Short Biographical Note

Krasimir Kabakciev, Sofia, Bulgaria

Krasimir Kabakciev, born 1954, is an independent researcher, retired, but enthusiastically working in different fields of theoretical linguistics: aspect, nominal determination, tense, mood, etc., mainly on Germanic and Slavic data.

Kabakciev is the author of a monograph on aspect in English (published in 2000) in which a theory of the so-called inverse relationship of the markers of temporal boundedness in verbs and nouns is proposed: when a language lacks markers of boundedness in verbs, they are present in nouns, and vice versa. Most Slavic and Germanic languages perfectly manifest the relationship and the theory remains practically unchallenged decades after its publication (initially in two articles in 1984). Kabakciev is also the author of an English grammar, distributed by Amazon, which offers a detailed description of the complex interplay between various components at the sentence level for the signaling of aspect, whereby articles (a & the) play a major role in the explication of perfectivity. Surprisingly, the phenomenon remains unrecognized today – misunderstood, ignored – by English grammarians, despite the otherwise considerable advances in aspectology: Vendler’s aspectual schemata, Verkuyl’s compositional aspect, Kabakciev’s theory of the inverse relationship of markers of boundedness, etc.

Among recent research carried out by the author is an analysis of the English sequence of tenses rule on the basis of an investigation of Bulgarian data manifesting the phenomenon of “speaker ghosting” in certain types of non-grammatical sentences. The article covering the research, entitled On Non-Grammaticality, “Speaker Ghosting”, and the Raison D’être of English Sequence of Tenses, is to appear in the Athens Journal of Philology. Its main conclusion is that the English sequence of tenses rule is actually a phenomenon that should be regarded as a mood, and its raison d’être is to prevent the elimination of non-cancelable content in sentences of a particular type.