

Tracing referent location in oral picture descriptions

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Against the background of the typological distinction between verb-framed and satellite-framed languages, the present paper will show that the opposition between verbs of POSITION (e.g. *sit*, *lie*, *stand*, etc.) and verbs of EXISTENCE (e.g. *be*, *be found*, etc.) can also be regarded as a parameter in the typological distinction. At the same time, some of the claims made in the literature on manner of motion verbs will have to be nuanced when applied to verbs of POSITION/EXISTENCE. The empirical basis of this contrastive research project (initially focussing on Germanic languages) consists of standard text corpora as well as elicited oral picture descriptions.