

Achievements

Purpose

Although achievements have a safe place in Vendler's (1957) particular quadripartite conception of the aspectual categories, they may nevertheless be less stable than accomplishments, activities, or states in their linguistic and/or ontological status. On the one hand, achievements arguably exhibit a tendency to slip into accomplishments; on the other hand, they tend to be preludes to states or activities. Also, whereas activities are generally considered to be dynamic, and accomplishments dynamic and telic, these two properties are still controversial for achievements. However, despite their often disputed status, achievements tend to appear in one guise or another in most aspectual classifications. In this workshop, we aim to address various empirical and theoretical issues that achievements raise, including but not limited to:

- alternative conceptions of how achievements fit into an aspectual inventory
- coercion phenomena: of achievements into accomplishments, of other aspectual categories into achievements
- achievements cross-linguistically, especially in lesser known languages
- corpus or psycholinguistic studies of achievements
- achievements and tense
- achievements and modality
- achievements and presuppositions
- achievements and psychological/criterion predicates
- the supposed (non-)agentivity and/or (non-)dynamicity of achievements
- achievements as boundaries: left versus right boundaries
- achievements and telicity
- diagnostics on punctuality and their interpretation

It is hoped that the workshop will shed light on some of the issues surrounding achievements and thereby yield a clearer understanding of their proper place in an aspectual theory.

Activities

We plan to have six accepted presentations (6 x 30 minutes) followed by a general discussion on the issues raised in the presentations (1 x 30 minutes), but this plan may be modified somewhat as a function of the abstracts received. There will be one or two breaks, to be determined by the Chronos organizers.

Scientific committee

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Patrick Caudal (CNRS UMR 7110 LLF, Université Paris 7)
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Organizers

Rafael Marín is a researcher in linguistics at the CNRS laboratory UMR 8163 STL at Université Lille 3. He works on aspect, mainly on non-verbal predication and psychological predicates.

Christopher Piñón teaches linguistics at Université Lille 3 and is a researcher at the CNRS laboratory UMR 8163 STL at Université Lille 3. He works on aspect, adverbial modification, and degrees.