The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

On the discourse properties of tense and aspect - 36869

Last update 26-09-2016

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: linguistics

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Nora Boneh

Coordinator Email: nora.boneh@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sun, Tue, Wed, by appointment

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Nora Boneh

Course/Module description:
  The literature on tense and aspect which is based on a neo-reichenbachian approach taking these categories to express topological relations between time intervals, enables to conceive members of a given temporal system as having fixed interpretative properties. At the same time, when observing tense/aspect inflected verbal forms in various discursive context, a somewhat different picture may emerge. In this course, we would like to examine these two ways of conceiving the interpretative properties of inflected verbal forms and explore where the context and context-less approaches meet and what insights can be gained from combining the two.

Course/Module aims:
  - familiarization with prevalent theories of tense and aspect
- examine the importance of context for semantic analysis
- understand the inter-relation between semantics and pragmatics

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  1. Reach a linguistic generalization
2. Formulate hypotheses
3. Compare competing analyses
4. Criticize the validity of an argument
5. Build a linguistic argument

Attendance requirements(%):
  100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, class discussion

Course/Module Content:
  Part 1: Prevalent literature on tense and grammatical aspect; the importance of the reference time; the perfective-imperfective opposition; the progressive; the perfect

Part 2: Discursive approaches to tense and aspect

Part 3: Case studies: Russian, French, Hebrew (Biblical and Modern)

Required Reading:
 Altshuler, Daniel. 2012. Aspectual meaning meets discourse coherence: A look at the Russian imperfective. Journal of Semantics, 29, 39–108.
Altshuler, Daniel. 2014. A typology of partitive aspectual operators. Natural Language & Linguistic Theory, 32, 735–775.
Altshuler, Daniel and Susanna Melkonian. 2014. In defense of the reference time. Semantics-Syntax Interface 1(2):133–149.
Altshuler, Daniel. 2015. Research on Aspect: Reflections and New Frontiers, Logic, Language, and Computation: Lecture Notes in Computer Science vol. 8984, M. Aher et al. (eds.), 1-9. Heidelberg: Springer.
Altshuler, Daniel and Károly Varasdi. 2015. An argument for definitional adequacy of RESULT and NARRATION. Proceedings of SALT 25, S. D'Antonio, C. Little, M. Moroney,andM. Wiegand (eds).
Bertinetto, Paulo-Marco. 2001. On a Frequent Misunderstanding in the Temporal-Aspectual domain: The 'Perfective – Telic confusion'. In C. Cecchetto, G. Chierchia & M. T. Guasti (eds.). Semantic Interfaces. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
Bhat, D.N.S. 1999. The Prominence of Tense, Aspect and Mood. John Benjamins Publishing Company. SLCS 49.
Binnick, Robert, I. 1991. Time and the Verb. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Berman, Ruth. A. 1978. Modern Hebrew Structure. Tel Aviv: University Publishing Projects.
Bittner, Maria. 2014. Temporality: universals and variation. Oxford: Blackwell.
Boneh, Nora. 2013. Aspect: modern Hebrew. In G. Khan (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Hebrew language and linguistics.
Boneh, Nora. 2013. Tense: modern Hebrew. In G. Khan (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Hebrew language and linguistics.
Boneh, Nora. 2016. Some thoughts on grammatical aspect in Modern Hebrew. In E. Lutz (Ed.), The Morpho-syntactic and lexical encoding of tense and aspect in Semitic. Proceedings of the Erlangen Workshop on 26 April 2014 (pp. 52–79). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
Comrie, Bernard. 1976. Aspect. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Comrie, Bernard. 1985. Tense. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Dowty, David. R. 1977. Toward a Semantic Analysis of Verb Aspect and the English 'imperfective' Progressive. Linguistics and Philosophy 1: 45-78.
Dowty, David. R. 1979. Word meaning and Montague Grammar. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
Enç, Murvet. 1986. Towards a Referential Analysis of Temporal Expressions. Linguistics and Philosophy, 9: 405-426.
Enç, Murvet. 1987. Anchoring conditions for tense. Linguistic Inquiry, 18: 633-657.
Giorgi, Alessandra, and Fabio Pianesi. 1997. Tense and aspect. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Hinrichs, Erhard. 1986. Temporal anaphora in discourses of English. Linguistics and Philosophy 9, 63–82.

Hobbs, Jerry. 1979. Coherence and coreference. Cognitive Science 3: 67–90.

Hopper, Paul. 1982. Aspect between discourse and grammar: An introductory essay for the volume. In Tense-aspect: Between semantics & pragmatics, ed. Paul Hopper, 3–18. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Hornstein, Norbert. 1990. As time goes by. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Iatridou, Sabine, Elena, Anagnostopoulou & Roumyana Izvorski. 2001. Observations about the form and meaning of the perfect. In Kenstowicz, M. (Ed:). Ken Hale: A Life in Language. Cambridge. MA: MIT Press. pp. 189-238.

Jespersen, Otto. 1924. Philosophy of grammar. London: George Allen & Unwin.

Kamp, Hans, and Uwe Reyle. 1993. From discourse to logic. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Press.

Kamp, Hans, and Christian Rohrer. 1983. Tense in texts. In Rainer Bäuerle, Christophe Schwarze, and Arnim von Stechow, eds., Meaning, use and interpretation of language. Berlin: de Gruyter.

Kamp, Hans, and Christian Rohrer. 1989. A Discourse Representation Theory account of tense in texts. Manuscript, University of Stuttgart.

Kamp, Hans, Josef van Genabith, and Uwe Reyle. 2011. Discourse representation theory. In Handbook of philosophical logic, eds. Dov Gabbay and Franz Guenthner. Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Kehler, Andrew. 2006. Discourse coherence. In The handbook of pragmatics, ed. by Laurence R. Horn and Gregory Ward, 241-266. Oxford: Blackwell.

Klein, Wolfgang. 1994. Time in Language. London: Routledge.

Kratzer, Angelika. 1998. More Structural Analogies Between Pronouns and Tenses. Proceedings of SALT 8. MIT.

Landman, Fred. 1992. The progressive. Natural Language Semantics, 1: 1–32.

Lascarides, Alex, and Nicholas Asher. 1993. Temporal interpretation, discourse relations and commonsense entailment. Linguistics and Philosophy 16:437-493.

Moens, Mark. 1987. Tense, aspect and temporal reference. Doctoral dissertation, Centre for Cognitive Science, University of Edinburgh.

Moens, Mark, and Mark Steedman. 1987. Temporal ontology in natural language. In Proceedings of the 25th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Stanford, CA.

Pancheva, Roumyana. 2003. The aspectual makeup of perfect participles and the interpretations of the perfect. In Perfect explorations, eds. Artemis Alexiadou, Monika Rathert, and Arnim von Stechow. The Hague: Mouton de Gruyter.

Partee, Barbara. 1973. Some Structural Analogies between Tenses and Pronouns in English. Journal of Philosophy 70: 601-609.

Partee, Barbara. 1984. Nominal and Temporal Anaphora. Linguistics and Philosophy 7: 243-286.

Reichenbach, Hans. 1947. Elements of symbolic logic. New York: Macmillan.

Rothstein, Susan. 2004. Structuring Events: A Study in the Semantics of Lexical Aspect. Oxford : Blackwell.

Schaden, Gerhard. 2008. A formal definition of temporal default relations. In: Erik Schoorlemmer (ed): Proceedings of Console XV, pp. 207-221.

Smith Carlotta. 1991. The parameter of Aspect. Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Smith, Carlotta. S. 2004. The domain of tense. In J. Guéron & J. Lacarme (Eds.), The

syntax of time (pp. 597–620). Cambridge, MA: MIT.
Stowell, Tim. 1995. The Phrase Structure of Tense. En Zaring, L. & Rooryk, J. (Eds).
Phrase Structure and the Lexicon. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Press.
Stowell, Tim. 1995. What is the Meaning of the Present and Past Tenses? In P.
Bertinetto, V. Bianchi, & M. Squartini (eds.) Temporal Reference: Aspect and
Actionality Vol. 1: Semantic and Syntactic Perspectives. Torino: Rosenberg & Sellier.

de Swart, Henriette. 1998. Aspect shift and coercion. Natural Language and
Linguistic Theory 16: 347–385.
de Swart, Henriette. 2011. Mismatches and coercion. In Semantics: An international
handbook of natural language meaning. Berlin: De Gruyter.
de Swart, Henriette. and Arie. Molendijk. 1999. Negation and the temporal structure
of narrative discourse. Journal of Semantics 16: 1–42.
Thompson, Ellen. 1999. The temporal structure of discourse: The syntax and
semantics of temporal then. Natural Language and Linguistic Theory 17, 123–160.
Vendler, Zeno. 1957. Verbs and times. The Philosophical Review 66, 143–160.
Reprinted in Zeno Vendler, Linguistics in philosophy. Ithaca, NY.: Cornell University
Press (1967).
Vendler, Zeno. 1967. Linguistics in philosophy. Ithaca, NY.: Cornell University Press.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 67 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 33 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: