Aspect and modal meanings of auxiliary verbs in Korean language

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the use of auxiliary verbs in the Korean language in the sense of aspect and modality. The article presents the views of Korean linguists and other foreign linguists on aspects and modal meanings. It also provides information on the types of aspect and modal forms.

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1 Introduction

An analysis of research on auxiliary verbs shows that the criteria for distinguishing auxiliary verbs varied in different periods. This article is devoted to the aspects and modal meanings of auxiliary verbs in Korean and their peculiarities. Such grammatical meanings of auxiliary verbs are used in conjunction with the leading verb in their speech, giving them a basis for additional grammatical meaning (Park Seon Ok: 2005; Kim, 2018). The 상 [sang] aspect is a grammatical category specific to verbs, indicating whether the verb is complete or incomplete. In preliminary studies, the aspect category in Korean was not distinguished from the time category, i.e., considered within the time frame (Davies & Deuchar, 2014). Because the grammatical forms representing the aspect do not exist separately, but the forms representing the tense also perform the function of the aspect [Beginning in the 1960s, a separate study of the categories of tense, proportion, and aspect in verbs began. Until now, time and aspect have been studied within a single category.].

2 The Main Findings and Results

The aspect of verbs in modern Korean is covered in the works of Kim Jong Do (1992) and (Kim Jong Do, 1992). Kim Jong Un's research on the aspect is based on the views of K.S. Smith (Smith: 1991). In this case, the aspect is expressed from the point of view of the speaker in relation to the event and situation in the environment in which a particular action and event takes place. In addition to the 5 different views of the situation - "state, action, completion, repetition, achievement", another sign of aspect meaning is "simple look". Smith (1991), compared such a view in two cases, i.e., "which part is visible" and "which part I see". From this it can be concluded that the aspect of completeness means that the aspect of incompleteness of the situation as a whole means to see a part of the event and the aspect means to see its result after the event is completed (Johannes et al., 2016). Let's look at this in the following examples:

1) 친구는 한국에 갔다. My friend *went to Korea*.
   The phrase "A friend's return to Korea" is used in the past tense. But there is a difference in a certain aspect of the sentence. This is a completed situation with a starting and ending point.
2) 친구는 한국에 가고 있었다. My friend *was on his way to Korea*.
   Given that part of the situation in the sentence, i.e., the ongoing part of the action, and that the situation is moving towards the end point, a neutral state is known.
3) 친구는 한국에 가 있었다. My friend *had gone to Korea*.
   In this sentence, however, a situation arises that is different from the completed situation in which the situation is completed and has the end point given at the outset.

The meaning of the aspect has also been studied by Lee Nam Soon (1981). He studies time and aspect within a category and applies to them the terms "time-completed" -시간적 완료 [siganjeog wanlyo] and "spatially completed" -공간적 완료 [gong-ganjeog wanlyo]. In his view, when the action takes place is a matter of the category of time, it is a matter of whether the action embodies all the states of action in relation to the subject and the object (Lee Nam Soon: 1981). Choi Dong Kwon (1986), argues that the aspect is divided into the "imperfect aspect" -미완료상 [miwannyosang] "imperfective" and the "completeness aspect" -완료상 [wannyosang] "perfective" (Choi Dong Kwon, 1986) in terms of the expression of the state and action of a particular situation. The aspect of incompleteness is divided into "continuation, process, repetition" depending on the change of the verb over a period of time. In the aspect of completeness, the meaning expressed by the verb is understood as a whole. Externally, Kim Seong Hwa (Kim Seong Hwa, 2003), notes that the aspect expresses the appearance of action through a certain form and is divided into the aspect of continuity and completeness. The aspect is divided into lexical 어휘적인 상 [eohwijeogin sang] and grammatical 문법적인 상[munbeopjeogin sang] (Lee Hoe Seung, 2002) types depending on the method of expression in the sentence.

Lexical aspect: *the aspect of beginning* -떠나다 [tteonada] "to go", 일어나다 [ireonada] "to wake up", 시작하다 [shijakhada] "to begin"; *aspect of continuity* –만들다 [mandeulda] "to do", 읽다 [ilkta] (to read), 걷다 [kotda] "to walk", 먹다 [meokda] "to eat", 노래하다 [noraehada] "to sing"; *the aspect of completion* –죽다 [chukda] "to die", 끝나다 [kkeunnada] "to finish". Grammatical aspect: sign of tense – -았/었/였- [-ass/eoss/yeoss-]; *adjective sign* – (으)ㄴ/는/(으)ㄹ [-eu/n/neun/eu/l].

Also, Kim Il Woong (Kim Il Woong, 1992) distinguishes the "lexical grammatical aspect" -어휘-문법적 상 [eohwi-munboebjeok sang] in addition to the lexical and grammatical aspects. Auxiliary verbs belong to the lexical aspect group. Auxiliary verbs belong to the lexical aspect group. Their grouping by aspect meanings is given in Appendix 4 (Park Seon Ok, 2005). This table is based on a study by Pak Seon Ok. According to Appendix 4, the auxiliary verbs related to each aspect are divided into 'continuity' and 'completion' aspects, although there is a certain difference (Breckon & Fisher, 2005; Byrne et al., 2009).

In Korean, auxiliary verbs are "completed" and "incomplete" in terms of aspect meanings. In turn, the "aspect of incompleteness" is divided into the process -진행 [chinhaeng], repetition -반복 [banbeok], duration -지속 [jisok]. The meanings of such aspects in auxiliary verbs can be seen in the example of auxiliary verbs가다 [gada], 오다 [oda] and 있다 [itta] below:

1) 비가 그친다. *The rain stopped.*

2) 비가 그쳐 간다. *The rain began to fall.*

   In Example 1 above, 비가 그친다 "rain pauses" are expressed in the full sense, while in Example 2, 그쳐 간다 auxiliary verbs 가다 [gada] are in the process of pausing, giving the leading verb an incomplete (process) of action.

3. 그는 5년 동안 축구를 했다. *He played football for 5 years.*

4. 그이는 5 년 동안 축구를 해 왔다. *He has been playing football for 5 years.*

In Example 3, 그는 5년 동안 축구를 했다 "He played football for 5 years" (i.e. completed action) is given as a simple message. In Example 4, however, in the 축구를 해 왔다 "He has played football" compound, the auxiliary verb 오다 [oda] adds a sense of continuity to the meaning expressed by the leading verb. It should be noted that not all auxiliary verbs in Korean exist in the sense of such an aspect either.

Auxiliary verbs have modal meanings in addition to aspect meanings -양태 의미 [yangtae uimi], which indicate the speaker's attitude to the object of communication. Typically, in the course of a speech, the speaker conveys to the listener not only the information itself, but also his or her reaction to that information. In this case, the relationship is represented by various lexical and grammatical means (Sarnecka et al., 2007; Kaschak & Glenberg, 2000). The modality in auxiliary verbs is directly related to these cases listed.

In modern Korean, the modality in auxiliary verbs is of two kinds: 'modality of the speaker's thought 화자의 양태 [hwaja-e yangtae]" and "modality of the owner's thought" 주어의 양태 [jueo-e yangtae] (Park Seon Ok, 2005).

"Speech modality" refers to the knowledge, beliefs, plans, intentions, and assumptions of a speaker's mental attitude toward the thought expressed in a sentence, such as the possibility, probability, and necessity of the thought expressed in the sentence (Becker et al., 2013; Ardila, 2012). "Subject modality" means a certain conclusion and evaluation of the possibilities, probabilities, mental attitudes to the need, or knowledge, beliefs, plans, dreams, intentions, and assumptions of the speaker, depending on the action and situation represented by the leading verb.

대다 [daeda] is an auxiliary verb with an incomplete aspect meaning: The work not only expresses the repetition of an action, but also expresses the psychological attitude of the speaker to reality. Hence, the 대다 [daeda] verbs

represent a modal meaning. Its first modal function is to give the meaning of 'reinforcement' in relation to the sentence expressed by the leading verb.

1) 그녀는 떨고 있었고 발작적으로 재채기를 두 번 해댔다. *He was trembling, grabbed his arm, and sneezed twice.*

2) 칼레는 심술이 나서 일부러 콘플레이크를 마구 먹어 댔다. *Calle's whimsy caught on, and he deliberately ate the watermelon.*

In Example 1, the 대다 [daeda] auxiliary verbs are added to the 재채기를 하다 [jaechaegileul hada] independent verbs "sneeze" to indicate the repetition of the action represented by the independent verb and the speaker's psychological attitude toward it. In Example 2, too, the speaker reinforces the situation by expressing his attitude through 대다 [daeda] to the fact that eating cucumbers is done in a waterfall manner (Subiyanto, 2016). In the above examples, the meaning of modality in verb 대다 [daeda] corresponds to "speaker-specific modality".

Signs of functionality of auxiliary verbs are also found in auxiliary verbs such as 내다 [naeda] and 버리다 [beorida]. These verbs have a complete aspect meaning, and the modal meaning in them differs from the above case.

1) 칼레는 그만 겁이 나서 울어 버렸다. *Kalle was frightened and cried.*

2) 잠시 인형처럼 눈을 깜박거리다 손수건을 꺼내 눈가를 닦아냈다. *For a moment he played with his eyes like a puppet, took his handkerchief and wiped his eyes.*

Example 1 represents the intensification of the motion relative to the previous state, while Example 2 represents the completion of the motion. In both examples, the action taken by the speaker is reinforced by the speaker (Conway & Gathercole, 1987; Bergen & Wheeler, 2010). In general, the modal meanings of auxiliary verbs stem from a certain pragmatic situation.

3 Conclusion

In summary, the aspect in auxiliary verbs is divided into lexical and grammatical aspects according to how the meaning is expressed in the sentence. The lexical aspect is characterized by the beginning, the duration, the completion, the grammatical aspect by the sign of time. In Korean, there is a concept of 'modality of the speaker's mind' and "modality of the subject's mind'" In Korean, these concepts are divided into two depending on the person in the sentence. "Modality of the speaker's opinion" refers to the mental attitude towards the thought expressed in the sentence, while the possessive's modality refers to the possibility, probability, necessity, mental attitude or knowledge of the speaker, his beliefs, plans, dreams and assumptions. The assessment was understood.

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