

## Parallel corpus as functional context of aspectual interpretation – the case of Czech, Croatian and Polish biaspectual verbs

Although aspect is an obligatory verbal category in Slavic, some verbs, in particular borrowings, cannot be classified as unambiguously perfective or imperfective, and may appear in contexts typical for either aspect. With the time, some lexemes lose their biaspectual character, e.g. because the prefixed derivatives take over the perfective meaning, while the original lexeme becomes imperfective (Cockiewicz 2001:18). Thus, the question appears how to verify the aspectual interpretations of such biaspectual verbs. The formal criterion, such as verifying the verbal paradigm, is not necessarily a fruitful method, as the forms might be too rare to be successfully retrieved (Perlin 2010: 166–167). So far, experimental solutions were applied (Perlin 2010, Chromý 2014).

In the current paper, we approach this problem with the help of a parallel corpus (InterCorp, cf. Čermák & Rosen 2012). In order to find out whether the aspectual interpretation of a supposedly biaspectual verb could be detected, we examine biaspectual verbs appearing in three Slavic languages (Croatian, Czech and Polish) in the parallel contexts as in the example below for the Polish verb *eksplodować* ‘to explode’:

PL *Coś **eksplodowało** mu w głowie*  
something explode.**PFV/IPFV**.PST.3SG he.DAT in head.SG.LOC

CZ *V Harryho hlavě se něco **spustilo***  
in Harry’s head REFL something started.**PFV**.PST.3SG

HR *Nešto **je buknuo** u Harryjevoj glavi*  
something AUX explode.**PFV**.PST.3SG at Harry’s head.SG.LOC  
‘Something erupted inside Harry’s head’

(EN orig.: *Something was erupting inside Harry’s head*)

PL *W odpowiedzi w moim ciele **eksploduje** ogień*  
in answer in my.LOC body.LOC explode.**PFV/IPFV**.3SG fire

CZ *Mé tělo v tu ránu vzplane **odezvou***  
my.NOM body.NOM in that.LOC moment.LOC flares.**PFV**.3SG response.**INS**

HR *Kao odgovor na njegove riječi, tijelo mi **počne plamtjeti***  
as answer to his word.ACC, body I.DAT start.**PFV**.3SG blaze.**IPFV**.INF

(EN orig.: *In response, fire explodes in my body*)

While in Polish the aspectual interpretation can be determined only by functional context, the comparison against other Slavic languages often provides a clear answer. Such clues let us build aspectual profiles of biaspectual verbs, based on the frequencies of aspectual values of verbs used in parallel contexts in other Slavic languages and on formal indicators of the aspectual values in both monolingual and parallel contexts.

## References

- Čermák, F. & Rosen, A. (2012). The case of InterCorp, a multilingual parallel corpus. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 13(3): 411–427
- Cockiewicz, W. (2001). Na peryferiach aspektu. *LingVaria* 2(4): 9–25
- Chromý, J. (2014). Impact of Tense on the Interpretation of Bi-Aspectual Verbs in Czech. *Studie z aplikované lingvistiky* 2: 87–97
- Perlin, J. (2010). *Linguistica Copernicana* 3(1): 165–171