

From Events to Situations: Mapping the Edge of the Inner VP

Gillian Ramchand

University of Tromsø

It is generally accepted that the lowest part of the verbal extended projection represents aktionsart event distinctions and basic argument structure. It is also generally assumed that constructions including perfect, progressive, and modal auxiliaries locate that auxiliary in the inflectional domain of the clause (somewhere between Asp and T inclusive). Passive on the other hand, has often been assumed to be at the edge of the lower phase (implicating the Voice head or little *v* in modern accounts). In this paper I examine data from English to support a refinement of this view whereby the progressive occupies the lower domain along with passive, and the perfect occupies the higher domain. This distinction will correlate semantically with a sortal distinction in event types between simple minimal events with no tense or contextual information, and a richer situational event type. I will present arguments for this view from selection, ordering restrictions and some novel data from British English *Do*-substitution.