

This dissertation aims to provide a survey of periphrastic aspectual constructions in contemporary European Portuguese. The research was initially conducted on periphrastic constructions in the two main Portuguese corpuses, the CETEMPúblico and the Corpus do Portugus, and was then followed by a semantic analysis.

The main problem, according to the author, consists in the fundamentally different conceptions of aspect and the nature of verbal action in Czech and Portuguese. Given that the grammatical category of aspect has different contents in Czech and Portuguese, it is preferable to use the term aspectuality as a three-layer system of interacting categories of aspect, telicity, and the nature of verbal action. If the traditional Slavic aspect is to be expressed in Portuguese by other means at various levels of construction, Czech lacks a way to render the variety of meanings of Portuguese periphrastic constructions that represent the different categories of the nature of verbal action (Aktionsart). In the dissertation, aspectuality in Portuguese is considered a system of mutually correlated categories – aspect, the nature of verbal action, and the lexical semantics of the verb.

In Portuguese, the category of the nature of verbal action employs specific means that can be separated from morphological means rendering aspect (the perfectivity–imperfectivity opposition). Periphrastic constructions are the most frequent expressive means. From the perspective of function, one may distinguish verbal periphrases as constructions expressing time, modality, and aspect. The dissertation deals only with aspectual periphrases (phasic aspect or phasic meaning).

The author here understands periphrastic constructions as being combinations of a verb and a nonfinite verb form or combinations of a verb and a noun.