

The Event Description Elicitation Database (EDED): combining posture, movement & event description in fieldwork elicitation

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Overview

- The Event Description Elicitation Database, as the name suggests, was originally devised in order to elicit event descriptions in under-documented languages, with complex tense-aspect systems, i.e. combining :
 - Aspectually meaningful lexical verbs (i.e. endowed with Aktionsart meanings)
 - Aspectually meaningful inflectional markers

Overview

- It was furthermore expanded in order to investigate the following properties, which turned out to be of primary importance in the event description grammar of non-Pama-Nyungan languages, esp. Iwaidjan and Gunwinyguan languages :
 - Reduplicated alternating stems, with pluractional/habitual meanings
 - Serial verb constructions / complex event descriptions
 - Associated motion and associated posture in event descriptions

Overview



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- It was created over three years (2013-2014 (P. Caudal, R. Mailhammer), 2016 (P. Caudal))
- It comprises 250+ video-clips, arranged in so far 6 different experimental protocols, comprising between 34 and 83 video clips, targeting the following categories :
 - Protocol I: tense-aspect
 - Protocol II-IV: tense-aspect and motion/posture
 - Protocol V : event reduplication/habituality
 - Protocol VI : a combination of all the above

Overview

LIST IV	31. Running.mp4	List VI (25-06-2016)	31. walked sat down slept woke up.mp4
1. Sad.mp4	32. Cutting branch.mp4	01. Singing no posture.mp4	32. Nodding.mp4
2. Hanging.mp4	33. Cut branch.mp4	02. Nodded once.mp4	33. Switched on and off several times.mp4
3. Baby sleeping.mp4	34. Breaking stick imperfective.mp4	03. Baby sleeping.mp4	34. Kept dropping stone.mp4
4. Closed door.mp4	35. Broke Stick.mp4	04. Sang put away plates.mp4	35. Chewing.mp4
5. Extending arms.mp4	36. Receiving.mp4	05. Leaning 2.mp4	36. Dragging chair put hat.mp4
6. Open closed door.mp4	37. Received.mp4	06. Pierced.mp4	37. Nodded several times.mp4
7. Black then white.mp4	38. Was piercing.mp4	07. Sit down sneezes stands up.mp4	38. Hanging.mp4
8. White then black.mp4	39. Pierced.mp4	08. Crouch stand iterated.mp4	39. Poke once.mp4
9. Singing no posture.mp4	40. Throwing stone imperf.mp4	09. Threw stone.mp4	40. Pull inchoative.mp4
10. Coughing.mp4	41. Threw stone.mp4	10. Lift crate frustrative.mp4	41. Eat biscuit.mp4
11. Spinning.mp4	42. Cutting bread II.mp4	11. Open fridge.mp4	42. Digging.mp4
12. Drinking.mp4	43. Cut bread.mp4	12. Open fridge frustrative.mp4	43. Pulling rope.mp4
13. Blinking.mp4	44. Peeling potato.mp4	13. Hanging washing put hat on.mp4	44. Dug a hole.mp4
14. Kissed.mp4	45. Peeled potato.mp4	14. Was knocking ran by.mp4	
15. Squating grinding.mp4	46. Cutting tree down saw.mp4	15. Stood up jumped sat down.mp4	
16. Sing whistle.mp4	47. Cut tree down saw.mp4	16. Cut bread.mp4	
17. Whistle sing.mp4	48. Sleeping woke up.mp4	17. Push fridge frustrative succeed.mp4	
18. Squating ground scratched.mp4	49. Lying grinding jumped.mp4	18. Push fridge frustrative.mp4	
19. Lying ground ate scratched.mp4	50. Cutting wood gave.mp4	19. Broke a stick.mp4	
20. Scratched started singing.mp4	51. Sat Drank Put Down.mp4	20. Rake sweep go.mp4	
21. Squating scratched ground.mp4	52. Sit down sneezes stands up.mp4	21. Sneezing.mp4	
22. Cooked sang.mp4	53. Walking sat.mp4	22. Switch light on.mp4	
23. Shook took out bread.mp4	54. Lying eating jumped.mp4	23. Cut tree down saw.mp4	
24. Sang cooked.mp4	55. Hanging up washing interruption.mp4	24. Sawing wood put hat on.mp4	
25. Draw scratch sing.mp4	56. Sitting grinding gave.mp4	25. Whistled sang whistled sang whistled.mp4	
26. Turned Wheel Looked out.mp4	57. Stood up jumped sat down.mp4	26. Poke several times.mp4	
27. Turning looking.mp4	58. Was jumping ran by.mp4	27. Coughing received ball.mp4	
28. Slid grinding.mp4	59. Stood up knocked sat down.mp4	28. Pushed chair over.mp4	
29. Scratching sing whistle.mp4	60. Was knocking ran by.mp4	29. Looking ate biscuit.mp4	
30. Started Running.mp4		30. Crushing leaves put hat on.mp4	

Overview

1. The EDED in a nutshell
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Section 1: The EDED in a nutshell

The linguistic context

- **Non-Pama-Nyungan languages exhibit composite TAM-marking:**
 - seemingly **complex** morphological TAM marking, i.e. involving more than one morphological exponent; polysynthetic type
 - In Many nPN, TAM paradigms typically involve discontinuous morphs (two exponents realised on two disjoint positions in the verb template:

(1) mere **ngurri** **-dha** Ngandimeli-yu
NEG 1SGS.GO(6).**PSTIRR-PlMP** Ngandimeli-dm
'I didn't go to Ngandimeli (yesterday).' (Murrinh-Patha;
Nordlinger & Caudal 2012)

The linguistic context

- (2) a. Pro.(**REAL/IRR/IMP.HORT**)-QUANT-BEN-IBP-stem-CAUS-REFL/RECIP-**TAM**-ma-CASE
(*Anindilyakwa; revised from van Egmond 2012*)
- b. (PRES-)Pro.(**FUT/REAL**)-stem-RED-**TAM**
(*Mawng ; Singer 2006*)
- c. Pro.(**IMP/IRR/FUT/REAL**)-stem-RED-**TAM** (*Iwaidja*)
(*Iwaidja; Pym & Larrimore 1979*)
- d. ClassStem.**TAM**₁-SUBJ.NUM/OBJAgr-Refl-IBP/Appli-LexStem-**TAM**₂-ADV₁-SUBJ.NUM/OBJ.NUM/ADV₂
(*Murrinh-Patha ; Nordlinger & Caudal 2012*)
- e. (**IMP/IRR**-)Subj-(**POT**-)(Obj-)Stem(-REFL)(-**Tense/Aspect**)
(*Jaminjung; Schultze-Berndt 2000*)

Aktionsart features

- The EDED event type ontology covers both simplex and complex event descriptions :
- **Simplex event types comprise:** (a) simple stative, positional stimuli (such as those expressed in English by the positional, stative meanings of *sit* (as in ‘be sitting’) or *stand* (as in ‘be standing’)); (b) simple activities; (c) simple telic events (both achievements and accomplishments)
- **Ex. List 1 – 2 : Hanging**

Aktionsart features

- **Complex stimuli include:** (a) iterated simplex events, (b) sequences of one or several simplex events, (c) temporal embedding of a simplex, telic event into a complex or simplex event, and (d) even sequences of distinct iterated simplex (= complex) events.
- **Ex (1) : List VI - 08. Crouch stand iterated.mp4**
- **Ex (2) : List I - 52. Sit down sneezes stands up.mp4**



Viewpoint features

- **In addition to Aktionsart features, EDED also targets aspectual viewpoint features in the sense of Smith (1991)**
- Strict temporal ordering of events vs. overlapping events
- strict temporal ordering favours *perfective viewpoint* readings
- temporal overlap favours *imperfective viewpoint* interpretation, cf. Smith (1991), Caudal (2012).
- **Strict ordering : cf. last film**
- **Overlap : “event encapsulation” cf. List I - 58. Was jumping ran by.mp4**

Viewpoint features

- **Also inchoative or non-accomplished perceptions :**
- Unbounded sleeping... (List I - 3. Baby sleeping.mp4)

Vs.

- Beginning of movement... (List I - 30. Started Running.mp4)

Viewpoint features

- **Culminating vs. non-culminating pairs :**
- **List I – 46. Cutting tree down saw.mp4**
- **List I – 47. Cut tree down saw.mp4**

Posture features

- **EDED offers :**
 - **Posturally marked, stative clips**, with : standing / sitting / crouching / lying / hanging / a variety of other postures
 - Ex. : List I - 15. Squating grinding.mp4
 - Ex : List I - 19. Lying ground ate scratched.mp4
 - List I : - 12. Sitting drinking.mp4
 - **Change-of-posture clips** (cf. 'sit-down-sneeze' clip)
 - **Posturally unmarked clips** (e.g. with close-ups)
 - Ex. List I - 9. Singing no posture.mp4



Motion features

- **EDED offers :**
 - **Associated motion**
 - **Ex. : List I - 28. Slid grinding.mp4**
 - **Simplex + complex ventive motion**
 - **Simplex + complex itive motion**
 - **Ventive + itive sequences :**
 - **cf. List I - 56. Sitting grinding gave.mp4**
- **However some additional clips are still needed to cover particular combinations**



Section 2:
Taking EDED to the field

Elicitation of TA markers

- **EDED has been initially used to elicit event descriptions and tense-aspect marking, in languages where posture vs. motion serial verb constructions seem very widespread in event descriptions**
- TA in Iwaidja & Mawng (TAIM): involved eleven participants ; nine were native speakers of Iwaidja (5 male, 4 female ranging between 40 and 75 years old)
 - seven completed the experiment in Iwaidja only
 - two participants also completed it in English
 - two participants were proficient speakers of Iwaidja who acquired the language as teenagers or adults (late bilinguals). They completed the experiment in English only
 - all participants were shown a series of 34 video clips (List V, 2014)
- **One major issue: syncretism. Makes a large database necessary.**

Elicitation of TA markers

- Our typical recording setup:



Elicitation of associated motion/posture

- **TAIM experiment revealed**

(i) Prevalence of associated posture to mark ‘protracted’, non-interrupted, imperfective event descriptions (activities, states) – in combination with reduplication / marked prosodic contours

(3) *kajirk a-ɣi-ŋ* *w-aɣingaɣika-ŋ*,
Now AWAY.3SG-stand-IPST 3SG-scratchRED-IPST
l'a piɣan-tuŋ.

and 3SG-sing-IPST

‘He was standing there scratching, and singing.’ (TC
00:46:34.790 - 00:46)

Elicitation of associated motion/posture

- **TAIM experiment revealed**

(ii) Prevalence of associated motion (esp. itive motion) to mark event culmination AND to ‘close-off’ sequences of events (regardless of the Aktionsart types involved)

(4) *a-∅-ɿi-ŋan* *∅-piŋan-tiŋ::* *ja-w-aɿa-n*
TOWARDS-3SG-stand-UPST 3SG-sing-UPST:: AWAY-3SG-go-UPST
‘He sang for some time... Then he stopped [left].’
[TAIM141124JCRNKMededlw, 06:20:00]

Perspectives

- **EDED has been fairly successfully used for field elicitation through its different existing protocols in a variety of languages**
 - **To the best of our knowledge, it has already been used by 15+ researchers in Australia, PNG, Asia**
- **More work is clearly needed for the associated motion part of the database**
 - **Indeed associated motion appears to be limited to a peri-aspectual meaning in InPN languages, so this was not a major experimental focus for us**
 - **So-called ‘directional prefixes’ appear to be distal vs. proximal deictic locatives**

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