EL SEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Language Sciences

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/langsci



The Spanish loanword lado in Otomi spatial descriptions

Néstor Hernández-Green ^{a,*}, Enrique L. Palancar ^b, Selene Hernández-Gómez ^{c,d}

- ^a Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, Juárez 222, Tlalpan Centro, Delegación Tlalpan, Mexico
- ^b Surrey Morphology Group, University of Surrey, Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, AC Building, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH, United Kingdom
- ^c Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Circuito Interior Ciudad Universitaria S/N. CP 04510. Mexico
- d Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Cerro de las Campanas S/N, CP 76010, Col. Las Campanas, Santiago de Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico

ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Available online 12 August 2011

Keywords: Otomi Oto-Manguean Frames of reference Semantic typology Spatial descriptions

ABSTRACT

The word *lado* 'side' in San Ildefonso Tultepec Otomi (SIT Otomi) is a Spanish loanword and is used in descriptions of location and orientation involving five different types of spatial frames of reference (FoRs) according to data collected with a referential communication task in San Ildefonso Tultepec, Querétaro, Mexico. The task consists of matching pictures featuring both a ball – in different locations – and a chair – with different orientations – through linguistic descriptions of such images (Bohnemeyer, 2008). *Lado* occurs in different constructions involving different FoRs and it constitutes a frequent strategy when the relative FoR is used in SIT Otomi.

© 2011 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

San Ildefonso Tultepec (SIT)¹ Otomi is an indigenous language spoken in the village of San Ildefonso Tultepec in Central Mexico in the state of Querétaro. Together with other Otomi languages, SIT Otomi belongs to the Oto-Pamean family, the northernmost branch of the Oto-Manguean stock of Mesoamerican languages. See Map 1 below.

This article explains how in SIT Otomi the use of the relative *frame of reference* (FoR), a frame which is apparently not favored in the Mesoamerican linguistic area (de Léon and Levinson, 1992; Bohnemeyer, 2008), occurs almost only in conjunction with the loanword *lado* 'side' (< Sp. *lado*). An FoR is a coordinate system that is used in the interpretation of spatial relations between objects (O'Meara and Pérez Báez, 2011); in the relative FoR, the coordinate system depends on the orientation of the observer's body. The goal of this paper is twofold: first, we describe constructions containing *lado* in the five FoRs available in SIT Otomi; second, we point out the relation between the use of *lado* and the existence of the relative FoR in SIT Otomi. Of the five FoRs available in SIT Otomi, the relative FoR is the only one that depends entirely on the use of the word *lado*. To show this, we compare the distribution of relative descriptions with *lado* to descriptions that contain *lado* but involve other FoRs.²

Abbreviations: A, adjusted stem; ACT, actualizer; ADV, adverb; ALLO, allocentric; B, bound form; CD, cardinal point; DEIC, deictic; DEIL, delimitative; DEF, definite; DIM, diminutive; DET, distal; DU, dual; EGO, egocentric; EMPH, emphatic; EXTR, extrinsic; FOR, frame of reference; GR, ground; IRR, irrealis; LM, landmark; M, middle voice; MOD, modifier; NP, noun phrase; NPS, non-present stem; P, particle; P.LOC, locative preposition; PL, plural; POSS, possessive; PREP, preposition; PRS, present; REL CL, relative clause; REL, relative clause marker; SG, singular; SIT, San Ildefonso Tultepec; Sp., Spanish; SUBJV, Subjunctive; TOP, topological marker; Wrt, With respect to.

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +52 442 2173576; fax: +52 722 5321219. E-mail address: nestorhgreen@gmail.com (N. Hernández-Green).

 $^{^{1} \ \, \}text{Deviations from IPA in the transcription of SIT Otomi:} < '>/?/, <f>/p^h/, <j>/k^h/, <\tilde{n}>/p/, <r>/ [r], <\tilde{r}>/r/, < tx>/tf/, <x>/f/, <y>/j/, <a>/o/, <a>/e>/\(\ell_{n} < i>/o/, <a>/o/, <a>/e>/\(\ell_{n} < i)/o/, <a>/o/, <a$

² The linguistic data in this paper were obtained during fieldwork funded by the project *Spatial language and cognition in Mesoamerica* (NSF Award No. BCS-0723694, Jürgen Bohnemeyer, Principal Investigator).



Map 1. San Ildefonso Tultepec, Mexico (Adapted from: http://wr.wyndhamrewards.com).

Section 2 contains an overview of FoR theory. A general analysis of FoRs as attested in descriptions collected with the Ball and Chair (B&C) task (Bohnemeyer, 2008) is provided in Section 3. Section 4 presents the types of constructions containing *lado* 'side' in the following order: (a) constructions that occur with absolute and landmark-based FoRs; (b) constructions that occur with the object-centered FoR; (c) constructions that occur with relative and direct FoRs; and (d) constructions that contain topological relations (as opposed to projective relations). The latter are not a type of FoR as they do not involve projection, but the fact that a number of descriptions with *lado* have a topological reading is of interest to the analysis as they often contain "meronyms" – terms that refer to parts of objects, such as *tip*, *edge*, *belly*, etc. –, which are thought to be related to the dispreference of the relative FoR (Bohnemeyer, 2008; O'Meara and Pérez Báez, 2011). In Section 5 the role that *lado* plays in FoRs is described after reviewing the constructions in which it occurs. In Section 6, typological implications of the role of *lado* as a marker of the relative FoR in SIT Otomi are explored.

1.1. Typological description and spatial language in SIT Otomi

SIT Otomi is a tonal, head-marking language, in which subject and object arguments are cross-referenced on the verb. Verbs are inflected for tense/aspect/mood and person of the subject by a set of *portmanteau* clitics that precede the verbal stem. The basic word order for transitive sentences is SVO, while intransitives often take the order VS (Palancar, 2009). The non-existence of verb-final order is a trait shared by all Mesoamerican languages (Campbell et al., 1986).

Spatial descriptions in SIT Otomi have the basic structure [VERB] + [FIGURE] + [RELATOR] + [GROUND], as is illustrated in example (1):

- (1) a. $[\emptyset='o]_{VERB} [=r$ $pelo^hta]_{FIGURE}$ $[ka]_{RELATOR}$ $[h\underline{ai}]_{GROUND}$ 3.PRS=be.located.sG=SG ball P.LOC ground 'The ball is on the ground.' $(2/1.12-119)^a$
 - b. $[\emptyset = \tilde{n} hand a]_{VERB/HIGURE} [= ha]_{RELATOR} [= r goxthi]_{GROUND}$ 3.PRS = M - see - B = P.LOC = SG door 'It [the chair] is facing the door.' (4/1.8-157)

A relator is a lexeme³ or a morpheme that establishes the spatial relation between a figure and a ground. Figure and ground are to be understood as defined by Talmy (2000), who defines the figure as a (conceptually) movable entity, while the ground is the entity with respect to which one characterizes the figure's path, site, or orientation. The description in (1a) locates a ball with respect to the ground, while (1b) expresses the orientation of a chair facing the door. SIT Otomi uses verbs that describe static situations, as in (1), as well as more dynamic verbs in spatial descriptions. Table 1 lists these verbs and their meanings. The verbs in Table 1 can be used either in locative descriptions or in orientation descriptions, except for (a–c), which are only used in locative descriptions. Because the B&C task elicits spatial configurations as descriptions of images, in the data presented

^a The numbers after the free translation of examples refer to the B&C task transcriptions as follows: [number of dyad]/[number of set of photographs] · [number of photograph] – [number of text line] (for more information regarding the B&C task, see Section 3).

^b The middle voice marker /N-/ switches the meaning of the transitive verb *handi* 'see' to the meaning of 'be facing', 'be oriented toward' and 'point toward'. Such marker has an allomorph < \bar{n} > [n] before [h] or [?]: /N-/ → [n]/_h,2.

³ These lexemes are not necessarily adpositions.

Download English Version:

https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1103385

Download Persian Version:

https://daneshyari.com/article/1103385

<u>Daneshyari.com</u>