

## The representation of aspect

This class will look at the relationship between two types of aspect: viewpoint aspect (also known as *grammatical* or *outer* aspect) and Aktionsart (also known as *lexical* or *inner* aspect). These categories are both interpretively and functionally distinct: Aktionsart involves a predicate's intrinsic temporal properties, and is typically structurally represented within the argument structural domain of the clause, while viewpoint aspect is concerned with the temporal perspective taken on a predicate (i.e. imperfective vs. perfective) and is represented higher, typically immediately below tense.

At the same time, however, the two types of aspect interact in different ways: telic predicates may prefer perfective inflection, stative predicates may require imperfective or fail to inflect for viewpoint aspect at all. Both types of aspect also interact with argument licensing in parallel ways, for example the association of oblique object case with both non-telic interpretations (as in Estonian, Finnish), and imperfective aspect (as in Georgian, Samoan).

We will review properties of both these kinds of interactions between viewpoint aspect and aktionsart, both how they are consistent across languages and how they differ. We will also explore the extent to which the scope of variation can be accounted for in terms of both differences in which aspectual contrasts are encoded in a particular language (e.g. whether telicity is represented in the syntax), and in how those contrasts are represented (e.g. whether one or the other member of an opposition is specified or ``marked").