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TOWARDS AN ANALYSIS OF THE FEATURES BUILDING UP ASPECTUAL CLASSIFICATIONS

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This paper offers a summary of the most important features underpinning the definition of the major aspectual classes as described in accounts in the spirit of Vendler [1957]. We contrast two classification schemes, one belonging to the Western [Van Valin and Lapolla 1997], one to the Slavic [Paducheva 1996; 2004] tradition, which make evident some major resemblances and distinctions among various accounts as a preliminary phase to their in-depth analysis.

The traditional Vendlerean distinction recognises four aspectual classes based on the distribution of temporal modifiers, the use of tenses, etc.: *states, activities, accomplishments* and *achievements.* The aspectual notions underlying this classification are usually defined as: stativity vs. dynamicity, which differentiates *states* from *activities*, *achievements* and *accomplishments*; the nature of the unfolding of the event over time (duration vs. punctuality), which distinguishes *activities, states* and *accomplishments* from the punctual *achievements*; the presence or lack of an inherent endpoint or telos (telicity) at which a result state comes about, differentiating *achievements* and *accomplishments* from *activities* and *states*.

Below we present Vendler's aspectual classes as adopted and defined by Van Valin and Lapolla [1997] and Paducheva [1996] with the correspondences between them. Both classifications recognise the features dynamicity/stativity, telicity [Van Valin and Lapolla 1997] / terminativity (also boundedness) [Paducheva 1996], i.e. the presence or lack of an inherent terminal point. In addition, Paducheva integrates into the description grammatical aspect.

One major difference between Paducheva and Vendler / Van Valin and Lapolla is the interpretation of *achievements*. While in the Western tradition *achievements* are understood to be instantaneous, Paducheva (while referring instantaneous verbs to the same class) points out that the distinction between telic/bounded verbs (*предельные*) and instantaneous verbs (*моментальные*) cannot be equated with the distinction between *accomplishments (предельные действия* [Paducheva 2004: 31]) and *achievements* [Paducheva 2004: 39]: *achievements* would cover not only instantaneous verbs such as *отказаться (give up), прекратить (terminate)*, but, among others, *result-oriented actions*, such as *найти (find)*. The verbs belonging to the latter class involve the unfolding of a preceding activity whose result is the *result-oriented action* verb, e.g. *найти (find) — искать (search)* [Paducheva 2004: 37]; with instantaneous verbs the preceding activity does not have duration. This is contra Paducheva [2009], where *achievements* are referred to as '*моментальные*', but it does give a glimpse at the diverse features defining the class, especially in cross-linguistic perspective.

Following the classical philosophical tradition, Vendler formulated the four classes not taking into account *agentivity* as a categorial feature.

To account for this feature, in addition to the criteria described above, Van Valin and Lapolla introduce a distinction between spontaneous and induced states of affairs. Each of the aspectual classes in Table 1 is defined as occurring spontaneously, and each of them has a causative correspondence: e.g. *The hoop rolls > The girl rolls the hoop; The glass cracked > Someone cracked the glass,* etc. This move has allowed the definition of *causativity* to be made independently of aspectual features, thus breaking with the equation between *causatives* and some aspectual classes, such as *accomplishments*.

Van Valin and Lapolla [1997: 93]	Paducheva [1996: 107]	Paducheva [2009]
states non-dynamic; unbounded, lacking an inherent terminal point; temporal duration [+static; –telic; –punctual]	**temporally non-located properties and relations** (*вневременные свойства/соотношения*) static **contain / вмещать (impf.)**	неагентивные
	inherent states (*состояния ингерентные*) static **hurt / болеть (impf.)**	
activities dynamic; unbounded, lacking an inherent terminal point; temporal duration [–static; –telic; –punctual]	**activities** (*деятельности*) dynamic; controllable; non-terminative **walk / гулять (impf.)**	агентивные
	unbounded processes (*процессы непредельные*) dynamic; non-controllable; non-terminative **boil / кипеть (impf.)**	неагентивные
accomplishments dynamic; bounded, having an inherent terminal point; having temporal duration [–static; +telic; –punctual]	**actions proper** (*действия обычные*) dynamic; controllable; terminative **open / открыть (pf.)**	агентивные
	bounded processes (*процессы предельные*) dynamic; non-controllable; terminative **melt / растаять (pf.)**	неагентивные

Paducheva proposes a similar extension with respect to *agentivity/non-agentivity (агентивность, контролируемость)*, by making explicit the fact that, as defined, Vendler's aspectual classes of *activities*, *accomplishments* and *achievements* cover *agentive (controllable)* and *non-agentive (non-controllable)* dynamic situations (Table 1). Thus, for instance, within Vendler's activities, a finer distinction is made between *activities* proper and *uncontrollable processes*, and so forth. An important issue that merits further investigation is what the correspondences and differences between *causativity* and *agentivity* as described by these and other authors are, especially with respect to their interaction with the aspectual classes.

The analysis of distinctive features in and across existing aspectual classifications will serve as a point of departure in a subsequent in-depth analysis aimed at the linguistic modelling of Bulgarian activity predicates in contrast with other languages.

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