

# ‘Renarrating’ in Bulgarian between text type and genre<sup>1</sup>

Barbara Sonnenhauser, LMU München  
basonne@lmu.de

## 1. ‘Renarrative’ forms in Bulgarian

- form: *l*-participle ± auxiliary ‘to be’

(1) sām / si / (e) jala  
be.Prs.1/2/(3) eat.*l*-participle.fem

- meaning (e.g. Nicolova 2008)
  - +3<sup>rd</sup> person auxiliary: perfect
  - -3<sup>rd</sup> person auxiliary: ‘renarrative’, second-hand information (evidential)

⇒ problems

- cannot account for usage patterns of ±aux *l*-forms, cf. (2)-(6)
  - -aux: not always second-hand information
  - contexts indicating second-hand information: not always -aux
- cannot account for stylistic evaluation
  - fairy tale: -aux typical
  - narration: -aux to be expected
  - newspaper articles: -aux stylistically inappropriate (cf. Zambova 2000)
- usage

(2) hear-say

I toj *bil izvesten* (-aux) s tova, če [...] (Hinrichs et al. 2000: 267)

He *is said to be known* for ...

(3) reported speech

Makedonka razfasova mǎža si, kazva, če bil (-aux) na rabota v Italija

M. T. ot makedonskija grad štip prizna, če e ubila (+aux) sǎpruga si Branko, kojto „izčezna“ (-aux) predi tri godini. (www.dnes.bg, 27.12.2009)

Macedonian woman dismembered husband, she says that he *was* (-aux) in Italy for work.

M. T. from the Macedonian town Štip admitted that she *had killed* (+aux) her husband Branko, who “*disappeared*” (-aux) three years ago.

(4) narration

[K]ogato baba Jova razpravi za poslednija mu čas, vsički se uvericha, če toja păt poj ne se šeguva. *Vǎrnal se* (-aux) čovekāt ot dǎrva, *raztovaril* (-aux) magarenceto si, *vǎrzal* (-aux) go, *turnal* (-aux) mu sence [...] (Elin Pelin, *Na onja svjat*, 77)

---

<sup>1</sup> The research for this paper has been carried out within the project ‘Perspectivity in Balkan Slavic: semantic basis and discourse pragmatic relevance’, funded by the German Research Foundation (SO 949/2-1).

When grandmother Jova told about his last hour, everybody was convinced, that this time he was not joking. The man *had returned* (-aux) from the woods, *had unloaded* (-aux) his donkey, *had tied* (-aux) it, *had given* (-aux) it some hay.

(5) fairy-tale

*Imalo* (-aux) edno vreme edin car. V gradinata mu *rasla* (-aux) edna zlatna jabalka. Vseki den no pladne dārvoto *puskalo* (-aux) cvjat, večer *vrāzvalo* (-aux) plod, a prez noštta plodovete *uzrjavali* (-aux), no njakoj *idval* (-aux) i gi *obiral* (-aux). Vsaka sutrin carjat *otival* (-aux) v gradniata i *ne namiral* (-aux) ni edna jabalka. (*Zlatnoto ptice*)

‘Once upon a time there *was* (-aux) a king. In his garden *grew* a golden apple tree. Every day at noon the tree *bloomed* (-aux), in the evening it *gave* (-aux) fruits and the fruits *ripened* (-aux), but somebody *came* (-aux) and *collected* (-aux) them. Every morning, the king *went* (-aux) into the garden and *did not find* (-aux) a single apple.’

(6) newspaper article

[...] Včera Rajonna prokuratura-Plovdiv vnese обвинителен акт [...] sreštu B. Bozov za izvāršeni ot nego dve zakani s ubijstvo [...]. Tova sāobšticha ot prokuraturata.

Na 3 avgust 2009 g., v blizost do učilište “Rajna Knjaginja” v Plovdiv B. Bozov bezpričinno *izvadil* (-aux) pritežavaniya ot nego gazov pistolet, *nasočil* (-aux) go kām namiraštite se nablizo dvama graždani i *se proviknal* (-aux) “Az streljam”, “Az ubivam” i “Sega šte streljam po Vas”, poraždajki u tjach čuvstvo na strach i vpečatlenie, če e v sāstojanie da izpālni zakanite si.

Edinijat ot postradatelite *uspjal* (-aux) da signalizira organite na III RU na MVR, koito *se otzovali* (-aux), *obezvredili* (-aux) Bozov i go *otveli* (-aux) v policejskoto upravlenie. *Ustanoveno bilo* (-aux), če Bozov e demontiral (+aux) mufata-stesnenie na pistoleta, nepozvoljavašta izstrelvane na tvārdi tela, vsledstvie na koeto pisteletāt *bil priveden* (-aux) v sāstojanie da dejstva kato ognestrelno orāžie pri strelba s patroni, snarjadeni s tvārdi tela. (www.trud.bg, 12.11.09)

‘Yesterday the Plovdiv Regional Prosecutor’s Office raised charges against B. Bozov for two murder threats. This was announced by the Prosecutor’s Office.

On August 3, 2009, near the school, “Rajna Knjaginja” in Plovdiv B. Bozov without any reason *pulled* (-aux) a gas gun owned by him, *pointed* (-aux) it at two nearby citizens and *shouted* (-aux) “I shoot”, “I kill” and “Now I will shoot you”, raising in them a sense of fear and the impression that he was able to carry out his threat.

One of the victims *managed* (-aux) to alert the police, who *responded* (-aux) and *disarmed* (-aux) Bozov and *took* (-aux) him to the police station. It was found that Bozov had removed (+aux) the narrowing sleeve of the gun, limiting the launch of solids, which *allowed* (-aux) the gas gun to function as a firearm shooting bullets armed with projectiles.’

⇒ proposal: ±aux *l*-forms related to point of view and text structuring (similarly cf. Fielder 1995)

## 2. Point of view

⇒ contribution of *l*-participle and ±auxiliary (perfect-semantics): interval-semantic analysis

- components

- state connected to some previous event *e-CS*
- time of utterance *TU*
- time of observation *TO*
- assertion / topic time *TT*

- semantics (cf. Sonnenhauser 2012, 2014; based on Izvorski 1997)
  - assertion of connected state:  $TT(CS)$  follows some prior event  $e$
  - $TO$  included within  $TT$
  - $TO$  included or not included in  $TU$

- (7) a.  $l$ -participle +aux  
 $[e \not\subseteq TT \ \& \ CS(e) \subseteq TT] \ \& \ [TO \subseteq TT(CS) \ \& \ \mathbf{TO} \subseteq \mathbf{TU}]$
- b.  $l$ -participle -aux  
 $[e \not\subseteq TT \ \& \ CS(e) \subseteq TT] \ \& \ [TO \subseteq TT(CS) \ \& \ \mathbf{TO} \not\subseteq \mathbf{TU}]$

$\Rightarrow$   $l$ -participle: anchoring with narrator (+aux:  $TO \subseteq TU$ ) or 'not narrator' (-aux:  $TO \not\subseteq TU$ )

- 'not narrator': three possibilities
  - no narrator: fairy tale, cf. (5)
  - non-narrator: hear-say, cf. (2), (3)
  - character: narration, cf. (4)
- linguistic construction of perspectivity underlies usage patterns
  - semantic coding of alternative viewpoints
  - discours-pragmatic emplyment

### 3. Text type and genre

- text type vs. genre (Lee 2001)
  - genre: external criteria (e.g. target group, intention)
  - text type: internal, linguistic criteria
  - no 1:1-correlation
  - interaction genre – text type as regards interpretation of linguistic forms
- Schmid (2008): classification of text types according to the presence/absence of a narrative instance
  - non-narrative texts: state / description
  - narrative texts
    - with narrative instance: narrative
    - without narrative instance: mimetic

$\Rightarrow$  linguistic level: mapping of form and object of presentation (state, event, narration)

	text type		
	descriptive	mimetic	narrative
form	present, imperfect	aorist	$l$ -forms
object of presentation	state	event	narration

Table 1

- $\pm$ aux *l*-forms: introduction of narrative instances

- narrator (+aux); cf. (3)
- no narrator (-aux); cf. (5)
- non-narrator (-aux); cf. (2)
- character (-aux); cf. (4)

⇒ explicit indication of 'non-narrator' (-aux) vs. no reference to the narrator (aorist)

- text type and genre

- no 1:1 correlation
  - one text type – different genres
  - e.g. narrative – narration, newspaper article, etc.
- interaction
  - -aux in fairy tales: no narrator
  - -aux in narration: character
- default mappings
  - narrative type – narration ☺
  - narrative type – fairy tale ☺
  - mimetic type – newspaper article ☺
  - narrative type – newspaper article ☹

## 4. Conclusion

1) usage patterns: point of view and text structuring

2) stylistic evaluation: clash of expectations

- genre 'newspaper article': presentation of events (mimetic text type)
- use of  $\pm$ aux *l*-forms: text type 'narrative'

3) towards a definition of 'narrativity': emerges from the perspectival organization of texts induced by linguistic means

## References

- Fielder, G. 1995. Narrative perspective and the Bulgarian *l*-participle. *The Slavic and East European Journal* 39/4, 585–600
- Hinrichs, U. et al. 2000 *Bulgarische Umgangssprache*. Wiesbaden
- Izvorski, R. 1997. The present perfect as epistemic modal. Lawson, A. (ed.). *SALT VII*. Ithaca, 222–239
- Lee, D. 2001. Genres, registers, text types, domains and styles: clarifying the concepts and navigating a path through the BNC jungle. *Language Learning & Technology* 5/3.3, 37–72
- Nicolova, R. 2008. *Bălgarska gramatika. Morfologija*. Sofija
- Pelin, Elin. 1995. Na onja svjat. *Razkazi. Geracite*. Veliko Tărnovo, 77–81
- Schmid, W. 2008. *Elemente der Narratologie*. Berlin, New York.
- Sonnenhauser, B. 2012. Auxiliar-Variation und Textstruktur im Bulgarischen. *Die Welt der Slaven* 57/2, 351–379
- Sonnenhauser, B. 2014. Constructing perspectivity in Balkan Slavic. Auxiliary variation and tripartite article. *Balkanistica* 27, 31–66
- Zambova, A. 2000. *Manipulativni ezikovi strategii v pečata*. Sofija
- Zlatnoto ptice (<http://slovo.bg/showwork.php3?AuID=16&WorkID=437&Level=1>, 27.8.2011)