Here – Hither – Hence and related categories: A crosslinguistic study

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The present work aims at establishing a typology of spatial interrogatives (SIs) in comparison to their declarative counterparts (SDDs) in the three basic spatial relations Place, Goal, and Source. In a functionally motivated typological approach, equivalents of the Early Modern English SIs where—whither—whence, near deictic (ND) SDDs here—hither—hence, and far deictic (FD) SDDs there—thither—thence are identified across a sample of 250 languages from all macro-areas. The expressions are both qualitatively and quantitatively assessed to extrapolate areal and global trends of coding patterns. The formal relationships between spatial interrogative and spatial declarative paradigms are analyzed with a focus on the syncretism of categories and of individual cells. Table 1 displays two languages with different coding patterns, viz. a maximally distinct coding pattern (Finnish) and a maximally indistinct coding pattern (Bambara).

Table 1: Comparison of two languages with maximally distinct and maximally indistinct coding pattern

	Finnish (Uralic)			Bambara (Mande)		
	SI	ND	FD	SI	ND	FD
Place	missä	täällä	siellä	min	yan	yen
Goal	mihin	tänne	sinne	min	yan	yen
Source	mistä	täälta	sieltä	min	yan	yen
reference	White (2006)			Peace Corps (2009); Kastenholz (1998)		

It will be examined to what extent there are systematic parallels and differences between spatial deictic sets of interrogatives and declaratives. A canon (cf. Corbett 2007) is applied to determine the parameters which provide information on individual spatial relations. As a follow-up study to Stolz et al.'s (2017) typology of spatial interrogatives, this study offers quantitative evaluations of both expression classes. By considering both interrogative and declarative constructions, it can be determined if there are one or two grammars of space dependent upon sentence-modality.

References

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