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Put the apple on the plate but just move the plate: Event perception in German and Korean speakers.

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Abstract

This study investigates the typological and grammatical influence of language (German and Korean) on linguistic expressions, visual perception, and recognition of caused spatial events. In German, a satellite-framed language, Path of motion is lexicalized in satellites, whereas in Korean, a verb-framed language, Path is typically lexicalized in the verb root. We tested German and Korean native speakers in a linguistic description task as well as in a memory task involving eye tracking. Our results show that both verbal (linguistic expressions) and nonverbal (memory performance, eye movements) behaviors are determined at least in part by language-specific grammar. While Korean speakers principally categorize spatial relationships according to degree of fitness, German speakers do so based on containment or support.