Introduction

Motion, is an all-pervasive human experience. As Langacker (1987a: 166) puts it, "motion of physical objects through space is fundamental to our experience, so an explicit analysis of its conceptualization is important for linguistic semantics". The commonality of motion experience is reflected in the languages of the world, which are rich in descriptions of spatial situations. The components of motion that are commonly lexicalized by natural languages are, first and foremost, the encoding of the information how motion takes place, which is the manner of motion, and secondly the path that the moving object follows. The lexicalization patterns of these two components of motion will be the focus of the present study.

It must be stressed here, however, that the conceptualization of space found in most natural languages is different from the way in which physicists understand the motion or position of objects in space. Instead of a precise positioning of an object (hereinafter: the figure) by means of Euclidean geometry, the locating of the figure in space is performed by relating its position to some other object (hereinafter: the ground). Moreover, locating objects in space is a matter of a construal imposed on reality by the speaking person. To illustrate, in the present work the phrase *poszedł do kuchni* 'he went to the kitchen' will be understood as the conceptualization of horizontal motion although the kitchen may have been upstairs.

The theoretical framework adopted here will be that of cognitive linguistics (e.g. Talmy 2000a, 2000b). Out of the existing variants of construction grammar found in cognitive linguistics, for example Construction Grammar by Kay and Fillmore (1999), the construction grammars of Lakoff (1987) and Goldberg (1995, 2010), Langacker’s Cognitive Grammar (1987a, 1991a) will constitute the main theoretical foundation for the present study.

Croft and Cruse (2004 : 1) recapitulate the basic assumptions of a cognitive linguistic approach to language in the form of three major hypotheses. First, language is no longer viewed as an autonomous cognitive faculty, which is opposed to generative grammar’s stand. This basically means that the study of language may reveal human cognitive processes. Thus, in the course my analysis I shall attempt to uncover cognitive processes governing language use as well as the influence of the native language on the space conceptualization of its users. The second hypothesis is that grammar is conceptualization, which stands in opposition to truth-conditional semantics. The revealed lexicalization patterns, which are the result of a construal imposed on a given spatial situation by the speaker, will be treated as a reflection of the conceptualizing
of reality. Finally, one major principle of cognitive linguistics is that knowledge of language emerges from language use. Thus, the present study is cognitive in nature since various types of corpora of linguistic data constitute the basis of the linguistic analysis. More specifically, my research encompasses the lexicalization of motion events in modern Polish novels, comparison of translations of descriptions of spatial situations from Polish into Russian and from Russian into Polish, and finally two types of production tasks performed by native speakers of the two languages.

Although this work is a contrastive analysis of the lexicalization of motion events in Polish and Russian, the Polish language is its main focus and the Russian data are introduced to contrast with the Polish base. The contrastive analysis has been carried out in the hope that comparing Polish and Russian ways of lexicalizing motion events will contribute to our knowledge about coding motion events in the two languages. Although Polish and Russian are closely related and belong not only to the same family of languages but also to the same category of satellite-framed languages (Talmy 2000b), my assumption is that there are subtle differences between the ways of lexicalizing path and manner of motion in the two languages. Similarities, on the other hand, may also contribute to our noticing important linguistic tendencies in both languages.

In general, languages, despite belonging to the same verb-framed or satellite-framed typological category, are placed on the manner-salience and path-salience clines closer or further from the edges formed by the languages in which either manner or path would theoretically be lexicalized exclusively in the verb. Since languages within one typological group exhibit differences in the distribution of path and manner between specific surface elements, the present work is an attempt to locate the two languages under study on these clines.

The cross-linguistic research on the lexicalization of motion events has to date mainly concentrated on contrasting languages representing satellite- and verb-framed languages since the differences between the two groups are expected to be significant. Inter-typological comparative studies of variations in coding motion events have been carried out by, for example, Slobin (1996b, 2004) of English, Turkish and Spanish, Cardini (2008) of Italian and English, Özçalışkan and Slobin (2003) of Turkish and English, Kopecka (2004) of French and Polish, or Fargard et al. (2013) of six typologically varied languages, to mention just a few. However, motion is also expressed differently in closely related languages (Talmy 1985). Nevertheless, fewer studies concern the intra-typological analysis of lexicalization of motion. Examples of comparative intra-typological studies encompass research by Filipović (2007)