալմիի տեսությունը կիրառել անգլերենի և հայերենի *մասցակալսն* բայերի իմաստային խմբի վրա՝ ընտրելով անգլերենի 80 և հայերենի 60 բայեր, որոնց իմաստում առկա է գործողության ձևի իմաստային բաղադրիչը: Ավելի հստակ պատկեր ստանալու համար ուսումնասիրվել են նաև Բրիտանական ազգային կորպուսից ընտրված մոտ 2000 և Արևելահայերեն ազգային կորպուսից՝ 1500 նախադասություններ, քանի որ բայերի շարահյուսական հնարավորությունները մեծապես պայմանավորված են բայիմաստի իմաստային բաղադրիչների տարբեր կապակցություններով: