

論文の英文要旨

論文題目

Syntactic realizations and semantic features of
German adjectives having event-arguments:
From the perspective of the opposition of aspectual
interpretations of events

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Moe Nobukuni

This study discusses German adjectives that have event-arguments. For instance, consider *schnell* in “eine schnelle Fahrt” (a fast car) or *leicht* in “Das Problem zu lösen ist leicht.” (To solve the problem is easy). The study aims to explain that the difference in aspects, which is required of adjectives, creates the different syntactic and semantic environments for adjectives.

In the study, I put forth three questions:

- 1) How is the distribution of the syntactic usage of adjectives that have event-arguments (predicative, attributive, and adverbial)?
- 2) What is the semantic relation between adjectives with event-arguments and individuals who are participants in events?
- 3) Which aspects among these are required by adjectives with event-arguments (states, activities, achievements, and accomplishments)?

The findings prove that the difference in the type of participants in events and aspects causes variations of syntactic realizations the adjectives that have event-arguments. The opposition of aspectual interpretations (boundedness vs. unboundedness), especially, is important for the syntactic environment of adjectives with event-arguments.

This thesis consists of six chapters, which are summarized as follows.

Chapter 1 introduces adjectives with event-arguments and their ontological category, which contains a concept “event” and provides an outline of the study.

Chapter 2 offers a detailed explanation of Davidson’s ontological category: How events differ among individuals and propositions. Furthermore, I cite Vendler (1968) and Ehrich (1991) to explain the syntactic realizations of events, individuals, and propositions in German. They suggest that we can deal with nouns, which express mostly individuals, in parallel with verbs, which express mostly events. That is, both nouns and verbs are classified by a common criterion (boundedness vs. unboundedness) into two types. They also suggest that there is a difference between events and states. In chapter 2, I reveal the importance to focus on the aspect.

Chapter 3 explains the relation between German adjectives and events as arguments of adjectives. Earlier literatures on this subject are introduced here. Vendler (1968), Davidson (1967), Maienborn (2003), and Schäfer (2013) are especially important. The German adjectives I surveyed in this thesis are chosen from Vendler (1968). I refer to Davidson (1967) for adverbial adjectives that are considered predications to apply to events. Maienborn (2003) and Schäfer (2013) illustrate that there are different types of usages of adverbial adjectives in German, for example, “pure manner” and “agent-oriented manner.”

Chapter 4 presents the results of the research based on examples collected from corpora (DeReKo/COSMAS II). Nine adjectives are researched.

I: *schnell* (fast), *langsam* (slow)

II: *leicht* (easy), *schwer* (difficult)

III: *vorsichtig* (careful), *leichtsinnig* (careless)

IV: *überdrüssig*, *satt* and *müde* (disgusted)

The results show that there is a tendency of each adjective appearing in a

different syntactic environment and each requiring events of a different aspect. For example, adjective type I appears frequently in adverbial usage and requires essentially the aspect “activities.” Furthermore, based on the aspect type required by each adjective, a sentence with such adjectives is interpreted in terms of aspectual differentiation.

Chapter 5 analyzes detailed the results of the research. Adjectives I and II show fundamentally the property of events, while Adjectives III and IV show the property of humans. Chapter 5 answers the three research questions mentioned above and these answers show that differences in the syntactic realization of adjectives are caused by the differences in the aspect type, which are required *a priori* by each adjective. For example, Adjective I requires essentially the aspect “activities.” “Activities” are continuous and easily controlled by an agent. Hence, Adjective I is often seen in adverbial usage in a sentence in which the agent is the subject and the event is marked by the predicate. Meanwhile, Adjective II essentially requires the aspect “achievements.” “Achievements” are momentary and difficult to control by an agent. Hence, Adjective II often appears in a passive sentence without an agent.

Chapter 6 presents a summary of the study. The two main results of this thesis are as follows: 1. Investigating the distribution of the syntactic usage of German adjectives with event-arguments revealed that there is a tendency that each adjective appears in a different syntactic usage. 2. These differences in syntactic realizations of German adjectives are illustrated with the help of the aspect of events. The literatures drawn from are Vendler (1967) and Vendler (1968), which have been treated as separate studies as one is the study of English verbs and aspect and the other of English adjectives.