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3. Name of author: Kiyoko Takahashi
4. Affiliation: Kanda University of International Studies
5. E-mail address: kiyoko@kanda.kuis.ac.jp

Arrival expressions in Thai

This paper examines the spatio-temporal concept ‘arrival’ (viz. an event in which an entity arrives at a goal after locomotion) expressed in Thai. Unlike previous studies on Thai motion expressions (e.g. Thepkanjana 1986, Muansuwan 2002, Kessakul 2006), I consider the expressions in (1) to represent a complex event consisting of two events in succession, namely a locomotion and an arrival. Although an arrival verb (e.g. *thǔŋ* ‘arrive’, *sùu* ‘arrive and stay’, *sàŋ* ‘put in’) is often regarded as an allative preposition, in fact it does not contribute to an allative sense; it is dispensable in expressing an allative sense, as illustrated in (2) (Takahashi 2006). Its main function is to denote a unique arrival event whereby the preceding locomotion event is delimited. Thus, I call expressions including an arrival verb like those in (1) ‘arrival expressions’. The expressions depict a spontaneous or caused locomotion (e.g. walking, throwing) accompanied with its subsequent culmination (e.g. reaching, hitting) and a resultant state (e.g. staying, laying).

- (1) a. *kháw* *dəən* *pay* *thǔŋ* *ráan*
 PRONOUN walk go arrive shop
 He walked away and arrived at the shop.
- b. *kháw* *lɔɔy* *khoom* *khúŋ* *pay* *sùu* *thɔɔŋ fáa*
 PRONOUN float lantern ascend go arrive and stay sky
 They sent up floating-lanterns which got to the sky and stayed.
- (2) a. *kháw* *dəən* *pay* (*yaŋ*) *ráan*
 PRONOUN walk go (ALLATIVE) shop
 He walked away to the shop.
- b. *kháw* *lɔɔy* *khoom* *khúŋ* *pay* (*yaŋ*) *thɔɔŋ fáa*
 PRONOUN float lantern ascend go (ALLATIVE) sky
 They sent up floating-lanterns to the sky.

This paper also explores syntactic patterns of arrival expressions, which are composed of two basic components encoding a preceding locomotion event and a following arrival event, as shown in (3) and (4) respectively. I claim that the two components are in a coordinate relationship, and yet they form a single clause for a macro-event of accomplishment. Therefore, a pair of concepts regarding event structure posited in the event integration theory (Talmy 2000), i.e. ‘framing-event’ and ‘co-event’, cannot be employed for analyzing the event structure of arrival expressions. This perspective hopefully leads us to a better understanding of Thai motion expressions.

- (3) Linear order of constituents of the first component:
 Activity verb + Motion verb (manner verb, directinal verb, path verb) + Deictic verb
- (4) Linear order of constituents of the second component:
 Arrival verb + Preposition (endpoint, global location, local location) + Goal noun phrase

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