IMPERFECTIVE & PERFECTIVE

BY CHANGING STEMS, WE NARROW TIME
IMPERFECTIVE MODE

• The imperfective mode usually describes an action or event as begun but incomplete.

• In this sense it is generally equivalent to an English present tense.

• The imperfective is sometimes used in a Future context, and the 2nd person forms are used as immediate imperatives. (Young, 2000)
PARADIGMS OF IMPERFECTIVE

- The imperfective Mode is conjugated in 4 distinctive paradigms for Active Verbs. These are marked by:
  
  - 0,
  - Ni- or si- in position 7,
  - by yi-position 6c + 0 position 7,
  - and the Imperfective appears in all Aspects except the Cursive

- (Young, 2000)
PERFECTIVE MODE

• Usually equivalent to a past tense in English, describes a verbal action or event as completed.

• The perfective is marked by stem shape and, in position 7, by yi-, ni-, si- or by 0 in 7 + yi- in Position 6c, for transitional Aspect.
PARADIGMS OF PERFECTIVE

• It is conjugated in a total of 8 paradigms

• 0/L class verb themes and D/L-class themes take distinctive conjugation patterns

• The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person sgl forms of D / L – class Yi-, Ni- and Si-Perfective verbs include a high tone
• Stands in a complementary relationship to the Repetitive, serving to isolate a single act from a repetative series. It occurs in three distinctive forms, identified as (Young, 1992):
  
  1) simple semelfactive
  2) ndi- semelfactive
  3) yini- directive semelfactive
    • Yishdlii -> repetative
    • Yishdliih -> iterative
- DLAA’

- Occurs, with D-classifier, as the theme in verb bases meaning:

- “ingest liquid, drink”, and with L-classifier is causative transitive “feed liquid” (as in giving water to a baby or milk to an orphan lamb) (McDonough, 2002)
SIMPLE PERFECTIVE -> SEMELFECTIVE

• Simple- the only way it will transition is the environment in which it will be stated.

• It depends on the environment and what is being talked about, in the moment versus daily routine.

• Using semelfactive is an explaining environment

• (Young & Morgan, 1980)
Example 1: simple perfect → semelfactive
Yishdlα Yishdлїїh
(continuous, ongoing) (momentous through context)

Usitative Iterative
Nάshdлїїh
(I do it repeatedly, habit)
- DLAA (CONTINUED)

- Imperfective:
  - MOM. dlį̂̂̂̂̂̂̂h
  - DUR. dlą
  - CONT. dlą’

- Perfective:
  - MOM. dląą’
  - DUR. dląą’
  - CONT. dlą’
- NISH

Nish → momentaneous (right now)

Example 2:
Simple perfective → semelfactive
Naashnish   Ninashnish
(repetitive, everyday I work)
- NISH (CONTINUED)

• Example:

• Ninishniish

  • Ni → ends at a specific time
  • ni → mode term
  • sh → l
  • nish → momentaneous (right now)
• What we’re used to → can be changed by “start to”

• Bi’nishdliih →
• Bi → starting to eat soup
• ni → term
• di → D deletes
• Momentaneous ← start to eat
CONCLUSION

- Imperfective and perfective $\rightarrow$ past and present?
- Continuative verb $\rightarrow$ no sense of time
- Verb stems $\rightarrow$ to give it a sense of tense, a sense of time, by changing stems, we narrow time further.
WORK CITED


