Towards a typology of spatial deictic expressions - a conflation of interrogative and declarative spatial morphology

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The present work aims at establishing a typology of spatial deictic expressions of the world's languages. Spatial interrogatives (SIs) give us the opportunity to ask about, among others: the location of an entity in space (Place), the endpoint of the movement of an entity in space (Goal) or the starting point of the movement of an entity in space (Source) (cf. Stolz et al. 2017: 1). They correspond to English WHERE (Place) and the two archaic expressions WHITHER (Goal) and WHENCE (Source), cf. Table 1.

	Early Modern English	contemporary English	Modern Standard Arabic
Place	*where*	*where*	*ʾayn-a*
Goal	*whither*	*where*	*ʾilaa ʾayn-a*
Source	*(from) whence*	*where from*	*min ʾayn-a*
reference	Siemund 2001	Quirk et al. 1978	Ryding 2005

Table 1: Spatial interrogatives

The spatial deictic declaratives (SDDs) may be used to answer these questions or may be used independently from any preceding questions and correspond to English HERE/THERE (Place) and the archaic expressions HITHER/THITHER (Goal) and HENCE/THENCE (Source), cf. (2).

	Early Modern English		contemporary English		Modern Standard Arabic	
	D1	D2	D1	D2	D1	D2
Place	*here*	*there*	*here*	*there*	*hunaa*	*hunaaka*
Goal	*hither*	*thither*	*here*	*there*	*ʾilaa hunaa*	*ʾilaa hunaaka*
Source	*(from) hence*	*(from) thence*	*from here*	*from there*	*min hunaa*	*min hunaaka*
reference	Bailey 1978		Quirk et al. 1978		Ryding 2005, Lalli 2014	

Table 2: Spatial deictic declaratives

It will be examined to what extent there are systematic parallels and differences between spatial deictic sets of interrogatives and declaratives. A canon is applied to determine the parameters which provide information on individual spatial relations. Logical outcomes considering all possible distributions of mismatches are discussed, which is followed by a peek into real language data and a preview of what a typology of spatial deictic systems may consist of.

References

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