

# Lessons from verbs of motion

Petr Biskup  
Leipzig University

FDSL 17

Masaryk University Brno  
November 20–22, 2024

# Overview

Two types of motion verbs:

paired motion verbs,  
motion verbs with momentaneous roots.

Many specific (revealing) properties.

The relation between: Plural interpretation,  
argument structure,  
themes.

Their morphosyntax and spanning analysis of themes.

Derivational model with superset.

Allomorphy, locality and the \*ABA pattern.

# Paired motion verbs

# Paired motion verbs

**East and West Slavic** languages:

between 9 (Polish, Slovak) and 20 (Ukrainian) pairs.

Typically: ‘run, walk, fly, carry, swim, climb, crawl, drag, drive, chase, roll’.

- (1) a. *letet'* [dir]      b. *letat'* [non-dir] ‘to fly’ (R)  
(2) a. *iść* [dir]      b. *chodzić* [non-dir] ‘to go/walk’ (P)

**South Slavic:** only Slovenian some traces, e.g.

- (3) a. *nesti* [dir]      b. *nositi* [non-dir] ‘to carry’ (Sl)  
(Sussex & Cubberley 2006).

**Idiosyncratic properties:**

Lexical (directed vs. non-directed, determinate vs. indeterminate)

Aspect: both ipf.

Arg. structure: different verb classes.

Morphophonological: root allomorphy, distinct themes...

# Paired motion verbs

Russian: **directed** motion verbs **unaccusative** &  
**non-directed** motion verbs **unergative**;  
test with CUM *na-* (e.g. Schoorlemmer 1995, Harves 2002, Romanova 2004)  
(cf. also Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995, Ramchand 1997).

Czech: (4) analogous to Romanova (2004, 273),  
**dir** verb (4a) behaves **unaccusatively**,  
**non-dir** verb (4b) – with *-a* – **unergatively**,  
The non-directed verb **OK with an object** (4c).

- (4) a. Tolik lidí tam na-běh-l-o!      b.\* Tolik lidí tam na-běh-a-l-o!  
so.many people there on-run-l-SG.N      so.many people there on-run-TH-l-SG.N  
'So many people gathered there!'
- c. Tolik lidí tam na-běh-a-l-o      5km!  
so.many people there on-run-TH-l-SG.N      5km  
'So many people ran 5km there!'

# Paired motion verbs

The same behavior with *jet* vs. *jezdit* ‘to go’:

**dir** (5a) behaves **unaccusatively**,

**non-dir** (5b) – with **-i unergatively**,

The non-directed verb **OK with an object** (5c).

- (5) a. Tolik lidí tam na-je-l-o!      b.\* Tolik lidí tam na-jezd-i-l-o!      (Cz)  
so.many people there on-go-l-SG.N      so.many people there on-go-TH-l-SG.N  
‘So many people gathered there!’
- c. Tolik lidí tam na-jezd-i-l-o 5km!  
so.many people there on-go-TH-l-SG.N 5km  
‘So many people went 5km there!’

# Paired motion verbs

**directed** *běž-e-t* (6a), *nés-t* (7a):

**progressive** reading,  
theme *-e*, *-Ø*,

**non-directed** *běh-a-t* (6b), *nos-i-t* (7b):

**iterative** or generic meaning,  
theme *-a* or *-i*.

Nichols (2010 and references therein):

*-i* (+ *-o-* grade in root) = Indo-Europ. causative morphology.

Medová (2012):

*-i* = transitivity (agentivity) & *-e* unaccusativity.

(6) a. Jirka běž-**í** do školy.  
Jirka run-TH to school  
'Jirka is running to school.'

b. Jirka běh-**á** do školy. (Cz)  
Jirka run-TH to school  
'Jirka runs to school.'

(7) a. Jirka nes-**e** aktovku.  
Jirka carry-TH schoolbag  
'Jirka is carrying a schoolbag.'

b. Jirka nos-**í** aktovku. (Cz)  
Jirka carry-TH schoolbag  
'Jirka carries a schoolbag.'

Often also **root allomorphy** (7a) vs. (7b), R: *nesti - nosit'*, Sl: *nesti - nositi*

# Paired motion verbs

**Participial adjectives** support: **dir** Vs (= **unacc.**) vs. **non-dir** Vs (= **unerg.**).

**2 types** in Czech (Slavic) that predicate over the underlying object:

(e.g. Schoorlemmer 1995, Cetnarowska 2000, Kosta & Frasek 2004, Veselovská & Karlík 2004)

1. **Resultative**: suffix *-l* + ending (-ý),  
from unaccusative stems.

2. **Past passive**: suffix *-n/t* + -ý,  
from transitives.

**Prefixes transitivize** unergatives but not unaccusatives (Biskup 2019).

(ode-)jít ‘go away’ vs. (od-)chodit ‘complete going’

- (8) a. odešl<sup>l</sup>ý / \*odejit<sup>t</sup>ý      dopis      *-l* → *jít* **unacc.**  
went.away                      letter
- b.\* odchodil<sup>l</sup>ý / odchozen<sup>n</sup>ý      kilometr      *-n/t* → transitive → *chod-i-t* **unerg.**  
went.away                      km



# Paired motion verbs

## The same contrast with:

(na-)běhnout ‘swell’ vs. (na-)běhat ‘run a lot’

- (9) a. naběhlý / \*naběženy ret -l → běž-e-t **unacc.**  
swollen lip
- b.\* naběhalé / naběhané kilometry -n/t → transitive → běh-a-t = **unerg.**  
run.a.lot kms

(od-)letět ‘fall off’ vs. (od-)létat ‘complete by flying’

- (10) a. odlétlý / \*odletěný kamínek -l → let-ě-t **unacc.**  
fallen.off stone
- b.\* odlétalé / odlétané kilometry -n/t → transitive → lét-a-t = **unerg.**  
fly.away kilometers

**Transitive motion Vs** not interesting here:

both (dir and non-dir) form **-n/t participial adjectives**.

# Paired motion verbs

## Interim summary

*-a* and *-i* bring about **agentivity** (unergative and transitive Vs),  
and **iterate** the event.

*-e* brings about **unaccusativity**,  
and **episodic** reading.

# “Unpaired” motion verbs

# “Unpaired” motion verbs

Based on **momentaneous** roots:

- (11) a. mach-**a**-ć ‘to wave’ (P)  
b. kiv-**a**-t’ ‘to nod’ (R)  
c. kop-**a**-t’ ‘to kick, dig’ (Sk)  
d. mig-**a**-ti ‘to blink’ (BCMS)

**Similar to paired motion Vs:**

also have **-a** (11),

and **counterparts** with a different theme: semelfactive **-N(U)** (12),

contrast between **iteration** (plurality) (11) & singularity (diminutivity, Štarkl et al. To appear) (12),

iterative interpretation induced by **-a** (11),

also **argument structure** effects (14).

- (12) a. mach-**n-a**-ć ‘to wave’ (P)  
b. kiv-**n-u**-t’ ‘to nod’ (R)  
c. kop-**n-ú**-t’ ‘to kick, dig’ (Sk)  
d. mig-**n-u**-ti ‘to blink’ (BCMS)

# “Unpaired” motion verbs

With *-a*: **iterated events** (13a),

With *-na*: **sg. interpretation** (13b):

- (13) a. Pies mach-*a*-ł                      ogonem.                      (P)  
dog wave-TH-PTCP tail.INST  
‘The dog wagged its tail several times (for some time).’
- b. Pies mach-*na*-ł                      ogonem.  
dog wave-SEML-PTCP tail.INST  
‘The dog wagged its tail once.’

# “Unpaired” motion verbs

**Argument structure effects** with *vypad-a-t* vs. *vypad-nou-t* ‘fall out’:

**-a** licenses the transitive **-n/t** with unaccusatives (14a),

brings about the **pluractional** (iterative) interpretation: **pl. noun** OK (14a)  
**sg.** bad (14b).

With sg., **-l** participle is OK (14c).

**-a** blocks **-l** = determines the part. allomorph (14a,b,d).

- |         |                          |         |      |                         |             |      |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|------|-------------------------|-------------|------|
| (14) a. | vy-pad- <b>a-n-é</b>     | vlas-y  | b. # | vy-pad- <b>a-n-ý</b>    | vlas        | (Cz) |
|         | out-fall-TH-n/t-PL       | hair-pl |      | out-fall-TH-n/t-SG      | hair.SG     |      |
|         | ‘hairs that fell out’    |         |      |                         |             |      |
| c.      | vy-pad- <b>l-ý</b>       | vlas    | d. * | vy-pad- <b>a-l-ý/-é</b> | vlas.Ø/-y   |      |
|         | out-fall-l-SG            | hair.SG |      | out-fall-TH-l-SG/PL     | hair.SG/-PL |      |
|         | ‘one hair that fell out’ |         |      |                         |             |      |

# “Unpaired” motion verbs

## Interim summary

-*a* iterates the event vs. -*n(u)* singularizes (in North Slavic),

-*a* can also pluralize arguments,

-*a* can license transitive -*n/t*.

# Pluractionality



# Analysis: Pluractionality

What is the iterative *-a*, *-i*?

**Pluralizing markers.**

2 types of pluractionality: **event-internal and event-external**

(Newman (1980), Cusic (1981), Lasersohn (1995), Chrakovskij (1997), Landman (2006), Wood (2007), Bertinetto & Lenci (2012), Wągiel (2023)),

i.e., repetition *within* events (more phases) vs. repetition *of* events,  
or *repetitive* events vs. *repeated* events.

→ *-a*, *-i* = event-internal pluractionality.

**Supported by:**

Isačenko (1960): R. Vs as *bod-a-t'* 'to stab' = activities with multiple phases.

Wood (2007): semelfactives commonly occur with event-internal pluractionality.

# Analysis: Pluractionality

What is the **event-external pluractionality**?

The iterative meaning of the **secondary ipf. -YVA** (**SI split** in ITER<sub>ext</sub> & Prog (Biskup 2024, to appear)).

- (15) On o-pis-**yva**-l svoju dorogu dva raza. (R)  
he about-write-ITER<sub>ext</sub>-PST his journey.ACC twice  
'He described his journey twice.'

The **difference** wrt. cardinals:

**Iter<sub>ext</sub>**: only one reading (15).

**Iter<sub>int</sub>**: iterated events (phases) form a unit → ambiguity (moment. & paired):

- (16) a. Včera Pavel kop-**a**-l do dveří dvakrát. (Cz)  
yesterday Pavel.NOM kick-ITER<sub>int</sub>-PTCP in door twice  
1. 'Yesterday, on some occasions, Pavel kicked the door twice.'  
2. 'Yesterday, on two occasions, Pavel kicked the door several times.'
- b. Včera Pavel nos-**i**-l vodu dvakrát.  
yesterday Pavel.NOM kick-ITER<sub>int</sub>-PTCP water twice  
1. 'Yesterday, on some occasions, Pavel carried water twice.'  
2. 'Yesterday, on two occasions, Pavel carried water several times.'

# Analysis: Pluractionality

Also supported by del. *po-*

In scope of **ITER<sub>ext</sub>** (of SI), aspectually and interpretationally:

- (17) a. **po-spá-va-t**<sup>IPF</sup> (Cz) b. **po-płak-iwa-ć**<sup>IPF</sup> (P)  
DEL-sleep-**ITER<sub>ext</sub>**-INF DEL-cry-**ITER<sub>ext</sub>**-INF  
'to sleep from time to time' 'to cry from time to time'

Del *po-* scopes over **ITER<sub>int</sub>**:

- (18) a. **po-mach-a-ć**<sup>PF</sup> ogonem b. **po-let-a-t**<sup>PF</sup>  
DEL-wave-**ITER<sub>int</sub>**-INF tail.INST DEL-fly-**ITER<sub>int</sub>**-INF  
'to wag tail for a while' (P) 'to fly for a while' (R)

# Analysis: Pluractionality

*-a* and *-i* (i.c.t. *-e* and *-n(u)*) spell out an ITER operator;

forms the iteration set **E** with the plural cardinality:

$$(19) \llbracket \text{ITER} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\text{QUA}} \lambda E \exists e. P(e) \wedge e \in E \wedge |\mathbf{E}| > \mathbf{1} \wedge \forall e'. e' \in E \rightarrow P(e')$$

Based on Lasersohn (1995) and Wood (2007) and

other conditions can be present, e.g. **temporal non-adjacency** in (20)

(Lasersohn 1995, Wood 2007, Henderson 2017, Kuhn 2019, Biskup 2024):

$$(20) \llbracket \text{ITER} \rrbracket = \lambda P_{\text{QUA}} \lambda E \exists e. P(e) \wedge e \in E \wedge |\mathbf{E}| > 1 \wedge \forall e'. e' \in E \rightarrow P(e') \wedge \neg \tau(e') \supset \tau(e)$$

The meaning can be **parametrized** (Lasersohn 1995);

moment. motion Vs as (21a) distribute over time (20) vs. (21b) has (19):

- (21) a. Jirka kop-**a**-l do dveří.      b. Jirka běh-**a**-l po hřišti.  
Jirka kick-**ITER<sub>int</sub>**-PTCP to door      Jirka run- **ITER<sub>int</sub>**-PTCP on playground  
'Jirka kicked the door.'      'Jirka run here and there in the playground.'

# Analysis: Pluractionality

**Iter<sub>int</sub>**: iterated events (phases) **form a unit** → ambiguity.

**Iter<sub>ext</sub>**: only one reading:

- (22) a. Včera Pavel kop-a-1 do dveří dvakrát. (Cz)  
yesterday Pavel.NOM kick-**ITER<sub>int</sub>**-PTCP in door twice  
1. ‘Yesterday, on some occasions, Pavel kicked the door twice.’  
2. ‘Yesterday, on two occasions, Pavel kicked the door several times.’
- b. On o-pis-yva-1 svoju dorogu dva raza. (R)  
he about-write-**ITER<sub>ext</sub>**-PST his journey.ACC twice  
‘He described his journey twice.’

**Iter<sub>int</sub>**: meaning like **Iter<sub>ext</sub>** with **ATOM** (allows counting pluralities):

(23)  $[[\text{ITER}_{\text{int}}]] = \lambda P_{\text{QUA}} \lambda E \exists e. P(e) \wedge e \in E \wedge |E| > 1 \wedge \mathbf{ATOM}(E) \wedge \forall e'. e' \in E \rightarrow P(e') \wedge \neg \tau(e') \supset \tau(e)$

(22a): 1.  $|E| = 2$   
2.  $2x(E) = \text{two atomic Es}$

(22b): 1.  $|E| = 2$

**2 ITERs**: similar semantics, distinct s. positions and partially distinct phonology.

# Morphosyntax

# Morphosyntactic analysis

All themes – *-a*, *-i*, *-e* and *-n(u)* – verbalize:

- (24) a. chod                      b. chodit'                      (R)  
      'walk, movement'        'to walk, move'
- (25) a. mig                        b. migati                      (BCMS)  
      'wink'                      'to wink'
- (26) a. let                        b. letět                        (Cz)  
      'flight'                      'to fly'
- (27) a. kop                        b. kopnút'                      (Sk)  
      'kick'                        'to kick'

→ spell out *v* (+ *-a*, *-i* also ITER<sub>int</sub>).

In Cz, Sk, *-(v)a* (and unproductive *-e*) as the **secondary imperfective** suffix (28c);

del. *po-* scopes over (& pf.) ITER<sub>int</sub> and below ITER<sub>ext</sub>:

- (28) a. plác-a-t<sup>IPF</sup>              b. po-plác-a-t<sup>PF</sup>              c. po-plác-á-va-t<sup>IPF</sup>              (Cz)  
      slap-ITER<sub>int</sub>-INF        on-slap-ITER<sub>int</sub>-INF        on-slap-ITER<sub>int</sub>-ITER<sub>ext</sub>-INF  
      'slap repeatedly'        'slap repeatedly for a while'    'slap repeatedly for a while several times'

# Morphosyntactic analysis

**-a licenses** the transitive **-n/t** with unaccusatives (29a)

- (29) a. vy-pad-**a-n-é** vlas-y b. vy-pad-**l-ý** vlas (Cz)  
 out-fall-ITER<sub>int</sub>-n/t-PL hair-pl out-fall-l-SG hair.SG  
 ‘hairs that fell out’ ‘one hair that fell out’

→ **-a** spells out **Voice**:

**agentive** in motion Vs, *letat*:  $[[\mathbf{Voice}_{agent}]] = \lambda P \lambda x \lambda e. P(e) \wedge \mathbf{Agent}(e, x)$

**expletive** (e.g. Alexiadou et al. 2015) in (29a), (ident. function):  $[[\mathbf{Voice}_{expl}]] = \lambda P \lambda e. P(e)$

So, **-n/t** sensitive to morphos. transitivity, not to semantic transitivity vs. **-l** = elsewhere (29b).

→ **-a** = **multifunctional, underspecified** or **overspecified** marker and

spells out/**spans more heads** (Ramchand 2008, Julien 2015, Merchant 2015, Caha & Ziková 2016, Haugen & Siddiqi 2016, Wiland 2019).

**Non-dir** (i.e. unergative) *létat*:

- (30) a. lét-**á-š** ‘you fly repeatedly’ (Cz); **2 elements** analysis of the vowel in T.

b.  $[\sqrt{\text{lét}} [v [ \text{Iter}_{int} [ \text{Voice}_{agent} [ \text{Asp}_{ipf} [ \text{T}_{pres} \text{ float. mora } [ \text{Agr}_{2sg}$



# Morphosyntactic analysis

in R, spellout of **-a smaller**;

the vocalic T element surfaces as *-e* (+ glide *j* because of hiatus):

(31) a. **let-a-e-š'** 'you fly repeatedly' (R)

b. [ $\sqrt{\text{let}}$  [ $\nu$  [ $\text{Iter}_{\text{int}}$  [ $\text{Voice}_{\text{agent}}$  [ $\text{Asp}_{\text{ipf}}$  [ $\text{T}_{\text{pres}}$  [ $\text{Agr}_{2\text{sg}}$

In **dir** (unacc.) *letět*, **-e smaller** > **-a** = without  $\text{Iter}_{\text{int}}$  &  $\text{Voice}$ :

(32) a. **let-í-š** 'you fly' (Cz)

b. [ $\sqrt{\text{let}}$  [ $\nu$  [ $\text{Asp}_{\text{ipf}}$  [ $\text{T}_{\text{pres}}$  float. mora [ $\text{Agr}_{2\text{sg}}$

## Advantages of spanning:

Fewer **nulls**.

Fewer exponents (**VIs** like *-as*).

Explains why e.g. *-a* almost **everywhere**.

## General idea:

Inf. themes **-a, -i, -e, -n** spell out  $\nu$  up to **T** (& interact with the present theme/mora in T).

From some XPs **blocked and shrink** or **reappear** higher,

e.g. in **SI**: po-plác-**á**-v-**a**-t 'to slap repeatedly' or

in **habituals**: kop-**á**-v-**a**-t 'to tend to kick, dig'.

# Morphosyntactic analysis

## Habitual markers:

**Meaning:** habitual (generic), event recurrence or characterizing property; GEN semantics.

In R, P: **identical to SI** suffixes: (33) and (34);

**HAB+SI cannot co-occur.**

R. HABs: only the preterite and non-standard/archaic varieties, disappearing (Isačenko 1960, 1962, Švedova 1980, Zaliznjak & Šmelëv 1997, Padučeva 2015 but see Berger 2009, Tatevosov 2013.)

P. HABs: a small group of verbs (Grzegorzczkova et al. 1984, Łaziński 2020).

South Slavic: not present (Běličová 1998); 1 exception in Bg: *bi-va-m*.

- (33) a. pe-t<sup>IPF</sup>  
sing-INF  
'to (be) sing(ing)'
- b. pe-**va**-t<sup>IPF</sup> (R)  
sing-**HAB**-INF  
'to tend to sing'
- (34) a. pis-a-ć<sup>IPF</sup>  
write-TH-INF  
'to (be) write(ing) down'
- b. pis-**ywa**-ć<sup>IPF</sup> (P)  
write-**HAB**-INF  
'to tend to write down'



# Morphosyntactic analysis

*-yva/-ova* should be **decomposed**: *-a* = **Theme** head

(Isačenko 1962, Matushansky 2009, 2024, Łazarczyk 2010, Griбанова 2015, Klimek-Jankowska & Błaszczak 2022, 2023, Kwapiszewski 2022 and Quaglia et al. 2022);

*-a* “**pushed**” to the right by other suffixes:

- (38) a. pis-**a**-t’                      b. pis-yv-**a**-t’                      c. pere-pis-yv-**a**-t’                      (R)  
write-TH-INF                      write-HAB-TH-INF                      over-write-SI-TH-INF  
‘to (be) write(ing)’                      ‘to tend to write’                      ‘to (be) copy(ing)’

Also with **-OVA-** verbs:

- (39) a. ris-ov-**a**-t’                      b. raz-ris-ov-**a**-t’                      c. raz-ris-ov-yv-**a**-t’                      (R)  
paint-TH-TH-INF                      apart-paint-TH-TH-INF                      apart-paint-TH-SI-TH-INF  
‘to (be) paint(ing)’                      ‘to paint over sth.’                      ‘to (be) paint(ing) over sth.’

**In P, too:**

- (40) a. mal-ow-**a**-ć                      b. do-mal-ow-**a**-ć                      c. do-mal-ow-yw-**a**-ć                      (P)  
paint-TH-TH-INF                      to-paint-TH-TH-INF                      to-paint-TH-SI-TH-INF  
‘to (be) paint(ing)’                      ‘to add by painting’                      ‘to (be) paint(ing) over sth.’

# Morphosyntactic analysis

In Cz, Sk *-OVA-* not separated:

- (41) a. mal'-**ova**-t'      b. o-mal'-**ova**-t'      c. o-mal'-**ová**-va-t'      (Sk)  
paint-TH-INF      around-paint-TH-INF      around-paint-TH-SI-INF  
'to (be) paint(ing)'      'to cover with a color'      'to (be) cover(ing) with a color'
- d. mal'-**ová**-va-t'  
paint-TH-HAB-INF  
'to tend to paint'

BCMS like R, P vs. Cz, Sk:

- (42) a. is-pit-**a**-ti      b. is-pit-iv-**a**-ti      (BCMS)  
out-ask-TH-INF      out-ask-SI-TH-INF  
is-pyt-**a**-t'      is-pyt-yv-**a**-t'      (R)  
out-ask-TH-INF      out-ask-SI-TH-INF  
vy-pt-**a**-t      se      vy-pt-**á**-va-t      se      (Cz)  
out-ask-TH-INF self      out-ask-TH-SI-INF self  
'to examine'      'to (be) examine(ing)'

# Themes and suffixes in Slavic

(simplified)

	[T	[Inf	[Th	[Hab	[Asp	[Voice	[Iter <sub>ext</sub>	[Del po-/ Int vy-	[Prog	[Iter <sub>int</sub>	[v	[√
<b>Russian</b>	-e		-a	-yv/-v			-yv/-v		-yv/-v	-a/-i	-a/-e/-i/ -ov/-n	
<b>Polish</b>	-e		-a	-yw/-w			-yw/-w		-yw/-w	-a/-i	-a/-e/-i/ -ow/-n	
<b>Czech/ Slovak</b>	-e			-(v)a			-ova/-(v)a		-ova/-(v)a	-a/-i	-a/-e/-i/ -ova/-n	
<b>BCMS</b>	-e		-a				-iv/-av/-v		-iv/-av/-v	-a/-i	-a/-e/-i/ -ov/-n	

# Derivation

# Superset over Subset

*-a, -i, -e, -n* span  $\nu$  till Theme.

If **subset** and e.g. (fully) **underspecified -a**:

*-i* should be more specific, i.e. [ $\nu$ ] or [ $\nu$ ] + [scale] (Milosavljević & Arsenijević 2022: SC *-i* has [scale]).

But: If insertion happens 1x and only to 1 terminal, problem with portmanteaux:

[ $\nu$ ] or [scale] not present in higher heads.

**Superset** better: VI has Fs of all projections.

Undespec. solution: Spellout of bigger portions (phases), e.g. Julien's (2015) spans.

Disadvantage: Spellout and voc. insertion not strictly derivational.

With superset ideally, they can.

Hence, VIs:

- (43) a. *-a*  $\leftrightarrow$  { $\nu$ , Iter<sub>int</sub>, Voice, Asp, Theme}      non-dir *lé<sup>a</sup>at*: **Iter<sub>int</sub>, Voice block** the insertion of *-e*  
b. *-i*  $\leftrightarrow$  { $\nu$ , Scale, Iter<sub>int</sub>, Voice, Asp, Theme}      non-dir *no<sup>i</sup>it*: [**Scale**] on  $\nu$  **blocks** the insertion of *-a*  
c. *-e*  $\leftrightarrow$  { $\nu$ , Asp, Theme}      dir *le<sup>e</sup>t*: *-e* inserted  $\leftarrow$  **less complex** than *-a* and *-i*  
d. *-n*  $\leftrightarrow$  { $\nu$ , Seml, Voice, Asp, Theme}      *ko<sup>n</sup>out*: [**Seml**] on  $\nu$  **blocks** other markers



# Derivation

**Spanning blocked** by an intervening head: **SI** (Prog, Iter<sub>ext</sub>) and **Hab**

since spans = **head-complement** sequences (e.g. Merchant 2015, Svenonius 2016).

Recall: [Prog], [Iter<sub>ext</sub>], [Hab] **not in VIs** *-a, -i, -e, -n*.

**SI** (Iter<sub>ext</sub>):

- (44) a. po-plác-á-v-á-š ‘you slap repeatedly for a while several times’ (Cz)  
b. [ $\sqrt{\text{plác}}$  [ $\nu$  [Iter<sub>int</sub>] [Del] [Iter<sub>ext</sub>] [Voice<sub>agent</sub>] [Asp<sub>ipf</sub>] [Theme] [T<sub>pres</sub> float. mora] [Agr<sub>2sg</sub>]]

It is **not the prefix** that blocks; the **same with LP**:

- (45) a. u-plác-á-v-á-š ‘you are forming sth. by slapping several times’ (Cz)  
b. [P[ $\sqrt{\text{plác}}$  [ $\nu$  [Iter<sub>int</sub>] [Iter<sub>ext</sub>] [Voice<sub>agent</sub>] [Asp<sub>ipf</sub>] [Theme] [T<sub>pres</sub> float. mora] [Agr<sub>2sg</sub>]]

- (46)  $-\nu \leftrightarrow \{\text{Prog, Iter}_{\text{ext}}, \text{Hab}\}$  (in fact  $-\mu\nu$ , as the R, P, BCMS -YV)

**SPs also do not block** spanning in pf. Vs:

- (47) a. po-plác-á-š ‘you slap repeatedly for a while’ (Cz)  
b. [ $\sqrt{\text{plác}}$  [ $\nu$  [Iter<sub>int</sub>] [Del] [Voice<sub>agent</sub>] [Asp<sub>ipf</sub>] [Theme] [T<sub>pres</sub> float. mora] [Agr<sub>2sg</sub>]]

# Derivation

## Generally:

Prefixes do not block spanning.

→ **Spanning after Linearization** (Merchant 2015).

**Hab** = higher intervener:

(48) a. **kop-á-v-á-š** ‘you tend to kick repeatedly’ (Cz)

b. [ $\sqrt{\text{kop}}$  [ $\nu$  [ $\text{Iter}_{\text{int}}$  [ $\text{Voice}_{\text{agent}}$  [ $\text{Asp}_{\text{ipf}}$  [ $\text{Hab}$  [ $\text{Theme}$  [ $\text{T}_{\text{pres}}$  float. mora [ $\text{Agr}_{2\text{sg}}$

In Cz, Sk, **SI+Hab** possible:

(49) a. **u-plác-á-v-á-v-á-š** ‘you tend to form sth. by slapping several times’ (Cz)

b. [ $\text{P}$  [ $\sqrt{\text{plác}}$  [ $\nu$  [ $\text{Iter}_{\text{int}}$  [ $\text{Iter}_{\text{ext}}$  [ $\text{Voice}_{\text{agent}}$  [ $\text{Asp}_{\text{ipf}}$  [ $\text{Hab}$  [ $\text{Theme}$  [ $\text{T}_{\text{pres}}$  float. mora [ $\text{Agr}_{2\text{sg}}$

Recall: in **R, P, SI & Hab** cannot co-occur and are identical.

→ The markers **license Hab from SI** positions.

Support: in P, Hab in stem nominalizations vs. Cz.

**R, P Hab** not so grammaticalized as in Cz, Sk.

Support: in Cz, Sk Habs = subset of SIs and more regular phonological behavior.

# Model

**Model (strictly derivational):** 1. Merge

2. Spellout: 2a. Linearization

2b. Vocabulary insertion

2c. Phonological processes

Next cycle...

**kop-n-ou-t** ‘to kick once’

1. 1. Merge ( $\sqrt{\text{kop}}, v_{\text{seml}}$ )

2a. Linearization:  $\langle \text{kop}, v \rangle$

2b. Insert -n:  $[\text{kop-n}]$

$v$  specified as suffix

recall: -n  $\leftrightarrow$  { $v$ , Seml, Voice, Asp, Theme}

2. 1. Merge ( $(\sqrt{\text{kop}}, v), \text{Voice}$ )

2a. Linearization:  $\langle \langle \text{kop}, v \rangle, \text{Voice} \rangle$

2b. **Insertion vacuous:**  $[\text{kop-n}]$

**Voice** specified as suffix

-n already present ~ **spanning**

3.,4. The same with **Asp** and **Theme**:  $\langle \langle \langle \langle \text{kop}, v \rangle, \text{Voice} \rangle, \text{Asp} \rangle, \text{Theme} \rangle = [\text{kop-n}]$

5. 1. Merge ( $(\sqrt{\text{kop}}, v), \text{Voice}, \text{Asp}, \text{Theme}, \text{Inf}$ )

2a. Linearization:  $\langle \langle \langle \langle \text{kop}, v \rangle, \text{Voice} \rangle, \text{Asp} \rangle, \text{Theme} \rangle, \text{Inf} \rangle$

2b. Insert -t:  $[\text{kop-n}-t]$

-t  $\leftrightarrow$  {Inf}

2c. Phonological processes: 1. U-insertion (Rubach 1993):  $[\text{kop-n}-u-t]$

2. Infinitival lengthening:  $[\text{kop-n}-ou-t]$  (cf. Caha & Scheer 2008, Ziková 2018),

floating  $\mu$  on Inf.

# Allomorphy, locality and adjacency

# Allomorphy, locality and adjacency

## Root allomorphy in paired motion Vs:

(53)

(50) a. **ve**z-ti                      b. **vo**z-i-t'    'to transport'    (R)

(51) a. **né**s-t                        b. **no**s-i-t    'to carry'        (Cz)

(52) a. **ve**s-ti                        b. **vo**d-i-t'    'to lead'         (R)

Are  $\sqrt{s}$  of **non-dirs** bigger > **dirs** (i.e.,  $\sqrt{\text{dir}} + \text{Iter}$ )?

No:  $\sqrt{\text{non-dirs}}$  in non-iterative root nominalizations (53a) & prog. SIs (53b)

(53) a. vý**no**s císaře Františka Josefa  
'decree by emperor Franz Joseph (from March 17, 1849)'

b. vy-**ch**ádz-a-t'<sup>IPF</sup>  
'to be going out'

## So, how derived?

$\sqrt{s}$  of **non-dirs** basic: in SIs, agent & instrument nominals and root nominalizations:

(54) a. **no**s-i-tel (Sk)                      b. **no**s-i-č (Cz)                      c. **raz-vo**z                      (R)

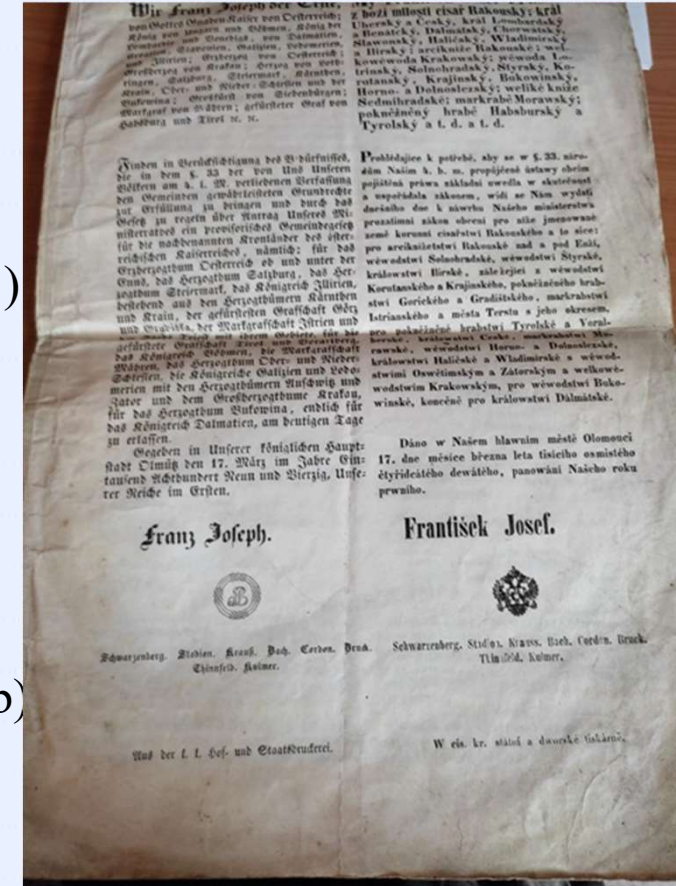
'holder'

'carrier'

'transport'

dir  $\sqrt{s}$  restricted to **athematic** motion Vs → **dir**  $\sqrt{s}$  select  $\nu$  with [Athematic] →  $\emptyset$  theme.

It is a **local** relation.



<https://aukro.cz/historicky-vynos-cisare-frantiska-josefa-archivni-kopie-7011169254>

# Allomorphy, locality and adjacency

**Structural adjacency** not relevant (against e.g. Embick 2010):

Dissimilation: R. dir *vesti* (*ved-ti*) ‘to lead’,  
many projections between: [ $\sqrt{\text{ved}}$  [ $v$  [**Voice**<sub>agent</sub> [**Asp** [**Theme** [**Inf** **ti**]]]]]]  
The same with inf. lengthening in Cz *pít* ‘to drink’.

**Linear adjacency** relevant:

No dissimilation: R. non-dir *vod-i-t* ‘to lead’, cf. also *ved-ě-t* ‘s/he leads’.

**Allomorphy** in: **Habs** (55c,d): linearly & structurally adjacent: [**Asp** [**Hab**]]  
again 2 elements analysis.

**SI**s (55a,b) more problematic:

**structurally** not adjacent: [ $\sqrt{\text{bluz}}$  [ $v$  [**Iter**<sub>ext</sub>]]]]

**linearly** yes but 1 step back necessary: 1. -**ov** + -**i**: iotation

2. -**j** + **bloud**: palatalization

3. -**ov** + **blouz**: shortening

(template 3 $\mu$  (Scheer 2004) even later)

- (55) a. o-**bloud**-**i**-t      →      b. o-**bluz**-**ov**-a-t      c. bloud-**i**-t      →      d. bloud-**í**-**v**-a-t      (Cz)  
P-be.lost-TH-INF      P-be.lost-**ITER**<sub>ext</sub>-TH-INF      be.lost-TH-INF      be.lost-TH-**HAB**-TH-INF  
‘to fool’      ‘to fool’      ‘to be lost’      ‘to tend to go in circles’

# \*ABA pattern

## Motion Vs display the \*ABA pattern

(only adjacent functions may have the same marker):

semantically: sg. – pl. – hab.  
                  seml./dir. Vs – iterative/non-dir Vs – habitual Vs

syntactically: -e/-nu/-Ø – -a/-i – -a/-i

in roots: -e – -o – -o

- (56) a. n<sup>e</sup>st – nos<sup>i</sup>t – nos<sup>i</sup>vat  
b. běž<sup>e</sup>t – běh<sup>a</sup>t – běh<sup>a</sup>vat  
c. kop<sup>n</sup>out – kop<sup>a</sup>t – kop<sup>a</sup>vat

Based on **monotonicity** of growing verbal structure and  
on **markedness of singularity** (root -e, seml. -nu).



# Conclusions

**Paired and moment. motion Vs** have **event-internal** plurality,  
contrasted with **event-external** plurality of **SIs**.

**Themes** have various functions: verbalizing,  
singularizing  
pluralizing,  
argument structural...

**Span** from  $\nu$  up to T & modelled in terms of the **superset**.

**Post-linearization** spanning.

Derivational model.

**Linear adjacency** more relevant > structural.



**Thank you!**

# References

- Alexiadou, Artemis, Elena Anagnostopoulou & Florian Schäfer. 2015. *External Arguments in Transitivity Alternations: A Layering Approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bertinetto, Pier Marco & Alessandro Lenci. 2012. Habituality, pluractionality, and imperfectivity. In Robert I. Binnick (ed.), *The Oxford handbook of tense and aspect*. New York: Oxford University Press, 852–880.
- Biskup, Petr. 2019. *Prepositions, case and verbal prefixes: The case of Slavic*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Biskup, Petr. 2024. On imperfective suffixes in Russian. *Russian Linguistics* 48, 14.
- Biskup, Petr. To appear. Delimitatives, diminutive-iteratives and the secondary imperfective in North Slavic. In: Berit Gehrke, Denisa Lenertová, Roland Meyer, Daria Seres, Luka Szucsich & Joanna Zaleska (eds.), *Advances in Formal Slavic Linguistics 2022*. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Caha, Pavel & Markéta Ziková. 2016. Vowel length as evidence for a distinction between free and bound prefixes in Czech. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* 63(3), 331–377.
- Cetnarowska, Bożena. 2000. Resultative adjectives in Polish. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* 47, 47–79.
- Chrakovskij, Viktor S. (ed.). 1997. *Typology of iterative constructions*. München: LINCOM Europa.
- Cusic, David D. 1981. *Verbal plurality and aspect*. Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford University.
- Fehrmann, Dorothee, Uwe Junghanns & Denisa Lenertová. 2010. Two reflexive markers in Slavic. *Russian Linguistics* 34, 203–238.
- Harves, Stephanie A. 2002. *Unaccusative Syntax in Russian*. Ph.D. thesis, Princeton University. MIT Occasional Papers in Linguistics 21.
- Isačenko, Alexander V. 1960. *Grammaticeskij stroj ruskogo jazyka v sopostavlenii s slovackim: Morfologija II*. Bratislava: Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied.
- Kosta, Peter & Jens Frasek. 2004. Neakuzativita (ergativita) vs. neergativita v češtině, polštině a jiných slovanských jazycích na rozhraní morfológie a syntaxe. In: Zdeňka Hladká & Petr Karlík (eds.), *Čeština - univerzália a špecifika 5*. Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 189–212.
- Landman, Fred. 2006. Indefinite time-phrases, in situ-scope, and dual-perspective intensionality. In Svetlana Vogeleer & Liliane Tasmowski (eds.), *Non-Definiteness and Plurality*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 237–266.
- Lasnik, Peter. 1995. *Plurality, conjunction and events*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Levin, Beth & Malka Rappaport Hovav. 1995. *Unaccusativity: At the Syntax-Lexical Semantics Interface*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Medová, Lucie. 2012. Anticausatives are Derived Unergatives. In: Markéta Ziková & Mojmir Dočekal (eds.), *Slavic Languages in Formal Grammar. Proceedings of FDSL 8.5, Brno 2010*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 291–306.
- Merchant, Jason. 2015. How much context is enough? Two cases of span-conditioned stem allomorphy. *Linguistic Inquiry* 46(2), 273–303.

# References

- Newman, Paul. 1980. *The classification of Chadic within Afroasiatic*. Leiden: Universitaire Press
- Nichols, Johanna. 2010. Indeterminate motion verbs are denominals. In: Victoria Hasko & Renee Perelmutter (eds.), *New Approaches to Slavic Verbs of Motion*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 47–65.
- Ramchand, Gillian C. 1997. *Aspect and Predication: The Semantics of Argument Structure*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ramchand, Gillian C. 2008. *Verb Meaning and the Lexicon: A First Phase Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Romanova, Eugenia. 2004. Superlexical vs. lexical prefixes. *Nordlyd* 32(2), 255–278.
- Schäfer, Florian 2022. Transitive Anticausatives. In: Özge Bakay, Breanna Pratley, Eva Neu & Peyton Deal (eds.), *NELS 52: Proceedings of the Fifty-Second Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*. Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications.
- Scheer, Tobias. 2004. O samohláskové délce při derivaci v češtině. In Zdeňka Hladká & Petr Karlík (eds.), *Čeština - univerzália a specifika 5*. Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 224–239.
- Schoorlemmer, Maaïke. 1995. *Participial Passive and Aspect in Russian*. Utrecht: Ots dissertation series.
- Siddiqi, Daniel. 2009. *Syntax within the Word: Economy, Allomorphy, and Argument Selection in Distributed Morphology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Sussex, Roland & Paul Cubberley. 2006. *The Slavic Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Štarkl, Ema, Marko Simonović, Stefan Milosavljević & Boban Arsenijević. Submitted. *nV/ne* is a diminutive affix plus a theme vowel. *Advances in Formal Slavic Linguistics 2022*. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Veselovská, Ludmila & Karlík, Petr. 2004. Analytic Passives in Czech. *Zeitschrift für Slawistik* 49, 163-235.
- Wągiel, Marcin. 2023. Acts, occasions and multiplicatives: A mereotopological account. In Kim, Juhya, Burak Öney, Yao Zhang & Fengyue (Lisa) Zhao (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 33*. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America, 276–297.
- Wood, Esther J. 2007. *The semantic typology of pluractionality*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley.