

Aspects of Aspect

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1. Aspectual classes & lexical aspect

- time schemata, instants, intervals,
- events, actions, occurrences, processes, activities, states, achievements, accomplishments, dispositions, abilities,
- inception, climax, telicity, atelicity, sub-interval property, development, punctual,
- generic, specific, derived states.
- dynamic, homogeneous, change,
- *for x-time / in x-time, finish / not finish v-ing* time adverbials as tests,
- entailments,
- agency, intention, ...

Readings:

- (a) Vendler, Z. 1957. Verbs and times. *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 143–160. (**Sections I and II**)
- (b) Dowty 1979. *Word meaning and Montague grammar*. Reidel, Dordrecht. (**Chapter 2**, begin at 2.2 Aristotle ...)

2. Grammatical and viewpoint aspect

- Morphological distinctions on the verb
- perfective, imperfective, progressive, perfect aspect,
- temporal location (w.r.t. an external reference point) vs temporal manifestation (internal),
- events vs. states,
- initial point, end point, internal stages,
- situation time, topic time,
- (im)proper inclusion, ...

Readings:

- (a) Vendler, Z. 1957. Verbs and Times. *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 143–160. (**Section III**)
- (b) Mourelatos, A. 1978. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 2, pp 415-434. (**Sections I & II**)

- (c) Filip, H. 2003. Prefixes and the delimitation of events. *Journal of Slavic linguistics* 11,1, pp. 55–101.

3. Action and events

- agency, intention, causation, change of state
- (variable) adicity, n-place predicates,
- asymmetric entailment
- existential quantification

Readings:

- (a) Davidson, D. 1967. The logical form of action sentences. In *Essays on action and events*.
- (b) Bach, E. 1986. The algebra of events *Linguistics and Philosophy*, 9, pp. 5-15 **Focus pp 6, 11–15**

4. Genericity, Habituality, iterativity

- mass vs count
- atoms, part vs whole,
- durative, perfective
- cardinality, count quantified, mass quantified,
- count adverbs, frequency adverbs,
- information outside the VP,

Readings:

- (a) Mourelatos, A. 1978. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 2, pp 415–434. (**Sections III**).
- (b) Dowty 1979. **Chapter 2, continued** (Begin at 2.2.6 The problem of indefinite plurals and mass nouns . . .)
- (c) Krifka, M. 1989. Nominal Reference, Temporal Constitution and Quantification in Event Semantics.

5. Aspectual composition: internal objects, thematic roles, change along a scale.

- Properties of VPs,
- external vs internal arguments,
- direct object, oblique,
- thematic roles,
- measure out, delimit, change along a scale,
- incremental themes,
- affectedness, change of state,
- middles, passives, unaccusatives, unergatives,
- locative alternation, instruments, experiencers, resultatives, goal phrases

Readings:

- (a) Tenny, C. 1995. The aspectual interface hypothesis. *Lexical matters*, 24, pp. 1–27.

- (b) Rappaport-Hovav, M. 2008. Lexicalized meaning and the internal temporal structure of events. *Theoretical and crosslinguistic approaches to the semantics of aspect*, 110, pp. 13–42.

6. Aspect and (counter)factualty

- modal meanings for perfective, imperfective?
- entailment relations between perfective and imperfective,
- iterativity vs. habituality
- actuality entailments,
- aspect in conditionals.

Readings:

- (a) Hacquard, V. 2009. "On the interaction of aspect and modal auxiliaries." *Linguistics and philosophy* 32(3), pp. 279-315.
- (b) Boneh, N & E. Doron. 2010. *Modal and Temporal Aspects of Habituality*. In M. Rappaport-Hovav, E. Doron and I. Sichel (eds.) *Syntax, Lexical Semantics, and Event Structure*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (c) Halpert, C. and H. Karawani. 2012. "Aspect in counterfactuals from A (rabic) to Z (ulu)." *Proceedings of WCCFL*. Vol. 29.

7. Aspect and evidentiality

- the perfect as a hybrid between tense and aspect (in English)
- the perfect as a modal marker (crosslinguistic evidence)

Readings:

- (a) Izvorski, Roumyana. 1997. The present perfect as an epistemic modal. In *Proceedings of SALT*, volume 7, 222-239.
- (b) Bjorkman, B., C. Halpert, and H. Karawani. 2015. "From times to worlds: the relational unity of perfects and evidentials." Talk given at the perfect variation workshop at NTNU.

Background readings:

1. Smith, C. 1991. *The Parameter of Aspect*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Press.
2. Klein, W. 1994. *Time in Language*. London: Routledge.
3. Kearns, K. 2000. *Semantics*. London: Macmillan. (**Chapters 7-10**)
4. Kratzer, A. 2002. *The event argument and the Semantics of Verbs*. Unpublished manuscript. University of Massachusetts at Amherst. (**Chapters 1-3**)

Further Selected Readings:

1. Landmann, F. 1992. The progressive. *Natural Language Semantics*, 1: 1, pp. 1–32.
2. Singh, M. 1998. On the semantics of perfective aspect. *Natural Language Semantics* 6, pp. 171–199.
3. Iatridou, S., Anagnostopoulou, E., & Izvorski, R. 2003. Observations about the form and meaning of the perfect. *Perfect explorations*, 2, pp. 153–204.
4. Bhatt & Pancheva. 2005. Aspect and Modality. LSA Summer School. Course notes.
5. Guéron, J. 2008. On the difference between telicity and perfectivity. *Lingua* 118 1816–1840.
6. Deo, A. 2015. The semantic and pragmatic underpinnings of grammaticalization paths: The progressive to imperfective shift. *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 8, 14, pp. 1–52.