

THE PROTO-MOTION EVENT SCHEMA:
INTEGRATING LEXICAL SEMANTICS AND
MORPHOLOGICAL SEQUENCING

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ABSTRACT

The present paper investigates Mandarin verbs of MOTION, one of the fundamental domains of human activities and extensively discussed areas in linguistic research.¹ Previous studies on Mandarin motion verbs are done primarily with a typological concern. However, given the iconic nature of serial motions in Mandarin, this paper attempts to provide a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the semantic-to-morphological and lexical-to-grammatical distinctions pertaining to the collostructional sequencing of motion verbs. Based on the Proto-Motion Event Schema (PMS), it offers an overarching framework for a top-down analysis of the conceptual structure of motion and a bottom-up examination of corpus-based collocations. Representing the iconic sequence of serial motion events, the Schema helps to identify the crucial semantic components, both verb-internally and verb-externally, for a systematic investigation and classification of motion progression. It attempts to establish a link for lexical semantic studies of motion from various perspectives. By probing into the conceptual basis of proto-motion event, the study ultimately offers an iconically-motivated

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account of the possible ranges of verb meaning and the semantic-to-morphosyntactic sequencing of Mandarin motion verbs.

KEYWORDS

Mandarin motion **Lexical semantics** **Morphological sequencing**
Iconicity

移动事件概念基模：词汇语意与词序整合研究

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提要

移动事件为人类活动最基础的概念范畴之一，移动动词也是语言学研究中最广为讨论的一项课题。关于汉语移动动词，前人主要研究其语意与类型学特征。然而，基于汉语句式允许数个动词排列的特性，需要对汉语移动动词进行更细致的研究。本文提出一个典型移动事件的认知架构，用以分析、解释并对移动动词内部隐含之语意进行分类。此架构提供从上而下探究移动动词之认知基础，也适于从下至上检视语料库显示之词汇搭配关系是否与之配合。本研究藉由语法与语意检测条件分析移动动词序列限制，着重词汇语意构词序列关系与认知架构间的象似性关联。最后，本研究整合动词内部隐含的语意成分与动词外部搭配出现的核心参与者角色，将汉语动词做一系统性的分类。

关键词

汉语移动动词 词汇语意 序列限制 象似性