

# **Title:** A cross-linguistic syntactic analysis of telicity in motion predicates in Southern Tati, Mandarin, and Ghanaian Student Pidgin

Abstract:

This paper proposes an analysis of telicity in motion predicates within the framework of the Exo-Skeletal Model ([Borer 2005b](#)). We hypothesize that a motion event is syntactically represented by a Path component, the core of which is a  $vP$  that introduces a Figure argument. This Path component is interpreted as quantity in the sense of [Borer \(2005b\)](#) when there is a certain type of morpheme present in the structure, such as a verb that denotes the reaching of an endpoint. A quantity Path component can then assign a semantic value to a functional projection called  $Asp_QP$ , which returns a telic interpretation. Data from Mandarin, Ghanaian Student Pidgin, and Southern Tati show  $Asp_QP$  can be assigned a value either with or without overt head movement. We further propose a distinction between Path and direction, which explains data that were left unexplained in previous studies and seemingly contradict our claim.