
Change of state verbs and aspect in Bulgarian

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Unlike English CoS predicates (achievements, accomplishments) whose aspectual properties (esp. telicity) may vary depending on the properties of their arguments (telic when the object is a quantized DP, atelic otherwise, cf. e.g. Beavers 2013), the interpretation of Bulgarian CoS verbs does not hinge upon the referential properties of the argument; instead, they are *restricted* to quantized DPs, cf. (1b)-(1c). In this talk, I will present evidence pointing towards a systematic morphological encoding of aspectual properties of Bulgarian verbs such as telicity, punctuality, event maximality and culmination. I argue more specifically that in Bulgarian, achievements and accomplishments have a specially designated morphology, where (i) a telicizing prefix “turns” a corresponding bare imperfective verb denoting a state or activity into an achievement (1a)-(1b), and (ii) a productive morphological operation called secondary imperfectivization realized by means of suffixation “turns” prefixed perfective verbs with achievement interpretation into so-called secondary imperfective verbs with accomplishment interpretation, cf. (1c). The corresponding bare imperfective verbs are not subject to the above restriction and are interpreted as activities or states independently of the nature of the object, cf. (1a). I take this evidence to suggest that verbal prefixation and secondary imperfectivization in Bulgarian can be seen as morphological mechanisms that are used to systematically modify the aspectual meaning of a verbal base.

(1) a. Marija **pi** edna čaša vino/vinoto/vino ?za/v prodáženie na edin čas. *quantized or non-quantized, atelic, activity*
b. Marija **izpi** edna čaša vino/vinoto/*vino za/?v prodáženie na edin čas. *quantized, telic, achievement*
c. Marija **izpiva** edna čaša vino/vinoto/*vino za/?v prodáženie na edin čas. *quantized, telic, accomplishment*
≈ ‘Mary drank a glass of wine/the wine/wine in/for an hour.’

References: • Beavers, J. (2013). Aspectual classes and scales of change. *Linguistics* 51(4), 681–706.