

Global Workshop, LCRC, *Non-spatial setting* — Questions to be addressed

Preliminaries: General characteristics of the language — including word classes, structure of the verbal word, transitivity classes, grammatical relations, and clause types (as relevant). It may be also useful to comment on the cultural context, and the society in which the language is spoken. All, or just some, of the most salient topics mentioned here could be covered (in some languages, all aspects of the non-spatial setting may be too complex for one talk).

The following needs to be addressed for each of the categories within non-spatial setting

A. Formal expression. This can be achieved through

- affixes or clitics
- suprasegmental markers
- complex predicates
- serial verb constructions
- independent grammatical forms ('particles', or adverbs)

A grammatical system of non-spatial setting can be realized using different means — for instance, tense can be marked by enclitics, and completion by serial verbs (as in Tariana). Care should be taken to show that non-spatial setting forms one grammatical system (if indeed it does).

B. Scope — this can be

- a clause
 - a sentence
 - a noun phrase (see §9, on the non-propositional non-spatial setting, e.g. 'nominal tense')
- } in these two cases the markers may appear on the verb, or be expressed through floating clitics

I Tense — §3 of the Initial Orientation Paper

Does the language have a grammatical category of tense? If so, describe the marking, and the semantics of the terms.

Is tense marking optional or obligatory? Is the choice of a tense (for instance, recent past or remote past) partly conditioned by the speaker's perspective and their attitude to the relevance of the activity?

Does the language distinguish absolute tense and relative tense? If so, what clause types does the 'relative' tense occur in? What is the status of future in the language (in some languages future can be considered a modal rather than a tense category).

II Aspect and the structure of activity — §4

Does the language have any grammatical means of expressing aspectual meanings related to the structure of the activity outlined in this section, that is:

- Composition — whether the activity is regarded as having internal temporal constitution (imperfective) or not and is then viewed as a whole (perfective): §4.1
- Completion — whether the activity was completed (perfect) or continuing non-completed (imperfect): §4.2
- Phase of activity — starting, continuing, finishing: §4.3
- Boundedness (or telicity) — whether activity has an end point (telic) or not (atelic): §4.4
- Temporal extent — whether instantaneous (punctual), or extending over a period of time (durative, progressive, or continuous): §4.5
- Degree — whether done a lot or a bit: §4.6
- Frequency — whether done once (semelfactive) or more than once/many times: §4.7
- Manner, including speed and ease: §4.8

Do any of these meanings correlate with the meanings of particular verb classes? Do tense and aspect interact, and if so, how?

III Reality status — §5

If the language has reality status as a grammatical category, what are the meanings encompassed within realis and within irrealis? For instance, are commands, future and epistemic statements cast in irrealis, or in realis? How does reality status interact with negation, tense and aspect?

IV Modality, and attitude to knowledge — §6

Does the language have grammatical marking for any of the epistemic (probable, possible), obligation, necessity, ability, and other attitudinal modal meanings (desiderative, intentional, frustrative), described in this section?

V Evidentiality — §7

Is evidentiality (grammaticalized information source) an obligatory grammatical category in the language? How many terms are there, and what are their meanings? Can an evidential be omitted? Can an evidential occur more than once in a clause? Are evidentials used in declarative, interrogative and imperative clauses? Are there any restrictions on the co-occurrence of evidentials with any tenses or aspects? Are there evidentiality distinctions in future tense? Do any of the evidential terms have epistemic or hypothetical extensions? Does the 'reported' term have any connotation of 'unreliable' information? Do essentially non-evidential categories (for instance, perfects, conditionals or complementation strategies) have evidential extensions? Are there any preferences for the use of evidentials in particular discourse genres (e.g. historical narratives or folklore)? Can evidentials be manipulated as a stylistic device (e.g. to make the narrative more vivid)? How do evidentials correlate with conventionalized attitudes to information? For instance, does one have to use 'visual' evidential to talk about shamanic revelations? Are dreams told using 'visual' or another evidential?

Some languages have further categories of non-spatial setting (e.g. mirativity); these should also be addressed.

VI Non-spatial setting: correlations and dependencies — §8

- Outline existing correlations and dependencies between categories of non-spatial setting (e.g. tense and aspect, evidentiality and tense or aspect).
- Outline existing correlations and dependencies between categories of non-spatial setting and other categories outside non-spatial setting (e.g. tense/negation, tense/clause type).

If there are any special tense distinctions in imperatives, address them here.

VII. Expression of non-spatial setting through other means

Can tense and information source be expressed lexically? It would be useful to compare the meanings of lexical time words with grammatical tenses (if appropriate). Can demonstratives or body part-related and other spatial expressions be used to refer to time?

VIII. Historical development and grammaticalization

Do you have any information, or insights, into the historical development of non-spatial setting? Can the impact of contact-induced change be identified in any of these developments?

IX Cultural correlates and possible manipulation in discourse

How are the categories of non-spatial setting used in discourse? Can tense, aspect, evidentiality, modality or reality status be manipulated for effects such as 'vividness' and to reflect speaker's view point? For instance, 'present' can be used this way in some languages. In English, a novel referring to the opast can be cast in the 'present' tense for pragmatic effect. Evidentials may be considered 'tokens' of particular genres of texts.

Can you think of any possible cultural correlations for some parameters of non-spatial setting (e.g. a cultural requirement to be 'precise' as a correlate of large systems of evidentials in some Amazonian languages)?