

Russian and Chinese Event Annotation: A Pilot Study

Anna Feldman¹ and Xiaofei Lu

Abstract

Aspectual classification of verbs and clauses is necessary for interpreting temporal modifiers and determining temporal relations, and is therefore, required for natural language applications that entail the ability to reason about time (Siegel and McKeown 2001). For example, the ability to distinguish stative from event clauses is of fundamental importance to applications that involve natural language understanding, while knowledge of lexical aspect is essential for appropriate tense and lexical selections in applications that involve natural language generation, such as machine translation systems.

There exist annotated corpora where verbs are marked with their aspect, mostly based on their morphological information (e.g. MULTEXT-East (Erjavec 2004)). However, corpora that are annotated with more fine-grained event information are much more rarely available. One of the fundamental questions, both in theoretical and corpus linguistics, is what kind of aspectual information is crucial for linguistic analysis and for Natural Language Processing (NLP) applications. Another question that naturally arises in this context is whether a proposed event classification can be equally applicable to any language, or the linguistics properties of a language affect the inventory of events in the tagset. The current paper discusses Vendler's (1967) verb classification and Moens et al.'s (1988) clause classification

References

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¹ *e-mail*: feldmana@mail.montclair.edu