

Aspect as eventuality centering: English & Polish

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Abstract

Bittner (2012, Ch. 4) proposes the following centering universals about *grammatical tense* (TNS), *grammatical aspect* (ASP), *grammatical mood* (MOOD), and *grammatical person* (PRN), jointly referred to as *TAMP*.

Figure 1 Centering TAMP-universals

- (T) TNS fills, or pushes down, the verb's time argument with a dref anchored to a top-ranked time and/or event ($\top\tau, \perp\tau, \top\varepsilon, \perp\varepsilon$).
- (A) ASP fills, or pushes down, the verb's eventuality argument with a dref anchored to a top-ranked state and/or event ($\top\sigma, \perp\sigma, \top\varepsilon, \perp\varepsilon$).
- (M) MOOD fills, or pushes down, the verb's world argument with a dref anchored to a top-ranked world and/or event ($\top\omega, \perp\omega, \top\varepsilon, \perp\varepsilon$).
- (P) PRN fills the verb's subject or object argument with a dref anchored to a top-ranked individual and/or event ($\top\delta, \perp\delta, \top\varepsilon, \perp\varepsilon$).

For any *TAMP*-category X , a language is classified as X -*prominent* iff it has argument-filling X -markers or X -features. These always form a grammatical paradigm, because λ -bound arguments must be saturated and can only be saturated once. In Ch. 2–3, evidence was presented that Mandarin, Kalaallisut, and Polish are all *P-prominent* (subject and/or object arguments are filled by PRN features in Mandarin, $\top(\cdot), \perp(\cdot), (\cdot)_{\top}, (\cdot)_{\perp}$, PRN inflections in Kalaallisut and Polish, -3SG $_{\top},$ -3SG $_{\perp}, \dots$), whereas English is not. Moreover, Polish and English are *T-prominent* (reference time arguments filled by TNS inflections or auxiliaries, -PRS $_{\top\mathcal{E}},$ -PST $_{\top\varepsilon, \perp\varepsilon}, \dots$), whereas Mandarin and Kalaallisut are not. Chapter 4 extends the story to grammatical aspect. Today, we present evidence that Polish is *A-prominent* (eventuality arg's filled by ASP features $\setminus I_{\perp\varepsilon}, \setminus P_{\perp\varepsilon}$), whereas English is not. Next time, we argue that Mandarin too is *A-prominent* (arg-filling ASP-features E, E^1, S, S^1).

Outline

1. Background: Algebra of things and eventualities
2. TNS-based temporality in English
3. Centering *TAMP*-universals
4. Aspectual pairing in Polish
5. *TA*-based temporality in Polish
6. Conclusions and conjectures

1 BACKGROUND: ALGEBRA OF THINGS & EVENTUALITIES

Figure 2. Bach 1986 event algebra: $\langle \mathcal{D}_{\varepsilon^+} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\varepsilon^-}, \sqsubseteq, \nabla, \blacktriangle, \dots \rangle$

INPUT	OPERATION	OUTPUT	GRAPHIC
event e			●●●
event e	$\nabla e = f$	ground $e =$ process f	-----
event e	$\blacktriangle e = e'$	packaged $e =$ atomic event e'	●●●●

(1) a. *Al is^s working^e.* $s \sqsubseteq \nabla e$
 b. *Al put some^y apple^x in the salad.* $y \sqsubseteq \nabla x$

(2) a. *Al did a bit^{e'} of {work^e | *leaving^e}.* $e' = \blacktriangle e$
 b. *Al ate a portion^{x'} of {nuts^x | *a nut^x}.* $x' = \blacktriangle x$

Figure 3. Moens & Steedman 1988 aspectual algebra: $\langle \mathcal{D}_{\varepsilon} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\pi} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\sigma}, \triangleright, \blacktriangleleft, \dots \rangle$

INPUT	OPERATION	OUTPUT	GRAPHIC
point e			●
point e	$\triangleright e = s$	consequent state s	_____
point e	$\blacktriangleleft e = f$	preparatory process f	-----

(3) i. *Al went (PST^{t1} go^{e1}) into a florist shop.* *Narration* (i–ii)
 ii. *He bought (PST^{t1} buy^{e2}) a bunch of roses.* $\vartheta e_2 \sqsubseteq t_2 \sqsubseteq \vartheta^{\triangleright} e_1$

(4) i. *Al went (PST^{t1} go^{e1}) into a florist shop.* *Explanation* (i–ii)
 ii. *He promised (PST^{t1} promise^{e2}) Beth to buy some roses.* $\vartheta e_2 \sqsubseteq t_2 \sqsubseteq \vartheta^{\blacktriangleleft} e_1$

Figure 4. Bittner 2012 aspectual algebra: $\langle \mathcal{D}_{\varepsilon} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\sigma}, \sqsubseteq, \triangleright, \blacktriangleleft, \nabla, \blacktriangle, \blacktriangleright, \dots \rangle$
 [Terminology: *point* = 1-atom event, *process* = 2⁺-atom event (causal chain)]

INPUT	OPERATION	OUTPUT	GRAPHIC
point e			●
point e	$\triangleright e = s$	consequent state s	_____
point e	$\blacktriangleleft e = e'$	preparatory process e'	●●●●
process e'	$\nabla e' = s'$	state-equivalent s'	_____
process e'	$\blacktriangle e' = e''$	point-equivalent e''	●●●●
state s'	$\blacktriangleright s' = e'''$	start-point e'''	●
state s'	$\blacktriangleleft s' = e$	culmination-point e	●

(5) i. *Al played chess (PST play.chess^{e1}) yesterday.*
 ii. *He won (PST win^{e1} e²).* $e_2 = \blacktriangleleft \nabla e_1$

(6) *Al began to sing (PST begin^{e2} INF sing^{e1}).* $e_2 = \blacktriangleright \nabla e_1$

2 TNS-BASED TEMPORALITY IN ENGLISH

ABBREVIATIONS: *c*- = culminating/culmination, *prog* = progress, *con* = consequent

- (7) aspectual type & anaphoric TNS_e [M&S] asp-type a v^a rel. TNS_e rel.
Whenⁱ Al came (PST_eⁱ come^e) to Paris he...
 a. *wrote (PST_eⁱ write^e) a book.* *c*-process *e'* $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta^> e$
 b. *finished (PST_eⁱ finish^e) writing^e his bk.* *c*-point *e'* $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta^> e$
 c. *had (PST_eⁱ have^s) a book in press.* state *s* $\vartheta s = t'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t'$
 d. *was (PST_eⁱ be^s) writing^e a book.* prog-state *s* $\vartheta s = t'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t'$
 e. *was (PST_eⁱ be^s) dying^e.* prog-state *s* $\vartheta s = t'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t'$
 f. *was going (PST_eⁱ be.going^s) to wrt^e a bk.* pre-state *s* $\vartheta s = t'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t'$
 g. *had (PST_eⁱ have^s) just written^e a book.* con-state *s* $\vartheta s = t'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t'$
- (8) asp-type, ASP & anaphoric TNS_e [Smith] asp-type a ASP v^a TNS_e
Whenⁱ Al came (PST_eⁱ come^e) to Paris he ...
 a. *wrote (PST_eⁱ Ø write^e) a book.* *c*-process *e'* $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' = \vartheta^> e$
 b. *finished (PST_eⁱ Ø finish^e) writing^e his bk.* *c*-point *e'* $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' = \vartheta^> e$
 c. *had (PST_eⁱ Ø have^s) a book in press.* state *s* $\vartheta s \circ t'$ $t' = \vartheta e$
 d. *was (PST_eⁱ PRG) writing^e a book.* *c*-process *e'* $\vartheta e' \circ t'$ $t' = \vartheta e$
 e. *was (PST_eⁱ PRG) dying^e.* *c*-point *e'* $t' < \vartheta e'$ $t' = \vartheta e$
 f. *was going to (PST_eⁱ PRE) write^e a bk.* *c*-process *e'* $t' < \vartheta e'$ $t' = \vartheta e$
 g. *had (PST_eⁱ PRF) just written^e a book.* *c*-process *e'* $\vartheta e' < t'$ $t' = \vartheta e$
- (9) asp-type & anaphoric TNS_e (& ASP_e) [Bitt] asp-typ a (ASP_e^s) v^a TNS_e
Whenⁱ Al came (PST_eⁱ come^e) to Paris he...
 a. *wrote (PST_eⁱ write^e) a book.* *c*-proc. *e'* $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta^> e$
 b. *finished (PST_eⁱ finish^e) writing^e his bk.* $e' = \blacktriangledown e''$ $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta^> e$
 b'. *began (PST_eⁱ begin^e) to write^e a book.* $e' = \blacktriangleright e''$ $\vartheta e' \sqsubseteq t'$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta^> e$
 c. *had (PST_eⁱ have^s) a book in press.* state *s* $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta e$
 c'. *was (PST_eⁱ be^s) busy.* state *s* $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta^> e$
 d. *was (PST_eⁱ PRG^s) writing^e a book.* $s \sqsubseteq \nabla e'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta e$
 d'. *?was (PST_eⁱ PRG^s) visiting^e Louvre.* $s \sqsubseteq \nabla e'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta e$
 e. *was (PST_eⁱ PRG^s) dying^e.* $s \sqsubseteq \nabla \blacktriangleleft e'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta e$
 f. *was going to (PST_eⁱ PRE^s) write^e a bk.* $\blacktriangleleft s = \blacktriangle e'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta e$
 g. *had (PST_eⁱ PRF^s) just written^e a book.* $s = \triangleright e'$ $\vartheta e \sqsubseteq t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta s$ $t' \sqsubseteq \vartheta e$

3 CENTERING TAMP-UNIVERSALS

Figure 1. Centering TAMP-universals [Bittner 2012]

- (T) TNS fills, or pushes down, the verb's time argument with a *dref* anchored to a top-ranked time and/or event ($\top \tau, \perp \tau, \top \varepsilon, \perp \varepsilon$).
- (A) ASP fills, or pushes down, the verb's eventuality argument with a *dref* anchored to a top-ranked state and/or event ($\top \sigma, \perp \sigma, \top \varepsilon, \perp \varepsilon$).
- (M) MOOD fills, or pushes down, the verb's world argument with a *dref* anchored to a top-ranked world and/or event ($\top \omega, \perp \omega, \top \varepsilon, \perp \varepsilon$).
- (P) PRN fills the verb's subject or object argument with a *dref* anchored to a top-ranked individual and/or event ($\top \delta, \perp \delta, \top \varepsilon, \perp \varepsilon$).
- For any language *L* and TAMP-category *X*, *L* is *X*-prominent, iff *L* has argument-filling *X*-markers or *X*-features
 - ENGLISH (*T*-prominent)
 - Verbs have an argument slot for a *reference time*, filled by *TNS*-marker (e.g. inflection *-ed* 'PST' or \emptyset 'PRS', auxiliary *will* 'FUT', particle *to* ~ \emptyset 'INF')
 - English *TNS*-markers are *obligatory* & form a *grammatical paradigm* (i.e. set of forms such that one and only is required by the grammar, on pain of *)
 - Eventuality* of Eng. verb is NOT a λ -bound arg. at any point in the derivation. Instead, [*e*...] or [*s*...] is introduced by *event*-verbs (*v^e*) and *state*-verbs (*v^s*), respectively.
 - English *ASP*-markers instantiate *push-down* ASP—i.e. introduce an eventuality of their own (e.g. con-state of PRF_e^s, prog-state of PRG_e^s) on top of evt. *a* of *v^a*.
 - English *ASP*-markers are gramm. *optional* & do *not* form a gramm. paradigm (e.g. PRF and PRG can co-occur: *he has been running* (PRS PRF^s PRG^s run^e))
 - English verbs have λ -bound args. for *subjects* and *objects*, but these are filled *syntactically* (obligatory argument NP's), *not* by PRN-markers or PRN-features
 - POLISH (*TAP*-prominent)
 - Verbs have λ -bound arguments for an *eventuality*, *reference time*, and *subject*, filled, in order, by *ASP*-feature (perfective IP or imperfective I), *TNS*-marker (PST or PRS inflection, FUT inflection or auxiliary) & *PRN*-inflection (e.g. -3SF)
 - Polish *ASP*-features, *TNS*-markers, and *PRN*-inflections are all *obligatory* & for each category, the members form a *grammatical paradigm*.

4 ASPECTUAL PAIRING IN POLISH

Figure 5 Push-down ASP test for Polish ASP-features

	v-DUR (jȩc)	v-PRF (wszy)
\P	*	✓
\I	✓	*

(10) a. *Zasnȩ-t-em* {*oglȩda-jȩc* | *obejrza-wszy*} *dziennik*.
 fall.asleep/P-PST.1SM {watch/I-DUR | watch/P-PRF} news.ACC
 I fell asleep {watching | having seen} the news.

b. *Zasypia-t-em* {*oglȩda-jȩc* | *obejrza-wszy*} *dziennik*.
 fall.asleep/I-PST.1SM {watch/I-DUR | watch/P-PRF} news.ACC
 I was falling asleep {watching | having seen} the news.

• Młynarczyk 2004: Ch. 4 Aspectual pairmates of Polish verb-bases based on *secondary (im)perfectivization* tests

class	\I (unmarked)	\P (unmarked)	\P [▲] (do a bit)	\P ¹ (semelfct)
class ₁	<i>istnieć</i> 'exist'	→ <i>zaistnieć</i>	*	*
	<i>jechać</i> 'go _{riding} '	→ <i>pojechać</i>	*	*
	<i>tyć</i> 'gain weight'	→ <i>utyć</i>	*	*
class ₂	<i>spać</i> 'sleep'	→ *	<i>pospać</i>	*
	<i>stać</i> 'stand'	→ *	<i>postać</i>	*
	<i>pracować</i> 'work'	→ *	<i>popracować</i>	*
	<i>jechać</i> 'ride'	→ *	<i>pojechać</i>	*
class ₃	<i>pisać</i> 'write'	→ <i>napisać</i>	<i>popisać</i>	*
	<i>śpiewać</i> 'sing'	→ <i>zaśpiewać</i>	<i>pośpiewać</i>	*
	<i>oglȩdać</i> 'watch'	→ <i>obejrzeć</i>	<i>pooglȩdać</i>	*
class ₄	<i>pukać</i> 'knock'	→ <i>zapukać</i>	<i>popukać</i>	<i>puknąć</i>
	<i>krzyczeć</i> 'shout'	→ <i>zakrzyczeć</i>	<i>pokrzyczeć</i>	<i>krzyknąć</i>
	<i>gwizdać</i> 'whistle'	→ <i>zagwizdać</i>	<i>po gwizdać</i>	<i>gwizdnąć</i>
class ₅	<i>zasypiać</i>	← <i>zasnȩć</i> 'fall asleep'	*	*
	<i>stawać</i>	← <i>stanȩć</i> 'stand up'	*	*
	<i>przyjeżdżać</i>	← <i>przyjechać</i> 'come _{riding} '	*	*
	<i>przepisywać</i>	← <i>przepisać</i> 'copy _{writing} '	*	*
	<i>zakrzykiwać</i>	← <i>zakrzyczeć</i> 'shout dwn'	*	*

• Młynarczyk 2004: Ch. 5 Induced semantic classes

class	\I (unmarked)	\P (unmarked)	\P [▲] (do a bit)	\P ¹ (semelfct)
class ₁	<i>ongoing</i>	→ <i>completed</i>	*	*
	state or	→ state onset	*	*
	gradual transition	→ gradual transition	*	*
class ₂	<i>ongoing process</i>	→ *	<i>compl. proc.</i>	*
class ₃	<i>ongoing c-process</i>	→ <i>completed c-process</i>	<i>completed non-culminating c-process</i>	*
class ₄	<i>ongoing unitizable process (u-process)</i>	→ <i>completed arbitrary u-process</i>	<i>completed non-min. u-process</i>	<i>completed minimal u-process</i>
class ₅	<i>ongoing culmination</i>	← <i>completed culmination</i>	*	*

• Bittner 2012: Ch. 4 Induced semantic classes

- v\I or v\P introduce a *state* or a *point* (atomic event), respectively
- relation btw base & derived eventualities involves op's in {▷, ◀, ▽, ▲, ▴, ◀}

class	\I (unmarked)	\P (unmarked)	\P [▲] (do a bit)	\P ¹ (semelfct)
v ^s	s	→ e' s.t. ▷ $e' = s$	*	*
	$s = \nabla e$	→ e' s.t. ▷ $e' = \nabla e$	*	*
	$s = \nabla e$	→ e' s.t. ▽◀ $e' \sqcup \triangleright e' = \nabla e$	*	*
v ^{e**}	$s = \nabla e$	→ *	$e'' = \blacktriangle e$	*
v ^{e*}	$s = \nabla e$	→ $e' = \blacktriangle (e \sqcup \blacktriangle \nabla e)$	$e'' = \blacktriangle e$	*
v ^e	$s = \nabla e$	→ $e' = \blacktriangle (e \sqcup \blacktriangle \nabla e)$	$e'' = \blacktriangle e$	e s.t. $\mathbf{1}^{\blacktriangle} e$
	$s = \nabla e$	→ $e' = \blacktriangle \nabla e$	$e'' = \blacktriangle e$	e s.t. $\mathbf{1}^{\blacktriangle} e$
v ^{*e}	$s = \nabla \blacktriangle e$	← e s.t. ... ◀ e ...	*	*
	$s = \nabla \blacktriangle e$	← e s.t. ∃ e' : ... $e = \blacktriangle (\blacktriangle e' \sqcup e')$	*	*

5 TA-BASED TEMPORALITY IN POLISH

- (11) *Gdy Jan przyjechał do Paryża ...*
 when Jan\M come_{riding}^{ASP}\P-PST.3SM to Paris
 When Jan came in Paris ...
- a. {*lubił* | *polubił*} *to miasto*.
 {like^ε\I-PST.3SM | like^ε\P-PST.3SM} this city.ACC
 he {was fond | became fond} of the city.
- b. {*pracował* | *popracował*} *nad książką*.
 {work^ε\I-PST.3SM | work^ε\P-PST.3SM} over book.INS
 he {was working | did some work} on his book.
- c. {*pisał* | *napisał* | *właśnie napisał*} *książkę*.
 {write^ε\I-PST.3SM | write^ε\P-PST.3SM | just write^ε\P-PST.3SM} book.ACC
 he {was writing | wrote | had just written} a book.
- d. {*kończył* | *skończył*} *pisać książkę*.
 {finish^ε\I-PST.3SM | finish^ε\P-PST.3SM} write^ε\I-INF book.ACC
 he {was finishing | finished} writing a book.

Model for (11) Topic-setting *when*-clause with I-comment

<u>Dref.</u>	<u>Symbol: Description</u>	<u>Temporal condition</u>	<u>Source</u>
●	$\top e_0$: e_0 -speaker speaks up		e_0
■■■■■	t_1 : e_0 -past	$t_1 <_r \vartheta e_0$	PST
●	e_1 : Jan comes to Paris	$\vartheta e_1 \subseteq t_1, \vartheta e_0 \subseteq \vartheta^> e_1$	\P
■	$\top t'_1$: <i>topical part of</i> t_1	$t'_1 \subseteq t_1$	when... \P
—	s_2 :	$\vartheta e_1 \subseteq t'_1 \subseteq \vartheta s_2$	\I
a.	s_2 : Jan likes Paris		$v^{\wedge} \text{I}$
b.	s_2 : Jan is working on a book	$\exists e_2: s_2 \subseteq_{\sigma} \nabla e_2 \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{I}$
c.	s_2 : Jan is writing a book	$\exists e_2: s_2 \subseteq_{\sigma} \nabla^{\wedge} e_2 \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{I}$
d.	s_2 : Jan is finishing writing a bk.	$\exists e_2: e_2 = \blacktriangleleft (s_2 \sqcup_{\epsilon} \blacktriangleleft s_2) \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{I}$

Model for (11) Topic-setting *when*-clause with \P-comment

<u>Dref.</u>	<u>Symbol: Description</u>	<u>Temporal condition</u>	<u>Source</u>
●	$\top e_0$: e_0 -speaker speaks up		e_0
■■■■■	t_1 : e_0 -past	$t_1 <_r \vartheta e_0$	PST
●	e_1 : Jan comes to Paris	$\vartheta e_1 \subseteq t_1, \vartheta e_0 \subseteq \vartheta^> e_1$	\P
■	$\top t'_1$: <i>topical part of</i> t_1	$t'_1 \subseteq t_1$	when... \P
●	e_2 :	$\vartheta e_2 \subseteq t'_1 \subseteq \vartheta^> e_1$	\P
a.	e_2 : Jan begins to like Paris	$\exists s_2: \supset e_2 = s_2 \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{P}$
b.	e_2 : Jan does sm work on a book	$\exists e'_2: e_2 = \blacktriangle e'_2 \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{P}$
c.	e_2 : Jan writes a book	$\exists e'_2: e_2 = \blacktriangle (\blacktriangleleft e'_2 \sqcup_{\epsilon} e'_2) \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{P}$
d.	e_2 : Jan finishes writing a book		$v^{\wedge} \text{P}$
c'.	● e_1 : Jan comes to Paris	$\vartheta e_1 \subseteq t_1, \vartheta e_0 \subseteq \vartheta^> e_{-1}$	\P
	■ $\top t'_1$: <i>topical part of</i> t_1	$t'_1 \subseteq t_1$	when... \P
	■ t_2 : just before e_1 -time $\top t'_1$	$t_2 <_{\text{brief}} t'_1 = \vartheta e_1$	just
	● e_2 : Jan writes a book	$\vartheta e_2 \subseteq t_2, \vartheta e_1 \subseteq \vartheta^> e_2$	\P
		$\exists e'_2: e_2 = \blacktriangle (\blacktriangleleft e'_2 \sqcup_{\epsilon} e'_2) \ \& \ \dots$	$v^{\wedge} \text{P}$

6 CONCLUSIONS AND CONJECTURES

- Based on English (*T*-prominent), Polish (*TAP*-prominent), Mandarin Chinese (*AP*-prominent), and Kalaallisut (*MP*-prominent), Bittner (2012) conjectures that every language has at least one prominent *TAMP*-feature, most languages have more than one, and no *TAMP*-feature is universally prominent.
- In an *X*-prominent language, verbs have a λ -bound argument of type $a \in f(X)$, where $f(T) = \{\tau\}$ (times), $f(A) = \{\epsilon, \sigma\}$ (events, states), $f(M) = \{\omega\}$ (worlds), and $f(P) = \{\delta\}$ (individuals). This argument is filled by a member of a grammatical paradigm of *X*-features or *X*-markers (i.e. TNS, ASP, MOOD, or PRN) interpreted as discourse reference to a type *a*-entity with a top-level anchor (i.e. linked to one or more top-ranked antecedents in $\{\top a, \perp a, \top \epsilon, \perp \epsilon\}$).