

# 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 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 (among many other) perfectly manifest the relationship. The theory is corroborated in publications by several theoretical linguists (Elisabeth Leiss, Werner Abraham, Vesna Bulatovic, Desislava Dimitrova) and/or subscribed to by them. It remains practically unchallenged decades after its publication – initially in two articles in 1984.

Apart from having many other publications (monographs, articles, review articles, book reviews, dictionaries, translations), Kabakciev is the author of an English grammar, distributed by Amazon, which offers, for the first time in the history of English grammars, a fully 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 and even shockingly, this extremely important phenomenon remains unrecognized today – misunderstood, ignored, sidestepped – in almost all English grammars, despite the otherwise considerable advances in aspectology in recent decades, among which Vendler's aspectual schemata, Verkuyl's compositional aspect, Kabakciev's theory of the inverse relationship of markers of boundedness, etc. Forthcoming (in print) are now two truly revolutionary articles by an aspectologist who follows Kabakciev's theoretical approach. The first of these articles argues that compositional aspect is such a universal and truly epochally significant phenomenon that it must be taught to all learners of English and to native speakers – not only to Slavic learners (that is, to speakers of the so-called “aspect languages”). The second article offers an analysis of twelve English grammars and serious criticism for their sidestepping of the phenomenon of compositional aspect, including the so-called article-aspect interplay. (When these two articles appear, the information here will be updated.)

Among recent research carried out by Kabakciev are three papers published by Atiner's *Athens Journal of Philology*:

(1) “On non-grammaticality, “speaker ghosting”, and the raison d'être of English SOT” (AJP 2018), dealing with the very interesting “speaker ghosting” phenomenon

in certain types of non-grammatical sentences in Bulgarian and also arguing that the English SOT (sequence of tenses) rule/phenomenon should rather be regarded as a mood, while its *raison d'être* is to prevent the elimination of non-cancelable content in certain types of sentences;

(2) “On the history of compositional aspect: vicissitudes, issues, prospects” (AJP 2019), a large review article of the discovery (made in 1971) by Henk Verkuyl of compositional aspect, a major universal language phenomenon, and the development of the theory of compositional aspect during the decades up to the present;

(3) “On the *raison d'être* of the present perfect, with special reference to the English grammeme” (AJP 2020), an article dealing with the present perfect grammeme in several languages including English and arguing that the *raison d'être* of the present perfect across languages is to be found not in its “meaning” but in certain functions related to language structure that the present perfect performs.