

Typology I: Homework for Lecture 9, 2015/07/01

(The questions marked with (*) are research questions you can use to deepen your understanding, the others could be exam questions.)

1. Which points in time are relevant for distinguishing tenses according to Reichenbach? What is the systematic difference between perfect and non-perfect tenses? *Explain the concrete difference between the English simple past and present perfect in this system, and illustrate it with an example.
2. What is a remoteness distinction? What is the most frequent remoteness distinction in the languages of the world? How can such a distinction be expressed in languages where it is not grammaticalized?
3. What is the main semantic distinction that is expressed by aspect marking? What are progressive and habitual events? What do they have in common? Give three example sentences describing imperfective events in English, where
 - one describes a habitual and progressive event,
 - one describes a habitual but not progressive event, and
 - one describes a progressive but not habitual event.
4. What are the most important sub-types of modality? You have heard that modal verbs frequently have reduced morpho-syntactic properties. What does that mean? *Is that also the case in English? *Give examples to justify your answer.