# Cognitive Aspect and the Narrativity of Texts

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# 1. Sentence Aspect

- Morphological Aspect
- Lexical Aspect
- Inner Aspect
- Outer Aspect

# 1.1. Morphological Aspect

- **Perfective**

    Jo *vaig caminar*

    'I walked'


- **Imperfective**

    Jo *caminava*

    'I walked' or 'I was walking'

# 1.2. Lexical Aspect

Vendler's verb classes (1957/1967):

- **State**: *desire, love, want, dominate, hate.*
- **Activity**: *run (around, all over), walk (and walk), swim (along, past), push (a cart).*
- **Achievement**: *recognize, find, win (the race), start, stop, resume, be born, die.*
- **Accomplishment**: *run-a-mile, paint-a-picture, grow up, recover from illness.*

# 1.3. Inner Aspect

Verkuyl's situational types (1989, 1993):

- **State**:
  - She hated that sonata / sonatas
  - Soldiers hated that sonata

- **Process**:
  - She played sonatas
  - Soldiers played that sonata

- **Event**:
  - She played that sonata

# 1.4. Outer Aspect (1)

- **Predicate Adjuncts**
    - El president avança *cap al micro.*

        'The president is advancing towards the mike'

    - El president avança *fins al micro.*

        'The president advances /*is advancing up to the mike'

    - El president avança *cap al micro* i es dirigeix al públic.

        'The president advances /*is advancing towards the mike and speaks to the public'

# 1.4. Outer Aspect (2)

- **Sentence Adjuncts**
  - *En/a l'arribar sempre a les deu*, el van amonestar.

    '*Because (s)he always arrived at ten*, they reproved him' (Rigau 1998:102)
  - *En ser intel·ligent*, va estudiar per físic.

    '*Because he was intelligent*, he studied to be a phisicist' (Rigau 1998:103)
  - *Fins ara* tenen una temporada molt negativa.

    '*So far* they have [have had / are having] a very bad season'

# 1.5. Common ground (1)

| Discreteness (Situation as a point) | <ul><li>perfectivity</li><li>telicity</li><li>boundedness</li><li>quantifiability</li></ul> |
|---|---|
| Non-discreteness (Situation as a line) | <ul><li>imperfectivity</li><li>atelicity</li><li>unboundedness</li><li>unquantifiability</li></ul> |

# 1.5. Common ground (2)

| Movement | <ul><li>Dinamicity</li><li>Process</li></ul> |
|---|---|
| No movement | <ul><li>Non-dinamicity</li><li>Non-process</li></ul> |

# 1.5. Common ground (3)

- Change of state
- Duration
- Agentivity
- Causativity

# 1.6. Cognitive Aspect

|  | Movement | No movement |
|---|---|---|
| Discreteness | EVENT | DISCRETE STATE |
| Non-discreteness | ACTIVITY | NON-DISCRETE STATE |

- **Event**
  - Tres, dos, u... Ja! *Començà la carrera.*

    'Three, two, one... Go! *The race begins*'
- **Activity**
  - Arribeu a temps: *la pel·lícula està començant.*

    'You are right on time: *the movie is just starting* (lit. *is starting*)'
- **Discrete State**
  - *Aquesta pel·lícula m'agrada.*

    'I like this movie'
- **Non-discrete State**
  - *Aquesta pel·lícula m'està agradant.*

    'I like (lit. I am liking) this movie'

# 2. Discourse Aspect

- Discourse tracking
- Representation of eventualities

# 2.1. Discourse tracking (1)

- **Foreground/background**

  **El meu pare el van ferir a la guerra**. O sigui era del cos de sanitat... Portava un ferit a l'esquena... **Li va caure un obús a darrere**... Quan ell ja, diguem... Evacuava aquell ferit.

  '**My father was injured in the war**. That is, he was in the medical corps... He was carrying an injured man on his back... **A shell fell right behind him**... When he already, let's say... He was evacuating that injured man'

  (CUB-COR, Interview)

# 2.1. Discourse tracking (2)

- **Space accessibility**

  – Juan vio a María. *Sonreía.*
  'Juan saw Maria. She was smiling'

  – Juan vio a María. *Sonrió.*
  'Juan saw Maria. He smiled'

  (Doiz-Bienzobas, 2002: 23)

# 2.1. Discourse tracking (3)

- **Event anaphora**

  – No one believed that Mary heard [that dog's loud barking]$_i$. It$_i$ lasted for hours.

  – *If [a dog's loud barking]$_i$ had woken Mary up, then I would have been mad. It$_i$ lasted for hours.

  (Asher 1993: 232)

# 2.2. Representation of Eventualities

- Situations mental image
- Discourse units
- Grounding
- Narrativity

# 2.3. Narrativity (1)

Descriptive text                                          Narrative text
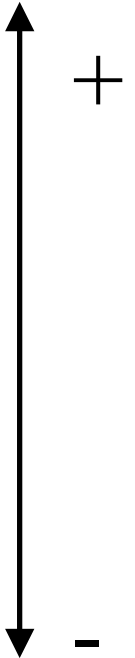
**- narrative**                                          **+ narrative**

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*Text 1        Text 2            Text 3        Text4        Text 5*

# 2.3. Narrativity (2)

| Event | Narration | |
|---|---|---|
| **Activity** | **Exposition of Actions** | + |
| **Non-discrete State** | **Exposition of States** | |
| **Discrete State** | **Description** | – |

## 2.3. Narrativity (3)

| Subject | Text 1 | Text 2 | Text 3 | Text 4 | Text 5 |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| B | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| C | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| D | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| E | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| F | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

See texts 1 to 5 in your handout

## 2.4. Evidence from multimodal discourse (1)

Hypotheses about the multimodal representation of eventualities (Alturo and Payrató 2002)


Hypothesis 1:

Both gesture and speech show the discrete and the non-discrete conceptualizacion of world entities.

Hypothesis 2:

Gestures show entities and their properties, not relations (functions) between those entities.