

Remarks on aspect in deverbal nouns

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Traditionally the term “aspect” has been used to refer to different ways of viewing the temporal constituency of an event/a state; specifically the so-called “grammatical aspect” – or “verbal aspect” – concerns the manner how events/states appear described by the speakers in the sentences. The label “*verbal aspect*” is due to the fact that such grammatical category is usually related to (verbal) inflectional morphology, such as *-va/-ia*, *-ndo* for Portuguese data. Nevertheless, the present work deals with the hypothesis that aspect can also be expressed by derivational morphology in that language, namely, by affixes in deverbal nouns.

Many authors – Travaglia (1985), Costa (1990), Ilari (1997), Castilho (2010), among others – have focused on the grammatical expression of aspect in Portuguese – mostly in morphosyntactic domain, that is, in respect to inflection, periphrases and adverbials; however, some data suggest that the expression of (grammatical) aspect in derivational morphology lacks additional remarks, mostly regarding some affixes appearing in deverbal nouns, such as *-ej-*, *-it-*, *-ção*, but also as *-ndo*, *-gem* and *-r*.

In relation to nominalizations, Resende (2016a) shows that deverbal nouns deriving from verbs without any overt affix – such as *fala*, *corte* and *grito* – do not add any aspectual meaning to the event/state denoted by the verb. Additionally, some linguists argue that some affixes do contribute to the aspect expression. Rocha (1999), for instance, claims that there is a suffix *-ção* triggering an iterative reading, as in *bateção*, *chamação*, *matação*, *contação*, etc. Moreover, Castilho (2010) understands that the iterativity can also be expressed by *-it-* (*dormitar*, *saltitar*) and *-ej-* (*gotejar/gotejo*, *farejar/farejo*, *bocejar/bocejo*).

Nevertheless, Lemle (2002) argues not only that *-ej-* adds aspectual meaning to the event, but also that there is an allomorph *-ei-* triggering the same iterative reading, such as in *floreio*, *chicoteio*, *tiroteio*, etc. For the author, an evidence to consider *-ej-* and *-ei-* as being the same aspectualizer (in addition to its meaning) is the duplicity of forms like *relampejo/relampeio*, *peleja/peleia*, *sacolejo/sacoleio*, *voltejo/volteio*, *harpejo/harpeio*.

Rocha (1999) also argues that *-gem* only combines with event verbs and triggers always a durative reading (that is, aspectual), such as in *contagem*, *lavagem*, *reciclagem*. Furthermore, Resende (2016b) shows that *-ndo* (the same affix appearing in gerund forms) derives agentive deverbal nouns triggering an imperfective reading – as gerunds do in the verbal domain – such as *formando*, *graduando*, *orientando*, etc.

Finally, following Harley & Noyer (1997) and assuming Resende (2016b), the present work makes some remarks on the aspectual contribution of *-r* (the same affix appearing in infinitive forms) in deverbal constructions like *o narrar dos fatos*, *a força do querer*, etc. In respect to infinitive constructions, apart from its semantic contribution, some attention must be paid on their morphological and syntactic

behavior, mostly as regards their nominal nature and their occurrence as subjects – satisfying the EPP (such as in *praticar alpinismo incomoda João*).

In short, this work aims at reviewing some assertions about the grammatical expression of aspect in Portuguese, mostly by arguing that such category is also found in derivational morphology and by proposing a reorder for affixes adding aspectual meaning, (some of those already discussed in the literature). At last, the present analysis focuses particularly on infinitive constructions, analyzing their nominal nature and their syntactic appearing, in addition to their semantic contribution.

Keywords: Aspect. Deverbal nouns. Infinitives.

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