

Nicole Nau: Perfekts un saliktā tagadne latviešu valodā

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English summary: Perfect and Compound Present (saliktā tagadne) in Latvian

The article analyses the different uses of the Latvian verb form "saliktā tagadne" (compound present) on the background of recent typological research on the perfect as cross-linguistic category. It is concluded that the Latvian compound present is a typical perfect, both with its core meaning and the range of its uses.

For the empirical investigation, two text types were chosen: travel reports (monologs), and interviews (dialogs). The following meanings of the compound present found in the texts are discussed:

- perfect proper (current relevance of a past action or process);
- resultative;
- experiential perfect, or indefinite past (found most often in dialogs);
- relative tense (anterior with respect to another event or situation);
- perfect of persistent situation (only with an adverbial meaning 'always');
- listing of main events of a person's life;
- reporting.

Special attention is paid to (i) the aspectual semantic properties of the predicate (telic/atelic, dynamic, stative, process), (ii) temporal adverbials used in the sentence, (iii) omission of the auxiliary in the third person. The three most frequent uses – perfect proper, experiential perfect and relative tense – differ markedly with respect to these parameters.