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Inner aspect and telicity : the decompositional and the quantificational nature of eventualities at the syntax-semantics interface

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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift

Inner aspect and telicity
The decompositional and the quantificational nature
of eventualities at the syntax-semantics interface

van

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1. Telicity is a decompositional notion: a telic eventuality consists of two concatenated atelic eventualities.

2. Predicates of atelic eventualities have mass reference, while those of telic eventualities involve a phase transition, which gives them countable reference.

3. Inner aspect is a quantificational, or mereological, notion, dividing eventualities into homogeneous and non-homogeneous ones. In order to be non-homogeneous, an eventuality needs to be quantified.

4. Only countable (i.e. telic) eventualities can be quantified (i.e. non-homogeneous).

5. The Verb Phrase and the Noun Phrase use the same structure at the syntax-semantics interface; the distinctive property of verbal expressions is that they involve temporal predicates in the positions where other categories have predicates of other kinds.

6. Cumulativity and divisiveness can be viewed as mereological counterparts of the set-theoretic notions of downward and upward entailment.

7. The last distinction that will keep alive the notions of foreigners and "homelanders" resides in their way of nagging about the very same things.

8. Fortune is a meteopathic lady.

9. Grammaticality judgments and other intuitions of speakers of a language in linguistic research is yet another fruitful context for the interpretation of the mediaeval alchemist motto known as VITRIOL:

> *Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem.*
> ('Visit the interior of the earth and rectifying/purifying you will find the hidden/secret stone.')
>
> *L'Azoth des Philosophes*,
> Basilius Valentinus, 15th century

10. Negen stellingen moet genoeg zijn.