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Temporal Deixis in Welsh and Breton

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In this study a language-independent theoretical framework of temporal and aspectual relations is established in order to enable language comparison. Several well-known approaches to the field of research on time and aspect have been evaluated in order to find the most adequate descriptive system. The chosen approach is an onomasiological, i.e. function-to-form approach, in order to have a basis of typological comparison.

In its central part this volume thoroughly examines systematically the differing methods employed by Welsh and Breton (both closely related Celtic languages) to express temporal and aspectual relations.

The results of the individual tense and aspect-systems of Welsh and Breton are contrasted in a final chapter, and are also displayed graphically. Although both Welsh and Breton are genetically similar, the expression of temporal deixis is very different. Breton employs a greater number of ways to express temporal and aspectual differences. It has less deictic differentiation, since some of its markers express similar temporal values. Welsh has a more systematic marking system, and uses aspectual markers similarly in different temporal environments. It is thus able to express a more refined system of (temporal and aspectual) relations.

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