

Title: Czech Capacitives: Aspect and Modality

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Abstract:

Capacitives in Czech (i.e. verbs like *uzvednout 100 kg*, „[be able] to lift 100 kg“), harbor a paradox: they exhibit morphological features of perfectives and at the same time they can be used to display semantic properties usually linked with imperfectives and states. States are stative, durative (e.g. extended in time), and unbounded (Croft 2012). Similarly imperfectives are durative and unbounded.

Capacitives if used to refer to states

- cannot be used to express actual event
- do not enter aspect opposition
- are compatible with adverbs of duration ((ještě) pořád, stále, furt... (už) dlouho... dokud).

Study of capacitives brings forward some more general properties of Czech aspect and Aspect in general:

- The usual description of aspect focuses on verb, i.e. it deals with aspect as an exclusively verbal category. However aspectual meaning of a linguistic expression – and it may be considerably larger than the verb itself – is not given (only) by the verb. Verb is one among multiple aspectual exponents born by a linguistic expression (verb).
- Aspect of the verb is not its inherent quality. Rather, it is determined by the way the verb is used in the discourse. In terms of the opposition state vs. process: a verb rather than BEING stative or process-like, it is USED in a stative or process-like manner.
- The other way around: the verb is not perfective or imperfective, stative or process-like by itself, the aspectual distinction is imposed on the verb by the discourse, aspectual categoriality of the verb emerges from the discourse.

Tense and Modality belong among qualities that are relevant for aspectual character of a linguistic expression. Our presentation will deal namely with these two factors that contribute to, co-determine the aspectual character of linguistic expressions.

Croft W., 2012, *Verbs, Aspect and Causal Structure*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Vendler Z., 1967, *Verbs and times*. In: *Linguistics and Philosophy*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 97-121.