

Telic marking in Hungarian

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It is commonly assumed in the literature that the telicity of verbal predicates is the outcome of the cumulative effects of various components of the discourse (e.g. the verb heading the predicate, its arguments including scalar arguments (see Hay et al. 1999, Kennedy and McNally 2005, and Kennedy and Levin 2008), and contextual clues), which can all contribute some meaning component that is necessary to describe a situation that has an inherent endpoint. In this talk I show that when examined from a cross-linguistic perspective, the elements that one must consider in the calculation of telicity differ as far as their aspectual "weight" is concerned. Specifically, I present arguments for the idea that in Hungarian we can identify specific discourse components such as certain verbal particles and resultative XPs that are directly responsible for the telicity of a given predicate (hence the term 'telic marking') by virtue of placing a bound on the denoted event, something that is not observable in English, for instance. In the latter, I show that verbal particles and resultative XPs provide the scale of the predicate (and not the event) with a bound and thus they are unable to guarantee telicity by themselves.

In my analysis, which is based on Kardos (2012), I take a model-theoretic approach to the characterization of telicity in Hungarian. More specifically, I adopt Beavers's (2012) figure-path relations model, which is an extension of Krifka's (1998) theory of aspect. I first discuss this model, the main innovation of which lies in the fact that it assumes mutually-constraining ternary homomorphic relations between the part structure of two incremental theme arguments (i.e. the figure, which undergoes some kind of change, and the path traversed during the event) and the part structure of the event argument and that it provides a novel definition of telicity, which is less strict than the one proposed by Krifka (1998). After a brief description of the theoretical background, I use mainly degree achievements like *fel-melegszik* 'PRT-warm' and *le-hűl* 'PRT-cool' to illustrate event bounding as carried out by, for instance, verbal particles in Hungarian. I further assume that event-bounding constituents introduce event maximalization (cf. Filip and Rothstein 2006 and Filip 2008) into the predicate, thereby imposing specific constraints on the interpretive properties of the arguments that determine the aspectual make-up of the predicate. Since event maximalization has the crucial effect that the verbal predicate has quantized reference, it follows that the telic interpretation of such predicates arises due to a stronger notion (i.e. quantized reference) than the telic interpretation of the English counterparts of these predicates, where quantized reference is a sufficient but not necessary condition for telicity to arise.

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