English and Czech motion verbs and constructions in "Satellite-framing"

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While Talmy (1991) classifies both Germanic and Slavic languages as Satellite-framed, later studies (e.g. Filipović 2013, Lewandowski 2021) point to a more "nuanced' typology, and Croft et al. (2010) provide evidence that "the intra-linguistic and cross-linguistic variation conforms to universal constraints on variation" (2010, 225). In this talk, I bring Czech into the picture, a West Slavic language which has so far received little attention in the typological studies (Schmiedtová 2013, Martinková 2018), and contrast it with English as to the constructions used in coding motion events critical for the typology (boundary-crossing events [entering]). In line with Lewandowski and Mateu (2020), it is hypothesized that the Czech prefix-framed intransitive motion construction with v- [in] places stricter demands on the semantics (directionality) of the verb than the English nonprefix-framed construction with in/to. The assumption of comparability is justified by translation correspondences in a bidirectional parallel corpus (Johansson 2007) of English and Czech fiction, created within the multilingual parallel corpus InterCorp (Čermák and Rosen 2012) for this purpose (Study 1 and 2), and by correspondence with the Spanish Verb-framed construction with entrar (Study 3). An analysis of translation correspondences will then allow me to calculate Mutual correspondence (Altenberg 2007) between the two constructions, with respect to verb types that enter them. Arguably, this contrastive approach, in which construction is taken as "the basic unit of comparison and contrast across languages" (Croft et al. 2010), can not only reveal language resources relevant for motion encoding for the two languages compared, but also outline further research: Manner encoding in Czech motion verbs is not only more obligatory than in English, but even more obligatory than in South-Slavic languages such as Bulgarian and Serbo-Croatian, in which semantic bleaching of a prefix-root combination gave rise to full-fledged Path verbs meaning 'to enter' (Speed 2015, Filipović 2013). Important methodological issues will also be addressed in the talk.