

Research Article

# Beyond Typology: How Event Integration Works in Motion Events - A Case Study of “V + Dào” Construction in Mandarin

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## Abstract

This study investigates the mechanisms of event integration in Mandarin motion events, with a specific focus on the widely used “V + Dào” construction, a representative verb complex in the language. Event integration, defined as the reconceptualization of events through conceptual conflation or integration, has traditionally been examined within the scope of either the main verb or the satellite. This research broadens the theoretical scope by introducing two complementary dimensions of event integration: internal event integration, where individual lexical items conflate multiple subevents, and external event integration, where subevents are integrated between the main verb and the satellite. Using a dataset of 611 “V + Dào” sentences extracted from a spoken Chinese corpus, the study identifies 12 distinct patterns of event integration. These patterns include combinations such as “(motion + manner) + (motion + path)” and “(motion + cause) + (motion + path),” illustrating the intricate interplay between semantic components. The analysis reveals that internal integration operates through the conflation of conceptual elements within “V” or “Dào,” while external integration is achieved through conceptual mapping and the semantic overlap between these components. The findings of this study advance our understanding of Mandarin’s typological flexibility and enrich existing theories on motion event encoding. By proposing a refined framework for analyzing event integration, this work offers new insights into cross-linguistic variation and highlights the significance of Mandarin as a language that challenges traditional dichotomies in motion event typology. These contributions underscore the importance of reconsidering established linguistic models to account for the complexity of event integration mechanisms in diverse languages.

## Keywords

Event Integration, Motion Event, “V + Dào” Constructions, Correlation Analysis, Visualization

## 1. Introduction

The study of motion event typology has been profoundly influenced by Talmy’s seminal framework, which classifies languages into two primary types: verb-framed (V-languages) and satellite-framed (S-languages). This classification, often

referred to as the V/S dichotomy, is based on how the “path” element in motion events is typically encoded in linguistic expressions [22]. Since its inception, Talmy’s dichotomy has catalyzed a surge of empirical research, advancing our un-

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derstanding of motion event typology across languages worldwide. However, as the field has evolved, critical limitations and challenges inherent to the dichotomy have surfaced, prompting ongoing debates and revisions.

One such debate centers on whether Talmy's dichotomy sufficiently captures the diversity of linguistic strategies for encoding motion events. Slobin [20] for instance, has argued that "manner" and "path" are equally crucial, proposing a third typological category: equipollent-framed languages (E-languages). This trichotomy introduces a broader spectrum of possibilities for how languages encode motion, challenging the binary framework established by Talmy [21, 22].

In addition to the trichotomy debate, questions have arisen regarding the scope of Talmy's framework. The distinction between language type and construction type, for instance, has drawn significant attention. While Talmy's classification suggests that languages uniformly adopt either verb-framed or satellite-framed strategies, empirical findings indicate that the choice of strategy can vary within a single language depending on the type of motion event. For example, Spanish, a prototypical V-language, employs path verbs for boundary-crossing events but may use manner verbs for non-boundary-crossing motion [3]. These observations suggest that Talmy's framework might be better suited to describing construction types rather than entire language systems.

The ambiguity surrounding the concept of satellites further complicates the framework. Talmy defines satellites as "any grammatical category associated with a verb root that is not a complement within a noun phrase or prepositional phrase" [22]. This broad definition encompasses a wide range of forms, including verb prefixes, prepositions, adverbs, and even nominal modifiers. Such inclusivity, while useful, renders the boundaries of what constitutes a satellite unclear, challenging the analytical precision of the dichotomy.

Another point of contention lies in the variability of formal encoding for the semantic elements of motion events. While the four core components—figure, motion, path, and ground—are central to motion event structure, they are not always explicitly encoded in linguistic forms. For example, in "The rock rolled down the hill," the figure and motion are explicitly encoded. However, in "They talked on," the figure and motion are less clearly delineated, and certain semantic elements, such as the temporal background, remain implicit. This variability raises questions about the consistency of the framework's applicability.

Finally, the synchronic nature of Talmy's dichotomy leaves it ill-equipped to address diachronic shifts in language typology. For instance, while Classical Chinese is traditionally classified as a V-language, Modern Chinese exhibits a hybrid typology with features of both V- and S-languages [19]. The mechanisms underlying such typological transitions remain underexplored within Talmy's framework, further highlighting its limitations.

Among the various linguistic phenomena that challenge

Talmy's dichotomy, the "V + *Dào*" construction in Mandarin Chinese has attracted substantial scholarly attention. "V + *Dào*" constructions have been extensively examined by Chinese linguists from diverse perspectives [1, 2, 5-8, 10, 12-18, 23-30]. However, analyses of these constructions remain contentious in multiple respects. Disagreements arise regarding the word class of \**Dào*\* within the construction, its syntactic position, and the classification of "V + *Dào*" as a verb-complement structure, to name a few. Such controversies highlight the complexity of motion event encoding in Mandarin, necessitating a closer examination of these constructions to uncover the underlying mechanisms of event integration.

This study leverages the "V + *Dào*" construction as a case study to explore the intricate processes of event integration in motion events, with a particular focus on Mandarin Chinese. By addressing the challenges posed by this construction, the analysis seeks to transcend the limitations of Talmy's dichotomy and its associated controversies, offering new insights into the typological and diachronic dynamics of motion event encoding. Through this lens, the study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of motion event typology, advancing beyond binary classifications toward a nuanced framework that accommodates linguistic diversity and complexity.

## 2. Beyond Typology: An Event Integration Model of Motion Events

Guided by the macro-event theory and its principles of event integration, this study posits that action-correlating events are metaphorically derived from motion events. As a foundational step, it is essential to identify the conceptual primitives of the framing event—namely, the Figural Entity, Ground Entity, Activating Process, and Association Function—as well as the Support Relation in the co-event.

Event integration refers to the cognitive process of reconceptualization that entails the integration or conflation of events at the conceptual level [22]. Through this process, a verb root can amalgamate multiple conceptual components or events. For example, in the case of the verb root *roll* in "the rock rolled down the hill", two events are integrated: the first denotes the "Motion" of the rock (the rock Moves), and the second specifies the "Manner" of this motion (the rock rolls). Consequently, the verb root *roll* integrates the conceptual components of "Motion" and "Manner," synthesizing these events into a complex event represented by a single clause.

A complex event, often termed a macro-event [22], comprises a framing event as the main event and a co-event as a subordinate event [22]. The framing event encapsulates a specific event schema, which can manifest across five distinct semantic domains: (1) motion or location in space (motion event), (2) contouring events in time (temporal contour-

ing event), (3) changes or constancy in states (state change event), (4) correlations among actions (action correlating events), and (5) fulfillment or confirmation in the realization domain (realization event) [22]. The co-event, typically subordinate, supports the framing event by filling, elaborating, or motivating it—often through relations such as “cause” or “manner” [22]. Here, still in the example of “the rock rolled down the hill”, the macro-event consists of a motion event (the rock MOVED down the hill) and a co-event (the rock rolled). Within the motion event, the rock serves as the Figure, characterized as a physical entity whose path is specified. The hill functions as the Ground, a referential physical object that defines the Figure’s trajectory. The word down indicates the Path traversed by the Figure in relation to the Ground, while the deep morpheme MOVE encapsulates the motion’s essence. Meanwhile, in the co-event, the manner of motion (rolled) supports and elaborates the deep morpheme MOVE. Thus, the verb root roll integrates the motion event (Motion) and its co-event (Manner).

In contrast, Croft [4] extends this perspective by examining resultative and directional constructions, as seen in examples (1) and (2):

- (1) Kay wiped the counter.
- (2) a. Kay wiped the counter clean.  
b. Kay wiped the fingerprints from the counter.  
c. Kay wiped the polish onto the table. [4]

In example (1), the event involves a change in the counter’s state, transitioning from not wiped to wiped. The verb root wipe integrates two subevents: “change” and “manner.” Examples (2a-c) further illustrate how additional subevents, expressed in satellites, contribute to the macro-event. In (2a), the state change satellite clean represents the clause the counter’s becoming clean; in (2b), the path satellite from denotes the movement of fingerprints off the counter; and in (2c), the path satellite onto describes the polish’s movement onto the table. These satellites not only refine the primary event described by the main verb but also introduce new subevents, enriching the macro-event encapsulated in the verb complex.

To distinguish these processes, this study introduces the concepts of internal and external event integration.

- 1) *Internal event integration occurs when two or more conceptual components (subevents) are integrated or conflated within a single main verb or satellite.*
- 2) *External event integration occurs when conceptual components (subevents) are integrated across the main verb and its satellite.*

The corresponding integration patterns are defined as follows: the internal event integration pattern refers to possible organizations of conceptual components conflated within a main verb or satellite, while the external event integration pattern describes configurations of components integrated

across the verb and satellite. In addition, the schematic conceptual primitives of framing events (Figure 1) and the co-event’s support relations encompass diverse types such as “precursion,” “enablement,” “cause,” “manner,” “concomitance,” “purpose,” and “constitutedness” [22]. Among these, “cause” and “manner” are the most prominent.

By introducing these integration patterns, this section redefines motion events as dynamic cognitive constructs. Internal integration patterns capture how conceptual components are organized within a verb or satellite, while external patterns describe the configurations that span both. Furthermore, the study highlights the co-event’s diverse support relations, such as “cause,” “manner,” and “purpose,” which play a pivotal role in elaborating the framing event. This framework elucidates how event integration operates at multiple levels of granularity, offering a comprehensive model that transcends typological limitations to account for the complexity of motion events. This approach not only deepens our understanding of linguistic event structure but also broadens the scope of research into the interplay between syntax and semantics.

### 3. A Corpus-based Methodology

This study uses the “V + Dào” construction as a case study to investigate the conceptual primitives underlying motion event distribution, focusing on both internal and external event integration. The research follows a systematic methodology, including data collection, coding, statistical analysis, and visualization.

#### 3.1. Data Collection of “V + Dào” Construction

The initial step involves data selection based on three key criteria:

(1) **Colloquial Style:** The data must reflect spoken, natural language use, rather than literary or formal styles. (2) **Frequency:** The data should feature frequent occurrences in speech rather than rare or exceptional cases. (3) **Pervasiveness:** The data should represent a broad spectrum of semantic notions, rather than being limited to a narrow range [21]. Accordingly, this study draws data from the “Spoken Language” section of the Center for Chinese Linguistics corpus at Peking University (CCL). The sources include transcriptions of the “Beijing Dialect Survey Data in 1982,” 21 dialogues from diverse mediums, and five TV interviews, such as “Dating with Lu Yu”.

After conducting data searches, verification, and refinement, 611 concordances (tokens) representing 143 categories (types) were identified as aligning with the motion event. Figure 1 illustrates these results.

```

> str(EEI_VD_MoEvt)
'data.frame': 611 obs. of 13 variables:
 $ Chin_VD : Factor w/ 143 levels "上到","下到",...: 36 36 37 68 68 68 68 68 68 ...
 $ FigEnt_Agen: logi FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE ...
 $ FigEnt_Anim: logi FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE ...
 $ GroEnt : Factor w/ 1 level "space": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
 $ ActiPro : Factor w/ 2 levels "motion","stationariness": 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 ...
 $ AssoFun : Factor w/ 2 levels "motion+path",...: 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 ...
 $ SuppRel : Factor w/ 9 levels "cause","cause+path",...: 5 5 1 5 5 5 5 5 ...
 $ SynType_VD : Factor w/ 2 levels "BBC","FC": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
 $ SynType_X : Factor w/ 3 levels "LocaC","LocaN",...: 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
 $ IEI_V : Factor w/ 12 levels "motion+cause",...: 11 11 10 5 5 5 5 5 ...
 $ IEI_D : Factor w/ 2 levels "motion+path",...: 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 ...
 $ EEI_VD : Factor w/ 1 level "MoEvt": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
 $ EEI_Type : Factor w/ 1 level "VDir": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
> summary(EEI_VD_MoEvt)
      Chin_VD      FigEnt_Agen      FigEnt_Anim      GroEnt      ActiPro
回到 : 93      Mode :logical      Mode :logical      space:611      motion :576
来到 : 57      FALSE:97      FALSE:45                      stationariness: 35
跑到 : 55      TRUE :514      TRUE :566
走到 : 36
搬到 : 20
送到 : 20
(Other):330

      AssoFun      SuppRel      SynType_VD      SynType_X      IEI_V
motion+path :576      manner :256      BBC: 98      LocaC: 1      motion+manner :246
stationariness+site: 35      cause :165      FC :513      LocaN:603      motion+path :164
      path :165      NoT : 7      motion+cause :143
      cause+path : 10      stationariness+cause : 20
      manner+path: 4      stationariness+manner: 13
      path+path : 4      motion+cause+path : 10
      (Other) : 7      (Other) : 15

      IEI_D      EEI_VD      EEI_Type
motion+path :576      MoEvt:611      VDir:611
stationariness+site: 35

```

Figure 1. The structure and summary of “V + Dào” construction in motion events.

Figure 1 provides a detailed analysis of the 611 observations of “V + Dào” constructions identified as motion events. Within this framework, two variables related to the figure entity stand out. The agency of the figure entity (FigEnt\_Agen) accounts for 515 occurrences, while the animacy of the figure entity (FigEnt\_Anim) is even more prominent, with 567 instances. These high frequencies emphasize the central role of agency and animacy in shaping the motion event.

The ground entity (GroEnt) in these motion events is consistently identified as “space.” This singular categorization highlights its critical function as a defining element in constructing the motion event’s trajectory. Meanwhile, the variable of activating process (ActiPro) is bifurcated into two distinct values: “motion,” which dominates with 576 occurrences, and “stationariness,” appearing 35 times. Correspondingly, these values align with the associating function (AssoFun), represented by “path” (frequency = 577) for motion and “site” (frequency = 35) for stationariness. Together, these variables provide a nuanced understanding of the dynamic and stationary aspects of motion events.

The supporting relation (SuppRel) introduces a greater level of complexity, encompassing nine distinct values:

“cause,” “manner,” “path,” “concomitance,” “cause+manner,” “cause+path,” “manner+path,” “path+path,” and “figure+path.” This diversity reflects the intricate ways in which supplementary relations contribute to the elaboration and motivation of motion events. Additionally, the syntactic structure of the “V + Dào” construction (SynType\_VD) is categorized into two types: “backward bound complements (BBC)” and “forward bound complements (FBC).”

Further analysis of the syntactic type of “X” (SynType\_X) reveals three distinct values: a local noun (LocaN), which overwhelmingly accounts for 603 instances; a specific local clause (LocaC), observed only once; and non-text elements (NoT), appearing in seven instances. These findings underline the predominance of local nouns as syntactic complements in “V + Dào” constructions.

The internal event integration patterns of “V” (IEI\_V) exhibit remarkable complexity, incorporating 12 distinct values, such as “motion+cause” and “motion+manner.” These patterns reflect diverse ways in which subevents are conflated within the verb. Similarly, the internal event integration patterns of “Dào” (IEI\_D) are categorized into two values: “motion+path” and “stationariness+site.” This distinction captures the dual role of “Dào” in representing either movement



or stationary location.

Finally, the verb-complement type (EEI\_Type) for “V + Dào” constructions in motion events is identified as the verb-directional complement (VDir). This type encapsulates the structural and functional essence of the construction. Re-

garding the distribution of “V + Dào” constructions in concrete Chinese expressions (Chin\_VD), 143 instances were documented. Figure 2 illustrates their respective frequencies and proportions, offering further insight into their usage and variability in natural language contexts.

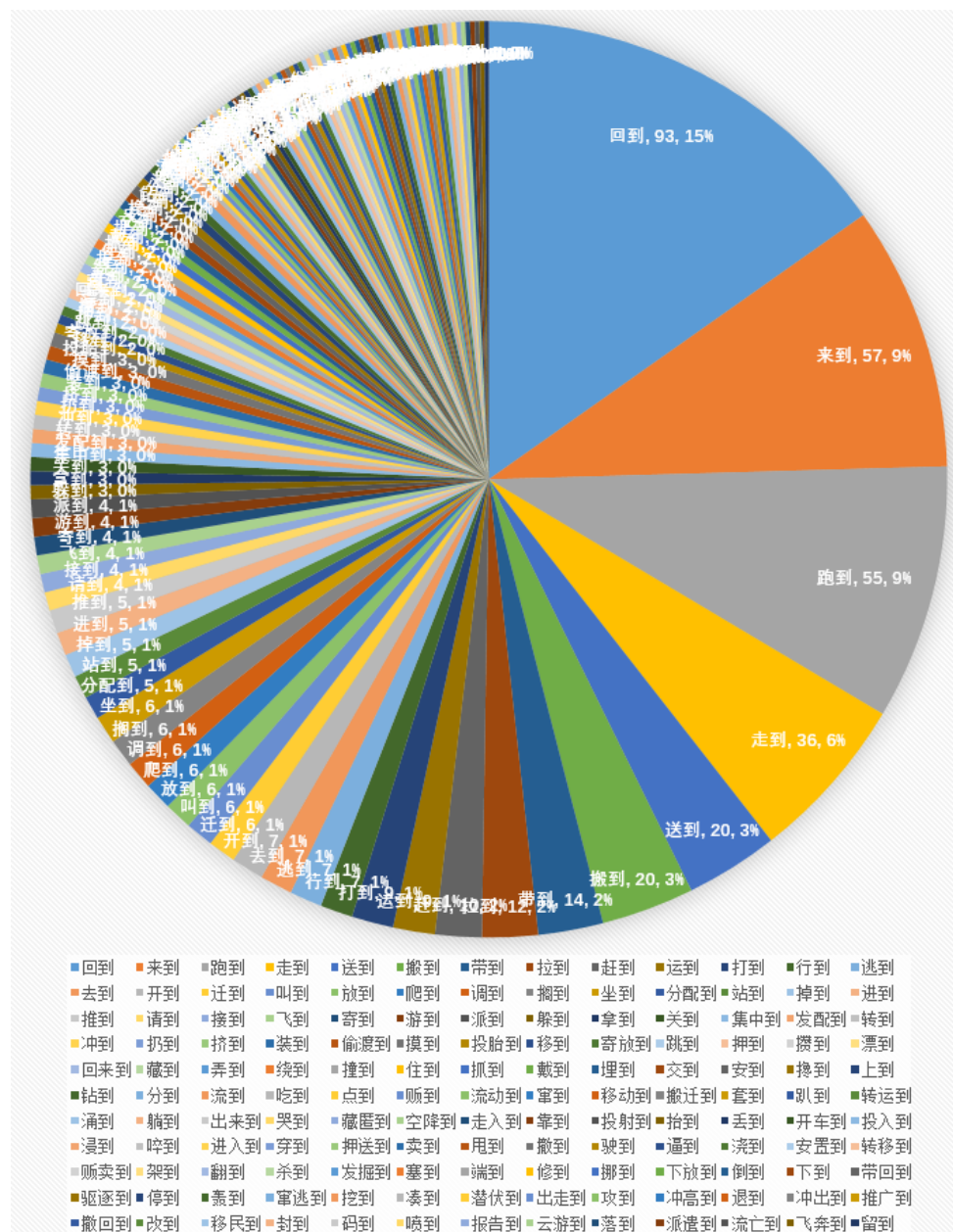


Figure 2. The pie chart of Chin\_VD in motion events.

In Figure 2, 143 Chinese expressions of “V + Dào” constructions as motion events are listed in a descending order aligned with their frequencies, among which the top ten frequent expressions are: “回到 (return to, frequency = 93)”, “来到 (come to, frequency = 57)”, “跑到 (run to, frequency = 55)”, “走到 (walk to, frequency = 36)”, “送到 (send to, frequency = 20)”, “搬到 (move to, frequency = 20)”, “带

(bring to, frequency = 14)”, “拉到 (pull to, frequency = 12)”, “赶到 (rush to, frequency = 10)”, and “运到 (transport to, frequency = 18)”. In accordance with the research questions of this study, “V + Dào” constructions of motion events will be further explored and discussed in terms of their event semantics, syntax properties, and event integration patterns.

Figure 2 presents a comprehensive list of 143 Chinese expressions formed by “V + Dào” constructions representing

motion events, ranked in descending order of frequency. Among these, the ten most frequently occurring expressions are: “回到” (return to, frequency = 93), “来到” (come to, frequency = 57), “跑到” (run to, frequency = 55), “走到” (walk to, frequency = 36), “送到” (send to, frequency = 20), “搬到” (move to, frequency = 20), “带到” (bring to, frequency = 14), “拉到” (pull to, frequency = 12), “赶到” (rush to, frequency = 10), and “运到” (transport to, frequency = 18). These high-frequency expressions reflect the predominant patterns in how motion is linguistically conceptualized and expressed in Mandarin Chinese.

In line with the research objectives, these “V + Dào” constructions will be subjected to an in-depth analysis. This analysis focuses on three critical dimensions: the event semantics, which examines the meaning and components of the motion events; the syntactic properties, which explore the structural characteristics of the constructions; and the event integration patterns, which delve into the mechanisms of combining subevents within the construction. By systematically addressing these dimensions, the study aims to elucidate the linguistic and cognitive underpinnings of “V + Dào” constructions in motion events.

### 3.2. Data Encoding

The 611 concordances of “V + Dào” constructions are encoded comprehensively across three dimensions: event semantics, syntactic properties, and event integration patterns. Event semantics are analyzed through the lens of conceptual primitives outlined in macro-event theory. These are quantified with specific variables and their corresponding values. Special attention is given to the agency and animacy of the figural entity, which are evaluated for their potential correlations with the event integration patterns observed in the data. These correlations include variables such as the nature of the figural and ground entities, the process activation, association functions, support relations, and the macro-event types they instantiate.

The syntactic characterization of the “V + Dào” construction builds upon [1] classification of verb complements into free complements, bound complements, and bound phase complements. In cases where “Dào” functions as a free complement, the verb (“V”) and complement (“Dào”) retain mutual independence, as seen in examples like “来到故乡” (have come to hometown), where both “来故乡” (come to hometown) and “到故乡” (arrive in hometown) are grammatical. Bound complements, however, exhibit interdependence, as illustrated by “碰到一件怪事” (have met a strange

thing), where neither “\*碰一件怪事” (\*meet a strange thing) nor “\*到一件怪事” (\*arrive a strange thing) is acceptable. Bound phase complements present a hierarchy, with “Dào” subordinate to “V,” exemplified in “挣到钱” (has earned the money). Here, while “挣钱” (earn the money) is grammatical, “\*到钱” (\*arrive at the money) is not. Conversely, in some constructions, as Lyu [17] observes, “Dào” may assume the role of the main verb, subordinating “V,” such as in “走到张家” (walk to the Zhangs’), where “到张家” (arrive at the Zhangs’) is valid, but “\*走张家” (\*walk the Zhangs’) is ungrammatical. This nuanced interaction prompted the division of bound phase complements into forward bound complements and backward bound complements.

The syntactic properties of “X,” the complement following “Dào,” reveal significant variability. Building on the works of Lyu [17] and Zhu [29, 30], “X” is shown to manifest as a noun, a clause, or even be omitted entirely. Nouns in this role can take locative forms, such as “家乡” (hometown) in “他回到了家乡” (he came back to his hometown), temporal forms, such as “明年暑假” (next summer vacation) in “等到明年暑假” (waiting until the next summer vacation), or patient forms, as in “你说的” (what you said) in “办到你说的” (can achieve what you said). They may also appear as degree nouns, stimulus nouns, or others, depending on the specific context. Similarly, when “X” is realized as a clause, it may function as temporal, stimulus, locative, or patient, reflecting the intricate syntactic flexibility inherent in the construction. Additionally, “X” can manifest as an adjective, fulfilling roles such as stimulus, temporal, or degree markers.

From the perspective of event integration patterns, the analysis distinguishes between internal integration within “V” (IEI\_V) and “Dào” (IEI\_D) and external integration at the constructional level (EEI\_VD). The latter encompasses broader semantic categories, including motion events, temporal contouring events, state change events, action correlating events, and realization events. The semantic typology of “V + Dào” constructions is further delineated into verb-directional (VDir), verb-resultative (VRes), and verb-phase (VPha) structures.

In summary, the encoding of the “V + Dào” construction encapsulates its complexity through three interrelated dimensions: event semantics, syntactic properties, and event integration patterns. This multi-faceted approach provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing the nuanced interplay between linguistic form and semantic function, as detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1.** The tagging scheme of the “V + Dào” construction as Motion Event.

Three Levels	Variables	Values
Event Semantics	Figural Entity (FigEnt)	Agentive (Agen) [True]; [False]
		Animate (Anim) [True]; [False]
	Ground Entity (GroEnt)	reference point in space [space]
	Activating Process (ActiPro)	[motion]; [stationariness]
	Association Function (AssoFun)	[path]; [site]
Syntactic Properties	Support Relation (SuppRel)	[precursion]; [enablement]; [cause]; [manner]; [subsequence]; [constitutedness]
	Syntactic Types of “V + Dào” (SynType_VD)	Free Complements (FC);
		Forward Bound Complements (FBC); Backward Bound Complements (BBC); Bound Complements (BC)
Event Integration Patterns	Syntactic Types of the Following Component “X” (SynType_X)	temporal nouns (TempN); locative nouns (LocaN); patient nouns (PtienN); stimulus nouns (StimuN); degree nouns (DgreN); temporal clauses (TempC); stimulus clauses (StimuC); degree clauses (DgreC); patient clauses (PtienC); temporal adjectives (TempA); degree adjectives (DgreA); stimulus adjectives (StimuA); non-texts (NoT)
	Internal Event Integration (IEI)	“V” (IEI_V) [Activating Process] + [Support Relation] (such as “[motion] + [cause]”)
		“Dào” (IEI_D) [Activating Process] + [Association Function] (such as “[motion] + [path]”)
	External Event Integration (EEI)	The Types of Verb-complement Construction (EEI_Type) Verb-Directional construction (VDir); Verb-Resultative construction (VRes); Verb-Phase construction (VPha)

The data coding of the “V + Dào” construction, as outlined in Table 1, encompasses three key dimensions: event semantics, syntactic properties, and event integration patterns. Each of these levels is defined by a set of variables and their corresponding values. While some of these variables function independently, others exhibit interdependencies. Specifically, within the realm of syntactic properties, the variables are independent of one another, allowing for a straightforward categorization. However, at the level of event integration patterns, the variables are not entirely independent; they are interconnected in ways that reflect the complex relationships between different aspects of the construction. These interrelations will be further explored in Section 4, where a deeper analysis of their interactions will be provided.

### 3.3. Statistical Analysis and Visualization

To conduct the statistical analysis, the annotated data for the “V + Dào” constructions, as previously described, was input into the R programming environment. Most of the data was converted from strings to factors using the “string-

sAsFactors” function within the R code. In this section, two computational methods are employed: (1) correlation analysis using linear regression modeling and (2) statistical visualization through the “ggplo:” R package. The first method aims to compute the relationships between different variables, identifying their interactions, while the second method visualizes these interactions by displaying the correlation coefficients. Specifically, the R packages “ggplot2,” “energy,” and “car” are utilized to compute and visualize the correlation coefficients [9]. Given that the relationships between the variables in our data are non-linear yet monotonic, non-parametric correlation statistics, such as Spearman’s  $\rho$  (‘rho’) and Kendall’s  $\tau$  (‘tau’) [9], are employed. According to Levshina [9], a correlation is considered strong if the coefficient is greater than or equal to 0.7 or less than or equal to -0.7, moderate if it falls between 0.3 and 0.7 or between -0.3 and -0.7, and weak if it ranges from 0 to 0.3 or from 0 to -0.3. The detailed distributions of the “V + Dào” constructions and the correlation data across each variable are discussed further in Section 4.

## 4. Results and Analysis

In alignment with the research design of this study, the analysis of "V + Dào" constructions, specifically those involving action-correlating events, will be conducted through a comprehensive exploration of their event semantics, syntactic properties, and event integration patterns. This approach aims to provide a detailed understanding of the structural and functional aspects of these constructions within the context of event-related language use.

### 4.1. Event Semantics of "V + Dào" Constructions as Motion Events

In order to have a full view of the semantic properties of "V+Dao" constructions, we will take 6 variables into consideration – agency of the figural entity (FigEnt\_Agen), animacy of the figural entity (FigEnt\_Anim), ground entity (GroEnt), activating process (ActiPro), association function (AssoFun), and supporting relation (SuppRel). As the ground entity only contains one value of "space", it can be left aside and will not be calculated in the data.

First of all, the agency and animacy features of figural entities (i.e. FigEnt\_Agen and FigEnt\_Anim) in motion events are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Agency and animacy features of figure entities in motion events.

FigEnt_Agen	FigEnt_Anim		Total
	FALSE	TRUE	
FALSE	39	58	97 (16%)
TRUE	6	508	514 (84%)
Total	45 (7%)	566 (93%)	611 (100%)

In Table 2, we find that both FigEnt\_Agen and FigEnt\_Anim are true values in most circumstances, and the occasion with the lowest frequency is that the FigEnt\_Anim is false while the FigEnt\_Agen is true. The following examples respectively refer to the four combinations between FigEnt\_Agen and FigEnt\_Anim.

(3) 我冲到排练厅。

wǒ chōng dào pàili àn tīng

I rush arrive rehearsal room

I rushed to the rehearsal room.

(4) 一个飞弹打到电塔上。

yī gè fēi dàn dǎ dào diàn tǎ shàng

a missile shoot arrive the tower up

A missile was shot to the tower.

(5) 韩非子作为韩国的使者派到秦国。

Han Feizi zuò wéi hán guó de shǐ zhě pài dào qín guó

Han Feizi as Han Country's envoy sent arrive Qin Country

Han Feizi, as an envoy in Han Country, was sent to Qin Country.

(6) 民企出走到外企。

mín qǐ chū zǒu dào wǎi qǐ

The private enterprises out go arrive foreign companies

The private enterprises go out / leave to the foreign companies.

The figural entities in the above instances are listed as “我(I)” in (3), “一个飞弹(a missile)” in (4), “韩非子(Han Feizi)” in (5), and “民企(the private enterprises)” in (6). “我(I)” in (3) and “民企(the private enterprises)” in (6) are agents or performers of actions represented by the motion verbs like “冲(rush)” and “出走(leave)”. “一个飞弹(a missile)” in (4) and “韩非子(Han Feizi)” in (5) are patients of the actions represented by the motion verbs of “打(shoot)” and “派(send)”. Besides, the figural entity “我(I)” is both agentive and animate, “一个飞弹(a missile)” is both non-agentive and inanimate, “韩非子(Han Feizi)” is non-agentive but animate, and “民企(the private enterprises)” is agentive but inanimate. Example (4) and (5) are also taken as middle constructions by some Chinese scholars. Thus, the figural entities of “一个飞弹(a missile)” and “韩非子(Han Feizi)” are, in fact, the patients of action verbs in the motion events. In other words, they are in the position of subjects in sentences, but they are non-agentive in semantics. Moreover, the former is inanimate, but the latter is animate. In example (6), the figural entity “民企(the private enterprises)” seems like a metonymical expression since it designates the people in “民企(the private enterprises)”, thus it is agentive but inanimate.

As only two values, true and false, are involved in the variables of the agentive and animate in figural entities (which are represented by FigEnt\_Agen and FigEnt\_Anim). The correlation coefficient shows that there does exist a moderate correlation between FigEnt\_Agen and FigEnt\_Anim ( $t=0.55$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). However, when calculating their relationships with Chin\_VD, no relationship exists either between FigEnt\_Agen and Chin\_VD ( $t=0.01$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) or between FigEnt\_Anim and Chin\_VD ( $t=-0.02$ ,  $p>0.05$ ).

Secondly, concerning the variables of ActiPro and AssoFun, since they correspond to each other, we can analyze their corresponded values together. In a broad sense, motion events can be described by means of translational motion events and non-translational stationary events [22]. Therefore, the variables of ActiPro and AssoFun subsume the values of the motion/path and the stationariness/site, which are distributed in Table 3.



**Table 3.** The distribution of activating processes and association functions in motion events.

Acti-Pro/AssoFun	Motion/Path	Stationariness/Site	total
Frequency	576	35	611
Percentage	94%	6%	100%

As Table 3 indicates, the motion in ActiPro and the path in AssFun are the most frequent values in motion events. As noticed by [11], too much attention has been paid to the translational motion events, but the non-translational stationary events are less focused on. Therefore, the corpus-based method can be a great help for us to obtain some relevant examples of translational motion events and non-translational stationary events.

(7) 我跑到井冈山了。

wǒ pǎo dào jǐng gāng shān le

I run arrive Jinggangshan city Asp.

I have run to Jinggangshan city.

(8) 你的女儿整天就趴在窗台上。

nǐ de nǚ ér zhěng tiān jiù pā dāo chuāng tái shàng

your daughter all day just lie on the windowsill up

Your daughter lies on the windowsill all day.

Example (7) refers to the translational motion events, indicating somebody moves from somewhere to Jinggangshan city. In contrast, example (8) signifies the non-translational stationary event, for the agent in it is just staying at the windowsill with the manner of lying.

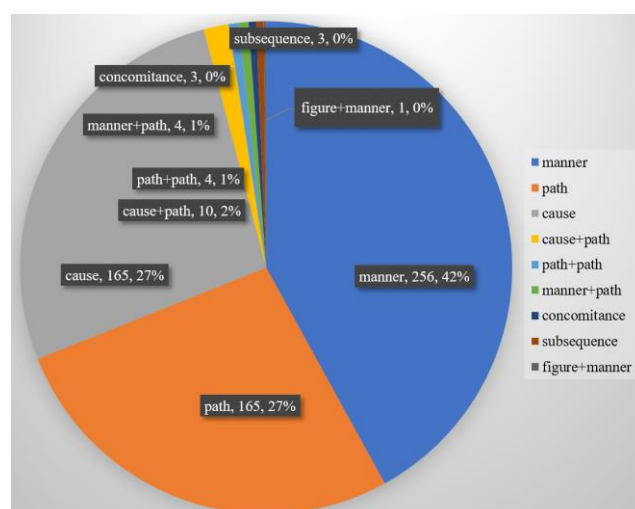
In Table 3, we can find that the translational motion events account for a larger proportion than the non-translational stationary event in the data. The top ten translational motion verbs of “V + Dào” constructions are listed as follows: “回到 (return to, frequency = 93)”, “来到 (come to, frequency = 57)”, “跑到 (run to, frequency = 55)”, “走到 (walk to, frequency = 36)”, “送到 (send to, frequency = 20)”, “搬到 (move to, frequency = 20)”, “带到 (bring to, frequency = 14)”, “拉到 (pull to, frequency = 12)”, “赶到 (rush to, frequency = 10)”, “打到 (hit to, frequency = 9)”, “运到 (transport to, frequency = 9)”. Meanwhile, the top ten the non-translational stationary verbs of “V + Dào” constructions are: “放到 (put to, frequency = 6)”, “搁到 (put aside to, frequency = 6)”, “坐到 (sit to, frequency = 6)”, “站到 (stand to, frequency = 5)”, “住到 (live in, frequency = 2)”, “戴到 (wear to, frequency = 2)”, “安到 (fix to, frequency = 2)”, “留到 (stay to, frequency = 1)”, “趴到 (lie prone to, frequency = 1)”, “停到 (stop to, frequency = 1)”, “安置到 (fix up to, frequency = 1)”, “靠到 (lean to, frequency = 1)”, “躺到 (lie to, frequency = 1)”. When calculating the correlation coefficient between AssoPro and AssoFun, as expected, they are fully correlated with each other ( $t=1$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). In detail, if the ac-

tivating process is the motion, its association function is supposed to be the path; and if the activating process is the stationariness, its association function is supposed to be the site. However, the correlation coefficient between AssoPro/AssoFun and Chin\_VD is rather weak ( $t=-0.15$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). In other words, the distribution of “V + Dào” construction is not sensitive to the distribution of its activating process and association function in motion events.

Finally, the variable of SuppRel involves conceptual primitives conflated in “V” of the “V + Dào” construction. There are 9 values of SuppRel in motion events – “cause”, “cause+path”, “manner”, “manner+path”, “path”, “path+path”, and “subsequence”. Their distribution is represented in Table 4 with regard to their frequencies, and this is visualized in Figure 3 in terms of a pie chart.

**Table 4.** The distribution of support relations in motion events.

SuppRel	Frequency	Percentage
manner	256	41.99%
cause	165	26.96%
path	165	26.96%
cause+path	10	1.63%
path+path	4	0.65%
manner+path	4	0.65%
concomitance	3	0.49%
subsequence	3	0.49%
figure+manner	1	0.16%
Total	612	100.00%

**Figure 3.** The pie chart of support relations in motion events.

The results in Table 4 and Figure 3 indicate that the values of the cause and the manner account for the most frequencies and proportions in motion events. However, apart from the subsequence that is conflated in “V” of “V + Dào” constructions, some situations with lower frequencies are not discussed by Talmy, including “path”, “path+path”, “cause+path”, “manner+path”. See example (9) to (17).

(9) 野鸡飞到饭锅里。

yě jī fēi dào fàn guō lǐ

the pheasant fly arrive the rice pot

The pheasant flew into the rice pot.

(10) 李小月来到华侨大厦。

Lǐ Xiaoyue lái dào huá qí áo dà shà

Lǐ Xiaoyue come arrive the Overseas Chinese building

Lǐ Xiaoyue came to the Overseas Chinese building.

(11) 他被分配到北京市。

tā bèi fēn pèi dào běi jīng shì

he BEI assign arrive Beijing

He was assigned to Beijing.

(12) 她有 10 块钱掉到水沟里。

tā yǒu 10kuài qián diào dào shuǐ gōu lǐ

She had 10 RMB fall arrive ditch inside

She had her 10 RMB fallen into the ditch.

In example (9), the support relation (SuppRel) in “飞到(fly to)” is the manner, for the pheasant moves into the rice pot with the manner of “飞(fly)”. In example (10), the SuppRel in the verb “来(come)” is the path, but it is different from the path in the verb “到(arrive)”. Specifically speaking, the verb “来(come)” is a “deictic component” of the path [22], but the verb “到(arrive)” is an “arrival vector” of the path [22]. In example (11), the SuppRel in “分配到(assign to)” is the cause, for he is forced to move to Beijing by the “cause” of the verb “分配(assign)”. In example (12), the verb “掉(fall)” conflates the traversal vector of the path and the cause in which the gravity of 10 RMB causes the money to fall into the ditch. Apart from the verb of “掉(fall)”, some motion verbs, such as “买(buy)” and “卖(sell)”, can also conflate the cause and the deictic component of the path in the process of conceptualization.

(13) 姐妹俩出来到河边。

jiě liǎng chū lái dào hé biān

two sisters out come arrive the river

The two sisters come out to the river.

(14) 净士宗走入到民间。

Jìng Shìzōng zǒu rù dào mǎn jiān

Jìng Shìzōng (the emperor) walk enter the people

The emperor walked into the people<sup>1</sup>.

In example (13), since the complex verb of “出来(come out)” conflates the traversal vector of the path in “出(out)” and the deictic component of the path in “来(come)”, the

value of SuppRel in “出来(come out)” refers to the pattern of “path+path”. Similarly, “走入(walk into)” in example (14) is also a complex verb, which conflates the manner in “走(into)” and the traversal vector of the path in “入(enter)”. On this account, the complex verbs in the position of “V” in “V + Dào” constructions can conflate more support relations.

(15) 张柏芝从北京哭到上海。

Zhang Baizhi cóng běi jīng kū dào shàng hǎi

Zhang Baizhi from Beijing cry arrive Shanghai

Zhang Baizhi cried to Shanghai from Beijing.

Example (15) is a specific case. In the movement from Beijing to Shanghai, the verb “哭(cry)”, in fact, does not express the motion ostensibly. However, when “哭(cry)” and “到(to)” are fused together, the motion subevent in the verb “哭(cry)” will be activated and selected in representing a broader motion event together with the motion subevent of the verb “到(arrive)”. Since “哭(cry)” also expresses a concomitant subevent that indicates a specific and prominent action in the motion event, it can conflate the subevents of the motion and the concomitant in the verb “哭(cry)” of the “哭到(cry to)” construction. As indicated in Chapter 1, we find “哭到(cry to)” is similar to “cry along”, both the motion and the concomitance are conflated in the verb “cry”. Apart from “哭到(cry to)”, some similar examples in our data are “杀到了天津(killed to Tianjin)” and “修到洛邑(mend to Luoyi)”. In the former example, the concomitant subevent of the SuppRel is “killing (people)”, which lasts throughout the whole movement to Tianjin; in the latter example, the concomitant subevent of the SuppRel is “mending (a road)”, which sustains throughout the whole movement to Luoyi.

(16) 哨位报告到排指挥所。

shào wèi bào gào dào pái zhǐ huī suǒ

the sentry report arrive the platoon headquarters

The sentry reported to the platoon headquarters.

In instance (16), the SuppRel in “报告到(report to)” is a subsequent subevent. Only after accomplishing the movement to the platoon headquarters, can the sentry report what he wants to report. Similarly, when Talmy [22] analyzes the sentence “they locked the prisoner into his cell”, he explains that they should move the prisoner into his cell at first, and then the prisoner’s cell will be locked.

(17) 有人把唾液啐到我的左脸上。

yǒu rén bǎ tuō yè cù dào wǒ de zuǒ liǎn shàng

somebody BA the saliva spit arrive my left face up

Somebody spat his/her saliva into my left face.

The verb “啐(spat)” in example (17) means that somebody puts forth his/her strength to spit out certain amount of the liquid in the mouth such as the saliva. In this sense, the verb “啐(spat)” in “啐到(spits to)” not only expresses the manner of the action, but also contains the figure of the motion event, even though the figure of “唾液(the saliva)” is strengthened outside the verb in example (17). We can also say “他啐了

1 In example (12), the place of the people is a relative place to the palace of the emperor.

我一脸(he spat into all my face)” without this figure (i.e. the saliva) in spoken Chinese, for it is supposed to have been already conflated in the verb “呸(spat)”. Talmy [22] has a similar example, “I spat into the cuspidor”, and he illustrates that this kind of pattern with the figure conflated in the verb is quite characteristic in English. As a matter of fact, however, Atsugewi and a Hokan language of northern California also have plenty of examples of this type. Different from English, the verb “呸(spat)” in Chinese also expresses the conceptual primitive of the manner, that is, “putting one’s strength to spit out”. Therefore, the value of SuppRel in “呸(spat)” of “呸到(spit into)” forms the pattern of “figure+manner”.

Even though the frequencies are very low in the patterns of “cause+path”, “path+path”, “manner+path”, “subsequence”, “concomitance” and “figure+manner”, they still deserve being further explored. In addition, the relationship between the SuppRel and the distribution of Chin\_VD is effective and significant ( $t=-0.2$ ,  $p<0.01$ ).

All the mentioned above pertains to the event semantics of motion events, and we find that the distribution of “V + Dào” construction is only weakly sensitive to the distribution of the support relation (SuppRel), but not to the agency and animacy in the figural entity (FigEnt\_Agen & FigEnt\_Anim), the activating process (ActiPro), and the association function (AssoFun).

## 4.2. Syntactic Properties of “V + Dào” Constructions as Motion Events

Section 4.1 has surveyed the variables in the event semantics of “V + Dào” constructions, and in this section, we’ll discuss two variables which are involved in the syntactic properties of the “(V + Dào) + X” constructions as motion events, specifically, the syntactic types of “V + Dào” construction (SynType\_VD) and syntactic types of “X” (SynType\_X). The variable of SynType\_VD subsumes 2 values – FC (free complements) and BBC (backward bound complements). Meanwhile, the variable of SynType\_X contains 3 values – the local noun, the local clause (LocaC), and the nontext (NoT, which means the SynType\_X is omitted). Table 5 and Figure 4 reveals the distribution and visualization of their relationships.

Table 5. The distribution of syntactic properties in motion events.

SynType_VD	SynType_X			
	LocaN	NoT	LocaC	Total
FC	505	7	0	513
BBC	98	0	0	98
Total	603	7	1	611

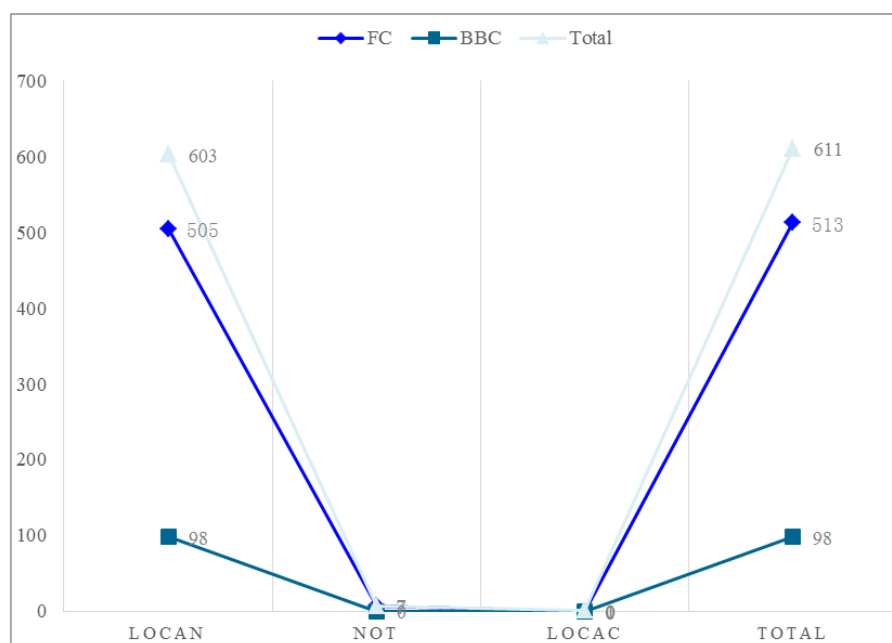


Figure 4. The line chart of syntactic properties in motion events.

Based on Table 5 and Figure 4, we can learn that the value of FC (free complements) in SynType\_VD accounts for the highest frequency in the data, and the value of LocaN (local

noun) in SynType\_X is the most frequent in motion events. No matter whether the value of SynType\_VD is FC or BBC in motion events, we can learn that “Dào” in “V + Dào” con-

structions can be used as an independent verb.

As for the variable of SynType\_VD, on the one hand, we can discern more detailed syntactic properties from the following examples.

(18) 我来到台湾。

wǒ lái dào tāi wān  
I come arrive Taiwan  
I came to Taiwan.

(19) 太太走到地窖。

tāi tāi zǒu dào dì jì āo  
the lady walk arrive the basement  
The lady walked to the basement.

(20) 我们把松鼠放到笼子里。

wǒ men bǎ sōng shǔ fàng dào lóng zǐ lǐ  
we BA the squirrel put arrive the cage  
We put the squirrel in the cage.

In example (18), the SynType\_VD is FC, for both “我来台湾(I come to Taiwan)” and “我到台湾(I arrive in Taiwan)” are acceptable and grammatical in spoken Chinese. Different from example (18), example (19) cannot be substituted by the expression of “\*太太走地窖(\*the lady walked the basement)”, but “太太到地窖(the lady arrived at the basement)” is acceptable and grammatical in spoken Chinese. Thus, “\*走地窖(\*walked the basement)” is illegitimate without the verb “到(arrive)” in the phrase “太太走到地窖(the lady walked to the basement)”, and the SynType\_VD in example (19) is BBC. One possible explanation may be that most motion or stationary verbs in the FC of SynType\_VD are transitive verbs, but those in the BBC of SynType\_VD are intransitive verbs. Example (20), to some extent, is similar to example (18), in which we can say “放笼子里(put in the cage)” and “到笼子里(arrive at the cage)”. However, when we put “放到(put in)” into a BA construction, we can only say “我们把松鼠放放笼子里(we put the squirrel in the cage)” but not “\*我们把松鼠到笼子里(\*we take the squirrel arrive at the cage)”. Since “松鼠到笼子里(the squirrel arrives at the cage)” is still grammatical without the BA construction, the SynType\_VD in this situation is still considered as being annotated as the value of FC.

On the other hand, concerning the variable of SynType\_X, its distributions in the above instances are all locative nouns, such as the locative noun of “台湾(Taiwan)” in (18), “地窖(the basement)” in (19), and “笼子里(in the cage)” in (20). Nevertheless, sometimes the SynType\_X can be omitted such as in example (19). In some specific occasions, the SynType\_X can also be a local clause, such as “就是这个楼(it is this building)” as in example (22).

(21) 给他送到, 由亲朋好友给他送到坟地。

gěi tā sòng dào, yóu qīn péng yǒu gěi tā sòng dào fén dì  
for him send arrive, by his family and friends GEI him send arrive the graveyard

Sending him to, he was sent to the graveyard by his family and friends.

(22) 给我带到就是这个楼。

gěi wǒ dǎi dào jiù shì zhè gè lóu  
GEI me bring arrive it is this building  
It is this building that I was brought to.

In example (21), even though SynType\_X is omitted in the first clause of the sentence, it can be explained in the second clause in spoken Chinese, that is, “送到坟地(send to the graveyard)”. Example (21) also indicates that both of “V” and “Dào” together are often taken as a “minimal phonological group” [8]. Moreover, the value of SynType\_X in example (22) refers to a local clause (LocaC), which mostly occurs in spoken Chinese. When example (22) is translated into English, it will become an inversion sentence, that is, “it is this building that I was brought to”.

When calculating the correlation coefficient between SynType\_VD/SynType\_X and the distribution of “V + Dào” construction in motion events, the distribution of “V + Dào” constructions is only moderately sensitive to the distribution of SynType\_VD ( $t = -0.1$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), but not sensitive to the distribution of SynType\_X ( $t = 0.02$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ).

The event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions as motion events have been discussed in Section 4.3, and we can roughly conclude that the distribution of “V + Dào” construction is only weakly correlated to the variables of SuppRel and SynType\_VD.

#### 4.3. Event Integration Patterns of “V + Dào” Constructions as Motion Events

In this Section, we continue to discuss the event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions and their correlations with regard to their semantics and syntactic properties. As proposed above, event integration can be interpreted in terms of the internal and external event integration. The former only occurs either in “V” or in “Dào” of the “V + Dào” construction, and the latter exists between “V” and “Dào” of the “V + Dào” construction. On this account, the discussion of the internal event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions should take the variables of IEI\_V and IEI\_D into consideration. Meanwhile, the external event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions tend to be related to the variables of Chin\_VD, EEI\_VD, and EEI\_Type. Even though we have classified EEI\_VD in terms of Talmy’s five macro-event types in general, it is still necessary to figure out how IEI\_V and IEI\_D are integrated as EEI\_VD in detail.

Firstly, we will identify and discuss the variable of IEI\_V. It contains 12 values, and each value conflates two variables of ActiPro and SuppRel. From example (9) to (17), IEI\_V contains 9 values in motion events, which are represented by “motion+manner” in (9), “motion+path” in (10), “motion+cause” in (11), “motion+cause+path” in (12), “motion+manner+path” in (13), “motion+path+path” in (14), “motion+concomitance” in (15), “motion+subsequence” in (16), and “motion+figure+manner” in (17). The additional 3



values of IEL\_V pertains to stationary events, which can be represented respectively by the values of “stationariness+cause”, “stationariness+manner” and “stationariness+subsequence” in the following examples.

(23) 布的衣服都放到一边了。

bù de yī fú dōu fàng dào yī biān le  
the fabric clothes all put arrive aside Asp  
The fabric clothes were all put aside.

(24) 你站在楼顶上。

nǐ zhàn zài lóu dǐng shàng  
you stand arrive the roof up  
You stand on the roof.

(25) 逼他住到修道院。

bī tā zhù dào xiū dào yuàn

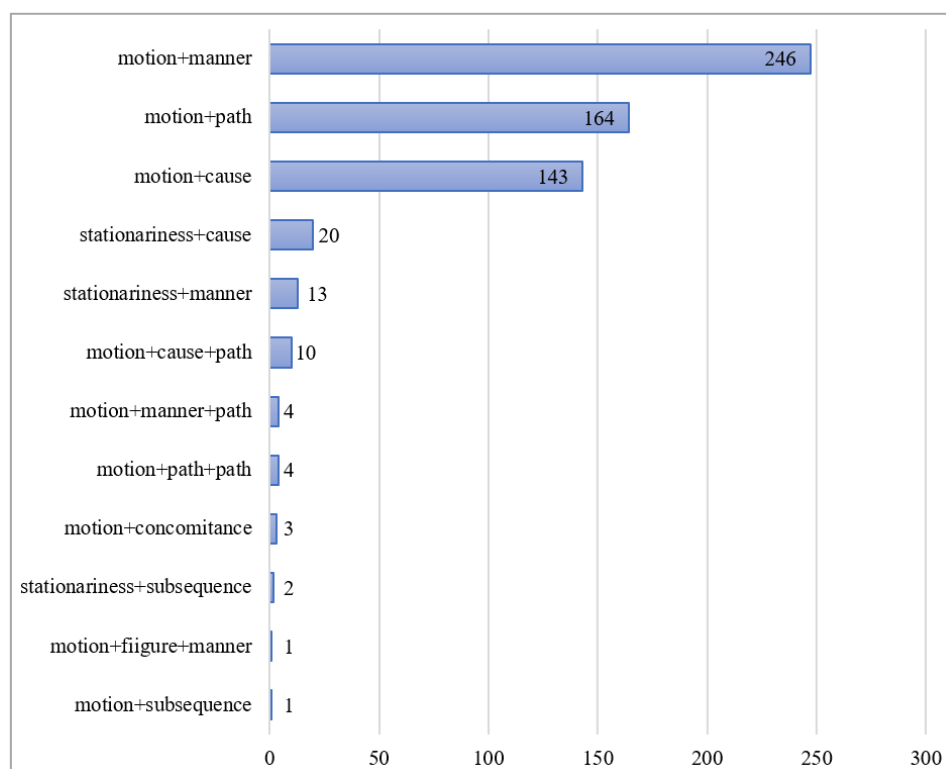
force his live arrive the monastery

Force him to live in the monastery.

In example (23), the figural entity of “布的衣服(the fabric clothes)” is located aside somewhere by the cause of “放(put)”, and “你(you)” in example (24) stays on the roof with the manner of “站(stand)”. Moreover, example (25) is rather specific, for “他(he)” is forced to live in the monastery, which is a subsequent subevent after his being forced to move to the monastery. All of these examples, together with the previous (9) to (17), can be taken as the different internal event integration patterns in the verbs of “V + Dào” constructions (i.e. IEL\_V). In a nutshell, Table 6 and Figure 5 provide us with the detailed distribution of IEL\_V.

**Table 6.** The distribution of IEL\_V in motion events.

IEL_V	Frequency	Percentage	Examples
motion+manner	246	40.36%	野鸡飞到饭锅里。 (The pheasant flew into the rice pot.)
motion+path	164	26.80%	李小明来到华侨大厦。 (Li Xiaoyue came to the Overseas Chinese building.)
motion+cause	143	23.37%	他被分配到北京市。 (He was assigned to Beijing.)
stationariness+cause	20	3.27%	布的衣服都放到一边了。 (The fabric clothes were all put aside.)
stationariness+manner	13	2.12%	你站到楼顶上。 (You stand on the roof.)
motion+cause+path	10	1.63%	她有 10 块钱掉到水沟里。 (She had her 10 RMB fallen into the ditch.)
motion+path+path	4	0.65%	姐妹俩出来到河边。 (The two sisters come out to the river.)
motion+manner+path	4	0.65%	净士宗走入到民间。 (Jìng Shìzōng (the emperor) walk enter the people.)
motion+concomitance	3	0.49%	张柏芝从北京哭到上海。 (Zhāng Bǎizhī cried to Shanghai from Beijing.)
stationariness+subsequence	2	0.33%	逼他住到修道院。 (Force him to live in the monastery)
motion+figure+manner	1	0.16%	有人把唾液啐到我的左脸上。 (Somebody spat his/her saliva at my left face. )
motion+subsequence	1	0.16%	哨位报告到排指挥所。 (The sentry reported to the platoon headquarters.)
Total	612	100%	



**Figure 5.** The bar chart of IEL\_V in motion events.

In Table 6 and Figure 5, IEL\_V has various internal event integration patterns. As Yu & Li [24] suggest, the internal event integrations patterns in IEL\_V of “V + Dào” constructions involve alternate combinations of conceptual primitives, which are listed as follows.

- 1) IEL\_V can conflate the values in the variables of Actipro and SuppRel. For instance, “飞(fly)” conflates the conceptual primitives of the motion and the manner (i.e. motion+manner), and “分配(assign)” encodes the motion and the cause (i.e. motion+cause).
- 2) IEL\_V can conflate the values in the variables of Actipro and AssoFun. For example, “来(come)” integrates the conceptual primitives of the motion and the path (i.e. motion+path).
- 3) IEL\_V can conflate the values in the variables of Actipro, SuppRel and AssoFun. For instance, “掉(fall)” in-

cludes the conceptual primitives of the motion, the cause, and the path (i.e. motion+cause+path).

- 4) IEL\_V can conflate one value in Actipro and two values in AssoFun. For example, “出来(come out)” conflates the motion, the traversal vector of the path and the deictic components of the path (i.e. motion+path+path).
- 5) IEL\_V can conflate the values in the variables of Actipro, FigEnt, and SuppRel. For instance, “呸(spit)” contains the conceptual primitives of the motion, the figure and the manner (i.e. motion+figure+manner).

To make a format of these internal event integration patterns of IEL\_V, some of them can be formatted as “2” where two conceptual primitives are conflated, and some can be numbered as “3” in which three conceptual primitives are integrated. See the summaries in Table 7 and Figure 6.

**Table 7.** The formats and the distribution of IEL\_V in motion events.

Formats	IEL_V	Frequency	Total
2 (Two conceptual primitives are conflated in IEL_V)	motion+manner	246	592 (97%)
	motion+path	164	
	motion+cause	143	
	motion+concomitance	3	
	motion+subsequence	1	

Formats	IEI_V	Frequency	Total
3 (Three conceptual primitives are conflated in IEI_V)	stationariness+cause	20	19 (3%)
	stationariness+manner	13	
	stationariness+subsequence	2	
	motion+cause+path	10	
	motion+path+path	4	
	motion+manner+path	4	
	motion+figure+manner	1	
Total	12	611	611 (100%)

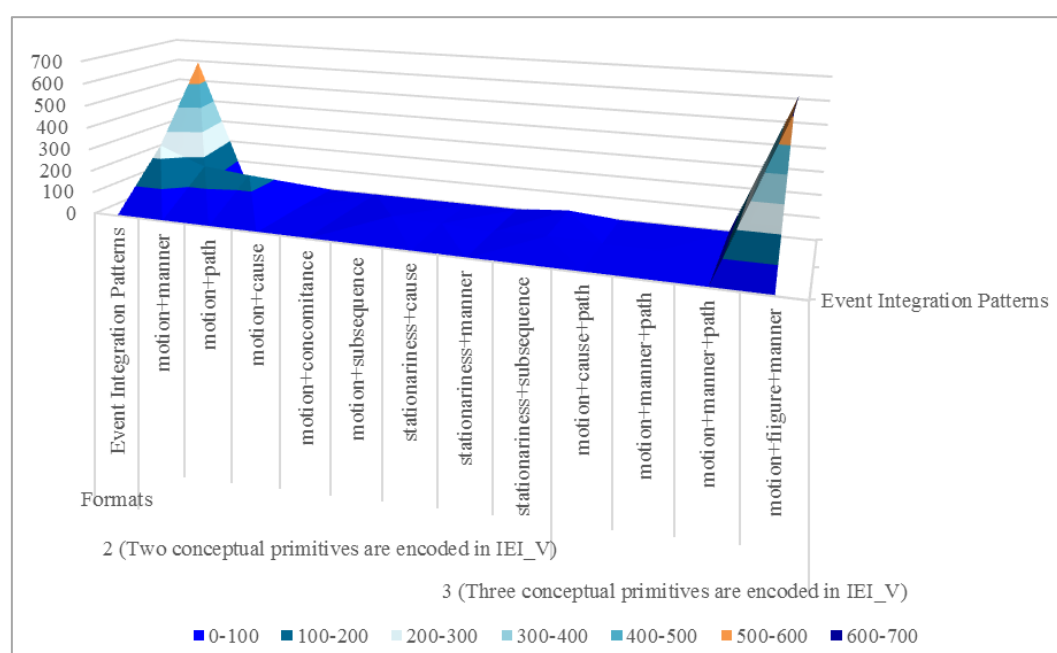


Figure 6. The surface chart of IEI\_V in motion events.

In Table 7 and Figure 6, different from Talmy's (2000b) macro-event theory, IEI\_V can encode not only 2 conceptual primitives, such as "motion+manner", but also 3 conceptual primitives, such as "motion+path+path". On this account, these 12 event integration patterns in the variable of IEI\_V can be categorized into two groups. One group consists of 2 conceptual primitives, and the other contains 3 conceptual primitives.

Secondly, the variable of IEI\_D conflates 2 values in the variables of Actipro and AssoFun. They are, namely, "motion+path" (frequency = 576) and "stationariness+site" (frequency = 35) (see Figure 1). Different from the English satellites in the motion events, "Dào", as the directional verb, is not subordinate to the previous verb of "V" in the "V + Dào" construction. In this sense, "Dào" can conflate the conceptual primitives in the variables of Actipro and AssoFun, for "Dào"

per se can be used as an independent verb to express the motion event. Diachronically, "Dào" can be used independently as a verb since the archaic Chinese, hence this syntactic property still remains in expressing the motion event in modern Chinese. In this sense, the internal event integration patterns in IEI\_D can be abstracted and formulated as "2", which means there are two conceptual primitives conflated in IEI\_D.

Thirdly, the variable of EEI\_VD, as the external event integration of "V + Dào" constructions, is based on the formation between IEI\_V and IEI\_D. We can see how the variables of IEI\_V and IEI\_D can be combined at first, and then discuss how they are fused together in our event integration model. Table 8 shows us the various event integration patterns of EEI\_VD in motion events.

**Table 8.** The formats and the distribution of EEI\_VD in motion events.

Formats	EEI_VD	Frequency	Total
2+2	(motion+manner)+(motion+path)	246	592 (97%)
	(motion+path)+(motion+path)	164	
	(motion+cause)+(motion+path)	143	
	(motion+concomitance)+(motion+path)	3	
	(motion+subsequence)+(motion+path)	1	
	(stationariness+cause)+(stationariness+site)	20	
	(stationariness+manner)+(stationariness+site)	13	
	(stationariness+subsequence)+(stationariness+site)	2	
3+2	(motion+cause+path)+(motion+path)	10	19 (3%)
	(motion+path+path)+(motion+path)	4	
	(motion+manner+path)+(motion+path)	4	
	(motion+figure+manner)+(motion+path)	1	
Total	12	611	611 (100%)

In Table 8, EEI\_VD has 12 external event integration patterns based on the combinations of IEI\_V and IEI\_D. The relation between them can be abstracted and formulated as two kinds of formats – one is “2+2”, and the other “3+2”. Among these external event integration patterns, we can find that both IEI\_V and IEI\_D can conflate the same conceptual primitive of “motion” in the variable of ActiPro, which can be taken as the conceptual mapping between IEI\_V and IEI\_D, which functions as the basis of their fusion. In addition, it is the conceptual overlap that integrates IEI\_V and IEI\_D together. Each of them can provide a conceptual slot for each other. For instance, when “走(walk)” and “到(arrive)” are fused together as a “V + Dào” construction of “走到(walk to)”, in their “2+2” format of “(motion+manner) + (motion+path)”, the conceptual primitive of “motion” is selected as the mapping basis for fusing “走(walk)” and “到(arrive)” together. Moreover, the verb “走(walk)” can provide a conceptual slot of the path that is filled by the verb “到(arrive)”. In return, the verb “到(arrive)” can supply a conceptual slot of the manner that is filled by the verb “走(walk)”. In this sense, the slots in “走(walk)” and “到(arrive)” are mutually overlapped by each other. Therefore, “走(walk)” and “到(the arrival vector of the path)” are integrated and fused together by means of conceptual mapping and conceptual overlap.

Finally, the last variable in the external event integration is EEI\_Type, which has only one value – verb-directional construction (VDir). Since the variable of EEI\_Type with one value cannot be taken into the correlation analysis, we assume that almost all “V + Dào” constructions in motion

events are verb directional constructions (VDir).

When calculating correlation coefficients between IEI\_V / IEI\_D and Chin\_VD in motion events, the distribution of “V + Dào” structure is weakly sensitive to the distribution of IEI\_V ( $t = -0.2$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), but not sensitive to the distribution of IEI\_D ( $t = -0.05$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). It's evident that the distribution of IEI\_V is strongly influenced by the distribution of SuppRel, for the correlation coefficient is strong between them ( $t = 0.8$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Moreover, the correlation also exists between IEI\_V and SynType\_VD ( $t = 0.23$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), IEI\_V and IEI\_D ( $t = 0.4$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ).

In Section 5.1, we have surveyed “V + Dào” constructions as motion events in terms of three levels – event semantics, syntactic properties, and event integration patterns. In accordance with the research questions of event integration patterns and their correlations, some preliminary conclusions can be drawn from two aspects as in the following.

- 1) The first aspect relates to the event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions in motion events. As the theoretical framework indicates, the internal event integration pertains to the variables of IEI\_V and IEI\_D, and the external event integration relates to the variable of EEI\_VD and EEI\_Type. Based on the discussion above, we find that:
  - a. IEI\_V can conflate 2 conceptual primitives or 3 conceptual primitives (see Appendix I);
  - b. IEI\_D can integrate 2 conceptual primitives, one is “motion+path” and the other is “stationariness+site”;
  - c. EEI\_VD subsumes 12 external event integration patterns that can be formatted as “2+2” or “3+2”, in which IEI\_V and IEI\_D can be fused together by



means of the shared conceptual primitive, such as the motion or the stationariness, and they can also provide the conceptual slots for each other;

d. The value of EEI\_Type signifies the verb-directional construction (VDir).

2) The second aspect pertains to the correlations between the event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions and their semantic/syntactic properties in motion events. In the internal event integration, we will take IEI\_V and IEI\_D into the correlation analysis with oth-

er variables; and in the external event integration, since there is only one value in EEI\_VD and EEI\_Type that cannot be used in correlation analysis, we can only take the variable of Chin\_VD into the correlation analysis with other variables. Based on the correlation analysis in R programming and some research results discussed above, Table 9 reveals all the correlation coefficients among the variables of “V + Dào” constructions in motion events.

**Table 9.** The correlation coefficients among the variables in motion events

IEI_MoEvt	VD_Chin	Fi-gEnt_Agen	Fi-gEnt_Anim	Acti-Pro	Asso-Fun	Sup-pRel	Syn-Type_VD	Syn-Type_X	IEI_V	IEI_D	EEI_Type
VD_Chin	1	*0.01	*-0.02	*-0.05	*-0.05	-0.15	-0.1	*0.02	-0.17	*-0.05	NA
Fi-gEnt_Agen	*0.01	1	0.55	*-0.01	*-0.01	0.38	*0.04	*0.08	0.33	*-0.01	NA
Fi-gEnt_Anim	*-0.02	0.55	1	*-0.04	*-0.04	0.14	*0.06	*0.02	0.12	*0.04	NA
ActiPro	*-0.05	*-0.01	*-0.04	1	1	*-0.05	0.11	*0.04	0.39	1	NA
AssoFun	*-0.05	*-0.01	*-0.04	1	1	*-0.05	0.1	*0.04	0.4	1	NA
SuppRel	-0.15	0.38	0.14	*-0.05	*-0.05	1	0.2	*-0.02	0.82	*-0.05	NA
Syn-Type_VD	-0.1	*0.04	*0.06	0.11	0.11	0.2	1	*-0.07	0.2	0.1	NA
SynType_X	*0.02	*0.08	*0.02	*0.04	*0.04	*-0.02	*-0.07	1	*-0.01	*0.04	NA
IEI_V	-0.17	0.33	0.12	0.39	0.4	0.82	0.2	*-0.01	1	0.4	NA
IEI_D	*-0.05	*-0.01	*0.04	1	1	*-0.05	0.1	*0.04	0.4	1	NA
EEI_Type	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

In Table 9, the distribution of IEI\_V is sensitive to the variables of FigEnt\_Agen, FigEnt\_Anim, ActiPro, AssoFun and SuppRel in event semantics, SynType\_VD in syntactic properties, and IEI\_D in the event integration patterns. According to the rule of thumb in the correlation coefficients [9], only the variable of SuppRel is strongly correlated. Meanwhile, the variables of IEI\_D, AssoFun and ActiPro are

moderately correlated, and the variables of FigEnt\_Agen, SynType\_VD and FigEnt\_Anim are weakly correlated. A correlation hierarchy can be established as “(SuppRel) > (IEI\_D > AssoFun > ActiPro) > (FigEnt\_Agen > SynType\_VD > FigEnt\_Anim)”, and this can be visualized as in Figure 7.

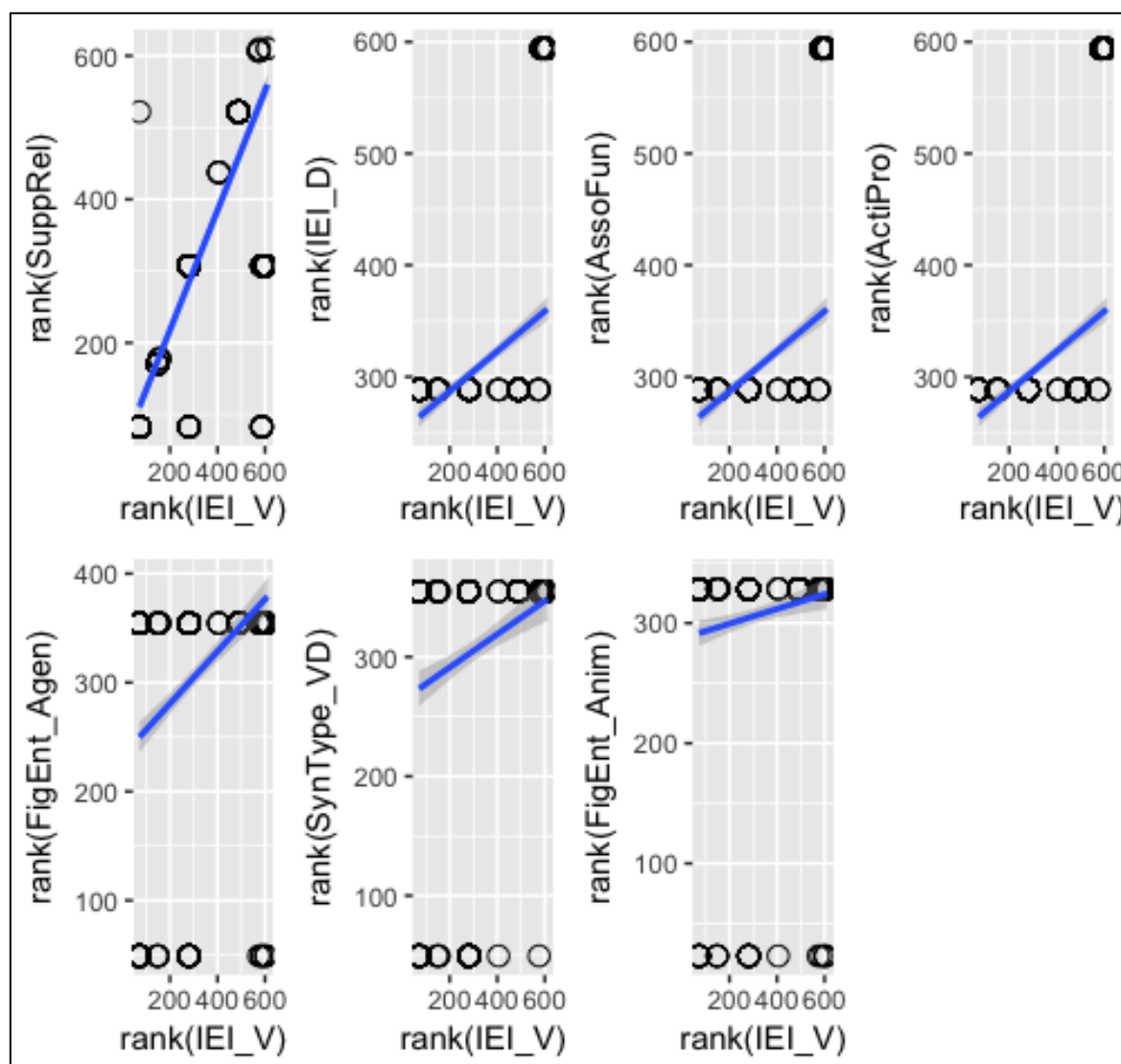


Figure 7. The visualization of the correlations between the variables and IEI\_V in motion events.

In Figure 7, since IEI\_V consists of the variables of SuppRel and ActiPro, we find IEI\_V is strongly correlated with SuppRel, but moderately correlated with ActiPro. In addition, IEI\_V is also moderately sensitive to IEI\_D and AssoFun<sup>2</sup>, which means that IEI\_V and IEI\_D are mutually correlated with each other. In other words, the event integration does exist between the subevents in “V” and the subevents of “Dào” in “V + Dào” constructions. Moreover, IEI\_V is weakly correlated with the agency and the animacy properties of the figural entities, for motion events can be expressed either by an agentive figure or a non-agentive figure or else expressed by an animate figure or an inanimate figure. For example, “滚下(roll down)” can be expressed by the sentence of “我把球滚下山 (I rolled the ball down the hill)” or by the sentence of “球滚下山(the ball rolled down the hill)”.

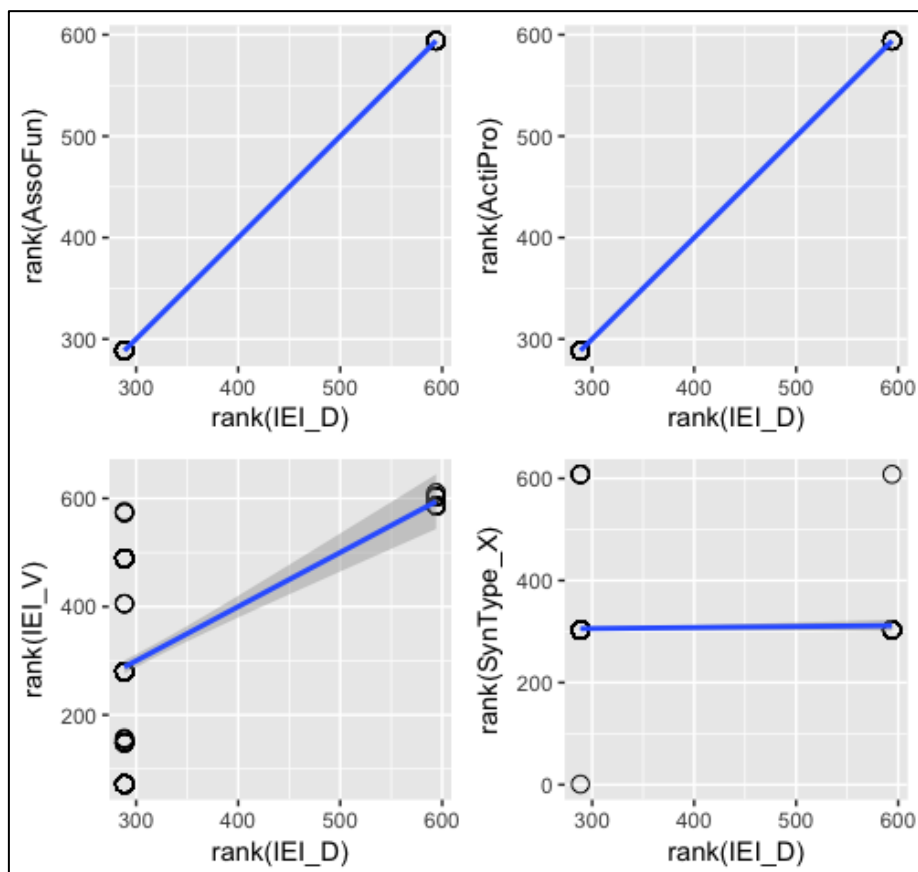
As for the variable of IEI\_D, it is highly correlated to

ActiPro and AssoFun in event semantics, moderately correlated to SynType\_X in syntactic properties, and weakly correlated to IEI\_V in the external event integration patterns. Their correlation hierarchy can be listed as “(AssoFun > ActiPro) > (IEI\_V) > (SynType\_X)”, and it is visualized in Figure 8.

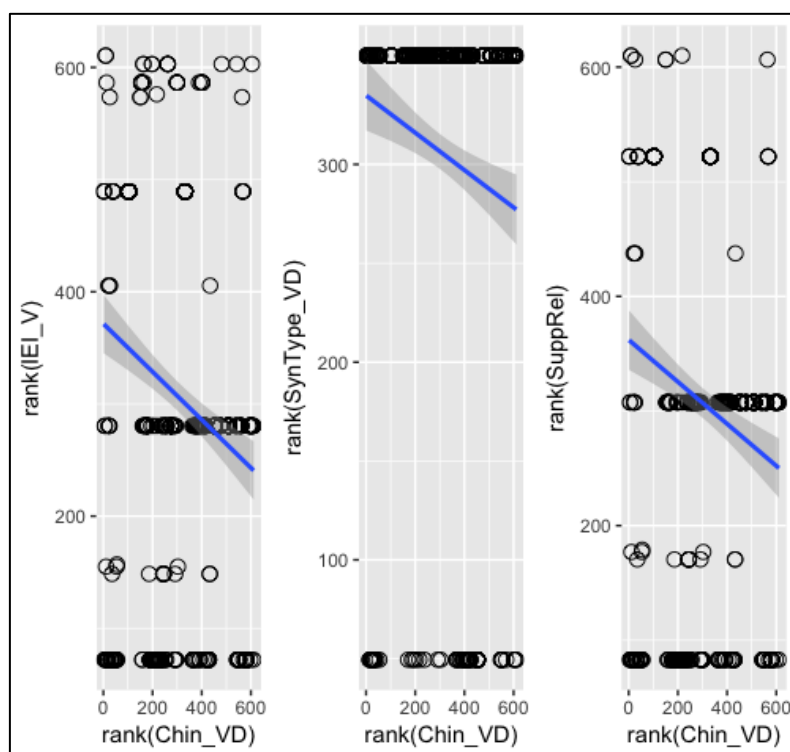
In the external event integration, the variable of Chin\_VD is only weakly correlated to the variables of SuppRel, SynType\_VD and IEI\_V, and the correlation hierarchy is listed as “IEI\_V > SynType\_VD > SuppRel” and visualized in Figure 9.

As can be seen from Figures 7-9, not all variables are involved in the event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions, but the involved variables will exhibit different degrees of correlation coefficients in the event integration patterns of “V + Dào” constructions.

<sup>2</sup> Since the variable of IEI\_D subsumes the variable of AssoFun, if IEI\_V is correlated with IEI\_D, it can be also correlated with AssoFun.



**Figure 8.** The visualization of the correlations between the variables and `IEI_D` in motion events.



**Figure 9.** The visualization of the correlations between the variables and `Chin_VD` in motion events.

## 5. Conclusion

In the analysis of motion events, the study reveals several intricate patterns of event integration within the "V + Dào" construction in Mandarin, which contribute significantly to our understanding of how motion and action are represented in language. First, the internal event integration of the verb (IEI\_V) can combine two or three conceptual primitives, indicating a flexible syntactic structure where the verb carries either a simple or more complex representation of action. On the other hand, the internal event integration of "Dào" (IEI\_D) consistently conflates only two conceptual primitives, which highlights its role in completing or specifying the event without further expansion of conceptual depth.

Further analysis shows that the external event integration of the "V + Dào" construction (EEI\_VD) contains twelve possible combinations of IEI\_V and IEI\_D, which can be neatly categorized into two types: "2+2" or "3+2." This indicates a robust interaction between the verb and the directional component, where the combinations of conceptual primitives shape the event representation in nuanced ways. Moreover, the value of the external event integration type (EEI\_Type) consistently aligns with the verb-directional construction (VDir), underscoring the centrality of directional elements in structuring motion events in Mandarin.

Additionally, the study establishes a hierarchy of correlated variables within the internal event integration of the verb (IEI\_V). This hierarchy reveals a distinct ranking of variables: "(SuppRel) > (IEI\_D > AssoFun > ActiPro) > (FigEnt\_Agen > SynType\_VD > FigEnt\_Anim)." This suggests that the supporting relationship (SuppRel) plays a pivotal role in the integration of events, followed by the integration between the verb and directional component (IEI\_D). The action functions (AssoFun and ActiPro) and the agentive nature of the figure entity (FigEnt\_Agen) also significantly influence the construction, with syntactic type (SynType\_VD) and animacy (FigEnt\_Anim) being less prominent in comparison.

Similarly, the hierarchical arrangement of correlated variables within IEI\_D is ranked as "(AssoFun > ActiPro) > (IEI\_V) > (SynType\_X)." Here, the associative function (AssoFun) and activating process (ActiPro) are the strongest determinants of how the directional element integrates with the verb. The role of the verb itself (IEI\_V) is secondary, while the syntactic type of the external argument (SynType\_X) has a lesser influence on the integration process.

Lastly, the study highlights that the verb-directional construction in Mandarin (Chin\_VD) shows only a weak correlation with certain variables of IEI\_V, SynType\_VD, and SuppRel. This weak correlation suggests that while Chin\_VD plays a crucial role in the expression of motion events, its interaction with other variables, such as the syntactic type of the directional element or supporting relationships, is relatively minor compared to other factors within the event structure.

In conclusion, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of how event integration operates in Mandarin motion events, challenging traditional typological approaches and offering a comprehensive framework for analyzing the complex interplay between verb and directional elements in language. The findings underscore the importance of internal and external event integration in shaping the way motion and action are linguistically represented, with a focus on the hierarchical relationships between different conceptual and syntactic components.

## Abbreviations

ActiPro	Activating Process
Agen	Agency
Anim	Animacy
Asp	The Marker of the Aspect
AssoFun	Association Function
BBC	Backward Bound Complements
BC	Bound Complements
Chin_VD	Chinese Instances of "V + Dào" Constructions
DgreA	Degree Adjectives
DgreC	Degree Clauses
DgreN	Degree Nouns
EEI	External Event Integration
EEI_Type	External Event Integration in the Verb-complement Types of "V + Dào" Constructions
EEI_VD	External Event Integration in "V + Dào" Constructions
FBC	Forward Bound Complements
FC	Free Complements
FigEnt	Figural Entity
FigEnt_Agen	The Agency in the Figural Entity
FigEnt_Anim	The Animacy in the Figural Entity
GroEnt	Ground Entity
IEI	Internal Event Integration
IEI_D	Internal Event Integration of "Dào"
IEI_V	Internal Event Integration of "V"
MoEvt	Motion Event
NA	The Missing Value in R Language
NoT	Non-text
PtienN	Patient Nouns
PtienC	Patient Clauses
StimuC	Stimulus Clauses
StimuN	Stimulus Nouns
SuppRel	Support Relations
SynType_VD	The Syntactic Types of "V + Dào" Constructions
SynType_X	The Syntactic Types of "X" Postpositioning "V + Dào" Constructions
T & F	True and False Value
TempC	Temporal Clauses
TempConEvt	Temporal Contouring Events



TempN	Temporal Nouns
vd_structure	The Whole Data of “V + Dào” Constructions
VDir	Verb-directional Constructions
VPha	Verb-phase Constructions
VRes	Verb-resultative Constructions

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## Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

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