
LSA.130
The Syntax and Semantics of Aspect
Summer 2005, 32-155, MW 1.00-2.40

Rajesh Bhatt
bhatt@linguist.umass.edu

Roumyana Pancheva
pancheva@usc.edu

Valentine Hacquard
hacquard@mit.edu

32-D860, Office Hours: by appointment

Topics:

This course provides an introduction to the syntax and semantics of aspect from a crosslinguistic perspective. We examine categories such as situation aspect ('inner' aspect, aktionsart), viewpoint aspect ('outer' aspect), and the perfect. Our focus will be on questions concerning the grammatical expression of aspectual distinctions, the role played by argument structure in aspectual composition, and the relationship between aspect and modality.

Week 1: An overview of aktionsart and viewpoint aspect, with a focus on aspectual composition and the syntactic representation of telicity.

Week 2: The Perfect - its semantics and syntactic structure, interactions with temporal adverbials and viewpoint aspect, the universal-existential debate, temporal existentials

Week 3: Aspect and Modality: the imperfective as a modal operator - approaches to the imperfective paradox, the habitual-counterfactual connection, aspect-induced actuality entailments, the perfect of evidentiality