verbal glossary

Aktionsart – a category of pragmatics that describes actional characteristics, such as iterative, punctiliar, ingressive, etc. *Aktionsart* describes the combination of aspect with lexeme and context. It is therefore cancelable.

Aspect – The view of an action present by the author. Internal or external viewpoins are the usual aspects. Not to be confuses with *Aktionsart.* Aspect is semantic and therefore uncancelable.

Cancelability – A value is cancellable if it is not expresses with *every* use of a particular form. A value is uncancelable if it is expresses with every use of a particular form. Verbal semantic values are uncancelable, while pragmatic values are cancellable.

Conative *Aktionsart* – a verb depicts an attempted (but not accomplished) action. This may occur with imperfect tense-forms and any type of lexeme. Context indicates that the action was unsuccessfully attempted.

Deictic markers – Factors within text that indicate time, person, location, etc. Temporal deixis is most relevant here and encompasses words suc as "now," "later," "before," "yesterday," etc. Narrative will often express temporal deixis without explicit markers since it is usually assumed to be referring to the past.

Gnomic *Aktionsart* – A verb depicts a timeless and universal action. This may occur with either aspect and any type of lexeme. Context alone determines whether or not an action is gnomic.

Historical perfect – A perfect tense-form that refers to the past.

Historical present – A present tense-form that refers to the past.

Imperfective aspect – The internal aspect/viewpoint. This depicts an action from the inside *as though* unfolding, without reference to the beginning of end of the action. It does not imply progression or incompleteness, though these *Aktionsarten* are naturally expressed with imperfective aspect in combination with other factors. The present, imperfect, perfect, and pluperfect tense-forms are imperfective in aspect.

Ingressive *Aktionsart* – A verb depicts the beginning, and subsequent progression, of an action. This may occur with imperfective aspect and any nonpunctiliar/nonstative lexeme, when the context indicates a shift or new direction. Alternatively, this may occur with perfective aspect and a stative lexeme.

Intransitive lexeme – A lexeme that does not perform an action up an object. It may actually take an object, but strictly speaking the action is no *done* to the object. The action may be done with reference to someone or something.

Iterative *Aktionsart* – A verb depicts a repeated action. This may occur when imperfective aspect combines with a punctiliar lexeme. Alternatively, the context may creat an iterative action even if the lexeme is not punctiliar.

Lexeme – A particular word, suc as *run, write, see, fly,* etc.

Perfective aspect – The external aspect/viewpoint. This depicts an action as undefined, in summary, and somewhat remote. It does not imply completion or punctiliarity, though these *Aktionsarten* are naturally expresses with perfective aspect in combination with other factors. The aorist and future are perfective in aspect.

Pragmatics – the cancelable outcome of all textual/lexical/deictic factors in combination. What a verb ends up "doing" in the context.

Progressive *Aktionsart* – A verb depicts a process or action in progress. This may occur when imperfective aspect combines with any lexeme that is not punctiliar or stative and when the context allows progression.

Proximity – The spatial quality of nearness. Used as a spatial replacement for present tense. Spatial proximity may be expressed pragmatically through present temporal reference, or through logical intimacy (such as intensity or prominence).

Punctiliar *Aktionsart* – A verb depicts a punctiliar action. This may occur with perfective aspect and a punctiliar lexeme.

Punctiliar lexeme – A type of transitive lexeme that is instantaneous and once-occurring. While a punctiliar action may be repeated, it cannot be performed with any duration.

Remoteness – The spatial quality of distance. Used as a spatial replacement for past tense. Spatial remoteness may be expresses pragmatically through past temporal reference or through logical obliqueness (suc as within negative conditions).

Semantics – The uncancellable core value/s of a verb form. With respect to verse (verbal semantics, grammatical semantics), the semantic values are aspect and remoteness or proximity (or tense).

Stative *Aktionsart* – A verb depicts a state. This may occur when imperfective aspect combines with a stative lexeme. Sometimes the context can create a stative *Aktionsart* even if the lexeme is not itself stative.

Stative aspect – Refers either to the state of the subject (McKay) or of "the situation" (Porter). The latter is roughly equivalent to the "present consequence" of the traditional rendering of the perfect as past action with present consequence. It does not, in my view, accommodate transitive verbs very well. Under my analysis, stativity is properly understood as an *Aktionsart* category (as it is in general linguistics) rather than aspectual.

Stative Lexeme – A type of intransitive lexeme that conveys a state of being.

Summary *Aktionsart* – A verb that depicts a process or action in summary. This may occur with perfective aspect and any type of lexeme that is not punctiliar or stative.

Systemic linguistics – A school within functional linguistics, foundational especially to Porter's analysis. This conceives language use as a series of choices made in opposition to other possible choices. A language, therefore, is a network of oppositions.

Tense – Cancellable temporal reference. Tense has been mistakenly assumed by some to be semantic alongside aspect, but it is better regarded as a pragmatic outcome of various factors in context. In fact, on this definition one might say that tense does not exist; there is only temporal reference (except for the future, which is a real tense).

Transitive lexeme – A lexeme that performs an action upon an object.