

A Study on ASPECT as a Grammatical Category in English

Part I

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Introduction

1. Definition of Aspect

The aim of this present paper is to provide an introductory analysis of verbal aspect and related concepts, with special reference to semantics of aspectual distinction.

The term of 'aspect' is unfamiliar to researchers of linguistics in English, while it is quite well known to ones in Slavonic languages such as Russian, because it should be clear to recognize the morphological distinction between Perfective and Imperfective aspect in the latter case. In Modern English the morphological forms of aspect are not distinguished so definitely that the notion of 'aspect' tends to be less treated by philologists except some such as Curme, Kruisinga, Jespersen, Poutsma, Deutschbein, Sweet, and Zandvoort than any other term of verbal categories like 'tense' and 'mood' which are qualified as essential ones surrounding verbs.¹ To theorize the general notion of 'aspect' it is worth while to consider some examples of aspectual distinctions in Russian.

In Russian the distinction between Perfective and Imperfective aspect is fundamentally shown in the form of binary morphological oppositions as follows:

(Imperfective)	vs.	(Perfective)
чита́ть	'read'	→ прочита́ть
смотре́ть	'watch'	→ посмотре́ть
писа́ть	'write'	→ написа́ть
пить	'drink'	→ выпить

Giving чита́ть / čitač / as an example, we can describe two sentences, (1) Он *чита́л* эту кни́гу. / On čital eti knigi / and (2) Он *проче́тал* эту кни́гу. / On pročital eti knigi /. Both of these sentences are translatable into English as the simple sentence, "He *read* this book," that strictly means "He was reading this book" or "He used to read this book" for the former case, on the other hand "He has read this book" for the latter.

Similarities could be found in French, "il lut" (Passé Simple) and "il lisait" (Imparfait) which are treated in the domain of 'tense.'²

In such cases above, it is clear that terminological and conceptual confusion of 'tense' and 'aspect' should exist in the study of language.

2. Confusion of Tense and Aspect

The notion of 'aspect' might be one of the most obscure and the least definite categories in English grammar. Through *Dictionary of English Philology* (S. Ichikawa, ed.), *Dictionary of English Linguistics* (K. Ishibashi, ed.), *Dictionary of English Grammar* (T. Otsuka, ed.), *Dictionary of English Linguistics and Philology* (T. Otsuka and F. Nakajima, eds.), and *Encyclopedia of English*

Linguistics (T. Matsunami, Y. Ikegami, and K. Imai, eds.), we can get the common definition of 'aspect,' i.e., 'aspect' is a grammatical form which represents difference of characteristics imaged by verbs, corresponding to the technical term 'vid' in Slavonic languages and to the technical term 'Aktionsart' in German.³ In fact, 'aspect' in Slavonic languages can be defined as a systematic category in the way of morphological changes of verbs as mentioned in the previous chapter, it is not quite clear in the other languages. If it is the case, what does the general description above, "a grammatical form which represents difference of characteristics imaged by verbs," mean? Judging from the examples of Russian shown in the previous chapter, it means to make a distinction between 'perfective' and 'imperfective' qualified by verbs or verbal phrases.

As it is explained in the former section, the Russian *читать* can be translated into English 'be reading,' and *прочитать* into 'have read.' 'Progressive form' and 'Perfect form' which should be used in this case have traditionally been treated as tense forms.⁴ However, judging from the general notion that in Indo-European languages there should not have been a grammatical form of 'tense,' but there should have been 'aspect' which is a form representing various differences of verbal manners in the earliest period, and that gradually the grammatical form of 'tense' might have developed from 'aspect,' consequently the question can arise whether there would be a confusion of 'tense' and 'aspect' among grammarians. We can suppose the reason on the three points as follows: firstly, 'tense' and 'aspect' are both conceptions concerning verbs; secondly, both of them are complicated with each other to be used; lastly, the function of 'perfect form' is not completely recognized or it is rather misunderstood.⁵ It is, therefore, necessary to re-examine the way of treatments of 'aspect' in English grammar and to draw a theoretical distinction between the notion of 'tense' and 'aspect.'

Definition of ASPECT in English Syntax: A Historical Survey

1. Several Definitions of Aspect in Traditional Grammar

(1) Curme's analysis

When we think of the term 'aspect' in English grammar, the name of Curme appears in our mind, who gives us a grammatical analysis of 'aspect' based on lexical meanings of verbs and verbal phrases.

Curme, in *A Grammar of the English Language III: Syntax* (chap. 19; 1931) and in *English Grammar* (secs. 39, 120-1; 1947), indicates the definition as follows:

Aspect indicates the aspect, the type, the character of the action.

Concerning the definition of 'aspect,' Zandvoort analyzes it as follows:⁶

The formula 'A indicates B' makes one expect that A is a formal, B a notional category. This, however, is not clear from Curme's definition. Even apart from the confusing 'Aspect indicates the aspect', there is a contradiction involved in saying, first, that 'Aspect indicates ...the type...of the action', ...

Nothing is said about the origin of either the notion of the term, nor is their relevance to the structure of Modern English made fully clear.

Even though Curme's description on 'aspect' is not quite clear-cut as Zandvoort points out, his approach is most important and valuable in view of thinking the characteristics of 'aspect' dif-

ferentiated from that of 'tense.'

In *English Grammar* (§. 120) Curme classifies 'aspect' as follows:

Terminate and Progressive Aspects.

These are the forms which the verb assumes to represent the act as a finished whole, as an actual fact, or as going on. They are the two main aspects; they are modern but now widely used. The terminate form, the common form of the English verb (I *walk, work*, etc.), represents the act as a finished whole, as actual fact, hence called terminate, i.e., finished: "Last Saturday I *worked* (terminate, a fact) in the garden," but: "Last Saturday I *was working* (progressive) in the garden when he went by." The progressive form represents the act as going on.

It is quite clear that Curme thinks 'Progressive form' treated as a tense form to be a main form expressing verbal characteristics, i.e., aspect. According to his classification of aspects, we can get the four types of verbal features.

1. Durative (Progressive) aspect
Dogs *are barking*.
He was tired, but he *kept on working*.
2. Point-action aspect
 - i) Ingressive aspect
When we scold her, she *begins to cry* (*begins crying*).
She *turned* (*became, got, grew*) *pale*.
He *dozed off*.
It *is clearing*.
 - ii) Effective aspect
I *have just finished reading* the book.
I *ate* the apple *up*.
It will be ten o'clock before we *get started*.
He *is dying*.
3. Terminate aspect
He *tumbled* and *fell*.
He *wears out* shoes faster than any boy I know.
4. Iterative aspect
He *used to visit* us frequently.
Courage *will come* and *go*.
I've *tried* and *tried*, but I've not succeeded.
The fire *crackles*.
He *is perpetually complaining*.

We can not help but admit Curme's inadequacy in systematic analyses of the verbal category which are classified into four types, since there is not consistency in his arrangement of aspects, in that some are based on grammatical forms of verbs, others are based on lexical meanings of verbs themselves.

(2) Kruisinga's analysis

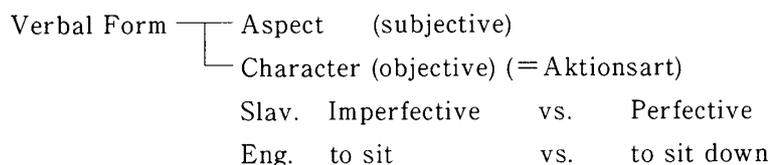
Kruisinga, in *A Handbook of Present-Day English II*, Volume I (secs. 304-335; 1931), also has a chapter on 'aspect' in which he gives a definition of the term 'aspect' indicating the origin of it as follows:

Aspect is the translation of a term used in Slavonic grammar to denote the meaning of a verbal *form* in so far as it expresses whether the speaker looks upon an action in its entirety, or with special reference to some part (chiefly the beginning or the end) .

In Slavonic grammar the forms of the languages make it necessary to distinguish an *imperfective*

(or *durative*) and a *perfective* aspect.

On the basis of Kruisinga's analysis, we can make a distinction between 'aspect' and 'character' in verbal forms; the variety of 'aspect' is due to differences of mental attitude of a speaker of the language, whereas the variety of 'character' is due to differences of actions of verbs themselves. In other words, the former is 'subjective,' and the latter is 'objective' which corresponds to 'Aktionsart' in German.



(Fig. 1)

〈ASPECT〉

1. Perfective

He *mounted* a hill. vs. He *ascended* a hill. (Imperfective)

2. Durative

I *am* not *misleading* you.

3. Inchoative

One night ... he *fell thinking* of Zimbabwe and the lost cities of Africa.

4. Frequentative

Separation ... *is apt* to idealise the *removed* object.

〈CHARACTER〉

1. Iterative

He *goes* to Germany once a year.

2. Inchoative

catch sight of... / *take possession of...* / *take one's stand, etc.*

In addition to the description above, Kruisinga shows us two more important points; one is 'progressive form' (be + ing) which reflects the characteristics of 'aspect' when it is used for describing with verbal meanings, i.e., *Incompletion*, the other is *Perfect-present* which means 'simple present tense' though the form is 'perfect form,' e.g., "I want to *have done with* teaching," "I *have got* (= have) a very good knife." In this case we should note that the term *Perfect-present* is to be distinguished from Present-perfect.

Besides, concerning a marked contrast between 'imperfective' and 'perfective' aspect, the distinction is illustrated with *to sit* v.s. *to sit down* on the basis of his paralleling English with Slavonic languages (Fig.1). As Zandvoort indicates, however, "it should be 'remembered' that 'the English parallels are not identical with the Slavonic verbal forms'." ⁷

(3) Jespersen's analysis

We can not help being disappointed to know the fact that we find no firm definition of 'aspect' in Jespersen's *Modern English Grammar IV: Syntax* (Time and Tense, 1931), except for 'Beginning aspect' and 'Inchoative aspect' (§.22.7) as follows:

The beginning of a state or of an action ("inchoative or ingressive aspect") is sometimes implied in verbal forms or phrases dealt with in this volume.

Jespersen, however, in *The Philosophy of Grammar* (Time and Tense, 1924), refers to the matter of 'aspect' in detail as follows:

I must here very briefly deal with a subject which has already been touched upon and which

has been very warmly discussed in recent decades, namely what has generally in English been called the *aspect* of the verb, and in German *aktionsart*, though some writers would use the two terms for two different things. It is generally assumed that our Aryan languages had at first no real forms in their verbs for tense-distinctions, but denoted various aspects, perfective, imperfective, punctual, durative, inceptive, or others, and that out of these distinctions were gradually evolved the tense-systems which we find in the oldest Aryan languages and which are the foundation of the systems existing to-day.

Nor have these writers always distinguished the four possible expressions for 'aspects,' (1) the ordinary meaning of the verb itself, (2) the occasional meaning of the verb as occasioned by context or situation, (3) a derivative suffix, and (4) a tense-form. In thus criticizing my predecessors, I may seem to some to live in a glass-house, for I am now going to give my own classification, which after all may not be much better than previous attempts.

Jespersen divides aspects into seven groups.

1. The tempo-distinction between the aorist and the imperfect; this affects (independently of the signification of the verb itself) the tense-form in some languages.
2. The distinction between conclusive and non-conclusive verbs. Here the meaning of the verb affects the meaning of the second participle in Romanic and Gothonic languages, and thus has influence on the time-meaning of passive combinations.
3. The distinction between durative or permanent and punctual or transitory. We have seen above that this is one of the functions of the English distinction between unexpanded and expanded tenses, and that the same distinction is in other languages expressed by totally different means.
4. The distinction between finished and unfinished. This latter is one of the functions of the expanded forms in English: *he was writing a letter*, as compared with *he wrote a letter*; in Dan. It is often expressed by means of the preposition *på*: *han skrev på et brev*; cf. G. *an etwas arbeiten*.
5. The distinction between what takes place only once, and repeated or habitual action or happening. As already remarked, this really belongs to the chapter about "number." Habitual action is very frequently not expressed separately ("he doesn't drink"); in some languages we have suffixes to express it, in which case we speak of iterative or frequentative verbs. Many E. verbs in *-er* and *-le* belong here: *totter, chatter, babble*, etc.
6. The distinction between stability and change. Sometimes we have a pair of corresponding verbs, such as *have*: *get*, *be*: *become* (and its synonyms: *get, turn, grow*)... Many verbs denote both state and change; in *lie down* the latter meaning is denoted by the adverb. There are other ways of expressing similar changes: *fall asleep, go to sleep, get to know, begin to look*, cp. the states: *sleep, know, look*. Some languages have special derivative endings to express change into a state, or beginning (inchoative, inceptive, ingressive verbs) ...
Note the three expressions for (a) change into a state: (b) being in the state: (c) change from the state, in *fall in love with (begin to love)*: *be in love with (love)*: *fall out of love with (cease to love)* / *fall asleep*: *sleep*: *wake (wake up)*...
7. The distinction according to the implication or non-implication of a result. The G. compounds with *er-* frequently are resultative, e.g. *ersteigen*, and this is generally given as one of the chief examples of "perfektivierung durch zusammensetzung"; but it is difficult to see why, for instance, *ergreifen* should be more perfective than the simple *greifen*.

Judging from the classifications above, it is clear that Jespersen appreciates various types of aspects on the lexical and contextual level, not on the grammatical level. It seems that Jespersen regards the one on the grammatical level as one of the tense-forms named 'Expanded tense.' It may, therefore, well be said that his analysis of 'aspect' has little consistency. Jespersen negatively concludes:

I think it would be better to do without the terms perfective and imperfective except in dealing

with the Slavonic verb, where they have a definite sense and have long been in universal use. In other languages it will be well in each separate instance to carefully what is the meaning of the verbal expression concerned, and whether it is due to the verb itself, to its prefix or suffix, to its tense-form, or to the context. Different things are comprised under the term perfective.

Then it would be necessary to think what 'Expanded tense' is, in which he shows various aspects of verbal phrases without using the term 'aspect.' In *Modern English Grammar IV* (§§. 12.1-14.9), we realize the fundamental principle of expanded tense; the essential character of 'expanded tense' is a theory depending on *temporal frame* which is formed by 'be + ing (present participle)' (<OE., *bēon* or *wesan* + *-ende*), e.g., I am writing. / I was writing. / I have been writing. / I had been writing. / I shall (or must, will, etc.) be writing. / I shall have been writing. / I should have been writing. In view of the semantic level, 'expanded tense' might be thought as a grammatical form which makes *definite internal time reference* we shall discuss in detail in the later chapter.

(4) Poutsma's analysis

Ten years before the appearance of these three grammars by Curme, Kruisinga and Jespersen, Poutsma published *The Characters of the English Verb and the Expanded Form* in 1921. According to Zandvoort,⁸ it is illustrated with the following citation, i.e., "Section I defines the concept 'character' as follows: 'The actions expressed by verbs are of a different character, i.e., they may be: a) momentaneous, ...; b) durative, ...; c) iterative, ...' Durative is sub-divided into 1) indefinitely durative, 2) ingressively durative, 3) terminately durative, 4) continuatively durative; Iterative into 1) momentarily iterative, 2) duratively iterative. — Section II. Obs. I states that 'The term character of action stands here as a rendering of the German *aktionsart*'."

Poutsma, in *A Grammar of Late Modern English II*, Sec. II (chap. 51; 1926), gives us his representations of 'aspect' instead of the term 'character.' We can find three types of aspects in his classification as follows:

1. Momentaneous
He *dealt* him a blow.
2. Durative
 - i) Indefinitely durative
He *lives* at Oxford.
 - ii) Ingressively durative
And then the moon *arose*, and in a moment John Oxenham's ship *was* close *aboard*.
 - iii) Terminatively durative
to *climb on* a hill
to *bring* a thing
 - iv) Continuatively durative
He had *outlived* nearly all his early friends and foes.
3. Iterative
 - i) Momentaneously iterative
He sometimes paused... and *panted* like a chased deer.
 - ii) Duratively iterative
He *struggled* against superior numbers.

In fact, as Poutsma describes, there is ambiguity among aspects of English verbs, for they have less definite characteristics. It depends on the context what aspects the given verbs belong to, namely, we can not help but admit a high flexibility of aspects.

Besides, Poutsma gives us quite an interesting information on the matter of 'aspect.'⁹ He refers to a grammatical form 'Copula *to be* + *ing* (present participle)' as 'Expanded form' in place of 'Progressive form,' to express 'durativeness' and 'iterativeness' of verbs as follows:

The English language has a powerful and effective expedient to express a durative aspect explicitly and indubitably in the Expanded (often called the Progressive) Form of verb, consisting of its present participle and the copula *to be*.

We should remember that 'expanded form' of Poutsma's is different from 'expanded tense' of Jespersen's; in the former case, the meaning of a present participle is much emphasized, in the latter case, much more importance is on the combination of be-verb and present participle. In other words, the meaning of 'expanded' of the 'expanded form' is to extend the domain of verbal meanings, while 'expanded' of the 'expanded tense' means to enlarge the temporal frame relative to the tense of a main verb in its context.

(5) Deutschbein's analysis

We should not miss the analysis of Deutschbein in *System der neuenglischen Syntax* (1917), since he has a great interest in 'Aktionsarten,' 'Tempora' and 'Modi' surrounding verbs, especially the most interest in 'Aktionsarten' of the three. Though in German linguistics there is a distinction between 'Aktionsarten' which is a grammatical category reflecting objective conditions in the external world, and 'Aspekt' which reflects subjective attitudes in the internal of a speaker of the language, Deutschbein makes no firm distinction between them. According to the chapter IV in *System der neuenglischen Syntax*, an outline of 'Aktionsarten' can be illustrated as follows:

1. Interativum (Interative) Aktionsart
2. Frequentativum (Frequentative) Aktionsart
3. Inchoativum (Inchoative) Aktionsart
4. Intensivum (Intensive) Aktionsart
5. Perfektive und Imperfektive (Perfective & Imperfective) Aktionsart
6. Kausativum (Causative) Aktionsart

For example, 'Progressive form' is regarded as a typical expression of 'Imperfektive Aktionsart' in his classification.

It is naturally possible to criticize his lack of systematic consistency of classification of 'Aktionsarten', e.g., 'Kausativum' does not exactly seem to be 'Aktionsart' of verbs; however, we should appreciate his work having introduced the notion of 'aspect' through German linguistics to the study of the English language.¹⁰

(6) Sweet's analysis

The significant work by a British scholar in which we can find the term 'aspect' is Sweet's *A New English Grammar* (Verbs: Tense, §§. 283-287; 1892). Under the heading "Tense-aspect: Duration, etc." we read as follows:

By tense-aspect we understand distinctions of time independent of any reference to past, present, or future. Thus the *duration* of an occurrence is independent of the relation of the time of the occurrence to the time when we are speaking or of which we are speaking. The distinction of duration between *fell* and *lay* in *he fell down*, and *he lay there nearly an hour*, or between *to laugh* and *to burst out laughing* has, of course, nothing to do with grammar, because it is not shown by any grammatical forms, but by the meaning of the words themselves. But in some languages such distinctions of meaning are shown by inflection.

From the definition of 'aspect' above, we understand Sweet's warning that the distinction of duration has nothing to do with grammar because it has no grammatical forms. Judging from such attitude of his, Sweet would clearly come to the negative conclusion that 'aspect' could not be a grammatical category in English in itself.

Besides, Sweet gives us much information on 'aspect' in the section "Complete and Incomplete Tenses" (§§. 281-282); comparing "the clock is striking twelve" with "the clock has (just) struck twelve," he claims "here the perfect denotes completion in the present: it is a *complete* perfect," while making a comparison between "I have lived my life" and "I have lived here a good many years," he thinks the former as a *complete* perfect, the latter an *incomplete* perfect.

In Latin the tense called 'perfect' (*vīdī*) corresponds not only to the English perfect (*I have seen*), but also to the English preterite (*I saw*), so that the idea of past time is more prominent in it than in the English perfect. Hence it is used only as a complete perfect, the English incomplete perfect being expressed in Latin by the present, as in *jam diū hīc habitō* 'I have lived here a long time,' literally 'I live here already long.'

The description of "Definite and Indefinite Tenses" (§§. 288-292) is also interesting to us, however, we will not refer to it here for lack of space.

(7) Zandvoort's analysis

A few decades after the appearance of the studies of scholars we listed above, Zandvoort, in *A Handbook of English Grammar* (§. 78; 1945), briefly treats of 'aspect' as follows:

In the above examples the present participle refers to an action represented as being in progress and having a certain duration. In the corresponding construction with the plain infinitive (18) the action is not viewed as in progress, but merely referred to as such, either because the speaker or writer considers its duration irrelevant, or because it actually occupies but a moment.

The difference is one of what is sometimes called ASPECT. The aspect expressed by the present participle (in the examples of 77 and similar cases) is called IMPERFECTIVE or DURATIVE; that expressed by the infinitive in the corresponding construction is called PERFECTIVE.

For reconsideration of a history of this term and its applicability to English, we turn our eyes toward another thesis of Zandvoort, "Is 'Aspect' an English Verbal Category?" having appeared in *Gothenburg Studies in English*, XIV (1962), in which he precisely describes the variation of the treatments of 'aspect' based on every literature he examined in detail, leading to the negative conclusion as follows:

The plain statement 'Aspect is a conception which does not exist in English Grammar' may be hard to digest for some linguists who, like Mossé, refuse to take the character of aspect in Slavonic as an absolute standard. But what is the use, also from the standpoint of general linguistics, of a term which in the Germanic languages 'means something entirely different from what it means in the Slavonic languages' (Mustanoja, op. cit.)? Whichever way we look at it, the conclusion seems inescapable that the question asked in the title of this paper should be answered in the negative.

In that case, we are surprised to see how difficult it is to define 'aspect' as a grammatical category in English, taking account of the transition in Zandvoort's view of it from the positive to the negative.

(8) Hosoe's analysis

We should note there to be a contemporary Japanese scholar, Hosoe, who published *An Enquiry into the Meaning of Tense in the English Verb* (1931), in which giving examples of definitions of 'tense' by three grammarians such as Bain, Sweet and Curme, Hosoe suggests their

definitions should be fundamentally different from his.

Tense is the variation of the verb to express the time of action, modified by the other circumstances of completeness and incompleteness, etc.

— Bain, *A Higher English Grammar*, p.157.

Tense is primarily the grammatical expression of distinctions of time.

— Sweet, *A New English Grammar*, Pt. I., p.92 (§.272).

Tenses are the different forms which a verb assumes to indicate the time of the action or state.

— Curme, *College English Grammar*, p.56.

It is clear that these definitions are closely connected with 'time,' on the contrary Hosoe insists that 'tense' should not be interpreted as one making a division of 'time,' but it should be thought as another category on the syntactic level. Since we are generally conscious of 'time' with appearing or disappearing of events or a sequence of states, it seems to be natural that our notion of 'each time' should be related with each verb representing such events or states. In addition to it, the verb representing events itself has some characteristics named 'aspect' which has been familiar to students of Slavonic, such as *Momentaneous Aspect* (e.g. 'strike'), *Iterative Aspect* (e.g., 'beat'), *Durative Aspect* (e.g. 'walk'), *Ingressive Aspect* (e.g. 'start'), *Terminate Aspect* (e.g. 'arrive'), etc. Some languages have a prefix and suffix system to show different aspects, others effectively make use of adverbs, the others have 'tense-forms' which are mixed up with various factors. Modern English does not have a morphological aspectual system like Russian, except for *re-* word formation, however, Old English has such a system; 'slēan' means to strike (so as to kill), 'ofslēan' means to strike dead or to kill. This is the same system as that of German, such as 'schlagen' vs. 'erschlagen.'

In chapter IV "Past Tense," there emerges a divergence of meaning among 'past tense' in English, i.e., 'perfect' and 'imperfect.' Hosoe refers to the former as "Chokudansei no 'Past'," the latter as "Teikaisei no 'Past'." This classification is closely connected with 'Aspects' ('Aktionsarten' <Ger.>, 'Vidy' <Russ.>): 'Savershenny Vid' (= Perfective Aspect) and 'Nie-savershenny Vid' (= Imperfective Aspect). According to Hosoe's description (p.79), we compare the two aspects included under the heading 'past tense' in several languages as follows:

Latin	French	English	German	Russian
scripsi	écrivis ai écrit	wrote have written	schrieb habe geschrieben	napisal
scribebam	écrivais	wrote was writing	schrieb	pisal

(Fig. 2)

Hosoe thinks that the conception of 'aspect' which the people discerned in the age of Old English has faded away from their mind through the development of 'tense-forms,' so that it has been taken its palce by the conception of 'tense.'

Insofar as we have surveyed a historical outline of the studies on verbal aspects in the traditional grammar, even significant grammarians probably have more or less difficulty in defining

'aspect' as a grammatical category and drawing a firm distinction between 'aspect' and 'tense' on the syntactic level.

In the following sections, we shall pursue a close investigation into the problems surrounding 'aspect' in the structural linguistics, in the generative-transformational grammar, and in the recent English grammar, London school. On the basis of the definitions of 'aspect' in English syntax, the present writer shall represent the notional difference between 'tense' and 'aspect' in the next chapter.

To be CONTINUED.

NOTES

1. Aspect is thought as an element of auxiliaries in generative-transformational grammar as follows:

AUX → Tense (M) (*have + en*) (*be + ing*)

(M) stands for the modal auxiliary, and (*have + en*) (*be + ing*) stands for a grammatical aspect. This notional set of AUX is regarded as a universal one by Susan Steele, "The Category AUX as a Language Universal," in *Universals of Human Languages*, vol. 3, pp. 11-12 (1978).

2. Bernard Comrie, *Aspect: An Introduction to the Study of Verbal Aspect and Related Problems*, p. 1 (1976). The author shows more examples, such as Spanish 'leyó' and '(él) leía' and Italian 'lesse' and 'leggeva.' The former, 'lut (F.), leyó (S.), lesse (I.)' are classified as Simple Past Tense, and the latter, 'lisait (F.), leía (S.), leggeva (I.)' are classified as Imperfect Tense in the technical terminology of grammar.

3. We can not find any definite descriptions about 'aspect' in *La Linguistique Guide Alphabétique*, nor in *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique des Sciences du Langage*. In *Dictionary of New Linguistics* (M. Yasui, ed.) the term of 'aspect' is treated as a grammatical formative based on Chomsky's analysis (1965):

AUX → Tense (M) (Aspect) = AUX → Tense (M) (Perfect) (Progressive)

4. In the traditional grammar George O. Curme, Etsko Kruisinga, Otto Jespersen, Hendrik Poutsma, Max Deutschbein, Henry Sweet, and Reinard W. Zandvoort are grammarians who have much interest in the category 'aspect'; in the structural linguistics Martin Joos, William F. Twaddell, and Akira Ota are ones; in the generative-transformational grammar Noam Chomsky and his school are ones; in the recent English grammar, i.e., the London school, Randolph Quirk and Geoffrey N. Leech are attentive to the category.
5. A similar indication is found in Yasutake Tomoko, "A Note on the Semantics of the Notion of Aspect in English," *Aichi Kyōiku Daigaku Kenkyū Hōkoku*, XXVII, pp. 81-89 (1978).
6. R. W. Zandvoort, "Is 'Aspect' an English Verbal Category?" in *Gothenburg Studies in English*, XIV, pp. 1-2 (1962).
7. *Ibid.* pp. 2-3.
8. *Ibid.* p. 3.
9. H. Poutsma, chap. 52 in *A Grammar of Late Modern English*, Pt. II, Sec. II (1926).
10. The scholar is Wilhelm Streitberg who introduced the distinction between 'perfective' and 'imperfective' to the studies of Germanic languages. He wrote an interesting thesis, "Perfective und imperfective Aktionsart im Germanischen," *P.B.B.* (Paul und Braune's Beiträge), XV in 1891.