A Study on the Aspects of Markedness in English Motion Verbs Come and Go.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the aspects of markedness or asymmetry in English motion verbs come and go. The following claims are made in this paper. First, it is claimed that the aspect of neutralization could be used to argue for the unmarkedness of English verb go when compared to English come. Neutralization here has to do with the property to function as a hyperonym for the two contrasting terms. Second, it is shown through the corpus analysis that the high frequency and formal distribution patterns of various forms involving English go strengthen the claim that English go is an unmarked term. Third, it is shown through corpus analysis that English verb go occurs with the adjectives both with positive and negative meanings, while the verb come predominantly with the ones with positive meanings, which suggests the unmarkedness of English go. Fourth, it is suggested that the (un)markedness of cognitive complexity need to be determined on the basis of linguistic as well as extralinguistic analysis, and that considering the previous discussions and our corpus data, we are sure about the unmarkedness of the verb go.

Key Words motion verb, come/go, (un)markedness, asymmetry, corpus, neutralization, distribution, cognitive complexity