

TELIC VERBS IN ALBANIAN

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Abstract

In this article I introduce and analyze the syntactic behaviour (compatibility and restrictions) of transformative and resultative verbs in standard Albanian, according to Aktionsart. The Aktionsart is a system of classification of verbs into verbal classes morphologically distinct from each other, in which at the basic meaning of the verb are added different values of space, quality, etc. The resultatives and transformatives in Albanian have comparable action meaning and syntactic behavior, such as to justify their inclusion in the class of telic verbs. A telic verb is that one which presents an action or event as being completed in some manner. On the other hand, these two subclasses of telics are also characterized on the basis of a series of distinctive elements that lead us to lay a certain distinction between them. A resultative verb is a form that expresses that something or someone has undergone a change in state as the result of the completion of an event. On the other side a transformative verbs express an instant action that changes the state of the subject. Their opposition is evident mainly in reference to the durativity: the transformatives are not durative and resultatives are durative. The distinction will be illustrated by considering these classes from two points of view: 1. The meaning of transformative and resultative verbal actions in Albanian language will be regarded in relation to their degree of agreement with the adverbs and adverbial phrases of time; 2. The actional meanings of the telic subclasses will be compared with the tenses of the past. By using the categories and procedures of textual linguistics I focus on the semantic and syntactic features of some groups of verbs.

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