

The big picture of a language: Swedish (a review)

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The typological profile of a language, which presents the big picture of its structure, is an account of the distinctive character of the structure of a language in relation to other languages based on work in general typology but also on genetic and areal linguistics and on contrastive analysis. The typological profile is important for applied areas such as second language acquisition and translation studies. The presentation will be concerned with Swedish as a test case and continues work presented in STUF (2006). The typological profile can be drawn up for various levels of a language. A brief review will be given of the phonetic profile based on Bruce and Engstrand (2006) and on the syntactic profile, in particular the placeholder constraint (Hammarberg and Viberg 1977). This presentation will focus on the lexical typological profile (Viberg 2006), in particular one aspect of it: Verbs referring to motion and location. Typologically, Swedish is a satellite-framed language (Talmy 1985, 2000, Slobin 1996, 2004). As in the other Germanic languages, verbal particles such as *upp*, *ner* 'down' and *in*, *ut* 'out' play a central role, but the use differs in interesting ways from the closely related languages English and German. There is an alternation between free and bound forms of the particles (Viberg, in press), but unlike in German, the alternation is not grammatically conditioned. Bound forms are frequent, but are primarily used with an abstract meaning (*Vin ingår* ('in-goes') *ipriset* 'Wine is included in the price'; *in* = particle 'in', *i* = prep 'in'), whereas free forms are used to express spatial meanings (*Mannengår in ihuset* 'The man goes into the house'). There are also several lexical contrasts that are language-specific. English can use *go* to refer to both walking and riding in a vehicle, whereas Swedish belongs to an area in Europe where a distinction is obligatory (Swed. *gå* 'go=walk' vs *åka* 'ride in a vehicle') (see Viberg 2013a). In L2, *gå* has a strong tendency to be over-used in early stages, whereas *åka* is under-represented (Viberg 1999). The typology of verbs of putting is studied in (Kopecka and Narasimhan 2012). Swedish to a great extent uses causative versions of the postural verbs (*sätta/ställa/lägga* 'cause to sit/stand/lay') like most other Germanic and Slavic languages, but the meanings have generalized to a greater extent in the other languages according to different patterns (Viberg 2015). The development of the verbs of putting in Swedish L2 is summed up in Viberg (2002). The Swedish postural verbs (*sitta/stå/ligga* 'sit/stand/lie') are frequently used as locational predicates (for typology, see Ameka & Levinson 2007, Newman 2002). In Swedish, in particular *sitta* has a very language-specific semantics as a locational predicate (Viberg 2013b). Swedish postural verbs are significantly more frequent than their English correspondents. A study based on the English Swedish Parallel Corpus revealed very strong translation effects (Viberg 2016). The Swedish postural verbs were significantly under-represented in texts translated from English, whereas the English correspondences were significantly over-represented in translations. The effect varied between different uses (for example, greater when the verbs had a human subject than when the subject was inanimate).

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