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Aspect and subjectivity in modal constructions

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Stellingen

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Aspect and subjectivity in modal constructions

van

Radoslava Trnavac

1. There is no systematic connection between imperfective aspect and modality across languages.
(this thesis)
2. There is a general tendency for the use of imperfective aspect with more subjective readings both in aspect and tense prominent languages.
(this thesis)
3. Subjectivity is a very complex notion and in order to be understood as a concrete linguistic phenomenon, linguistic tests are necessary for its evaluation.
(this thesis)
4. In tense prominent languages, aspect is not necessarily morphologically expressed. Explicit imperfective forms, such as the progressive in English, are marked forms, so it is to be expected that precisely this aspect may be used to convey 'special', subjective meanings. Aspect in Slavic languages is obligatory in all verb forms, so it is not to be expected that it will serve only to differentiate between 'objective' and 'subjective' readings, since that distinction is not relevant in every utterance.
(this thesis)
5. The explanation for the connection between imperfective aspect and subjective readings in tense prominent languages lies in the anaphoric function of aspect. This suggestion does not seem to fit the structure of Slavic aspect.
(this thesis)
6. A successful future for linguistics partially depends on a dialogue about different linguistic phenomena between formal and non-formal approaches to language.
7. The Netherlands are the place to be if one wants to study and work in linguistics.
8. Slavic languages need to be included more in cognitive linguistic research.
9. You cannot construct a Perfect Language, because it would exclude that moment of negotiation that makes our languages efficacious.
(Umberto Eco, Kant and the platypus, Essays on Language and Cognition)
10. If I make use of the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am like sounding brass, or a loud-tongued bell.
(The Bible, 1 Corinthians 13; translation into Basic English, edited by S.H. Hooke)