

#### Disclaimer

- Nothing really new, i.e. what I have not already said or written elsewhere.
- See Arkadiev 2014, 2015, 2018, Arkadiev & Shluinsky 2015, 2016.

### Roadmap

- Introducing "Slavic-style" aspect
- A multivariate typology
- Some quantitative methods
- A broader typological outlook
- Genetic inheritance vs. language contact

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**Aspect** is a grammatical system expressing the "different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation" (Comrie 1976: 3).

Languages differ as to which (if at all) aspectual meanings are grammaticalised, which of them form oppositions and which are grouped together, and how they are expressed.

Comrie 1976, Maslov 1984, Dahl 1985, Smith 1991/1997, Bybee et al. 1994, Boland 2006 etc.

"Two-component" theory of aspect:

**Viewpoint** aspect: particular ways in which the speaker construes the situation and relates it to other situations in the discourse.

VS.

**Actionality**: partly lexically encoded and partly syntactically determined linguistic categorisation of situations.

Maslov 1984, Smith 1991/1997, Breu 1994, Bertinetto & Delfitto 2000, Tatevosov 2002, 2015, 2016

Actionality: categorisation of situations as static vs. dynamic, durative vs. punctual, telic vs. atelic etc.

Viewpoint aspect: roughly, construal of situations as **perfective** (bounded, included into the reference time) vs. **imperfective** (unbounded, overlaping with the reference time).

Smith 1991/1997, Klein 1994

Intersection of actionality and viewpoint aspect in English and Russian:

	Perfective	Imperfective
Telic	John read the book	John was reading the book Ivan čital knigu
	Ivan <mark>pročital</mark> knigu	
Atelic	John slept	John was sleeping
	Ivan pospal	Ivan <mark>spal</mark>

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Atelic	John slept	John was sleeping
	Ivan <b>pospal</b>	Ivan <b>spal</b>

- Term coined by Dahl (1985: 84-89) to cover the aspectual systems of languages sharing the following characteristics:
- "perfective" and "imperfective" are not part of the inflectional system but rather (productive) derivational categories;
- simplex verbs are imperfective and denote atelic events (processes and states);
- perfective verbs denoting events, notably, culminations of telic processes, are derived from simplex verbs by means of lexically selective perfectivising elements such as prefixes (preverbs).

#### Indo-European:

Slavic: Russian *rezal* 'was cutting' ~ *razrezal* 'cut (into two)'

Baltic: Lithuanian *skaitė* 'was reading' ~ *perskaitė* 'read through'

Germanic: Yiddish washn 'be washing' ~ oyswashn 'wash up'

#### **Uralic:**

Hungarian: *olvasta* 'was reading it' ~ *elolvasta* 'read it through'

#### In the Caucasus:

Kartvelian: Georgian *çers* 'is writing' ~ *daçera* 'wrote up'

Iranian (IE): Ossetic *fysta* 'was writing' ~ *nyffysta* 'wrote up'

The so-called **bounder-based** perfectives (Bybee & Dahl 1989, Bybee et al. 1994) as opposed to **anterior-based** perfectives attested e.g. in Romance.

bounder-based perfectives	anterior-based perfectives
go back to combinations of verbs with adverbial elements	go back to resultative-perfect constructions
tend to be derivational	tend to be inflectional
show lexical idiosyncrasies and often add meanings other than perfective	tend to be semantically compositional
emphasise completion of the event and not just temporal boundedness	express temporal boundedness of an event

Bounder-based perfectives themselves constitute a subtype of aspectual systems which can be called **derivational** (Dahl 1985) or **verb-classifying** (Plungian 2011).

Arkadiev & Shluinsky 2015, 2016

#### Derivational aspectual systems:

- aspectual interpretation is an inherent property of the verbal lexeme;
- in order to apply a different viewpoint to the same situation, a new verb has to be derived by morphological means.

perfectivisation

 $VIPF \rightarrow VPFV$ 

Lithuanian

*skaityti* 'read' →

perskaityti 'read through'

imperfectivisation Lithuanian

 $VPFV \rightarrow VIPF$ 

*irodyti* 'prove' →

įrodinėti 'argue'

 Being a separate lexeme, an aspectual derivate displays a full verbal paradigm, and not just some particular form or forms, cf. Lithuanian:

	'write (ipf)'	'write (pfv)'
Present	raš <b>o</b>	<b>pa</b> raš <b>o</b>
Preterite	raš <b>ė</b>	<b>pa</b> raš <b>ė</b>
Habitual Past	raš <b>ydavo</b>	<b>pa</b> raš <b>ydavo</b>
Future	raš <b>ys</b>	<b>pa</b> raš <b>ys</b>

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Present	rašo	<b>pa</b> rašo
Preterite	rašė	<b>pa</b> raš <b>ė</b>
Habitual Past	raš <mark>ydavo</mark>	parašydavo
Future	raš <mark>ys</mark>	<b>pa</b> raš <b>ys</b>

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Preterite	rašė	parašė
Habitual Past	raš <mark>ydavo</mark>	parašydavo
Future	raš <mark>ys</mark>	<b>pa</b> raš <b>ys</b>

 The absence of a particular derivational marker does not necessarily signal a particular aspectual meaning.

Lithuanian simplex verbs:

vesti 'lead' imperfective

mesti 'throw' perfective

In the Slavic languages aspectual categories have been considered to be grammaticalised to the greatest extent:

- secondary imperfectivisation alongside perfectivisation (> obligatoriness and paradigmaticisation of the aspectual opposition);
- "empty prefixes" (> "semantic bleaching");
- nearly complementary distribution of aspects across contexts partly defined in terms of morphosyntax rather than semantics (e.g. the use of the imperfective with phasal verbs).

Secondary imperfectivisation in Russian:

```
pisat'_{IPF} 'write' \rightarrow podpisat'_{PFV} 'sign' (lit. underwrite) \rightarrow podpisyvat'_{IPF} 'sign' pit'_{IPF} 'drink' \rightarrow vypit'_{PFV} 'drink (completely)' (lit. out-write) \rightarrow vypivat'_{IPF} '(repeatedly) drink (completely)'
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```

"Empty" prefixes (apparently) only inducing a perfective interpretation of the verb:

	Imperfective	Perfective
'write'	pisat'	<i>napisat'</i> "on-write"
'dig'	kopat'	<b>vy</b> kopat' "out-dig"
'hide'	prjatať	sprjatat' "off-hide"
'load'	gruzit'	zagruzit' "behind-load"
'whiten'	belet'	pobelet'

- *po*- does not have spatial semantics in contemporary Russian

Obligatoriness: iterativity/habituality → Ipfv even with clearly completed telic events (in Russian but not in Czech)

Ivan pročital<sub>PFV.PST</sub> stat'ju <u>za dva časa</u>. 'Ivan read the paper in two hours.'

Obligatoriness: iterativity/habituality → Ipfv even with clearly completed telic events (in Russian but not in Czech)

Ivan pročital<sub>PFV.PST</sub> staťju <u>za dva časa</u>.

'Ivan read the paper in two hours.'

Ivan ljubuju statju **pročityval**<sub>IPF.PST</sub> <u>za dva</u> <u>časa</u>.

'Ivan used to read any paper in two hours.'

However, cross-linguistic studies have revealed considerable inner-Slavic variation:

- differences in the productivity of imperfectivisation;
- differences in the choice and productivity of "empty prefixes" (if this notion is valid at all, cf. Janda et al. 2013);
- differences in the distribution of aspects in many contexts (> differences in the semantics of aspects among individual languages).

Stunová 1993, Petruxina 2000, Dickey 2000, 2005, 2008, 2015, Fortuin & Kamphuis 2015, Wiemer & Seržant 2017

Parallels to Slavic aspectual systems in the neighbouring languages have been pointed out in general works on aspect at least since Comrie 1976, see Dahl 1985, Breu 1992, Majsak 2005, Kiefer 2010 and especially Tomelleri 2008, 2009, 2010.

Not all of the features traditionally associated with Slavic aspect are found in other languages with a similar kind of aspectual system.

Tomelleri 2009, 2010, Arkadiev 2014, 2015

#### Research questions:

- Which properties are common to all "Slavicstyle" aspectual systems and which are parameters of variation?
- Do these properties cluster in any meaningful way?
- How did the observed areal distribution of such systems come about?

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# A multivariate typology

#### Cf. Bickel 2010 etc.:

- complex linguistic phenomena (such as aspectual systems) can be productively compared across languages if "decomposed" into a number of individual features (variables) based on empirically detected fine-grained differences between languages.
- typological comparison and generalisation is achieved by means of quantitative and qualitative analysis of patterns of clusterisation of such individual variables.

## A multivariate typology

Arkadiev (2014, 2015) and Arkadiev & Shluinsky (2015, 2016) offer multivariate typological analyses of, respectively, prefixal perfectivization and, more broadly, "derivational" aspectual systems.

NB Much more qualitative than quantitative.

## Languages examined

- Major Slavic languages (including Vernacular Upper Sorbian)
- Baltic: Lithuanian and Latvian
- Yiddish (+ German as a point of reference)
- Hungarian
- (Iron) Ossetic
- Kartvelian: Georgian, Svan, Mingrelian, Laz
- + Adyghe (North-West Caucasian)

# Languages examined

					LATV							
	GER	SOR			LITH		BEL					
G			POL		YID			RUS				
J G.	LX	CZE		SLVK			UKR					
				HUN								
			SLVN								ADY	
				BSC								OSS
					MAC	BULG	-		LAZ	MING	SVAN	GEO

#### Sources

- Grammars and linguistic studies of aspect
- Dictionaries
- Corpora (to a significant extent only for Russian and Lithuanian)
- Fieldwork (only for Lithuanian and Adyghe)

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A parallel corpus study like von Waldenfels (2012) is certainly a desidaratum.

#### Preverbs: a definition

- A subtype of verbal satellites (Talmy 1985), which
- systematically (though not necessarily always, cf. Hungarian or German) occur as verbal prefixes;
- express broadly understood spatial and/or actional modification of the eventuality denoted by the verb.

## Typological parameters

- Morphological properties of preverbs.
- 2. Functional properties of preverbs.
- 3. Functional properties of verbal systems.

#### Morphological properties of preverbs

- Morphological status of preverbs (bound morphemes vs. separable wordforms).
- Iteration of preverbs.
- Verbal prefixes different from preverbs.
- Position of preverbs within the verb.
- Morphological subclassification of preverbs (e.g. separable vs. inseparable preverbs in Germanic).

#### Morphological properties of preverbs

Separability of preverbs:

#### German

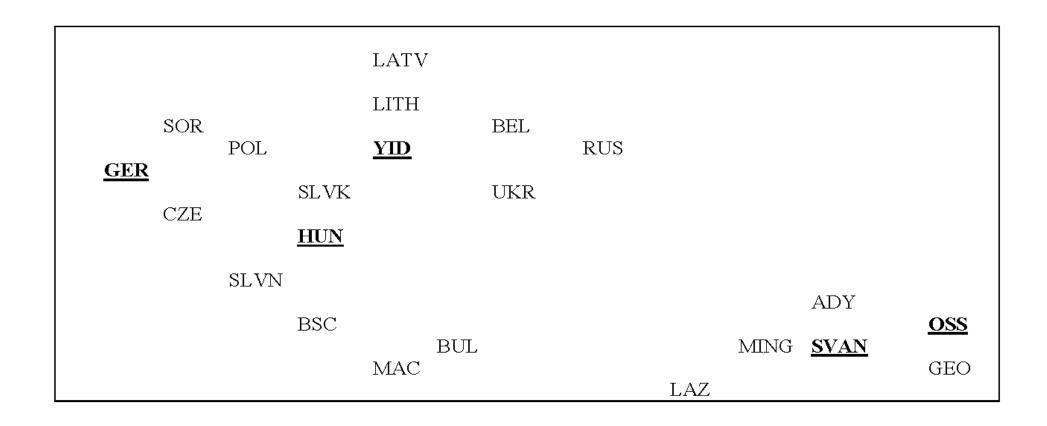
Die Männer werden das Heu aufladen.

'The men will load the hay up.'

Die Männer <u>laden</u> das Heu **auf**.

'The men are loading the hay [up].'

## Separability of preverbs



#### Morphological properties of preverbs

Iteration of preverbs:

pa-iz-meklēt

Latvian

PVB-PVB-search

'to investigate for a while'

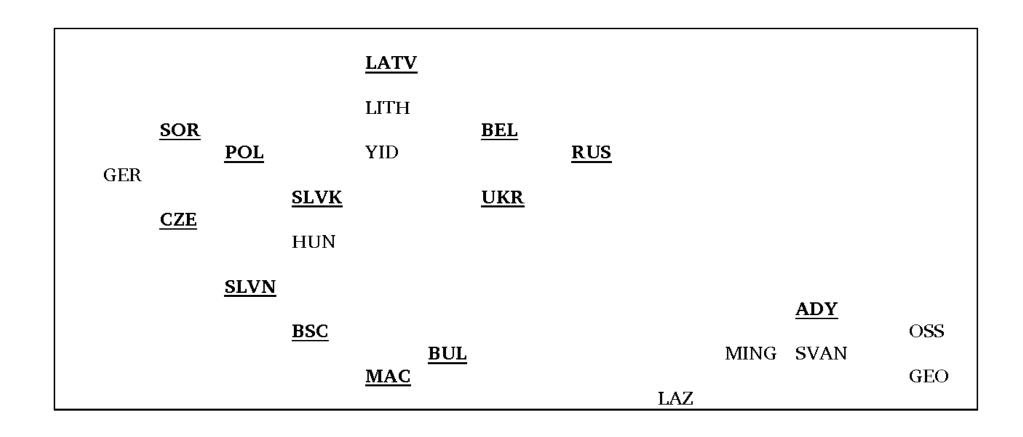
po-na-vy-dum-yva-l-a

Russian

PVB-PVB-PVB-think-IPFV-PST-SG.F

'she invented many different things'

## Iteration of preverbs



#### Morphological properties of preverbs

Verbal prefixes other than preverbs:

tebe-per-rašo

Lithuanian

CNT-PVB-write:PRS.3

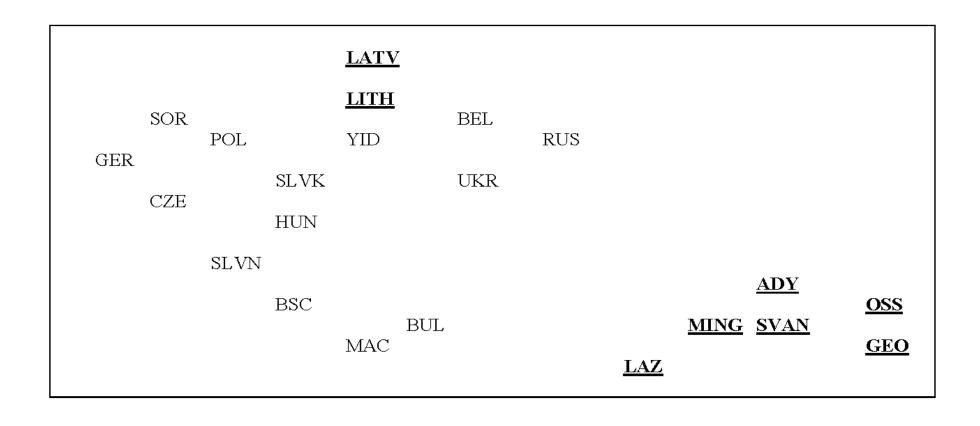
'is still rewriting'

*ca-v-i-kitx-e*PVB-1.SBJ-CV-read-AOR

'I read it'

Georgian

### Verbal prefixes other than preverbs



### Functional properties of preverbs

- Systematic expression of deictic notions.
- "Purely" aspectual uses of preverbs.
- Delimitative uses of preverbs with atelic verbs.
- Durative (actual present/past) use of prefixed verbs (NB verbs of motion vs. other semantic classes)

### Functional properties of preverbs

Delimitative preverbs

Ja po-spal neskoľko časov.

'I slept for a few hours.'

Russian

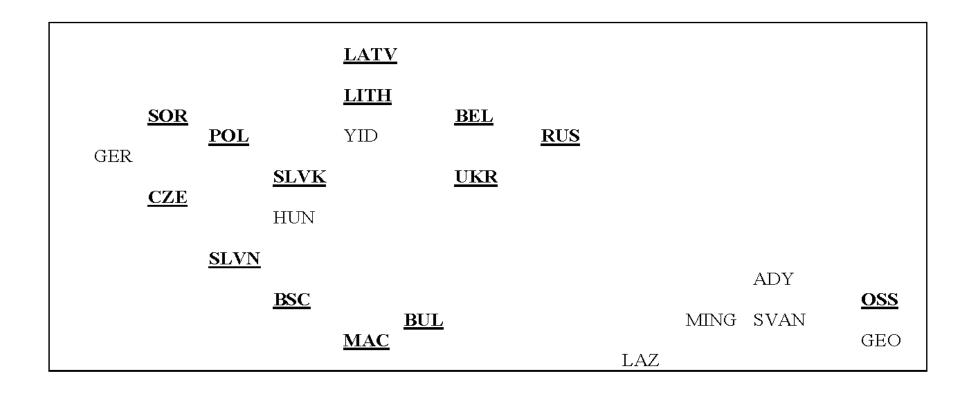
**a-**kwəš-ta

PVB-work-PST.3SG

'S/he worked (for some time).'

**Ossetic** 

## Delimitative preverbs



### Functional properties of preverbs

 Imperfective use of prefixed verbs (usually only with present tense)

Georgian (motion verbs only)

**še-**dis 's/he is going in' (imperfective present)

**še-**ak'etebs 's/he will repair it' (perfective future)

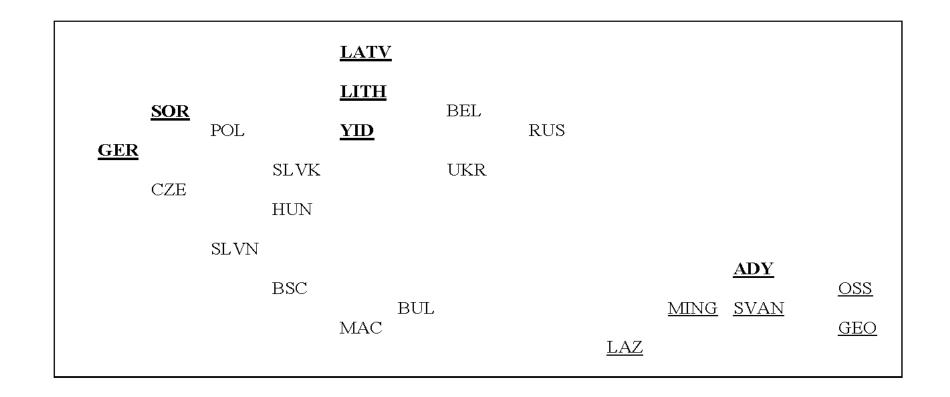
Vernacular Upper Sorbian (various verbs, Breu

2000a: 55; 2012)

Wón na-pisa<sub>PFV PRS</sub> rune někotre słowa.

'He is writing some words now'

### Imperfective use of prefixed verbs



<u>underlined</u>: motion verbs only

boldface+underlined: motion and non-motion verbs

- Uses of perfective present:
  - for habitual or praesens historicum;
  - for futurate expressions.
- Means of secondary imperfectivisation.
- Non-prefixal means of perfectivisation.
- Restrictions on the use of prefixal verbs with phasal predicates.

- Interaction of prefixal and non-prefixal verbs with other TAM-categories:
  - formation of future tense;
  - combination of prefix-based aspectual distinctions with inflectional tense-aspect categories (e.g. Aorist and Imperfect in Balkan Slavic and Kartvelian).

- Perfective present:
  - habitual in Lithuanian

```
rektori-us pa-raš-o įvad-ą
```

rector-NOM PRV-write-PRS.3 introduction-ACC

'The rector (usually) writes(/\*will write) an introduction.'

- Perfective present:
  - habitual in Lithuanian

```
rektori-us pa-raš-o įvad-ą
```

rector-NOM PRV-write-PRS.3 introduction-ACC

'The rector (usually) **writes**(/\*will write) an introduction.'

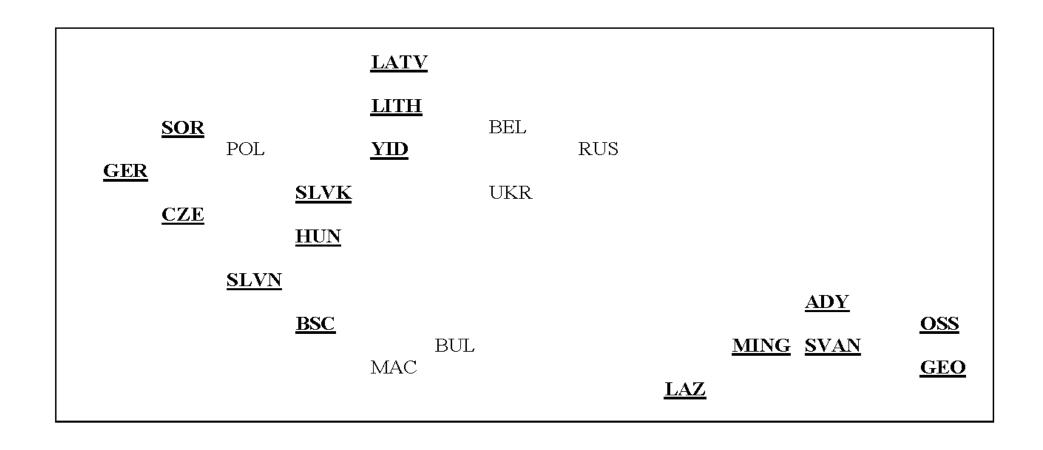
- futurate in Russian

rektor na-piš-et vvedenie

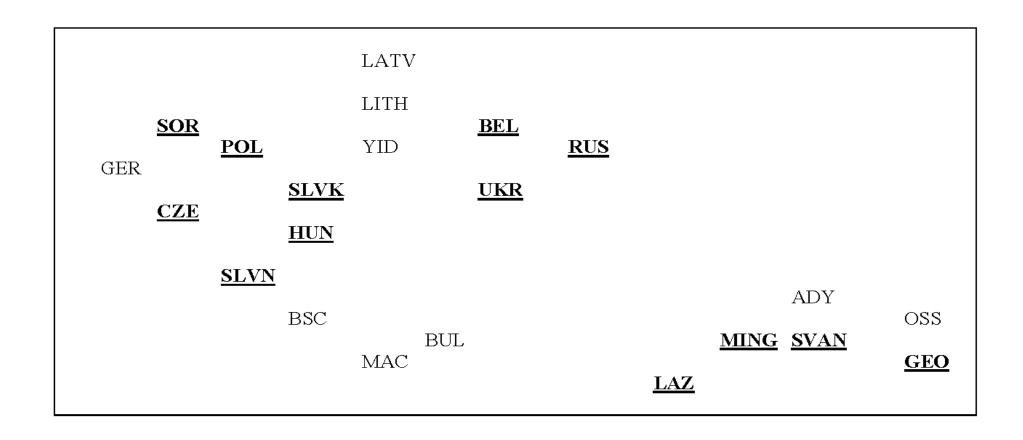
rector-NOM PRV-write-PRS.3 introduction-ACC

'The rector will write (/\*writes) an introduction.'

### Habitual use of prefixed presents



### Futurate use of prefixed presents



The use of prefixed/perfective verbs with phasal predicates:

Hungarian (Majtinskaja 1960: 139)

```
... aki <u>kezd-te</u> már le-szed-ni
```

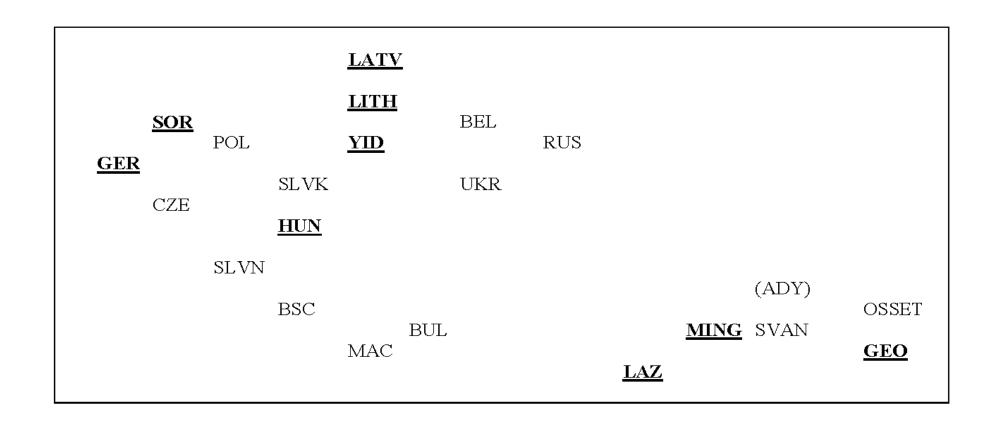
which start-PST.3SG.OC already PVB-take-INF

"...who already started to unload."

vs. Russian

kotorye uže <u>načali</u> raz-gruž-a-t'/\*raz-gruzi-t' which already started PVB-load-IPFV-INF/\*PVB-load-INF

### Perfective verbs with phasal predicates



- secondary imperfectivisation
  - morphological in Russian

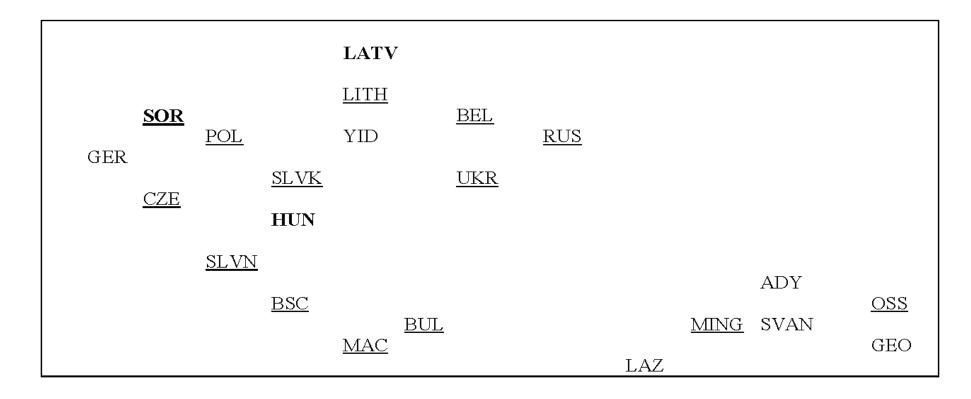
```
let-e-l 'was flying' (IPF) → vy-let-e-l' 'flew out' (PFV)
```

→ vy-let-a-l 'was flying out' (IPF)

- secondary imperfectivization
  - morphological in Russian
    let-e-l 'was flying' (IPF) → vy-let-e-l' 'flew out' (PFV)
    - → vy-let-a-l 'was flying out' (IPF)
  - syntactic in Hungarian

```
men-t 'was going' (IPF) \rightarrow le-men-t 'went down' (PFV) \rightarrow men-t le 'was going down' (IPF)
```

## Secondary imperfectivization



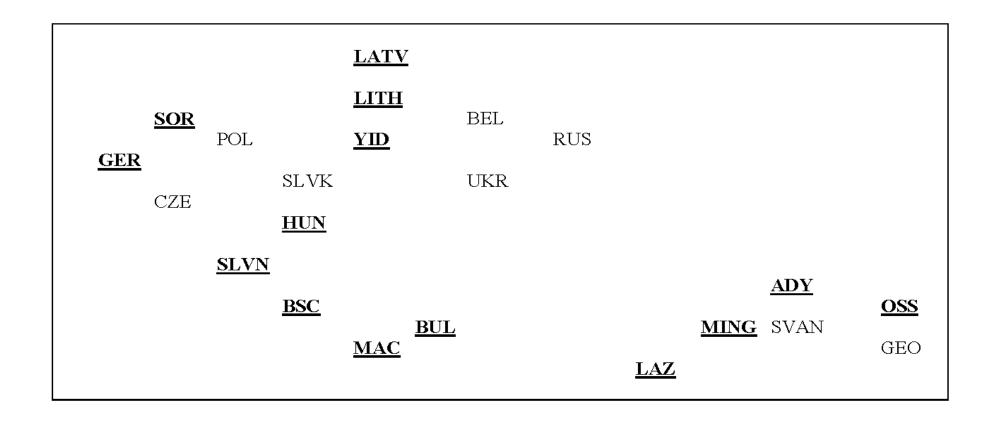
<u>underlined</u>: morphological secondary imperfectivisation**boldface**: syntactic secondary imperfectivisationNB Upper Sorbian has both

Future tense independent of aspect:
 Lithuanian

rašysiu 'I will be writing' imperfective parašysiu 'I will write perfective

(the whole thing)'

### Future tense independent of aspect



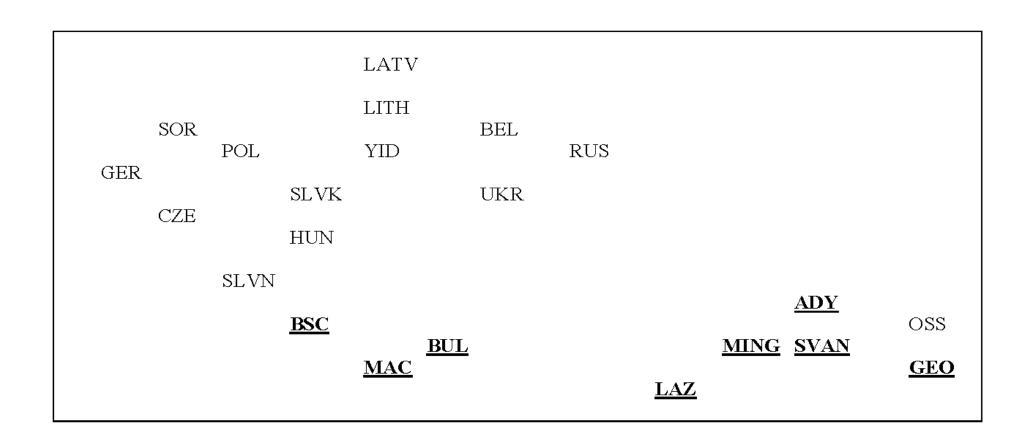
 Distinction between inflectional perfective (Aorist) and imperfective (Imperfect) tenses:
 Bulgarian 'write'

	Aorist	Imperfect
Imperfective	pis <b>a</b>	piš <b>eše</b>
Perfective	<b>na</b> pis <b>a</b>	<b>na</b> piš <b>eše</b>

 Distinction between inflectional perfective (Aorist) and imperfective (Imperfect) tenses:
 Bulgarian 'write'

	Aorist	Imperfect
Imperfective	pisa	pišeše
Perfective	<b>na</b> pis <b>a</b>	napišeše

## Aorist vs. Imperfect



## A multivariate typology

 The languages show considerable variation with respect to all the examined parameters. Notably, in many cases this variation is not correlated with genealogical and/or geographic divisions.

## Roadmap

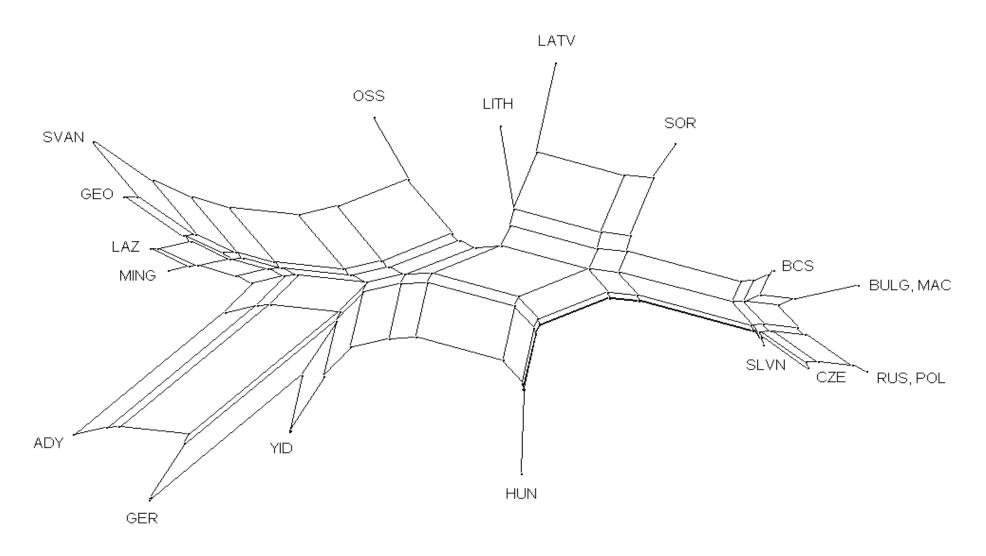
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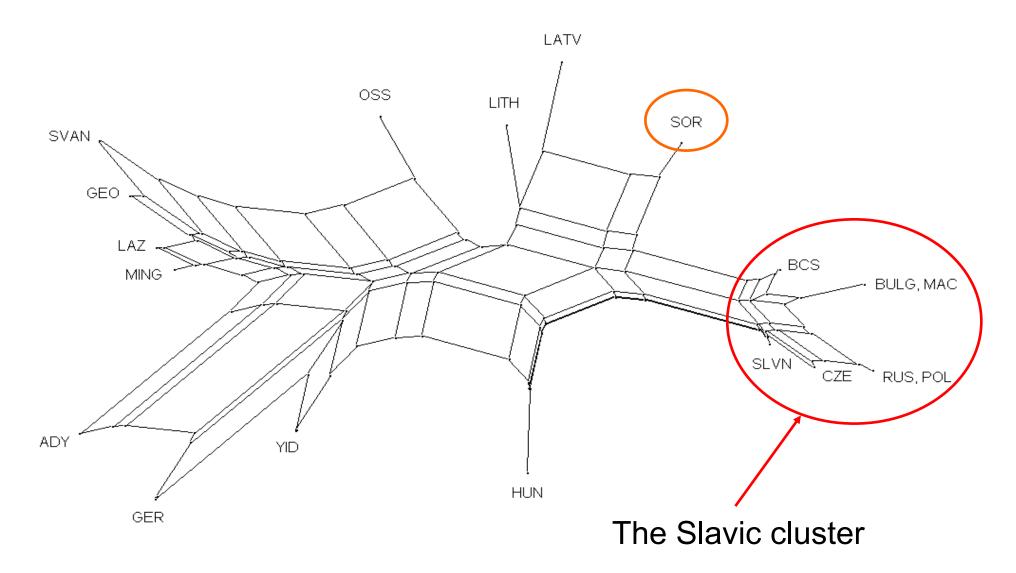
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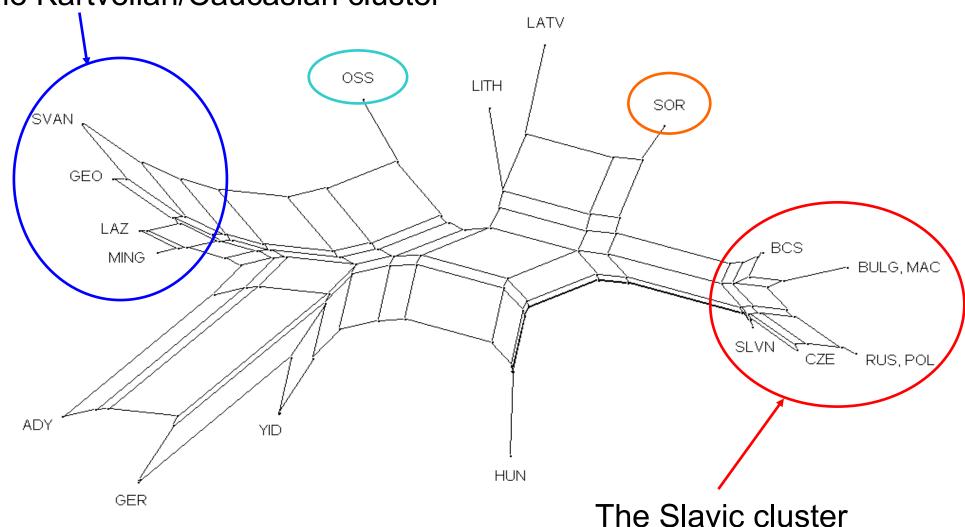
Nothing really sophisticated to offer:

 NeighborNet (Bryant & Moulton 2004, Huson & Bryant 2006, Bryant et al. 2005)





The Kartvelian/Caucasian cluster

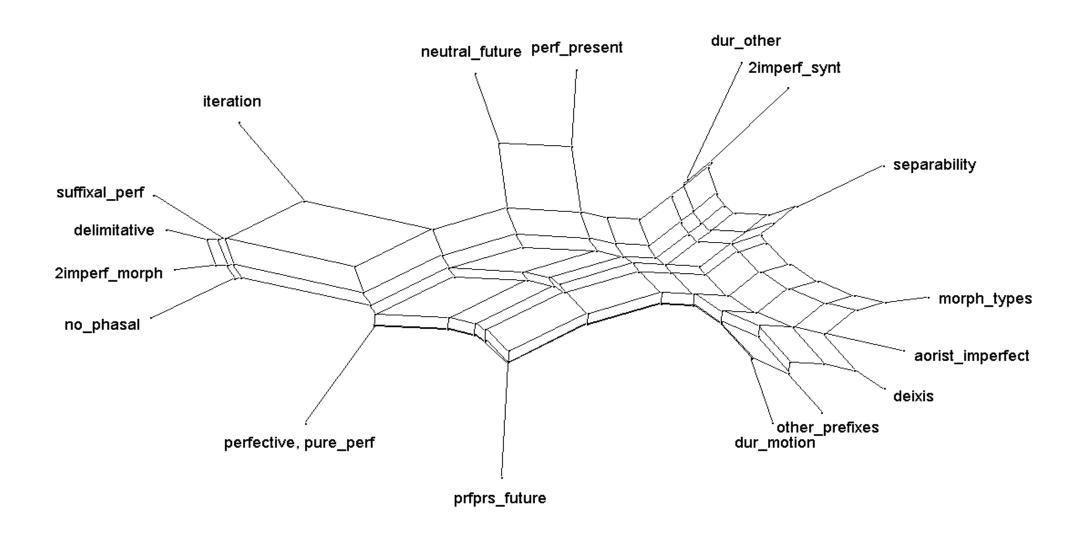


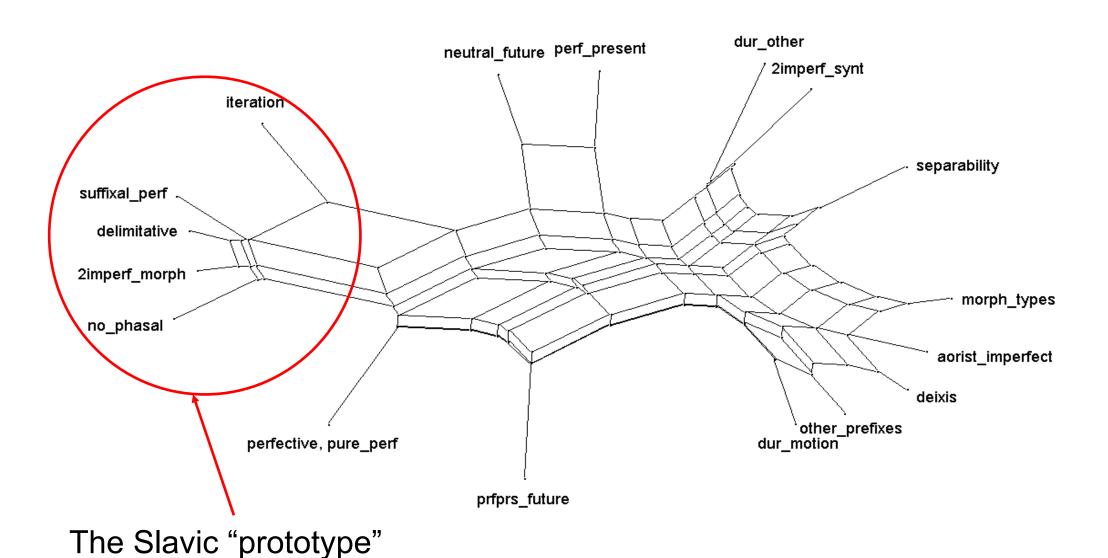
Two major clusters of systems of prefixal perfectivization, both defined more by **genealogical relationship** rather than **areal proximity**:

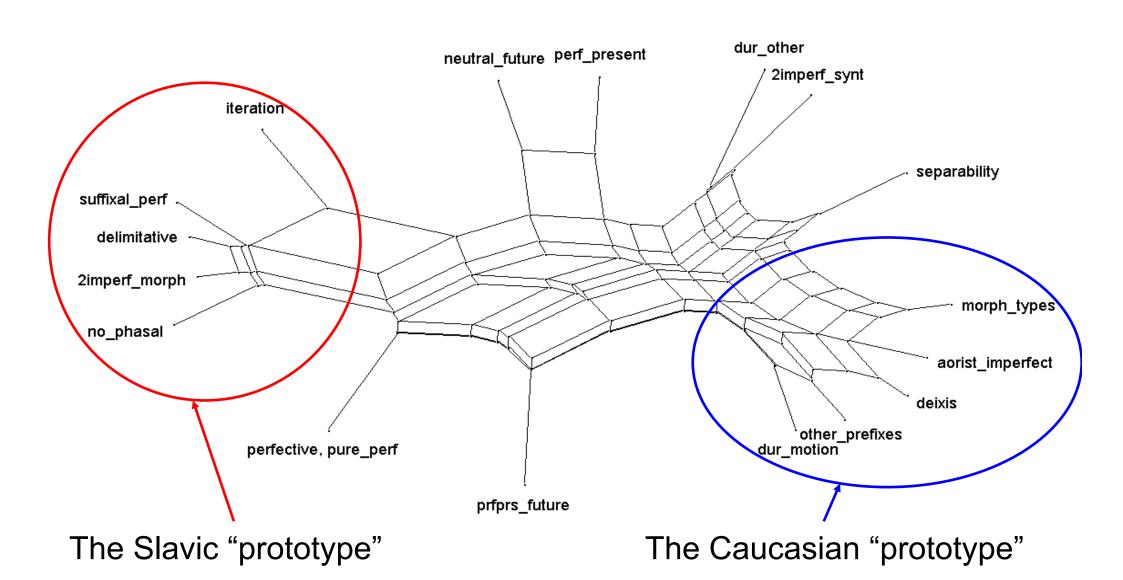
- Slavic (with Sorbian vernaculars as an outlier)
- Kartvelian (with geographically close but genealogically unrelated Ossetic as an outlier)

Other languages occupy intermediate positions in the continuum whose opposite poles are constituted by the Slavic and Kartvelian clusters, showing no significant similarity either to each other or to either of the two poles.

- By swapping the rows and columns of the table, it is possible to apply NeighborNet to features instead of languages.
- NB Strictly speaking, an illigitimate move (thanks to Sergey Say for pointing this out to me)
- ... but it has worked!
- (Cf. Cysouw 2007 for a similar approach)







Not only clustering of **languages**, but clustering of **features** as well, showing that the two clusters of prefix-based aspectual systems are characterised by different constellations of properties.

Not **one**, but **two** "prototypes" of prefixal perfectivisation:

"Slavic" and "Caucasian".

The "Slavic" prototype of prefixal perfective:

- iteration of preverbs without clear morphological or functional subdivisions;
- lack of other verbal prefixes;
- productive delimitative prefixation;
- productive morphological secondary imperfectivisation;
- a suffixal perfectivizer;
- ban on the co-occurrence of perfective verbs with phasal predicates;
- ban on the imperfective use of prefixed verbs of motion.

The "Kartvelian"/"Caucasian" prototype:

- no preverb iteration;
- morphological and functional subdivisions of preverbs;
- presence of other verbal prefixes;
- systematic expression of deixis by preverbs;
- no productive delimitative Aktionsarten;
- no productive secondary imperfectivisation;
- imperfective use of prefixed motion verbs;
- inflectional Aorist and Imperfect.

However, the quantitative multi-factorial method does not allow to determine clear areal influences (e.g. Sorbian is shown to be different from other Slavic languages, but is not shown to have similarities to German), which is an indication that contact-induced change affects individual parameters rather than whole systems.

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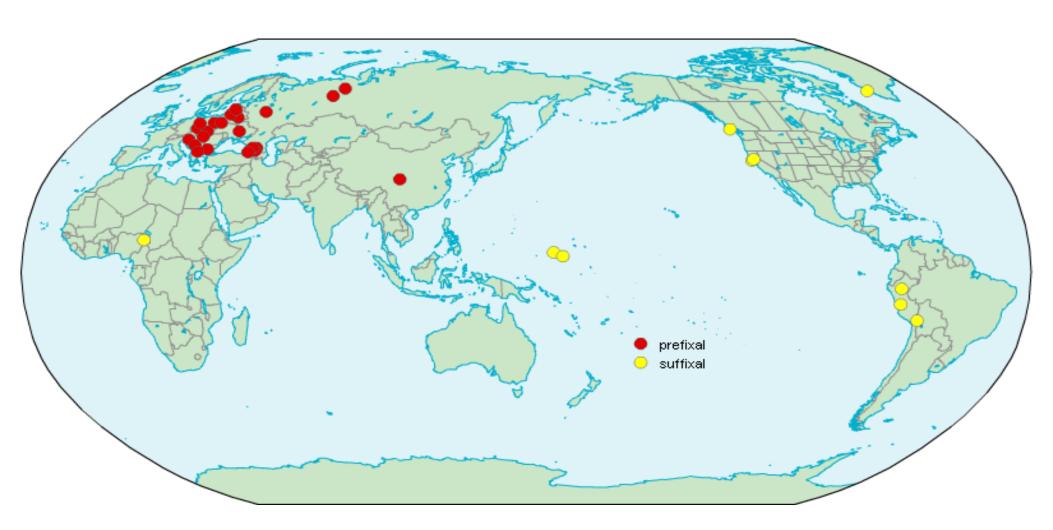
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Bounder-based perfectives are not necessarily prefixal.

In many languages morphemes expressing spatial and aspectual modifications of verbal semantics are suffixal.

```
Margi (Chadic, Nigeria, Hoffmann 1963)
gù 'seek, look for (ipf)' →
gú-bá 'find out (pfv)'
```

```
Aymara (Aymaran, Bolivia, Haude 2003) 
sawu-ña 'weave (ipf)' → 
saw-su-ña 'finish weaving (pfv)'
```

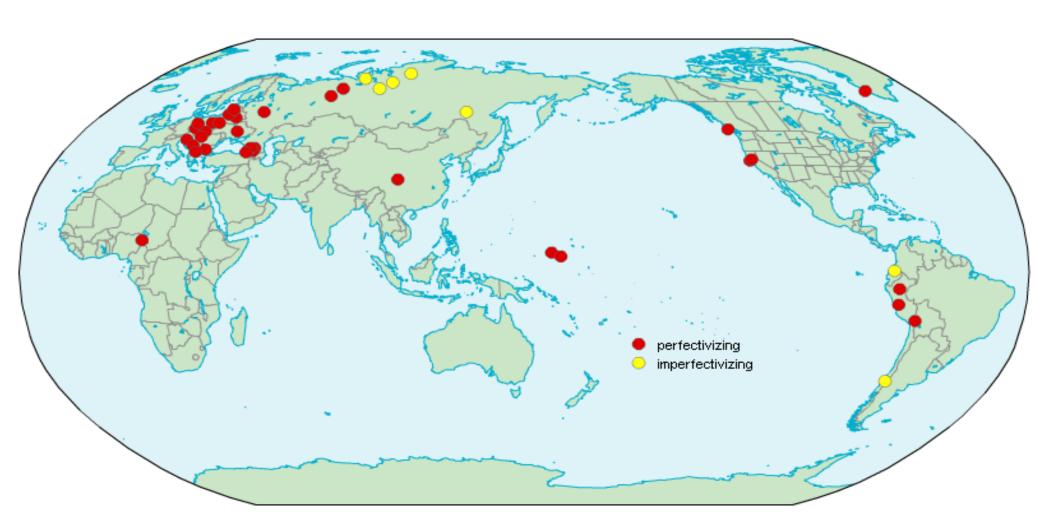


 Derivational aspectual systems are not necessarily predominantly perfectivising, like Slavic and Baltic, but can be imperfectivising as well.

Arkadiev & Shluinsky 2015, 2016, Shluinsky 2017

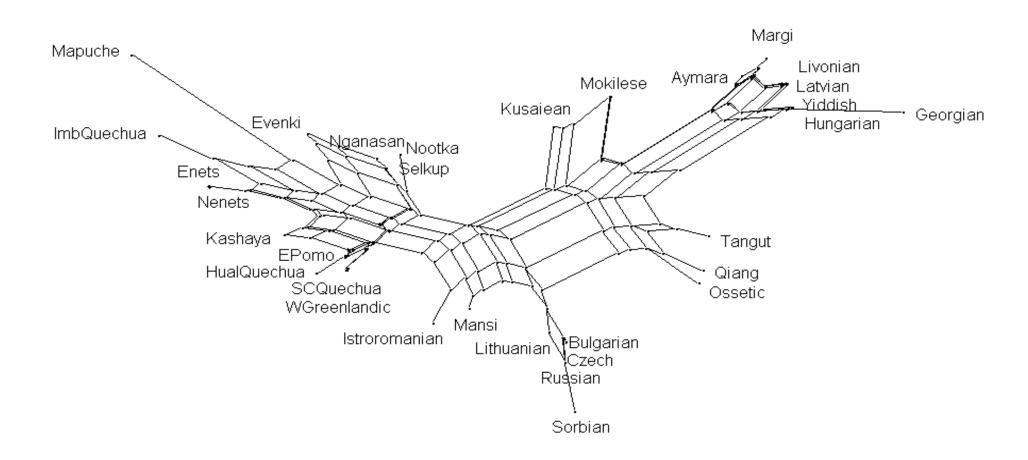
**Enets** (Samoyedic, Taymyr, Shluinsky 2017) piri-? 'they cooked (pfv)' → piri-goɔ 's/he is cooking (ipf)'

Mapuche (Araucanian, Chile, Smeets 2007) *lüq-üy* 'it became white (pfv)' → *lüq-küle-y* 'it is white (ipf)'

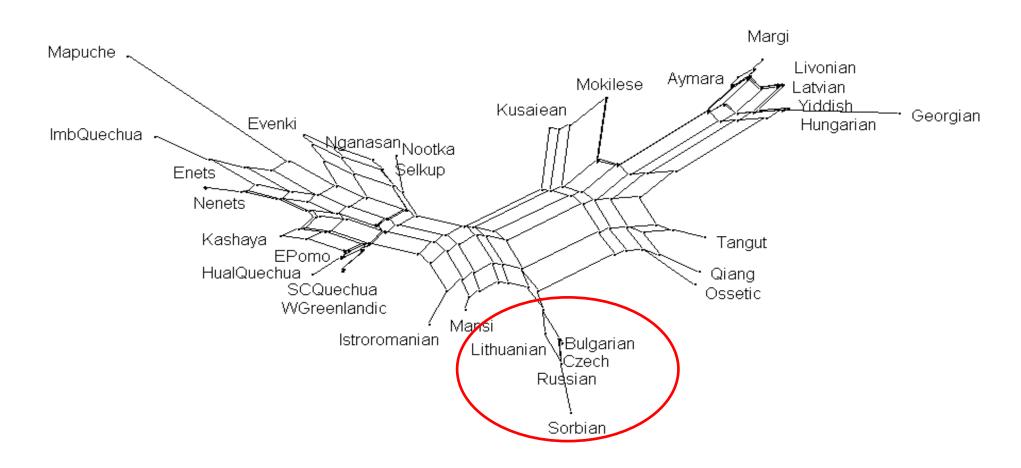


Clear areal patterning is evident for both prefix-based perfectivising aspectual systems and for perfectivising systems in general, though the latter seem (given the data available) to be more widespread globally.









Slavic aspect is neither a "paradigm case", nor an "exotic phenomenon" in the typology of aspectual systems.

Its place in the general landscape of aspectual systems can be assessed by comparing it not only to the Western European-style systems of inflectional aspect (e.g. Breu 2000b), but to other bounder-based and, more generally, verb-classifying aspectual systems as well.

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- A broader typological outlook
- Genetic inheritance vs. language contact

### Roadmap

- Introducing "Slavic-style" aspect
- A multivariate typology
- Some quantitative methods
- A broader typological outlook
- Genetic inheritance vs. language contact

- What is the role of genealogical inheritance and language contact in the rise and development of "Slavic-style aspect"?
- Which properties of these systems reflect internal developments and which are subject to areal diffusion?

In all the languages under investigation the systems of preverbs encoding spatial meanings are inherited from prehistoric times:

- Slavic, Baltic and at least some Germanic and Ossetic preverbs go back to the Proto-Indo-European verbal satellites;
- Hungarian preverbs find counterparts in the Ob-Ugric verbal satellites (Kiefer & Honti 2003, Honti 1999);
- though fairly diverse, the preverbs in Kartvelian are attested across the whole family (Hewitt 2004, Rostovtsev-Popiel 2012a).

This implies that at least some (and potentially many) prerequisites for the development of the prefixal perfective have been present in the languages in question prior to any possible contact leading to the spread of the grammaticalisation pattern

"spatial preverb" → "Aktionsart preverb" → "perfectivising preverb".

This finds support in the fact that verbal sattelites or other elements specifying the spatial extent of the situation tend to develop into aspectual "bounders" (Bybee & Dahl 1989) cross-linguistically (Breu 1992, Bybee et al. 1994, Maisak 2005).

Such developments have been recurring in the documented history of the Indo-European languages: besides Balto-Slavic cf. late Latin (Haverling 2003, Panov 2012) and Gothic (Maslov 1959, Genis 2012) preverbs, as well as adverbial particles in Germanic (e.g. Brinton 1988), Italian (Iacobini & Masini 2006) and Balto-Finnic (Wälchli 2001).

However, in all the studied languages the use of preverbs for perfectivisation is a more or less recent innovation.

Therefore, contact and areal diffusion could have (and in some cases clearly have) played an important role in the development of prefix-based aspectual systems.

Cf. Wiemer & Seržant 2017

# Contact-induced grammatical change

Two major types of borrowing (transfer):

- MATter borrowing: "direct replication of morphemes and phonological shapes from a source language";
- PATtern borrowing: "re-shaping of language-internal structures ... it is the patterns of distribution, of grammatical and semantic meaning, and of formalsyntactic arrangement .. that are modelled on an external source".

Matras & Sakel 2007: 829-830, Sakel 2007, Gardani et al. 2015

Language contact phenomena attested in the domain of prefixal perfectivisation are rather diverse and include both matter (MAT) and pattern (PAT) borrowing.

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#### MAT-borrowing:

- of individual prefixes into a system already possessing preverbs (e.g. Baltic or Finnic dialects in contact with Slavic);
- of whole preverb systems into languages originally without preverbs (e.g. Romani dialects and Istroromanian in contact with Slavic, Livonian in contact with Latvian).

# MAT-borrowing of prefixes

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Latvian Romani (Ariste 1973: 80)

nočhindža 'cut off' (~ Latv. nogriezt),

uzdžinena 'get to know' (~ Latv. uzzināt)
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Istroromanian (Klepikova 1959: 38-45, Hurren 1969)

rezlega 'untie' (~ Croatian razvezati)

poćira 'have supper' (~ Cro. povečerati)
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#### PAT-borrowing:

- restructuring of semantics of prefixes and change in the expression of Aktionsarten (e.g. Yiddish in contact with Slavic or Sorbian in contact with German);
- calquing of the German "adverbial particles" (Slavic and Romani varieties);
- calquing of secondary imperfectivisation (Lithuanian in contact with Slavic).

# PAT-borrowing of prefixes

farboyen 'block by construction' ~ Rus. zastroit' fartantsn zikh 'dance a lot' ~ Rus. zatancevat'sja farshraybn 'write down' ~ Rus. zapisat'

Talmy 1982: 243, Wexler 1972: 99-100, Šišigin 2016

As usual, in each individual case the extent of contact influence depends on the sociolinguistic situation and on the structural similarities vs. differences between the verbal systems (e.g. under contact with Slavic secondary imperfectivisation did not arise in Yiddish and Latvian, whose verbal systems lack any comparable verbal affix).

Even in situations of prolonged and very intensive language contact MAT and/or PAT borrowing tends to be limited to formally transparent and semantically loaded features.

"Global copying" of an aspectual system as a whole is not attested and does not seem to be possible (cf. the discussion of the very special case of Istroromanian in Arkadiev 2018).

No reason to assume that the currently observed similarities between the Cental and Eastern European and the Caucasian subareas of prefixal perfective could have arisen due to language contact between these two groups of languages (contra Abaev 1965, who postulated Slavic influence on Ossetic, and, indirectly, on Kartvelian).

The prehistoric contacts between the Balto-Slavic and the Iranian peoples and languages (Zaliznjak 1962, Èdel'man 2002 etc) must have significantly predated the time when the modern grammatical systems and especially their functional make-up started emerging.

The similarities between the Balto-Slavic and the Kartvelian-Ossetic systems of prefixal perfective are obviously not due to the recent contacts (since the late 18<sup>th</sup> cent. onwards):

When the Caucasian peoples were incorporated into the Russian Empire their languages already possessed prefixal perfective.

Though in the oldest Georgian texts (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> cent. AD) numerous spatial preverbs did not perfectivise verbs (Schanidse 1982), the rise and spread of the aspectual functions of preverbs must have been completed by the middle-Georgian period (12th century, Rostovtsev-Popiel 2012b), when no intensive contacts with Slavic languages could be reasonably assumed.

Are there reasons to assume that the Caucasian (Kartvelian-Ossetic) area of prefixal perfective is at least partly due to language contact?

There is evidence pointing in this direction (pace Thordarson 1982, 2009, who dismisses this possibility without much discussion).

The basic spatial meanings of Ossetic preverbs are largely similar to the meanings of Georgian preverbs.

#### Two semantic axes:

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locative ('upwards', 'downwards', 'inside', 'outside' etc.)
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deictic ('towards the speaker' vs. 'from the speaker'

In Georgian the two axes are expressed by different sets of co-occurring preverbs, while in Ossetic they are conflated.

#### Iron Ossetic preverbs

	ʻin'	'out'	'down'	ʻup'	'sideways'
'hither'	ba-	ra-	ær-, cæ-	C	fæ-
'thither'	ærba-	a-	ny-	S-	

#### Iron Ossetic preverbs

	ʻin'	'out'	'down'	ʻup'	'sideways'	
'hither'	ba-	ra-	ær-, cæ-	C	fæ-	
'thither'	ærba-	a-	ny-	S-	1æ-	

#### Georgian preverbs

		'down'	ʻup'	'out'	ʻin'	'across'	'forward'
'hither'	то-	ča-mo-	а-то-	ga-mo-	še-mo-	gad-mo-	c'a-mo-
'thither'	mi-	ča-, da-	a-	ga-	še-	gada-	c'a-

#### Iron Ossetic preverbs

	ʻin'	'out'	'down'	ʻup'	'sideways'	
'hither'	ba-	ra-	ær-, cæ-	<u></u>	fæ-	
'thither'	ærba-	a-	ny-	S-		

#### Georgian preverbs

		'down'	ʻup'	'out'	ʻin'	'across'	'forward'
'hither'	mo-	ča- <mark>mo</mark> -	a-mo-	ga-mo-	še-mo-	gad- <mark>mo</mark> -	c'a-mo-
'thither'	mi-	ča-,da-	a-	ga-	še-	gada-	c'a-

- Since the functional and morphological distinction between the spatial and the deictic preverbs is a feature common to all Kartvelian languages, it is legitimate to hypothesize that the Ossetic system is a result of semantic borrowing from Kartvelian (cf. Levickaja 2004).
- Importantly, the key semantic features of the Kartvelian-Ossetic systems of prefixes are lacking in the Balto-Slavic preverbs.

The case for the areal nature of the prefixal perfective systems in Ossetic and Kartvelian is supported by independent evidence:

- (not so numerous) lexical borrowings (Thordarson 1999)
- shared grammatical features, e.g. negative indefinites and preverbal focus constructions (Erschler 2012).

- Turning to the better studied Central European region, we see similarities not only in the aspectual systems, but in the domain of preverb semantics as well, in particular in their polysemy patterns.
- Cf. Gast & van der Auwera (2012) and Heine (2012) on the significance of polysemy in contact-induced grammaticalisation, and Wälchli (2001) on verbal satellites in particular.

 Borrowing of polysemy patterns of preverbs have been documented for Yiddish (← Slavic, Wexler 1964, 1972, Talmy 1982) and Sorbian (← German, Wexler 1972, Toops 1992a, 1992b), as well as for some other Slavic varieties under German influence (Bayer 2006).

Similarities in "semantic networks" of preverbs can be observed between Baltic and the neighbouring Slavic languages (cf. e.g. Kožanov 2015), as well as between Hungarian and both Slavic and German (Kiefer 2010).

# Conclusions

The distribution of prefixal perfectives in the languages of Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus involves a complex interplay of genetic inheritance, contact-induced developments and universal-typological tendencies

# Conclusions

- Though areal "on the surface", the distribution of prefixal perfectives cannot be reasonably attributed to a single center of innovation and spread (e.g. Slavic).
- Rather, at least two mutually independent centers of development must be postulated: the Balto-Slavic and the Caucasian.

# Conclusions

 Clues of possible contact-induced developments are to be sought not in the easy to grasp major grammatical features, which can well be explained by the universal tendencies, but in the more intricate properties of grammatical systems and their interaction with the lexicon, e.g. in the semantics and polysemy of preverbs.



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