

Our project aims to create an up-to-date profile of Polish aspect and its evolution over the last 250 years, in contrast of neighbouring languages: Russian and Czech. We will use the rich experience of German aspectology and combine it with expertise of Polish scholars concerning details of the Polish, Russian and Czech verbal system.

Whereas Russian aspect is described extensively, Polish in contrast lacks a deeper description of this phenomenon compatible with the newest findings and claims of modern aspectology. Slavic aspect, which was for a long time treated as a homogeneous feature, shows quite a number of differences between particular languages. We want to amend some of observations concerning the intermediary status of Polish in the Slavic aspect system.

In the project we shall examine inner-Slavic similarities and differences in hierarchies of functions as well as the interaction of aspect with other verbal categories. German lacks grammatical aspect (still, some functions of Slavic verbal aspect are realised by German prefixes) but its grid of temporal, modal and propositional functions is basically identical with the Slavic. Thus we can use German as a control reference.

We will compile a Polish-German parallel corpus covering the last 250 years. Verbs in the corpus will be annotated according to their aspectual features, i.e. as members of an aspectual pair, as biaspectual, as imperfectivum or as perfectivum tantum, in order to suit the needs of Slavic aspectology, in particular our specific topics, but it will also be of use to other researchers in linguistics and related domains, and thus serve a long-term practical use.

In our research, we focus on the issues neglected in current aspectology: certain subtypes of the non-actual present tense and iterativity, as well as aspect in the context of modal and propositional constructions). We also intend to investigate present tense imperfectives in legal texts and codices in respect their interpretation by specialists in law and by average speakers. Among Slavic languages, only Polish codes form the disposition of norms establishing a criminal sanction with imperfective verbs, eg. *kto zabija/nakłania* 'whoever kills/induces'.

As for patterns of morphological derivation, we will determine how inconsistencies in the formation of aspect pairs has been connected with the development and elimination of 'aspect triples' consisting of one simplex imperfective verb, one prefixed perfective and one secondary imperfective derived by a suffix.

Roughly half of the time spent on this project will be required to acquire texts for the corpus and to tag, align and index them. Simultaneously library and corpus research will start, focusing particularly on aspectual functions taken from 18th-19th century Polish texts and compared with their German, Russian and Czech translations. The database of aspect triples, pairs and bi-aspectual verbs in Polish, Czech and Russian will be constructed during the second half of the project period. The research will be complemented by survey on interpretation of aspect in legal texts and in general language use.

Our research will also be of profit for university lectures on Polish grammar and teaching Polish as a foreign language. A textbook on Polish aspect and a monograph integrating the project findings will be published. The results of our work will contribute to better interpretation of verbal categories in legal texts, especially comparing Polish and foreign legislation.