The 'boundary crossing constraint' in motion event descriptions has been found to yield interesting cases of transfer in SLA (Cadierno 2010). If a motion event involves the crossing of a boundary, motion and manner can be conflated in the main verb in Satellite-framed languages such as German, whereas manner verbs are dispreferred or considered ungrammatical in Verb-framed languages such as French.

81 L1 speakers of German and 73 L1 speakers of French were asked to describe, in both their L1 and L2 (German and French), 60 videos out of which 18 show boundary-crossing events. Although both patterns occur in both French and German, manner-conflation was the prevailing pattern in German (L1 and L2) and path-conflation was prevailing in French (L1 and L2). The L2 data show traces of typical patterns of the respective L1s. Proficiency correlates with the amount of L1-transfer. However, a great number of descriptions do not convey either of the two patterns: Some Speakers encode manner in the finite verb while avoiding violating the boundary crossing constraint either by implicitly predicating boundary crossing (e.g. "er tanzt und ist dann im Haus" "He dances and then he is inside the house") or by not describing the boundary crossing and merely using locative path (e.g. "er tanzt zum Haus" "He dances to the house") or no path at all. Moreover, the L2-data shows unusual (compared to the L1 preference) choices of prepositions (e.g."er geht durch den Teppich" "he goes through the carpet") or case-markers which makes it impossible to determine whether the BCC has been violated or avoided.

We address the question of how to analyze such constructions. We stress the importance of participant-related and stimuli-related variation in keeping with previous research on the type of boundary (Oliveira 2012) and the salience of manner (Bodean-Vozian & Cincilei 2015) involved.

Keywords: cross-linguistic interaction, spatial typologies, motion events, boundary crossing constraint.