

A roadmap to the analysis of TAM

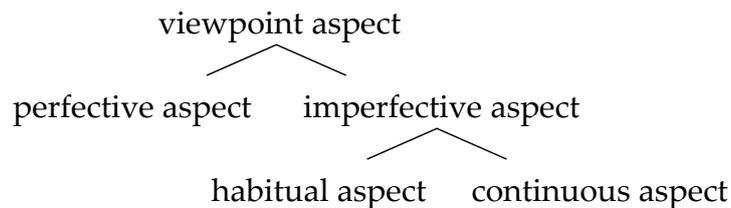
1. Situation aspect (lexical)

- An inherent semantic property of lexical verbs
- Specifies event type:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| State: | _____ | e.g. <i>exist, be, love, know</i> |
| Achievement: | _____] | e.g. <i>win, manage, finish</i> |
| Accomplishment: | [-----] | e.g. <i>draw, construct, make</i> |
| Process: | [----- | e.g. <i>increase, progress, grow</i> |
| Punctual: | [-] | e.g. <i>blink, sneeze, slap</i> |
| Series: | [[-] [-] [-] | e.g. <i>eat, whimper</i> |

2. Viewpoint aspect (grammatical)

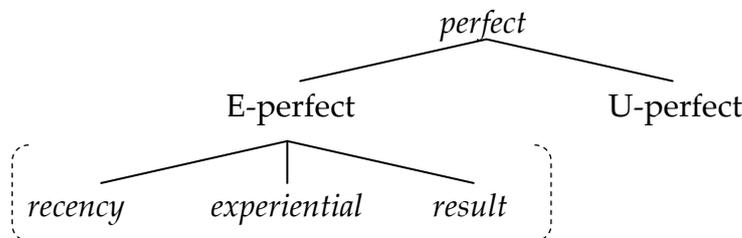
- Transforms situation aspects into other event types
- Progressive (habitual & perfective morphologically unexpressed in English)



| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Perfective: | [-----] ⇨ ○ | <i>single, complete whole</i> | <i>[external view]</i> |
| Continuous: | [-----] ⇨ _____ | <i>incomplete, in progress</i> | <i>[internal view]</i> |
| Habitual: | [[-] [-] [-]] ⇨ --- | <i>incomplete, series</i> | <i>[internal view]</i> |

3. Perfect

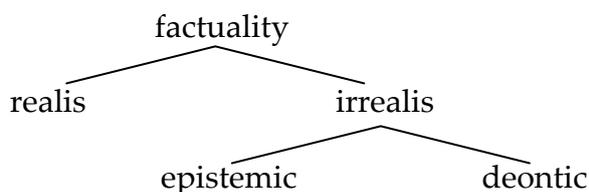
- Past event (E > S) viewed from the now (E > R ◦ S) ⇒ current relevance
- Two types of perfect: E(xistential)-perfect *vs.* U(niversal)-perfect



4. Mood/Modality

- Factuality *vs.* non-factuality, or realis *vs.* irrealis ⇒ possible worlds, alternative timeline

- Modal auxiliaries express different kinds of irrealis modality: deontic (subject-oriented: permission, volition, ability) *vs.* epistemic (likelihood of the truth of a proposition)
- *Can, may, shall, will, could, might, should, would*



5. Tense

- A Tense category is above Modality
- Invisible in English (*do*-support makes Tense visible)
- Closes off TAM-hierarchy: T > Mod > Perf > Asp > V (it is always the first element in a verbal complex that is tensed; note the exceptional behaviour of modals)

Special topics

6. Perfect

- Motivates reference point R (difference simple past *vs.* perfect)
- An aspecto-temporal category (in-between aspect & tense)
- No aspect (\neq perfective!): can combine with another, continuous, aspect (*...has been chilling*)
- No tense: no past (**I've chilled yesterday*); can occur in tenseless contexts (*Jack seems to have lost*)

7. Will

- Oscillates between future tense and modality (epistemic, also deontic-volitional)
- Modal meaning might be primary (cf. diachrony), future tense forced by context

8. Syntax

- TAM-elements (minus arguments & adverbials) are the core of the verb phrase (VP)
- TAM-categories obey a syntactic hierarchy: T > Mod > Perf > Asp > V (e.g. *...may have been sipping...*)
- Affix-hopping: the TAM-affix of a verb X depends on the TAM-auxiliary preceding X

General themes

- How to model TAM-meaning: Reichenbach diagrams
- Form–function fit: direct or indirect?
- Polysemy: homonymy (multiple lexical entries) or contextualism?