

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of terms</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xviii
INTRODUCTION	1
0.1 <i>Tense and aspect</i>	1
0.2 <i>Scope and orientation</i>	3
0.3 <i>Theoretical commitments</i>	5
0.4 <i>Past-time reference</i>	8
0.5 <i>A theory of constructions and their interrelations</i>	11
0.6 <i>The structure of the study</i>	13
1 ASPECTUAL MEANING	15
1.1 <i>Toward a theory of aspect</i>	15
1.2 <i>The aspectual construct as a grammatical and conceptual category</i>	16
1.3 <i>Formal theories of aspect</i>	41
1.4 <i>The aspectual system of English: a synopsis</i>	58
1.5 <i>Conclusion</i>	70
2 THE GRAMMATICAL EMBODIMENT OF ASPECTUAL MEANING	72
2.1 <i>The organization of grammar and lexicon</i>	72
2.2 <i>Constructional accommodation</i>	78
2.3 <i>Serial application</i>	83
2.4 <i>Idiomaticity and phasal aspect</i>	84
2.5 <i>Conclusion</i>	104

CONTENTS

3	THE ENGLISH PERFECT SYSTEM	106
3.1	<i>Compositionality</i>	106
3.2	<i>The contrast between present perfect and past: semantics or pragmatics?</i>	108
3.3	<i>Present perfect versus past perfect; the time-specification constraint</i>	117
3.4	<i>A constructional analysis of the perfect system</i>	119
3.5	<i>Diachrony, synchronic motivation and the principle of ecology</i>	122
3.6	<i>Inheritance</i>	127
3.7	<i>The general perfect construction</i>	135
3.8	<i>Conclusion</i>	138
4	THREE PERFECT FORMS	140
4.1	<i>The past perfect</i>	140
4.2	<i>The present perfect</i>	153
4.3	<i>The nonfinite perfect</i>	206
4.4	<i>Conclusion: the network</i>	210
5	INTERPRETATIONS OF THE PRESENT PERFECT	213
5.1	<i>The past revisited</i>	218
5.2	<i>Vagueness versus ambiguity</i>	227
5.3	<i>Semantic structures</i>	234
5.4	<i>Grammatical reflexes of existential–resultative ambiguity</i>	246
5.5	<i>Conclusion</i>	258
	CONCLUSION	260
	<i>Notes</i>	262
	<i>References</i>	281
	<i>Index</i>	289