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ASPECTUALIZERS AND THEIR COMPLEMENTATION IN ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN

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Abstract: *Aspectualizers as verbs indicating phases in the development of events are typically divided into ingressive (denoting beginning), continuative (denoting continuation) and egressive (denoting ending). These verbs require specific complementation with the lexical verbs which are paired with the aspectualizers. Their analysis starts from the features of such complementation in English (subordinate non-finite infinitival and participial clauses) and compares them with the features of their Romanian translation equivalents. This corpus-based research (with the examples from modern British novels) focuses on the structural characteristics of the complementation in the two languages, lexical aspect of the verbs in the complementation (activities, states, accomplishments, achievements), as well as similarities and differences between the two languages in that respect.*
Keywords: *aspectualizers, continuative, egressive, English, ingressive, Romanian*

1. Introduction

Aspectualizers, also known as aspectual verbs, catenatives, phase verbs (Brinton 1988: 59-60; phase verbs or *fazni glagoli* in Serbian, cf. Ivić 1970) specify phases (initial, final, continuative) of the situation denoted by the lexical verbs in the complementation of aspectualizers. Therefore, English aspectualizers create tight syntactic and semantic structures with the nonfinite clauses in their complementation, which has been a topic of frequent research. The research in this paper relates to the function of aspectualizers and the link with their complementation in two languages, English and Romanian, with the goal to point out to the possible similarities and differences in that area.

2. Theoretical Background

This section provides basic facts about the structures with aspectualizers in English and Romanian.

2.1. Aspectualizers in English

English aspectualizers (though with that and other names) have always been a relevant issue in English grammars and studies (e. g. Kruisinga 1931, Joos 1964, Palmer 1989, Freed 1979). In one of the earlier studies of English aspectual system, Brinton (1988: 59-94) discusses the grammatical status and functions of aspectualizers, viewing them as an important secondary system of aspect marking (1988: 59-60). She writes that these verbs collocate with English infinitives and gerunds and indicate the beginning or initiation of a situation, continuation of a situation or an endpoint or cessation of a situation. Thus, they are clearly divided into three groups: a) ingressive (e. g. *begin, start, commence*), b) continuative or iterative (e. g. *continue, keep, go on*) and c) egressive (e. g. *finish, stop, cease, quit*). Brinton also lists habitual aspectualizers (1988: 61, e. g. *used to, have a habit*) which would not be included in the analysis

in this paper. The second significant issue Brinton discusses is the grammatical status of aspectualizers (1988: 65-74), because there have been opinions that aspectualizers are functionally and semantically more like auxiliaries than lexical verbs. However, since English aspectuallizers do not meet all the syntactic tests for auxiliaries, one can (in Brinton's opinion) either assume that there is a continuum from a lexical verb to an auxiliary or treat them as specific operators.

In a more recent account, Nagy (2008, 2010), starting from the assumptions made by Freed (1979), writes that events (or situations) denoted by lexical verbs are complex and consist of an onset, a nucleus and a coda. The onset is a temporal segment preceding the nucleus, so on the time axis it is located before the initiation of the nucleus; the nucleus is the temporal segment during which the event is going on (excluding its beginning and end) and it can be subdivided into subphases of time – the initial, middle and final subphase; the coda denotes the final ending of an event. It is important to underline the link between the aspectualizers and these lexical verbs, because aspectualizers point to a specific part of the event denoted by the lexical verb, like beginning, continuation or end. Namely, the aspectualizer can point to the onset, a specific part of nucleus or to a coda, which results in possibly different interpretations of the entire structure. For example, if the lexical verb is an achievement (momentary), its combination with the ingressive aspectualizers usually implies repetition, because the event cannot be divided into the onset, nucleus and coda. In addition, this specific link can be used to explain the differences between the pair of ingressive aspectualizers in English *begin* and *start* (Nagy 2010: 93-112) if they are followed by the infinitive as their complement, which can be useful for the analysis in this paper.

On the basis of these theoretical sources about English (as well as some others like Antonić 2000, Novakov 2018), we can assume that the aspectualizers are a part of a complex predicate which consists of an aspectualizer and a lexical verb as its syntactic and semantic complement (in English, the complement is a subordinate non-finite clause). Finally, as it has been underlined, aspectualizers themselves are semantically incomplete and require a complement, indicating the three phases of the event in that complement: beginning, continuation and end.

2.2. Aspectualizers in Romanian

Aspectualizers in Romanian serve to encode a wide range of temporal and aspectual information, including the beginning, duration, termination, repetition, and completion of actions. Understanding the selection and usage of these aspectualizers is essential for grasping the subtleties of the Romanian verb system.

The topic of the Romanian aspectual verbs has been a significant subject of interest in Romanian grammatical studies and broader linguistic research (Guţu Romalo 1961, 2013, Dragomirescu 2013, Manea, Pană Dindelegan and Zafiu 2008). In the first comprehensive study of the characteristics of aspectual verbs in Romanian, Guţu Romalo (1961) offers a detailed account of aspectual verbs, subcategorizing them in three relevant groups.

Namely, Guţu Romalo (1961: 3-11) categorizes these verbs into three main groups based on the specific phase they emphasize. The first group signifies the initiation or beginning of a situation. This group includes verbs such as *a începe (begin), a prinde (begin, start), a se pune (start), a se apuca (begin, start), and a (se) porni (start)*.

The second group of aspectualizers denotes the continuation or persistence of a situation. This category comprises verbs like a *continua (continue), a urma (continue), and the construction sta şi + Verb (sit and + V)*.

The final subcategory of Romanian aspectualizers focuses on actions that signal the end or termination of a situation. This group includes verbs such as *a termina (end, stop), a înceta (cease, stop), a isprăvi (end), a conteni (stop, cease), a sfârşi (end), and a se opri (stop, cease)*.

In more recent research focusing on the Romanian aspectualizers, Manea et al. (2008: 457) introduce the term "aspectual verbs proper" to describe verbs that exclusively function as aspectualizers in all contexts. These are verbs that solely convey the beginning, continuation and end of a situation without any additional semantic meaning beyond their aspectual role. According to the authors (Manea et al. 2008: 457) aspectual verbs proper: *a începe (begin), a continua (continue), a termina (end, stop), a înceta (cease, stop), a isprăvi (end), a conteni (stop, cease), a sfârşi (end, finish)*.

In addition to the specific verbs listed above, Romanian also employs periphrastic constructions to express aspectual distinctions. For example, *a începe să* (to begin to) and *a se opri din* (to stop doing) are periphrastic constructions that convey aspectual nuances.

The theoretical background has also revealed that Romanian aspectual verbs select both finite and non-finite clausal complements: a subjunctive complement, a supine clause, and an infinitive clause (Lăcătuș 2023: 82-85). She observed two behavioural patterns of Romanian aspectualizers: the verbs that correlate with the aspectualizer *termina (finish)* occur with a supine complement, while verbs that correlate with *începe (begin)* and the *continua (continue)* usually occur with infinitive and subjunctive complements.

Like their counterparts in English, aspectualizers in Romanian also require a complement that signifies the three stages of the event within that complement: beginning, continuation and end. Thus, on the basis of the relevant Romanian linguistic literature, it can be argued that Romanian aspectualizers are a part of a complex predicate which consists of an aspectualizer and a lexical verb functioning as its complement, as well as subordinate non-finite clauses.

Aspectualizers play a crucial role in determining the aspect of a verb in Romanian. The choice of aspectualizer can transform the verbal meaning significantly, indicating whether an action is viewed as completed, ongoing, or just initiated.

3. Empirical Research

The research in this paper is corpus-based, so this section first provides information, about the corpus and goals, followed by the analysis of the typical examples from the corpus.

3.1. Corpus and Goals

The corpus compiled for the research is literary, the relevant examples were excerpted from the following novels written by two contemporary British authors: 1) Ishiguro, K. *The Remains of the day* (1990, marked as I1 after the examples analysed), 2) Ishiguro, K. *Never Let Me Go* (2005, marked I2 after examples), 3) Rowling, J. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (1998, marked HP1 after examples) and 4) Rowling, J. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (1999, marked HP2 after examples). The Romanian translational equivalents were taken from the translations of the above-mentioned novels into Romanian: 1) Ishiguro, K. *Rămăşiţele zilei* (1994, marked as I1, followed by page number and R which stands for Romanian translation) translated by Radu Paraschivescu, 2) Ishiguro, K. *Să nu mă părăseşti* (2006, marked I2 followed by page number and R) translated by Vali Florescu, 3) Rowling, J. *Harry Potter şi camera secretelor* (2004, marked HP1 followed by page number and R) translated by Ioana Iepureanu and 4) Rowling, J. *Harry Potter - prizonier la Azkaban* (2001, marked HP2 followed by page number and R) translated by Ioana Iepureanu.

These novels (with almost 1000 pages) were chosen because they reflect contemporary language use in two target audiences (youth and adult), which makes a sound sample for the analysis and balanced discussion about aspectualizers. As for the aspectualizers themselves, the three most frequent aspectualizers were chosen for this research for each temporal type: a) *begin, start, commence* for the ingressive type, b) *continue, keep (on), go on* for the continuative type and 3) *finish, stop cease* for the egressive type. The following table specifies the number of excerpted examples:

No	Verb	Number of examples	Percent
1	begin	177	26.14%
2	start	192	28.35%
3	commence	1	0.14%
4	continue	48	7.09%
5	keep (on)	145	21,41 %
6	go (on)	53	7.82 %
7	finish	13	1.92%
8	stop	43	6.45%
9	cease	5	0.73 %
	TOTAL	677	100%

Table 1: Aspectualizers in the corpus

These examples contain only aspectualizers directly followed by an infinitive or a gerund, without the nominal in-between, because the structures with the nominal require additional specific syntactic and semantic analysis. For example, such structure is *And it wasn't just that he'd kept me waiting out in the Square* (*Never let me go*, page 185). Some older grammarians call these structures catenatives with an intervening NP (Christophersen and Sandved 1977).

The main goals of this research are: 1) analysis of the structure in the complementation of aspectualizers in the two languages, 2) similarities and differences between English and Romanian in that respect, 3) influence of grammatical (imperfective and perfective) and lexical (dynamic stative, momentary etc.) aspect on the structures with aspectualizers in English and Romanian.

3.2. Analysis of the English Examples and their Romanian Equivalents

This section discusses relevant English examples and their Romanian translation equivalents in order to point out the use of aspectualizers in these two languages as well as the possible similarities and differences between them. Relevant examples are divided into three groups, depending on the type of aspectualizers, that is ingressive, continuative and egressive.

3.2.1. Ingressive Aspectualizers

The typical ingressive aspectualizers, as it has been already indicated, are *begin* and *start*, along with the less frequent *commence* represented only once in the corpus. It is particularly challenging to explain the possible differences within the *begin/start* pair itself or the differences in the implication when they are followed by to-infinitive or the gerund. Thus, an older pedagogical grammar by Thomson & Martinet (1992: 234, the first edition 1960) simply states that either infinitive or gerund may be used without any difference in meaning, but some other approaches tackle possible differences (like Freed 1979, Nagy 2008, 2010, Milivojević 2021). These are some typical examples from the corpus:

1) a) … I believe one may begin to distinguish what it is that separates a 'great' butler from a merely competent one. (I1 29)
b) … cred că se poate începe să distingă ceea ce separă un „mare" majordom de unul pur și simplu competent. (I1 23R)
2) a) The company had seated themselves again, and conversation was just beginning to resume… (I1 I68)
b) Oaspeţii se aşezaseră la loc şi erau pe punctul de a relua conversaţia… (I1 115R)
3) a) I must confess I'm beginning to feel rather exhausted ... (I1 29)
b) Nu mă deranjează să recunosc că, la început, m-am simţit oarecum deprimat… (I1 123R)
4) a) … they seized the ends of their trunks and began dragging them up the grassy slope… (HP1 65)
b) …se apucară să-şi târască după ei cuferele, pe panta de iarbă… (I1 37R)
5) a) … about how one day we'll start giving donations. (I2 26)
b) … despre cum într-o bună zi vom începe să facem donații. (I2 41R)
6) a) Powerful enough to start feeding Miss Weasley a few of my secrets, to start pouring a little of my soul back into her… (HP1 264)
b) Suficient de puternic pentru a începe să-i hrănesc domnișoarei Weasley cu câteva dintre secretele mele, să încep să reverse puțin din sufletul meu în ea... (HR1 153R)
7) a) The Hall was starting to empty as people headed off towards their first lesson. (HP2 71)
b) Marea Sală începu să se golească, pe măsură ce elevii și profesorii plecau la ore. (HP2 68R)
8) a) … but this had no effect other than to make the creature commence pecking at something on the ground. (I1 I46)
b) … dar aceasta nu a făcut altceva decît să determine creatura să înceapă a ciuguli ceva de pe jos. (I1 137R)

The English examples with *begin* are followed by the infinitive (1a, 2a, 3a) and the gerund (4a); however, the aspectualizer itself is in the progressive (that is imperfective) aspect in (2a) and (3a), which points to the gradual initial section of the event, not an abrupt beginning. The aspectualizer *start* is also in the progressive aspect and is followed by the infinitive in (7a) with the implication of a structured onset phase of the event (*empty*), while in (5a) and (6a) it is followed by the gerund. The only example with *commence* (8a) also contains the gerund as the complement.

The examples in which *begin* (like in 1a) and *start* (like in 7a) are followed by the infinitive can corroborate the already mentioned assumption that *begin* refers to the first part of the nucleus while *start* refers to the onset. Namely, the unacceptability of *begin* in the test *X *began/started to sneeze but then X did not sneeze* (Nagy 2008) proves that *begin* relates to the first part of the nucleus, and the acceptability of *start* proves that it relates to the onset, not the nucleus. This test can be applied to the examples from the corpus like *…his lordship began to devote more and more hours to the matter of the crisis in Germany* (I1 150) **but then he did not devote it.* The example with *start* is acceptable: *… and started to swing it in great circles like a lasso* (HP1 31) *but then he did not swing it*.

As for the lexical aspect of the verbs in the complements, they are durative activities (*drag* in 4a, *feed* and *pour* in 6a, *empty* in 7a and *peck* in 8a), durative states (*distinguish* in 1a, *feel* in 3a) or momentary achievements (*resume* in 2a). Duration of an event makes it possible to divide the event into sections indicated by the aspectualizers, while the aspectualizer with the momentary achievement *resume* implies the preparation in the onset for the realization of this achievement. Finally, aspectualizers in (1a) and (5a) are used with modal verbs (*may, will*) which is an argument against treating these aspectualizers as typical auxiliary verbs.

The English ingressive aspectualizers are translated with the Romanian aspectualizers respectively *a începe (begin), a prinde (begin, start), a se pune (start), a se apuca (begin, start), and a (se) porni (start).* This research has revealed that the vast majority of the English ingressive aspectualizers have been translated by the Romanian aspectualizer *a începe (begin).* This is illustrated by the corpus examples 1b, 5b, 6b and 7b in which the Romanian verb *a începe (begin)* is followed by present subjunctive specifying the beginning of the situation.

Similarly, in 4b the aspcetualizer *a se apuca (begin, start)* is also followed by present subjunctive signifying the initiation of the situation. While in the example 8b the verb *a începe* is followed by infinitive *a ciguli* also denoting the beginning of the situation. Furthermore, some of the English aspectualizers were not translated by Romanian aspectualizers. Nevertheless, even though the translation was paraphrased, the meaning of the initiation or beginning of a situation has been retained. This is the case with the examples in (2b) and (3b) where the translator used the phrases *pe punctul de (at the point of)* and *la început (in the beginning)* to convey the initial segment of the event expressed by verbs in the complements. Moreover, the translation of the English progressive aspectualizers in 2a, 3a, and 7a indicative of the imperfective aspect retained the meaning of the structured onset phase of the event especially in the example 7b where the Romanian simple perfect is used (*începu*).

The analysis of the lexical aspect of the Romanian verbs in the complements has revealed a striking similarity with their English equivalents. Namely, the Romanian verbs in the complements are durative activities (*târască* in 4b, *hrănesc* and *reverse* in 6b, *golească* in 7b and *ciuguli* in 8b), durative states (*distingă* in 1b, *simţit* in 3b) or momentary achievements (*relua* in 2b). The duration of the situation allows its division into phases specified by aspectualizers. In the case of a momentary achievement in (2b), the aspectualizer suggests that there is a preparatory phase at the beginning leading to the actual realization of the achievement.

3.2.2. Continuative Aspectualizers

The second type of aspectualizers underlines a prolonged realization of the event in the complement, not its ending. The verbs *continue* and *go on* in the corpus are followed both by the infinitive and the gerund, whereas *keep (on)*, as expected, is followed only by the gerund. For example:

9) a) He is doing what he can, after all, to ensure that peace will continue to prevail in Europe. (I1 153)
b) …la urma urmelor, face tot ce îi stă în putinţă ca se asigura că pacea va continua să prevaleze în Europa. (I1 122R)
10) a) To have continued pronouncing aloud my thoughts on the future of Darlington Hall would have been, to say the very least, presumptuous. (I1 11)
b) Dacă aş fi continuat să-mi exprim cu voce tare gîndurile despre viitorul reşedinţei de la Darlington Hall as fi comis o impertinenţă. (I1 7R)
11) a) But Harry continued to stare at the front cover of the book… (HP2 38)
b) Dar Harry continua să se uite ţintă la carte… (HP2 26R)
12) a) … and I don't care what Fudge keeps telling the *Daily Prophet* ... (HP2 47)
b) Nu te lua după ce le tot spune Fudge celor de la „Profetul zilei"… (HP2 32R)
13) a) That way she could go on talking at least with Chrissie… (I2 100)
b) În felul ăsta putea să continue să vorbească cel puţin cu Chrissie… (I2 177R)
14) a) There was, too, a curiously deliberate edge to the way he went on to inquire again… (HP1 140)
b) De asemenea, a făcut o pauză destul de curioasă înainte de a continua să întrebe încă o dată (HP1 112R)

Examples from the corpus point to the conclusion that the infinitive after *continue* (like in 9a, 11a) relates to the onset, while the gerund relates already to the initial part of the nucleus, that is, the continuation refers to event itself. In the example (10a) the aspectualizer *continue* is paired with the auxiliary *have* in an implicit unreal conditional structure, indicating the desirable absence of continuation. In the example (12a) the aspectualizer *keep* refers to the beginning of the nucleus, as well as the aspectualizer *go on* in (13a, 14a). As for the lexical aspect of the verbs in the complementation, they are durative activities (*stare* in 11a, *tell* in 12a, *talk* in 13a), a durative state (*prevail* in 9a) or momentary achievements (*pronounce* in 10a, *inquire* in 14a) with the implication of repetition which makes continuation possible.

The research has indicated that the English continuative aspectualizers are translated with the Romanian aspectualizers a *continua (continue), a urma (continue), sta şi + Verb (sit and + V)* denoting the continuation or prolonged realization of the situation expressed by the complement. The analysis has revealed that the most often used Romanian translational equivalent is *a continua (continue).* As shown in the corpus examples 9b, 10b, 11b, 13b and 14b in which the Romanian aspectualizer *a continua (continue)* is followed by present subjunctive specifying the ongoing nature of the situation.

Furthermore, not all the English continuative aspectualizers were translated by the Romanian ones, as it can be observed in the corpus example (12b) where the translator used the adverb *tot* to indicate repetition of the event in the complement (*spune*). Even though the aspectualizer was not used in the translation, the notion of duration and continuation of a situation has been retained.

Analysis the lexical aspect of the verbs in the complementation has shown that the complements of the Romanian continuative aspectualizers are most often durative activities (*uite* in 11b, *spune* in 12b, *vorbească* in 13b), states (*prevaleze* in 9b) or momentary achievements (*exprim* in 10b, *întrebe* in 14b) denoting repetition.

3.2.3. Egresssive Aspectualizers

The typical representatives of the third type of aspectualizers (*finish*, *stop* and less frequent *cease*) indicate termination of the event in the complement:

15) a) I had just finished serving a glass to a gentleman when a voice behind me said… (I1 72)
b) Tocmai terminam de umplut paharul unui gentleman, cînd o voce a rostit în spatele meu … (I1 58R)
16) a) …there's a general feeling they never properly finished converting the place. (I2 146)
b) … te copleşeşte sentimentul că aşezămîntul a fost dat în folosinţă mult înainte ca reconversia lui în spital să fi fost finalizată (I2 260R)
17) a) … reminds me of the old Silver Arrows — a pity they've stopped making them. (HP2 184)
b) …îmi aminteşte de vechiul model „Săgeata de Argint... Păcat că nu se mai fac şi azi... (HP2 124R)
18) a) Pinch it hard, it'll stop bleeding in a second… (HP1 163)
b) …ţine strâns, se opreşte din sângerare într-o secundă… (HP1 95R)
19) a) Perhaps, then, there is something to his advice that I should cease looking back so much… (I1 165)
b) Prin urmare, poate că nu e inutil sfatul lui de a înceta să privesc atît de mult înapoi … (I1 131R)

As expected, all these three verbs (*finish, stop, cease*) in the corpus are followed by the gerund and refer to the final part of the nucleus. It is worth noticing that *finish* and *stop* are found in the past/present perfect form (15a, 17a); *stop* also occurs with the modal *will* for future (19a) and *cease* with the modal *should,* which is another argument against their status as auxiliaries. As for the lexical aspect of the verbs in the complements, these verbs are durative activities (*serve* in 15a, *make* in 17a, *bleed* in 18a, *look back* in 19a), and a durative accomplishment (*convert the place* in 16a). Finally, the telic accomplishment (16a) indicates that the event was stopped without reaching the goal in a satisfactory way.

As for the Romanian translational equivalents of the English egressive aspectualizers, it can be pointed out that they are usually translated with *a termina (end, stop), a înceta (cease, stop), a isprăvi (end), a conteni (stop, cease), a sfârşi (end, finish)*. The most common Romanian egressive aspectualizer in the corpus is *a termina (end, stop)* illustrated by the example (15b) followed by the phrase de + participle (*a termina de umplut / finish filling the glass*) and corresponding to the English gerund also indicating the final part of the event. Similarly, the corpus example (18b) *se opreşte din sângerare / stop bleeding* records the structure din + verbal noun sângerare, semantically indicating the final part of the nucleus. Furthermore, the Romanian egressive aspectualizer *a înceta (cease, stop)* is followed by present

subjunctive specifying the final segment of the situation expressed by the complement verb (*să privesc*). In the examples 16b and 17b egressive aspectualizers were not used but verbs denoting termination or end point were used instead: *finalizată (finalized), nu se mai fac (not made anymore).*

When analysing the lexical aspect of the Romanian verbs in the complements, it can be argued that these verbs express durative activities (*privesc* in 19b) and telic accomplishments (*umplut* in 15b) which characterize a situation that stopped before reaching the goal.

4. Discussion and Concluding Remarks

This English-Romanian contrastive study discusses the non-finite complementation of aspectualizers in English and their Romanian translation equivalents. In the source language, English, the analysed structures included the three aspectualizers in each of the three segments (ingressive, continuative and egressive). Some of these aspectualizers can be followed by both *to*-infinitive and gerund, and some only by one of the two options - the former group includes the aspectualizers *begin, start, continue, go on, cease.* Namely, in the ingressive group, the aspectualizer *begin* occurs with the gerund in about 11% of the examples, while the aspectualizer *start* combines with the gerundial complement in about 30% of the examples. In the continuative segment, *continue* occurs almost only with the infinitival complement (about 93%), but *go on* almost exclusively with the gerund (about 98%). Finally, in the egressive segment, in the only 5 examples with *cease,* this verb is almost equally followed by the gerund (60%) and *to-i*nfinitive (40%). As it has already been mentioned, English aspectulizers combine with modal verbs (*may, shall, should, will*); moreover, ingressive aspectualizers combine with progressive aspect pointing to an onset of the event (e. g. *was just beginning to resume* I1 68) and egressive aspectualizers with perfect aspect underlying the final part of the nucleus (e. g. *… once we had finished interviewing the girl…* I1 104).

As for the lexical aspect of the verbs in the complementation in the English part of the corpus, most of the verbs are activities (about 60%, for example *climb, laugh, read, scrub, speak, walk, write*), while states make about 5% examples in the corpus (for instance *prevail, suffer, understand*). These two groups are durative and atelic, which means that they can be freely combined with aspectualizers in order to indicate the beginning, continuation and end of an event. The two telic groups (accomplishments and achievements; this analysis uses the general term achievements, without making a distinction between achievements and semelfactives) are significantly less frequent in the English part of the corpus: momentary achievements make about 20% (e. g. *arrive, get out, kick*) and VPs which represent durative accomplishments about 15% of the English corpus (e. g. *clear the table, roll up one's sleeves, tell the story*). Being momentary, achievements cannot be structured into beginning, middle and end, so their use with aspectualizers indicates a repetition of the momentary event (like *stopped coming*) or the preparation for the event (that is the onset of the momentary situation, like *began to realize*) leading to the realization of that momentary situation. Telic accomplishments in the English part of the corpus occur with the ingressive and egressive aspectualizers, implying that the event was initiated (ingressive) or that the event was ended before reaching the goal (egressive, e. g. *… he was attempting to finish cleaning Mr. Malfoys shoes* HP1 285). However, telic accomplishments in the English part of the corpus do not occur with continuative aspectualizers; this combination seems to be ruled out because telic situations cannot be continued, they can be terminated before the goal is reached or started again as a new event after the goal was reached.

Finally, the analysis of the English part of the corpus confirmed the possible difference between the ingressive aspectualizers *begin* and *start* when followed by the to-infinitive, namely that *begin* relates to the first phase of the nucleus and *start* to the onset.

The Romanian part of the corpus included the translational equivalents of the English structures with aspectualizers indicating the ingressive, continuative and egressive meaning based on the specific phase they emphasize.

The first group of Romanian aspectualizers signifies the initiation or beginning of a situation. The research conducted for this paper has shown that the vast majority of the English ingressive aspectualizers 74% have been translated by the Romanian aspectualizer *a începe (begin),* followed by the aspectualizer *a se apuca (begin, start)* with 12% of the Romanian corpus and *a (se) porni (start)* 10%, and the remaining aspectualizers *a prinde (begin, start)* and *a se pune (start)* were scarcely used, only in 4% of instances.

The second group of aspectualizers denotes continuation of an event. Within this group, the analysis has revealed that the most often used Romanian translational equivalent is *a continua (continue)* with 81% of the corpus examples, followed by *a urma (continue)* used in 17% of the cases and finally the construction *sta şi + Verb (sit and + V)* appears in only 2% of the corpus examples.

The final subcategory of Romanian aspectualizers focuses on the end or termination of an event. The Romanian egressive aspectualizer *a termina (end, stop)* is most often used in 68% of the corpus examples, followed by *a sfârşi (end, finish)* with 17% and *a înceta (cease, stop)* 12% and the rest appearing in only 3% of the Romanian part of the corpus.

The most frequently used Romanian aspectualizers in the corpus, *a începe (begin), a continua (continue), a înceta (cease, stop),* are followed by present subjunctive indicating the phases in the development of events: ingressive (denoting beginning), continuative (denoting continuation) and egressive (denoting ending).

In some instances, other syntactic constructions were used in the translation of English aspectualizers. Namely, it is the adverb *tot* to indicate repetition of the event in the complement or the structures *de + participle* and *din + noun phrase*, designating the final part of the nucleus. In some cases, some Romanian translations do not record aspectualizers, but verbs indicating a segment or phrase of an event were used instead: *finalizată (finalized), stau (stand / stop).* Nevertheless, it can be argued that even though some of the English aspectualizers were not translated by means of Romanian aspectualizers, the meaning of the beginning, continuation or termination of an event has been retained.

The comparison conducted in this paper has shown that both the English and the Romanian languages use aspectulaizers to denote phases in the development of situations, i.e. their beginning, continuation or ending. In both languages, these aspectualizers require specific complementation which implies the lexical aspect (activities, states, accomplishments, achievements). The research has shown that the structure of the complementation differs in the analysed languages. Some of the English aspectualizers can be followed by both *to*-infinitive and the gerund, and some only by one of the two options. In Romanian, the aspectualizers are most often followed by present subjunctive. Furthermore, the Romanian translators were more flexible in denoting the phrases in the development of the situation, not always using aspectualizers, but other syntactic structures as well.

On the other hand, the analysis has confirmed that there is a difference between the English ingressive aspectualizers *begin* and *start* followed by the to-infinitive. In such instances, *begin* relates to the first phase of the nucleus and *start* to the onset. Such distinction was not verified in the Romanian language. Since both English aspectualizers were translated by the Romanian *a începe*.

Finally, the research has revealed a correlation in the two languages analysed when it comes to the lexical aspect of the verbs in the complementation. Namely, the majority of verbs are activities, while states occur rarely in such contexts in both languages. Since activities and states are durative and atelic, they can be more frequently used with aspectualizers to indicate the beginning, continuation and end of a situation. On the other hand, accomplishments and

achievements seldom occur because of their telic notion. Furthermore, achievements do not have phrases, and structure and in both languages indicate repetition. Telic accomplishments usually imply that the event has started, but the goal was not reached.

To conclude, we may add that this research pointed to certain tendencies in the use of aspectualizers in English and Romanian (particularly to their complementation), as well as to some similarities and differences between these two languages in that respect. It goes without saying that the conclusions reflect the literary corpus which was analysed and should be compared to similar or larger studies discussing different functional styles.

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