6. The Translatory Situation: The MDG Verb (-Root)

In section 3.1 we presented for an underlying translatory structure in Atsugewi that subderivation which led to the appearance in a sentential-verb of the 'FIGURE+MOTIVE-specifying' or 'FM root'. We now introduce a new root-forming subderivation; by its operation a bathic DIRECTIONAL prepositional and a bathic GROUND noun -- both earmarked for participation in this subderivation -- cojoin, onto the conjuction is inserted a non-surface-appearing vadic adverb, the adverb adjoins the bathic MOTIVE verb, and onto the adjunction is inserted a vadic root. This new type of root arising in this manner will be termed a MOTIVE+DIRECTIONAL+GROUND-specifying root, or, abbreviatedly, an MDG root.

A sentential-verb with an MDG root, like one with an FM root, may be autic, causative, effective, or adventive and contains a prefix which may be F, G, FC or BC. When its prefix is one of the latter three, the sentential-verb, it can be seen, contains no specification for FIGURE other than that provided by the inflectional affix-set. Whereas the FM root had to be followed in the sentential-verb by a DG suffix, the MDG root does not have to be, and, in fact, most often is not, so followed. When one does appear, a DG suffix provides a specification of the DIRECTIONAL and GROUND which is concurrent with and independent of that provided by the MDG root.

For a concrete illustration, the underlying translatory structure in (218), which contains bathic DIRECTIONAL and GROUND forms earmarked (as indicated by the subscript '$$r$$' for participation in the MDG root subderivation and concurrently forms earmarked (as indicated by the
subscript 's' for participation in the DG suffix subderivation, derives into the MDG root-containing sentential-verb in (219), which for clarity is shown with most insertions delayed until this stage.*

*In this sentential-verb the inflectional affix-set, which gives 'I' as subject, arises by the same PART-WHOLE transformation described for English in the footnote to (205b).

(218)

(219)
The derived meaning of the MDG root appearing in (219) may be represented by three alternative formulations:

(220) -spaq-
(a) '(for something) to move into mud'
(b) '(for something) to move-amud'
(c) '(for something) to enmud'

The whole sentential-verb, i.e.,

(221) /s- *w- ma- spaq- tip -u.m -a/ [sma·spaqt³pu·ma],

may be literally translated as

(222a) 'my foot moved into mud down into a pit-in-the-ground',

I with my foot

may be renderedly translated as

(222b) '(I)-foot-enmuddled-apit'

and has as one casual translation

(222c) 'I stepped into a deep mud-hole'.

In section 15 of Part III appear examples for this and one other MDG root.

Homologous with Atugewi MDG roots are a number of English 'MDG verbs', e.g., box, the derived MDG meaning of which may be represented autically as in (223):

(223) to box
(a) '(for something) to move into a Box'
(b) '(for something) to move-aBox'
(c) '(for something) to enBox'
Unlike Atsugewi, such an English verb must in general appear with an
independent FIGURAL expression, but, again homologously, it need not
be followed by a DG phrase, and if one does appear its specifications
for the DIRECTIONAL and GROUND are independent from those of the verb.
Thus, in the effective sentence in (224), I is the AGENT, the cans is the
FIGURE, boxed is the effected MDG verb, and in parentheses is the
optional, specificationally-independent DG phrase:

(224) I boxed the cans (into number three cardboard cartons).