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Slavic Linguistics Webinars

How many layers of (Slavic) aspect?

Stefan Milosavljević

University of Graz

“I argue for a tripartite model of Slavic aspect (and possibly aspect more generally). Telicity, understood as atomicity, is computed in the Q(uality)P(hrase) right above the verbalizing vP. Just like in Germanic or Romance languages, it is licensed by bounded constituents that measure out the event (direct objects, small clauses, durative adverbials). Atelicity on this view amounts to the absence of QP. Slavic prefixes are argued to merge in the number phrase that takes QP as its argument, licensing singularity (number can also be valued as plural or mass). The third aspectual layer, grammatical aspect, is hosted above the domain of number (in AspP) and is responsible for introducing the reference time and its relation to the event time. In at least some Slavic languages, it is marked by forms such as the Aorist, the Imperfectum or the Perfect.”

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