

LingPhil PhD course at UiT

HIF-8038 “Aspect across languages and linguistic schools”

Place: UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Time: September 2-4, 2019

Course requirements:

PhD students will be awarded 5 ECTS if they

- read the required scholarly articles prior to the course;
- attend all teaching sessions;
- make a short presentation of their project (ppt & handout are required);
- submit a course paper on the topic discussed with course instructors (8 pages). The course paper will be evaluated as pass/fail.

Any student with an interest in aspect and verbal categories is encouraged to attend. If the student's research does not concern aspect, the topic of his/her presentation should be discussed individually prior to the course.

Course evaluation by students:

The students should evaluate the overall quality of the lectures, relevance of the reading materials, student-instructor interaction and feedback given on their presentations as well as some minor points. All course evaluation reports provided by students will be submitted to the Norwegian Graduate Researcher School in Linguistics and Philology (LingPhil) after the course.

The template for course evaluation by students can be found at <https://www.ntnu.edu/lingphil/course-proposals>

Contact person:

James David McDonald jmc005@post.uit.no

Anna Endresen anna.endresen@uit.no

Course organizers:

Laura A. Janda

Antonio Fábregas

James David McDonald

Anna Endresen

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Modules

There are three modules in this course. Each day introduces a different module.

MODULE 1

Lecture 1: “TAME in a multilingual parallel corpus”

Dr. Östen Dahl (Stockholm University)

This lecture will present work on tense-aspect-mood-evidentiality systems at the Department of Linguistics, Stockholm University, primarily based on a parallel corpus of Bible translations into more than a thousand languages. This is not a formal project but rather a looser collaboration between several scholars, including Bernhard Wälchli, Ljuba Veselinova, Ghazaleh Vafaeian and myself, and with Robert Östling as the computer wizard. So far we have worked on categories/gram types such as perfects, iamitives, progressives, so-called discontinuous pasts, and "not yet" tenses, but in keeping with the general profile of this course I hope to be able to present some results relating to perfectivity and imperfectivity.

Lecture 2: “Aspectual categories across languages: semantic vs. morphological criteria”

Dr. Gillian C. Ramchand (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)

It is implicit in much typological work in aspect that it is possible in the first place to compare for example, the category of the ‘perfect’, ‘perfective’ or ‘imperfective’ across unrelated or distantly related languages. In this module I will examine and deconstruct the kinds of semantic and morphological criteria that could be used to underpin a common definition of the various different traditional aspectual categories. I will show that semantic and morphological criteria do not always create the same, or expected natural classes. I will use English, Scottish Gaelic, Hindi, and a choice of non-Indo-European languages to illustrate the problem. We will look in particular at the distinction between the categories that get the labels perfective and imperfective, and the categories of perfect and progressive. I will argue that we must move away from the labels of the traditional grammar of particular languages if we want to do useful cross-linguistic comparison. I will argue that meaningful comparisons *are* indeed possible but that we instead need to employ a more deconstructed and fine-grained set of criteria that should form the basis of typological comparison.

MODULE 2

Lecture 3: “On the primitives of aspect across languages and their acquisition”

Dr. María J. Arche (University of Greenwich)

The lecture will focus on the cross-linguistic variation of the semantics-morphology mapping of aspect and the consequences it has for acquisition, specifically, for second language acquisition. The lecture will discuss the formalization of the syntax-

semantics of aspect within generative grammar and what its varying forms across languages (including its lack thereof) mean regarding the properties of the category. The specific cases to be examined are the imperfect and the perfective in the past, which exhibit variation in the interpretations of their forms, and the acquisition of the Spanish imperfect by native speakers of a language where the semantics-morphology correspondences are different (English). Students are encouraged to bring data and questions about the language they are studying to the classes and tutorials.

Lecture 4: “(Im)perfectivity across languages and theories”

Dr. Antonio Fábregas (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)

Dr. Laura A. Janda (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)

Dr. Antonio Fábregas and Dr. Laura A. Janda will present their recent study of aspectual differences between Spanish and Russian with particular focus on imperfective aspect. The lecture will discuss different notions of imperfectivity cross-linguistically, and, specifically, the role of the durative component in defining a viewpoint aspect and how boundedness is grammaticalized in different languages. In this joint lecture, Fábregas and Janda will offer two alternative accounts (cognitive and generative) of the same data on Spanish and Russian aspectual distinctions.

MODULE 3

Lecture 5: “The interface of lexical semantics / clause structure and aspect”

Dr. Mila Dimitrova Vulchanova (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

This lecture will address issues of the interface between the lexical specification of verbs and the level of morpho-syntactic structure and verbal aspect. The main claim is that the properties of constructions are largely predictable from the semantic properties of the head verb. This claim also extends to predictions concerning the aspectual properties of constructions. The languages on which this study is based include Germanic (English, Norwegian and German) and Slavic (Bulgarian and Russian). The lecture will also address recent empirical and experimental evidence from both L1 and L2.

Lecture 6: “A Cognitive Account of Statements of Fact in the Slavic East-West Aspect Division”

Dr. Stephen M. Dickey (University of Kansas)

This lecture presents a descriptive and theoretical analysis of differences in the aspectual coding of statements of fact across Slavic languages. The synchronic analysis focuses on a uniqueness condition on the usage of the perfective aspect in East Slavic and (to a somewhat lesser extent) Bulgarian, and the corresponding usage of the imperfective aspect to cancel the pragmatic effects of the uniqueness condition in those languages. A diachronic analysis then traces the development of the imperfective aspect in statements of fact beyond usage based on the processual meaning of imperfective verbs in East Slavic and Bulgarian, contrasting East Slavic as

the epicenter of this development with all other branches of Slavic, where other developments took place that have hindered the need for the imperfective aspect to be employed in statements of fact.

Reading list

All registered applicants receive a link to an on-line page where all readings can be downloaded:

<https://sites.google.com/view/aspect-across/home>

The reading assignment is to read all required readings and at least four articles from the list of recommended readings (350 pp in total).

Required readings

1. Dahl, Östen (2014). "The perfect map: Investigating the cross-linguistic distribution of TAME categories in a parallel corpus". In Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Bernhard Wälchli (eds.) *Aggregating dialectology, typology, and register analysis: Linguistic variation in text and speech*. Berlin: De Gruyter. 268–289.
2. Dickey, Stephen M. (2015) "Parameters of Slavic Aspect Reconsidered: The East-West Aspect Division from a Diachronic Perspective." In: Miriam Schragar, et al., (eds.) *Studies in Accentology and Slavic Linguistics in Honor of Ronald F. Feldstein*. Bloomington: Slavica, 29–45.
3. Dimitrova-Vulchanova, Mila (2012). "Voice." In Binnick, R. I. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Tense and Aspect*. Oxford University Press. 937-959.
4. Domínguez, Laura, María J. Arche, and Florence Myles (2017). "Spanish imperfect revisited: Exploring L1 influence in the reassembly of imperfective features onto new L2 forms." *Second Language Research*. SAGE Publications. 431-457.
5. Janda, Laura A. (2004). "A metaphor in search of a source domain: the categories of Slavic aspect". *Cognitive Linguistics*, 15(4), 471-527.
6. Janda, Laura A. (2015). "Tense Aspect Mood". In Dąbrowska, Ewa & Dagmar Divjak (eds.). *Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics* (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science 39). Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter Mouton, 616-634.
7. Janda, Laura A. & Antonio Fábregas (Forthcoming in 2019). "Seeing from without, seeing from within: aspectual differences between Spanish and Russian." Accepted for publication in *Cognitive Linguistics*.

8. Ramchand, Gillian C. (2018). "The Participle, the Perfect, and the Spatiotemporal Domain" Ch.4. In *Situations and syntactic structures: Rethinking auxiliaries and order in English*. Cambridge, MIT Press. 103-132.

Recommended readings

1. Arche, María J. (2014). "The construction of viewpoint aspect: The imperfective revisited." *Natural language and linguistic theory* 32. Springer Netherlands. 791-831.
2. Dahl, Östen and Bernhard Wälchli (2016). "Perfects and iamitives." *Letras de Hoje* 51(3), 325-348.
3. Dickey, Stephen M. (2018). Thoughts on the "Typology of Slavic aspect." *Russian Linguistics* 42, 69-103.
4. Dimitrova-Vulchanova, Mila (2016). "On two types of result: Resultatives revisited." In Guentcheva, Zlatka (ed.) *Aspectuality and temporality: descriptive and theoretical issues*. Studies in Language Companion Series, 172. John Benjamins. 563-596.
5. Dimitrova-Vulchanova, Mila (1999). "Aspect Construal – the facts" (Ch.1) In *Verb semantics, diathesis and aspect*. LINCOS Studies in Theoretical Linguistics 08. 1-41.
6. Eckhoff Hanne M. & Laura A. Janda & Olga Lyashevskaya (2017). "Predicting Russian aspect by frequency across genres". *Slavic and East European Journal* 64(1), 844-875.
7. Fábregas, Antonio and Rafael Marín (2017). "On non-dynamic eventive verbs in Spanish." *Linguistics* 55(3), 451-488.
8. Ramchand, Gillian C. (2008). "Perfectivity as aspectual definiteness: Time and the event in Russian." *Lingua* 118(11). *Special Issue on Tense and Aspect*. 1690-1715.