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Butterflies ‘leaning’ on the doorframe . . .

The expression of location, position, and movement in Kotiria and Wa’ikhana (Eastern Tukanoan)

This talk offers an overview of the expression of spatial notions—location, position, and movement—in two Eastern Tukanoan languages: Wa’ikhana (Piratapuyo) and Kotiria (Wanano). As is typologically common, the explicit expression of notions of location and position, indicating varied types of FIGURE-GROUND relations, is accomplished by a combination of different means spread throughout the clause. Locative case marking identifies the basic GROUND element, while lexical relational nouns are used to give specific details of the GROUND. Additionally, these languages employ specific subclasses of locative predicates to express the (stative) physical position or (active) deliberate positioning of the FIGURE element. Eastern Tukanoan languages also have subclasses of inherently directional motion verbs such as *wi’i* ‘arrive here’, *sũ-* ‘arrive there’, *yoha* ‘go upriver’, and *bu’a* ‘go downhill’. These and other motion verbs may themselves constitute the main predicate or be serialized with other verb roots. Serializations are productively employed in Eastern Tukanoan languages for a variety of functions, and those involving motion verbs create adverbial-type ‘manner of movement’ distinctions or to add a ‘movement’ component to an otherwise ‘non-movement’ predicate. The data presented is drawn from both naturally occurring sentences from oral narratives and spontaneous writing as well as responses elicited using a set of photographs that depict the spatial relations represented in the ‘Topological Relations Picture Series’ (TRPS, Bowerman, 1992) in natural, culturally-appropriate contexts.