

# Time and Space III

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What we know so far

Paths

- ▶ Figure, Ground, Spatial marker

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- ▶ Two basic ways of finding the Figure:

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- ▶ [ FIG [ SM GROUND ] ]
- ▶ Two basic ways of finding the Figure:
  - ▶ start at Ground, search in a particular direction

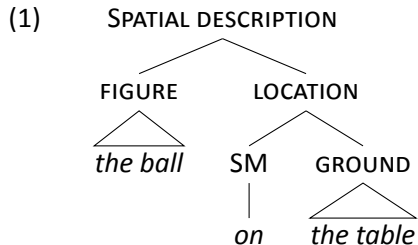
- ▶ Figure, Ground, Spatial marker
- ▶ [ FIG [ SM GROUND ] ]
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    - ▶ Frames of reference (absolute, relative, intrinsic)

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  - ▶ start at Ground, look around in no particular direction, but in the general proximity of the object



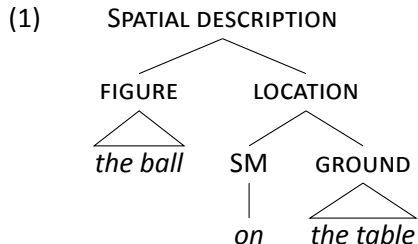
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- ▶ [ FIG [ SM GROUND ] ]
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    - ▶ geometry (interior), function (container)

# Particles/prefixes lack the Ground



(2) a. The cook twisted the lid off the jar.

# Particles/prefixes lack the Ground



- (2) a. The cook twisted the lid off the jar.  
b. The cook twisted the lid off.

## Particles/prefixes lacking the Ground

- (3) a. Petr šel kolem fakulty.  
Petr walked past the.faculty

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- b. \*Petr šel od  
Petr walked away
- c. Petr ode-šel  
Petr away-walked



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perpetrator off-twisted lid from tank of.truck  
'The perpetrator twisted the lid off the truck's tank'

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will.you want that waiter takes.out cork or off-twisted  
uzávěr?  
lid?  
'Do you want the waiter to take out a cork or twist off the lid?'

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 will.you want that waiter takes.out cork or off-twisted  
 uzávěr?  
 lid?  
 'Do you want the waiter to take out a cork or twist off the lid?'
- (7) Zkazilo by vám dojem, kdyby v luxusní restauraci  
 spoiled would for.you impression if in luxury restaurant  
 číšník místo obřadného vytažení korku láhev  
 waiter instead.of ceremonial pulling.out of.cork bottle  
 od-šrouboval?  
 off.twisted  
 'Wouldn't it spoil your impression if a waiter in a luxury  
 restaurant would simply twist off the bottle instead of  
 ceremonially pulling out the cork?'

some prefixes are picky (the figure has to stay)

- (8) Maminka lepí Emmě náplast na ránu  
mum glues to.Emma a.plaster on wound

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# Summary

- ▶ Spatial markers prototypically relate Figure and Ground
- ▶ However, there are also spatial markers that only introduce the Figure (Ground is implicit)
- ▶ Other spatial markers only introduce the Ground (Figure is implicit)



## dark corners

(11) Petr šel ke mně  
Petr walked to(wards) me

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(12) \*Petr k(e)-šel  
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(13) Petr při-šel  
Petr to-walked

(14) Petr při-šel ke mně  
Petr to-walked to me

# Geometry vs. functionality

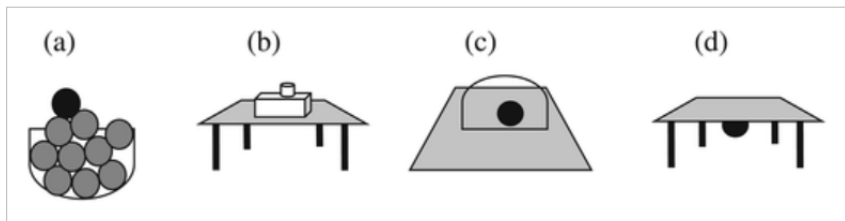
- ▶ ON: *in contact with* vs. **support**

# Geometry vs. functionality

- ▶ ON: *in contact with* vs. **support**
- ▶ IN: *enclosed by the boundaries of* vs. **container**

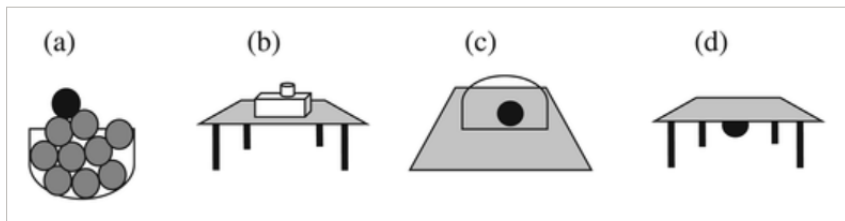
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## projective locations

- ▶ BEHIND: *along an axis going out via the back side* vs. **inaccessible to perception**

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## projective locations

- ▶ BEHIND: *along an axis going out via the back side* vs.  
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- ▶ IN FRONT OF: *along an axis going out via the front side* vs.  
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(15) a. Pes    **za**-lezl                    **za**    barák  
          the.dog behind-crawled behind the.house

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          the.dog behind-crawled into its.dog.house

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- c. Pes    **za**-lezl                    **pod**    divan  
the.dog behind-crawled under the.table

## projective locations

- ▶ **BEHIND:** *along an axis going out via the back side vs. inaccessible to perception*
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- (16) a. Pes    **vy**-lezl            **před**        barák  
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## projective locations

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          the.dog out-crawled to.in.front.of the.house
- b. Pes    **vy**-lezl            **z**        boudy  
          the.dog out-crawled out.of its.dog.house

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- ▶ **BEHIND:** *along an axis going out via the back side vs. inaccessible to perception*
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- (15)
- a. Pes    **za**-lezl            **za**        barák  
the.dog behind-crawled behind the.house
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the.dog behind-crawled into its.dog.house
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  - b. Pes    **vy**-lezl            **z**        boudy  
the.dog out-crawled out.of its.dog.house
  - c. Pes    **vy**-lezl            **na**        divan  
the.dog up-crawled on the.sofa

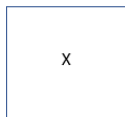


What we know so far

Paths

# Paths and locations

in the box



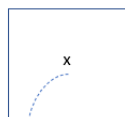
IN-ESSIVE

into the box



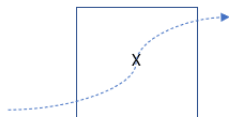
I(N)-LATIVE

out of the box



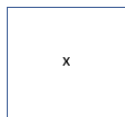
E(X)-LATIVE

through the box



PRO-LATIVE

towards the inside of the box



VERSATIVE

# Paths and locations

on the box

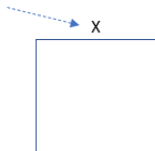
X



SUPER-ESSIVE

onto the box

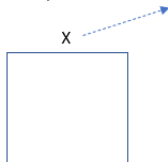
X



SUPER-I(N)-LATIVE

from/off the box

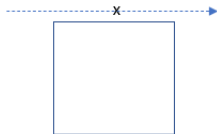
X



SUPER-E(X)-LATIVE

over the box

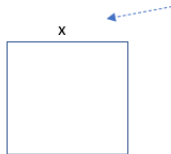
X



SUPER-PRO-LATIVE

towards on the box

X



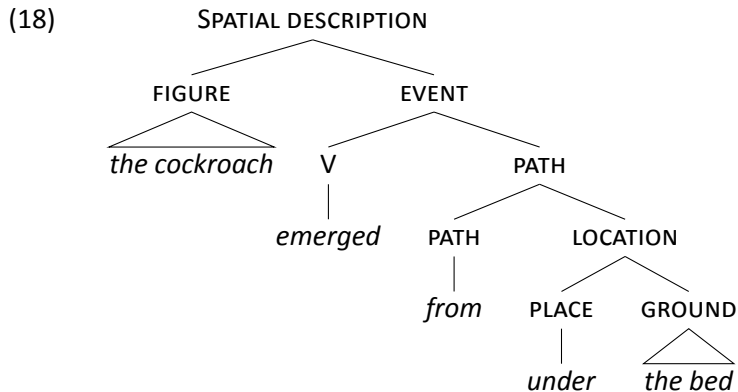
SUPER-VERSATIVE

## The logical structure of path expressions

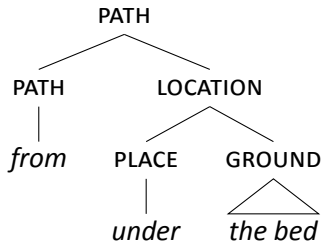
(17) the cockroach emerged from under the bed

# The logical structure of path expressions

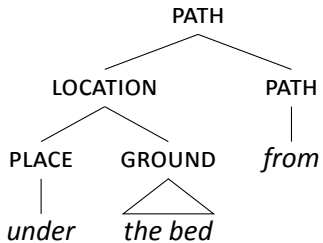
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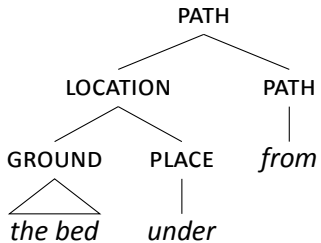
(19)



(20)



(21)





## The great Daghestanian case hoax

BERNARD COMRIE and MARIA POLINSKY

*University of Southern California  
and University of California*

The Daghestanian languages are well-known in the linguistic literature for their rich case systems. Indeed, this richness has passed beyond technical literature in linguistics. In *The Guinness Book of Records* for 1997 (Young 1997: 249), in a subsection of the general section on Language, we find the following:

*Most complex language* Tabassaran, a language of Daghestan . . . uses the most noun cases, 48.

In the scientific literature, perhaps the most famous reference to the Tabasaran case system is Hjelmslev (1935: 138, 139), where Tabasaran is presented as having the “empirical maximum” number of cases. Hjelmslev analyzes Tabasaran as having 52 cases, but two of these occur only on adjectives, so the number of noun cases is 50. We do not dispute that Daghestanian languages have rich case systems. What we do find questionable, however, is the high counts of the number of “cases” that are presented in both scientific and popular accounts. In order to demonstrate that

# Lezgian

Absolutive:	sew	the bear
Ergative:	sew-re	the bear
Genitive:	sew-re-n	of the bear
Dative:	sew-re-z	to the bear
Adessive:	sew-re-w	at the bear
Adelative:	sew-re-w-aj	from the bear
Addirective:	sew-re-w-di	toward the bear
Postessive:	sew-re-qh	behind the bear
Postelative:	sew-re-qh-aj	from behind the bear
Postdirective:	sew-re-qh-di	to behind the bear
Subessive:	sew-re-k	under the bear
Subelative:	sew-re-k-aj	from under the bear
Subdirective:	sew-re-k-di	to under the bear
Superessive:	sew-re-l	on the bear
Superlative:	sew-re-l-aj	off the bear
Superdirective:	sew-re-l-di	onto the bear
Inessive:	sew-re	in the bear
Inelative:	sew-re-aj ( sewräj)	out of the bear
Indirective:	-----	

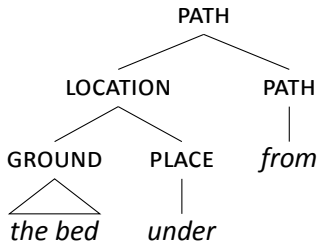
Table 3. Tsez local case forms: non-distal.

	Case			
	essive	allative	ablative	versative (‘towards’)
‘in’	-ā	-ā-r	-āy	-āy-or
‘among’	-l̥	-l̥-er	-l̥-āy	-l̥-x-or
‘on (horizontal)’	-l̥’(o)	-l̥’o-r	-l̥’-āy	-l̥’-āy-or, -l̥’-ār
‘under’	-l̥	-l̥-er	-l̥-āy	-l̥-x-or
‘at’	-x(o)	-x-o-r	-x-āy	-x-āy-or, -x-ār
‘near’	-de	-de-r	-d-āy	-d-āy-or, -d-ār
‘on (vertical)’	-q(o)	-q-o-r	-q-āy	-q-āy-or, -q-ār

Table 4. Tsez local case forms: distal.

	essive	allative	Case ablative	versative (‘towards’)
Spatial orientation ‘in’	-āz	-āz-a-r	-āz-ay	-āz-a
‘among’	-λ-āz	-λ-āz-a-r	-λ-āz-ay	-λ-āz-a
‘on (horizontal)’	-λ'-āz	-λ'-āz-a-r	-λ'-āz-ay	-λ'-āz-a
‘under’	-λ-āz	-λ-āz-a-r	-λ-āz-ay	-λ-āz-a
‘at’	-x-āz	-x-āz-a-r	-x-āz-ay	-x-āz-a
‘near’	-d-āz	-d-āz-a-r	-d-āz-ay	-d-āz-a
‘on (vertical)’	-q-āz	-q-āz-a-r	-q-āz-ay	-q-āz-a

(22)



# Macedonian

кај	at (the home, place, office) of, by, in the country of
докај	near, to
накај	at, toward
откај	from

For example:

Кај\_нас во Прилеп велат  
вака, ама кај\_охрид\_аните  
е подруго.

In our region, in Prilep, they  
say it this way, but among  
the people of Ohrid it's  
different.

Ќе фрлам со камен докај\_  
тебе.

Таа тргна накај\_него.

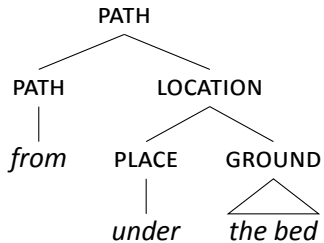
Откај\_градот се разнесе  
писок на сирени.

I'll throw the stone all the  
way to you.

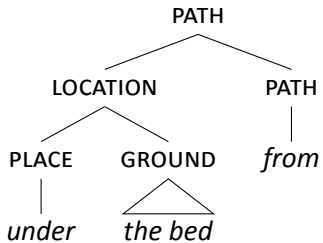
She started to his side.

From the direction of the town  
came a screaming of sirens.

(23)



(24)





(25) Ancient Greek

- a. [parà nus]      -ì  
at ships-      DAT  
'**AT** in the hollow ships'
- b. [par' Hēphaist]      -on  
at Hephaistos -ACC  
'**TO** in Hephaestos'
- c. [par' Eurút]      -ou  
at Eurytos      -GEN  
'**FROM** in Eurytos'

- (26) a. na podlaz-e  
on floor-LOC (static locative)

- (26)
- a. na podlaz-e  
on floor-LOC (static locative)
  - b. na podlah-u  
on floor-ACC (goal)

- (26) a. na podlaz-e  
on floor-LOC (static locative)
- b. na podlah-u  
on floor-ACC (goal)

