

Abstract (på engelska):

This thesis aims to investigate what the verbal aspect as a grammatical verb category entails, how it is formed and expressed in Slavic languages, namely in Czech and Ukrainian. In addition to verbal aspect, aktionsart is also examined. Initially, the focus is on the definition of the most relevant terms, while specific examples of aktionsart and usage of perfective and imperfective aspect are emphasized later in the study. In addition, the various aspectual means available in languages that lack aspect as a grammatical category are analyzed, with Swedish as an example. Special attention is given to phrasal verbs as an aspect marker.

Furthermore, the thesis contains a corpus-driven research that focuses on the translation of Czech and Ukrainian perfective verbs into Swedish (27 verbs in total) and aims to see to what extent verbal particles are used when translating perfective aspect. The analysis shows that phrasal verbs are a relatively frequent means to translate perfective aspect, even though there seems to be a high degree of a translator's subjective judgement about whether or not phrasal verbs are appropriate in certain situations. Nevertheless, it is clear that phrasal verbs contribute to a more bounded and thus perfective meaning. The exact number of the results with phrasal verbs and an overview of all phrasal verbs are presented in a table in the Appendix.

Finally, a comparison of verbal aspect in Czech and Ukrainian is made together with an analysis of the most common Swedish verbal particles and the similarities between the latter and the Czech and Ukrainian perfective affixes. There appear to be a few differences in the usage of perfective and imperfective aspect in Czech and Ukrainian as well as a slight discrepancy in the recurrence of certain types of aktionsart. At the same time, it is clear that there are analogies between some Swedish particles and Slavic affixes, especially in particular types of aktionsart, in situations with a clearly spatial meaning and a number of other situations with comparable semantics.

Keywords:

perfective and imperfective aspect, aktionsart, temporality, Swedish, Ukrainian, Czech, Swedish verbal particles, phrasal verbs, translation