

## ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the encoding of telicity in Hungarian and it also makes important observations regarding the telicity facts of English. It is commonly assumed in the literature that the telicity of verbal predicates results from the cumulative effects of various components of the discourse. The basic idea is that these elements (e.g. the verb and its argument(s)) each contribute some meaning component that is necessary to describe a situation that has an inherent endpoint. In this work I observe that the elements that one must consider in the calculation of the telicity of a predicate differ as far as their aspectual "weight" is concerned. I show that we can distinguish between event-bounding constituents (as in Hungarian) and scalar-bounding constituents (as in English). The former are aspectually "heavier" as they achieve the direct bounding of the event, with the crucial side effect that predicates containing such elements are characterizable in terms of aspectual invariability. This contrasts with scalar-bounding constituents like English particles and resultative XPs, which only achieve the bounding of the scale along which the event progresses, and this, by itself, is insufficient for a telic interpretation. I take a model-theoretic approach to characterizing Hungarian telic predicates. Specifically, I adopt Beavers's (2012a) FPR model, which is an extension of Krifka's (1998) aspectual theory, and I also incorporate the notion of event maximalization from Filip and Rothstein (2006) and Filip (2008). I examine data from various aspectual classes, focusing on degree achievements, achievements, and accomplishments. I identify two types of event-bounding constituents, namely particles, resultative/locative XPs, and quantized scalar DPs, on the one hand, and quantized DPs of creation/consumption predicates, on the other. I conclude that telicizing particles, resultative/locative XPs, and quantized scalar DPs achieve event bounding by introducing event maximalization into the predicate, thereby imposing specific constraints on the interpretive properties of the argument whose referent undergoes some kind of change and those of the scalar argument. By contrast, quantized DPs of consumption/creation predicates bound events by virtue of specifying the exact structure of the consumption/creation scale, and hence that of the event as well, given the unique, verb-mediated relationship between such DPs and creation/consumption scales. This work is a first step toward a theory that can potentially predict all (a)telicity facts of Hungarian and it can hopefully serve as impetus for further cross-linguistic explorations into aspectual composition.