This book establishes a new vista for understanding the interrelationships between language, motion, and space. Through approaches such as cross-linguistic comparison, theoretical linguistics, experimental psychology, corpus linguistics, and robotics, the chapters reveal a diverse, sometimes exotic, collection of linguistic phenomena—the encoding of biological motion, path curvature, direction, spatial granularity, aquamotion, among many others—that will be sure to inspire scholars and students. Rigorously researched and clearly written, the book points the way to the future of research on the language-space interface.

Phillip Wolff, Emory University

Motion Encoding in Language and Space

Edited by Mila Vulchanova and Emile van der Zee

This book brings together researchers in linguistics, computer science, psychology and cognitive science to investigate how motion is encoded in language. The book is divided into two parts. Part I considers the parameters at play in motion encoding (including directed motion) by presenting new research on Estonian, English, Norwegian, Bulgarian, Italian, German, Russian, Persian, and Tamil. Part II investigates the way in which different levels of spatial resolution or granularity play a role in the encoding of motion in language.

Mila Vulchanova received her Dr Artium degree in theoretical linguistics at the Norwegian University of Science & Technology in 1996. Her professional expertise covers a wide range of topics, including linguistic theory, lexical semantics, language and cognition, spatial categorization and language, language acquisition, developmental disorders, extreme language talent, formal syntax and dialectonic grammar. She is an elected member of The Royal Norwegian Society of Science (DNVNS) and was a fellow in residence at The Centre for Advanced Study (VLAC) at The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB). Currently Vulchanova leads the NTNU Language Acquisition and Language Processing Lab, which conducts experimental research in language skills in children and adults, language acquisition and language processing.

Emile van der Zee is Principal Lecturer in the School of Psychology, University of Lincoln. He is the editor, together with Laura Carlson, of Functional Features in Language and Space (OUP 2005) and, with Jon Slack, of Representing Direction in Language and Space (OUP 2003).