

Tense and Aspect in Welsh

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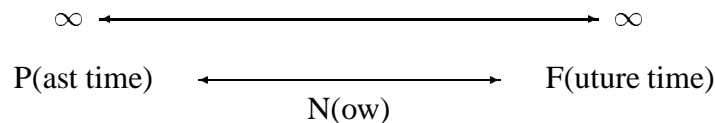
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- (1) Aspect (and Times) are deictic, Aktionsart is definitoric (Heger)

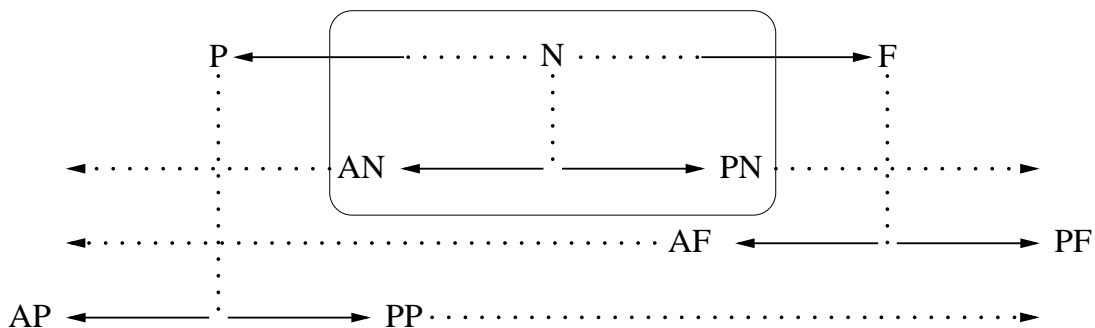
Eynde:702:

- (2) "...many authors do not make a distinction between grammatical aspect and lexical aspect. The former concerns the syntax and semantics of aspectual auxiliaries and adverbials, whereas the latter concerns the semantics of main verbs and propositions. I will use the term *aspect* for the former only. The latter will be called *Aktionsart*."

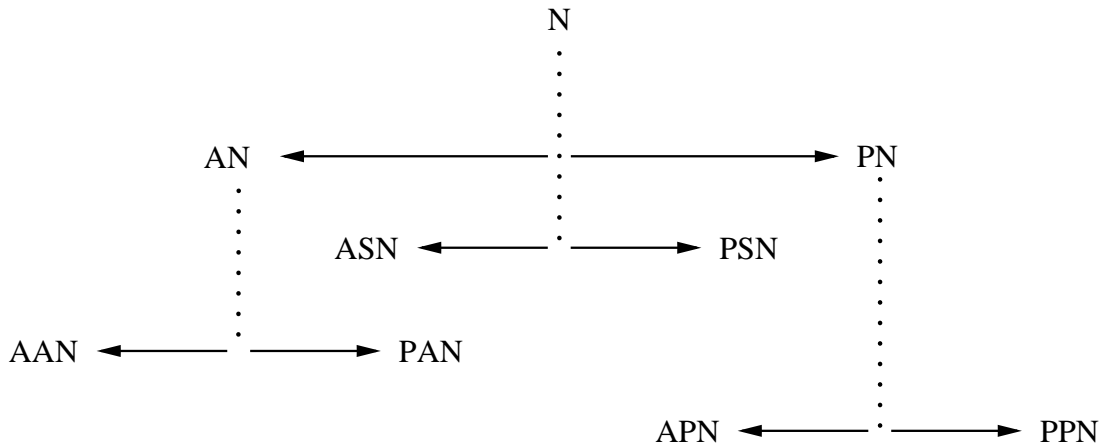
- (3) Simple Times (cf. Bühler)



- (4) Secondary Times (Reichenbach, Heger)



(5) Tertiary times (here only present time is represented)



| | | imperfective i | perfective p |
|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Future Time | (AF) | AFi | AFp |
| | (F) | Fi | Fp |
| | (PF) | PFi | PFp |
| Present Time | (AN) | ANi | ANp |
| | (N) | Ni | Np |
| | (PN) | PNi | PNp |
| Past Time | (AP) | APi | APp |
| | (P) | Pi | Pp |
| | (PP) | PPi | PPp |

(6) Theoretically Possible Times-Aspect Combinations

| | 1 SG | 3 SG |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Preterite Perfective Tense | <i>bûm</i> | <i>bu</i> |
| Preterite Imperfective Tense | <i>oeddwn</i> | <i>oedd</i> |
| Present Tense | <i>ydw</i> | <i>mae, oes,</i> <i>(yd)yw, sy(dd)</i> |
| Future Tense | <i>byddaf</i> | <i>bydd</i> |
| (Conditional | <i>byddwn</i> | <i>byddai</i>) |
| (Pluperfect | <i>buaswn</i> | <i>buasai</i>) |

(7) Simple Tenses of *bod* (written forms)

(8) Bu Ioan ym Mangor. ≈ Roedd Ioan ym
 be-PRETPF-3SG PRN in+NM NM-LN be-PRETIF-3SG PRN in+NM

Mangor.
NM-LN

“John was in Bangor.” ≈ “John was (for a while) in Bangor.”

(9) Bu Ioan ym Mangor am flwyddyn.
be-PRETPF-3SG PRN in+NM NM-LN for year-SGSUF
“John was in Bangor for one year.”

(10) Roedd Ioan ym Mangor am flwyddyn.
be-PRETIF-3SG PRN in+NM NM-LN for year-SGSUF
“John was in Bangor for one year.”

(11) *Bu Ioan ym Mangor pan
be-PRETPF-3SG PRN in+NM NM-LN when+SM
brynodd gar newydd.
SM-buy-PRETPF-3SG SM-car new

(12) Roedd Ioan ym Mangor pan
be-PRETIF-3SG PRN in+NM NM-LN when+SM
brynodd gar newydd.
SM-buy-PRETPF-3SG SM-car new
“John was in Bangor when he bought a new car.”

(13) Be ∅+SM oedd? (yn bod)
what REL be-PRETIF-3SG (IMPF sein)
“What was wrong/ the matter?; Qu’est-ce qui se passait?”

(14) Be ∅+SM fuo’?
what REL SM-be-PRETPF-3SG
“What happened?; Qu’est-ce qui s’est passé?”

| | 1 SG | 3 SG |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Preterite Perfective Tense | <i>cenais</i> | <i>canodd</i> |
| Future Tense | <i>canaf</i> | <i>cân</i> |
| (Conditional | <i>canwn</i> | <i>canai</i>) |
| (Pluperfect | <i>canasai</i> | <i>canasai</i>) |

(15) Simple Tenses of a “full verb” (*canu* to sing; written forms)

(16) *bod*_{inflected} + tense/aspect-marker + verbnoun

- (17) *bod*_{inflected} + tense-marker + [*bod* + *yn* + verbnoun]
- (18) Rydw i wedi bwyta.
be-PRES-1SG 1SG AT eat-VN
“I have eaten.”
- (19) Rydw i wedi bod yn canu.
be-PRES-1SG 1SG AT be-VN IMPF sing-VN
*bod*_{inflected} subject MARKER [_____ “verbnoun” _____]
“I have been singing.”
- (20) Roedd y plant wedi gorffen.
be-3SG-PRETIF DEF children AT finish-VN
“The children had finished.”
- (21) Bydd y plant wedi gorffen.
be-3SG-FUT DEF children AT finish-VN
“The children will have finished.”
- (22) Mae 'r plant wedi bod yn canu.
be-3SG-PRES DEF children AT be-VN IMPF sing-VN
“The children have been singing.”
- (23) Dydy 'r plant ddim wedi canu
NEG-be-PRES-3SG DEF children SM-NEG AT sing-VN
“The children have not sung.”
- (24) Mae 'r plant heb ganu.
be-PRES-3SG DEF children AT-NEG+SM SM-sing-VN
“The children have not sung.”

Georgian:

- (25) študent-s da-u-çer-i-a çerili
student-DAT PERFPR-T-DAT-write-ACC letter-NOM
“The student has written the letter.”

Breton (Press: 159):

- (26) Lennet en deus Yann al levr
read-PARTC 3SG-with-is PRN DEF book
“Yann has read the book”
- (27) Dwi am ganu.
be-PRES-1SG PT+SM SM-sing-VN
“J’ai l’intention de chanter.” (NW)
“J’ai envie de chanter.” (SW)
- (28) Roedd Ioan ar fynd.
ASS-be-PRETIF-3SG PRN PT+SM SM-go-VN
“John was about to go.”
- (29) Mae/Roedd/Bydd y plant newydd ganu.
be-3SG-PRES/PRETIF/FUT DEF children AST+SM SM-sing-VN
“The children just have/had/will have sung”
- (30) Gwraig bedwar ugain oed ydi Menna Keel,
woman four twenty age be-PRES-3SG PRN
sydd newydd gyfansoddi symffoni newydd,
be-PRES-3SG-REL AST+SM SM-compose-VN symphony new,
symffoni ardderchog, [...]
symphony excellent
“An 80 year old woman is Menna Keel, who has just composed a new sym-
phony, an excellent symphony, [...]”
- (31) Yr wyf wedi hen ddarllen.
ASS be-PRES-1SG AAT+SM SM-read-VN
“I have already read”, “Ich habe längst/schon gelesen.”
- (32) Ac yn aml roedd tanau mawr wedi hen
and PRED often ASS-be-PRES-3SG fire-PL big AAT+SM
ddiffodd cyn i’r frigâd
SM-extinguish-VN before i DEF+SM SM-fire brigade
glywed amdanyh nhw.
SM-hear-VN about-3PL PERSPR-3PL
“And often the big fires had long extinguished before the fire brigade had heard
about them”

- (33) Ond peidiwch â thorri ar fy
 but stop-IMP-2PL with+AM AM-interruptVN POSSPR-1SG+NM
 nhraws i achos roeddwn
 NM-direction PERSPR-1SG because ASS-be-PRETIF-1SG
 i ar fin egluro.
 PERSPR-1SG PST explain-VN
 “But don’t interrupt me, because I was going to explain.”
- (34) Yr wyf ar fin amharchu confensiwn.
 ASS be-PRES-1SG PST dishonour-VN convention
 “I am going to dishonour a convention” .
- (35) Yr wyf ar fin cychwyn. ≈ Yr wyf ar
 ASS be-PRES-1SG PST set off-VN ASS be-PRES-1SG PT+SM
 gychwyn.
 SM-set off-VN
 “Je suis sur le point de partir.”
- (36) Mi ddôf i ’n ôl atat ti
 ASS+SM SM-come-FUT-1SG 1SG PRED back to-2SG 2SG
 “I will come back to you.”
- (37) Mi welodd Ioan y ci yn y ddinas.
 ASS+SM SM-see-3SG-PRETPF PRN DEF dog in DEF+SM SM-city
 “John saw the dog in the city.”
- (38) Mi farwodd o ddoe.
 ASS+SM SM-die-PRET-3SG PERSPR-3SG-MASC SM-yesterday
 “He died yesterday.”
- (39) Farwith o ddim am sbel.
 (NEG+SM) SM-die-FUT-3SG PERSPR-3SG-MASC SM-NEG for rest
 “He won’t die for that bit.”
- (40) Weli di ’r aderyn nawr?
 SM-see-2SG-FUT PERSPR-2SG DEF birds-SGSUF now
 “Do you see the bird now?”

- (41) Mi wnês i ddarllen y llythyr.
ASS+SM SM-do-PRETPF-1SG PERSPR-1SG SM-read-VN DEF letter
“I read /rɛd/ the letter.”
- (42) Mi wnaeth o gael
ASS+SM SM-do-PRETPF-3SG PERSPR-3SG-MASC SM-get-VN
ei ladd.
POSSPR-3SG-MASC+SM SM-kill-VN
“He was killed.”
- (43) Mi ddarllenais i ’r llythyr.
ASS+SM SM-read-PRETPF-1SG PESRPR-1SG DEF letter
“I read /ræd/ the letter.”
- (44) Mi gafodd o
ASS+SM SM-get-PRETPF-3SG PERSPR-3SG-MASC
ei ladd.
POSSPR-3SG-MASC+SM SM-kill-VN
“He was killed”
- (45) Gwn iddo fynd ddoe.
know-1SG-FUT *i*-3SG-MASC SM-go-VN (SM-)yesterday.
“I know he left/went yesterday”
- (46) Credaf iddo ddweud hynny.
believe-1SG-FUT *i*-3SG-MASC SM-say-VN DEMPR-PL
“I think he said this”
- (47) Gadewch inni fynd!
leave-2PL-IMP *i*-PL SM-go-VN
“Let us go!”
- (48) Rydw i ’n canu.
be-PRES-1SG 1SG IMPF sing-VN
“I am singing.”
- (49) Mae Allchurch yn chwarae i Gymru
be-PRES-3SG Allchurch IMPF play-VN to+SM SM-Wales
ddydd Sadwrn.
saturday.
“Allchurch (Rugby-Club in Cardiff) will be playing for Wales on Saturday.”

- (50) ?Roedd o am fod yn canu
 be-PRETIF 3SG PT+SM SM-be-VN IMPF sing-VN
 “He was about to be singing”
- (51) ?Mae o wedi bod ar fin rhedeg
 be-3SG-PRES 3SG AT be-VN PST run-VN
 “?He’s been on the brink of running”
- (52) ?Mae o newydd fod am redeg
 be-3SG-PRES 3SG AST+SM SM-be-VN PT+SM SM-run-VN
 “?He’s just been for to run”
- (53) ?Mae o newydd fod ar fin redeg
 be-3SG-PRES 3SG AST+SM SM-be-VN PST run-VN
 “?He’s just been about to run (but is no longer)”
- (54) ??Mae o newydd fod wedi redeg
 be-3SG-PRES 3SG AST+SM SM-be-VN AT run-VN

| | Imperfective | Perfective |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ante-Anteriority | ? <i>bod</i> wedi hen fod yn VN | <i>bod</i> wedi hen VN |
| Anteriority | <i>bod</i> wedi bod yn VN | <i>bod</i> wedi VN |
| Post-Anteriority | | |
| Ante-Simultaneity ¹ | <i>bod</i> newydd fod yn VN | <i>bod</i> newydd VN |
| Simultaneity | <i>bod</i> yn VN | <i>VF</i> |
| Post-Simultaneity | ? <i>bod</i> ar fin bod yn VN | <i>bod</i> ar fin VN |
| Ante-Posteriority | | |
| Posteriority | <i>bod</i> am fod yn VN | <i>bod</i> am VN |
| Post-Posteriority | | |

(55) Formal Structures of periphrastic constructions

- (56) Yr wyf wedi bod yn canu.
 ASS be-PRES-1SG AT be-VN IMPF sing-VN
 “J’ai été en train de chanter.”

¹The form for Perfective Ante-Simultaneous Present Time (*bod* newydd fod yn VN) is identical with the form expressing the so-called case of coincidence (Perfective Present Time).

- (57) Yr wyf newydd fod yn canu.
 ASS be-PRES-1SG AST be-VN IMPF sing-VN

“Je viens d’être en train de chanter.”

- (58) *Mae Ioan wedi bod wedi canu.
 be-PRES-3SG PRN AT be-VN AT sing-VN
 [_____ VVZ _____]

| | Imperfective | Perfective | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | | Coincidence |
| AAP | ?Roedd o wedi hen fod yn canu | Roedd o wedi hen ganu | |
| AP | Roedd o wedi bod yn canu | Roedd o wedi canu | |
| PAP | | | |
| ASP | Roedd o newydd fod yn canu | Roedd o newydd ganu | |
| P | Roedd o yn canu | Canodd o, gwnaeth o ganu, darfu iddo ganu, bu o yn canu | Roedd o newydd ganu |
| PSP | ?Roedd o ar fin bod yn canu | Roedd o ar fin canu | |
| APP | | | |
| PP | Roedd o am fod yn canu | Roedd o am ganu | |
| PPP | | | |

- (59) Conceptual past times and appropriate Welsh forms expressing these times (“to sing” 3 SG MASC)

| | Imperfective | Perfective | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Coincidence |
| AAN | ?Mae o wedi hen fod yn canu | Mae o wedi hen ganu | |
| AN | Mae o wedi bod yn canu | Mae o wedi canu | |
| PAN | | | |
| ASN | Mae o newydd fod yn canu | Mae o newydd ganu | |
| N | Mae o yn canu | — | Mae o newydd ganu |
| PSN | ?Mae o ar fin bod yn canu | Mae o ar fin canu | |
| APN | | | |
| PN | Mae o am fod yn canu | Mae o am ganu | |
| PPN | | | |

- (60) Conceptual present times and appropriate Welsh forms expressing these times (“to sing” 3 SG MASC)

| | Imperfective | Perfective | |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Coincidence |
| AAF | ?Bydd o wedi hen fod yn canu | Bydd o wedi hen ganu | |
| AF | Bydd o wedi bod yn canu | Bydd o wedi canu | |
| PAF | | | |
| ASF | Bydd o newydd fod yn canu | Bydd o newydd ganu | |
| F | Bydd o yn canu | Cân, gwnâ o ganu | Bydd o newydd ganu |
| PSF | ?Bydd o ar fin bod yn canu | Bydd o ar fin canu | |
| APF | | | |
| PF | Bydd o am fod yn canu | Bydd o am ganu | |
| PPF | | | |

(61) Conceptual future times and appropriate Welsh forms expressing these times (“to sing” 3 SG MASC)

Abbreviations

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| AAF, AAN, AAP | Ante-anterior future, present, past time (tertiary times) | NM | Nasal Mutation |
| AAT | Ante-anteriority | +NM | causes nasal mutation on the following word |
| ACC | Accusative | NOM | Nominative |
| AF, AN, AP | Anterior future, present, past time (secondary times) | P | Past time |
| AM | Aspirated mutation | PAF, PAN, PAP | Post-anterior future, present, past time (tertiary times) |
| +AM | causes aspirated mutation on the following word | PARTC | Participle |
| AOR | Aorist | PAT | Post-anteriority |
| APF, APN, APP | Ante-posterior future, present, past time (tertiary times) | PERF | Perfective |
| ASF, ASN, ASP | Ante-simultaneous future, present, past time (tertiary times) | PERSPR | Personal pronoun |
| ASS | Assertion grammeme | PF, PN, PP | Posterior future, present, past time (secondary times) |
| AT | Anteriority | PL | Plural |
| COMP | Comparative | POSSPR | Possessive pronoun |
| DEF | Definite (article) | PPF, PPN, PPP | Post-posterior future, present, past time (tertiary times) |
| DEMPR | Demonstrative pronoun | PRED | Predication marker |
| DUR | Durative | PRES | Present tense |
| EQU | Equative | PRETIF | Imperfective preterite tense |
| F | Future time | PRETPF | Perfective preterite tense |
| FEM | Feminine | PRET | Preterite tense |
| FUT | Future tense | PRN | Personal name |
| HABIT | Habitual | PSF, PSN, PSP | Post-simultaneous future, present, past time |
| IMPF | Imperfective marker | PST | Post-simultaneity |
| IMPS | Impersonal | PT | Posteriority |
| IMP | Imperative | REL | Relative |
| INF | Infinitive | SGSUF | Singulative suffix |
| INT | Interrogative | SG | Singular |
| IRR | Irreal | SM | Soft mutation |
| LN | Location name | +SM | causes soft mutation on the following word |
| MASC | Masculine | SUB | Subordination |
| N | Present time | VF | inflected Verb form |
| NEGSUB | Negation marker of a subordination | VN | Verbnoun |
| NEG | Negation marker | | |

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