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# Verbs of motion and directional prepositions

António Leal\*<sup>1</sup> and Fátima Oliveira\*<sup>†1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto (FLUP) – Portugal

## Résumé

In European Portuguese, the verbs of inherently directed motion (Levin, 1993) *ir/vir* ('go'/'come') show a complex pattern of combination with Goal PP's, namely with *para* ('to') and *até (a)* ('up to'). Typically, both prepositions can occur without apparent restrictions, although they exhibit somewhat different interpretations, since *para* requires a longer stay at the end of the path than *até* (cf. (1)).

(1) *muita gente veio {para a/até à} rua*

*many people came to the street*

However, *ir/vir* can, in some contexts, combine with *para* but not with *até*:

(i) the predication denotes a "non-physical" movement event and the PP denotes an entity, instead of a location:

(2) *Carrillo vai {para o/\*até ao} o Benfica*

*Carrillo goes to Benfica*

(ii) the PP has a strict directional interpretation:

(3) *Vai tudo {para o/ \*#até ao} mesmo lado*

*everything goes to the same side*

(iii) the verb occurs in the Progressive:

(4) *Ele está a ir {para a/ ???até à} faculdade*

*He is going to the faculty*

The contribution of these prepositions to the aspectual profile of predications (namely telicity) denoting events of movement poses some theoretical issues.

Examples from written *corpora* of on-line newspapers and EP native speaker's intuitions are the basis of the research. These and other data (e.g. combination with temporal adverbs) suggest that these kind of predications can be analyzed using the notion of *path scale*. Thus, we agree e.g. with Rappaport Hovav & Levin (2010) in that path scales associated

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\*Intervenant

<sup>†</sup>Auteur correspondant: foliveir@netcabo.pt

to movement verbs are underspecified and we propose that prepositions *para* and *até* contribute differently to its specification: providing an ordering relation in the case of *para* and a maximal degree to the path scale in the case of *até* (Leal & Oliveira, 2015).

**Mots-Clés:** Aspect, verbs of motion, prepositions, European Portuguese, scales