

Slavic phase verbs and their aspectual relevance

Jonathan MacDonald (Barcelona)

The literature on Slavic phase verbs almost unanimously recognizes them as a reliable test to distinguish between perfective forms of verbs and imperfective forms of verbs: only imperfective forms are compatible with phase verbs. However, there is a surprising lack of accounts of why it is that phase verbs are not compatible with perfective verb forms (although see Schoorlemmer 1994 for one). In this talk, I argue that the underlying reasons are semantic in nature and suggest that the distribution of phase verbs is related to the lack of accomplishments in Slavic.