

# Short Biographical Note

**Krasimir Kabakciev (Kabakčiev), Bulgaria**

Krasimir Kabakciev, born 1954, Dr.Sc. in Bulgaria (a second dissertation, of a higher status than Ph.D.), is an independent researcher (retired), enthusiastically working in different fields of theoretical linguistics: aspect, tense, mood, nominal determination, the semantics-syntax interface, lexical semantics, etc., mainly on Germanic and Slavic data (recently also on Greek and Georgian).

Kabakciev is the author of a monograph (*Aspect in English: a “common-sense” view of the interplay between verbal and nominal referents*. Dordrecht, 2000: Springer), the only one so far specifically dealing with compositional aspect in English, in which a fully-fledged 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 languages across the world) perfectly manifest the relationship. In its various aspects the theory has been corroborated in publications by several theoretical linguists – Jouko Lindstedt, Elisabeth Leiss, Werner Abraham, Boris Vounchev, Vesna Bulatovic, Desislava Dimitrova, and remains unchallenged in the literature 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, according to Vesna Bulatovic, 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 (Bulatovic, V., *An English Grammar: main stumbling blocks for Bulgarians learning English. Facta Universitatis Series: Linguistics and Literature* 16(1), 2018, 81-83), whereby articles (*a, the, zero article*) play a major role in the explication of perfectivity and imperfectivity.

Surprisingly and even shockingly, this extremely important phenomenon remains unrecognized today in almost all English grammars – misunderstood, ignored, sidestepped, despite the otherwise considerable advances in theoretical linguistics 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. Two truly revolutionary articles in the field have appeared lately, by an aspectologist, Vesna Bulatovic, who subscribes to Kabakciev’s theoretical model. The first one (Bulatovic, V. Thinking for speaking in the right aspect: on

whether modern English grammars can do more. *RESLA* 33(2), 2020, 384-415) 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. The second paper 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 (i.e., to speakers of so-called “aspect languages” (Bulatovic, V. Aspect semantics and ESL article use. *IRAL* 60(2), 2022, 491-521).

Among recent research carried out by Kabakciev are the following 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 extremely intriguing 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 on the discovery of compositional aspect (made in 1971 by Henk Verkuyl), 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 not to be found in its “meaning” but in certain functions related to language structure that it performs.
- (4) Dimitrova, D., K. Kabakciev. “Compositional and verbal aspect in Greek: the aorist-imperfect distinction and the article-aspect interplay” (AJP 2021), a paper co-authored with a native speaker of Greek and revealing the complex interdependencies between compositional and verbal aspect, on the one hand, and the definite article and the aorist-imperfect contrast in Greek, on the other.
- (5) “On how compositional aspect and the article-aspect interplay ought to appear in English comprehensive grammars” (AJP 2021), a paper arguing for the need of a radical restructuring of English grammars in their descriptions of aspect, nominal determination, tense and other phenomena.

Kabakciev is currently doing research on the essence of the perfect and many of its other features across languages – on data from English and other Germanic languages, Bulgarian, Greek, Georgian. This research can be found in about a dozen of articles in English (mainly) and in Bulgarian, published in different open-access journals between 2018 and 2023 (available in ResearchGate, academia.edu, etc.). The cross-linguistic essence of the perfect is defined as the effectuation –

grammaticalized or not in the different languages – of the notion of cancelability, explained in detail in the papers referred to.

As already shown above, in recent years Kabakciev has had a large and fruitful collaboration with Greek institutions, not only Atiner, but also the Department of Linguistics (School of Philology) and the School of English of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Institute of Modern Greek Studies, etc.

Apart from being a theoretical linguist, Kabakciev is the translator into English of about twenty Bulgarian books in different fields of science, art, culture, etc., among which *Phenomenal crystals: giant quartz crystals, unique minerals in world museums, gem treasures of Brazil*, by Ilia Deleff, the monograph *Head reconstruction by the skull* by Jordan Jordanov (both distributed by Amazon), etc.

Recently Kabakciev has started a video series distributed by Vimeo and YouTube, entitled *Lectures on Compositional Aspect* and aimed at acquainting the world audience with the extremely complex and intriguing phenomenon of compositional aspect (discovered in 1971 by the Dutch linguist Henk Verkuyl). Links:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/folders/12878671>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3aeBKdQdjKLFxT1TpCaOpA>

Kabakciev's work is covered in the Internet by Orcid, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, academia.edu, etc.

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5529-0872>

[https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Uc-V\\_BkAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Uc-V_BkAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao)

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Krasimir\\_Kabakciev](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Krasimir_Kabakciev)

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