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The PATH/LINK schema in Past-Simple vs. Present-Perfect English TA-expressions contrasted with Polish versions

Introduction

The English present-perfect Tense-Aspect construction (henceforth TA-construction) has no ‘common platform of reference’ in Polish, i.e. ‘tertium comparationis.’¹ The present-perfect ‘tense’ has already been juxtaposed with the past-simple TA-construction in comparative studies undertaken from the traditional perspective.² This paper, however, concentrates on the English present-perfect TA-construction contrasted to the past-simple TA-construction considering the PATH schema which subsumes the LINK schema,³ within cognitive semantics (henceforth CS). Five examples of text containing ‘TA-expressions’ which realize the aforementioned constructions will be cited from a classic English novel and contrasted to two Polish translation versions. The objective of this paper is to sensitize Polish users of English as a foreign language to the schematic

¹ For the term *tertium comparationis* in contrastive studies, see e.g. Tomasz Krzeszowski, *Contrasting Languages: The Scope of Contrastive Linguistics* (Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 1990), p. 15.

² See e.g., Jacek Fisiak, Maria Lipińska-Grzegorek, and Tadeusz Zabrocki, *An Introductory English-Polish Contrastive Grammar* (Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1978); Ewa Willim and Elżbieta Mańczak-Wohlfeld, *A Contrastive Approach to Problems with English* (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, 1997).

³ Mark Johnson, *The Body in the Mind: The Bodily Basis of Meaning, Imagination, and Reason* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1987).

categories of PATH and LINK respectively, connected to the selected TA-constructions instantiated in English clauses. The paper consists of three main parts; the first section focuses on the categories of *tense* and *aspect* as TA-constructions, according to selected views of functional (pragmatic) approaches to grammar. The second part addresses the notion of the ‘LINK schema,’ pertaining to the ‘PATH schema,’ studied by Mark Johnson⁴ within the cognitive linguistics movement (henceforth CL). The third part includes examples of English text from the said novel presenting the present-perfect vs. the past-simple TA-constructions contrasted to two Polish versions. The paper has an explanatory character.

1. English TA-constructions – selected issues

This section addresses the notion of a ‘linguistic construction’ and focuses on the English *perfect* within the *perfective* aspect, comprising the ‘perfective (past)’⁵ TA-construction, i.e. preterit, next to *perfect* aspect and present *tense*, viewed as the ‘present-perfect’ TA-construction. Moreover, a general overview of *perfective* vs. *imperfective* aspects, i.e. ‘viewpoint types’, and five ‘situational types’ is sketched to signal the selected TA-constructions which are likely to be problematic for Polish learners of English.

1.1 Constructions

The notion of a ‘linguistic construction’ pertains to CL whose approaches to grammar rely on linguistic structures viewed as ‘symbolic assemblies’ which, according to Langacker, are constituted by the “[...] syntagmatic combination of morphemes and larger expressions to form progressively more elaborate symbolic structures,”⁶ defined as “pairings of form and meaning.”⁷ Langacker proposed symbolic structures in Cognitive Grammar, arguing that “[g]rammatical rules take the form of **constructional schemas**, which are both schematic and symbolically

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ As far as the notion ‘perfective (past)’ is concerned, see Talmy Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I (Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2001), p. 285. Henceforth, the label ‘perfective (past)’ relates to the English ‘past-simple tense’.

⁶ Ronald W. Langacker, *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*, Vol. I: *Theoretical Prerequisites* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1987), p. 82.

⁷ George Lakoff, *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal about the Mind* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1987), p. 378.

complex.”⁸ Constructions vary “[...] in size and complexity [...],”⁹ from morphemes, e.g. *ir-* (*ir-relevant*, *ir-responsible*), *-ed* (*answer-ed*, *walk-ed*), through words (*answer*, *book*, *the*), complex words (*schoolgirl*, *chubby-cheeked*), idioms (filled, e.g. *a red herring*; partially filled, e.g. *to have a crush on someone*), utterances (e.g. the ‘covariational conditional’ construction ‘the Xer the Yer,’ *The more she gets, the more she wants*), finite clauses (the Caused Motion construction, abbreviated as VOL, e.g. *Tom left the dog outside*), transposing the examples of possible constructions of Goldberg.¹⁰ Consequently, linguistic utterances such as finite clauses, combining *tense* and *aspect* coded by the predicate, e.g. *argument structure constructions*,¹¹ are referred to as ‘TA-constructions’¹² in this paper.

1.2 TA-constructions

This paper concentrates on selected TA-constructions in English, not on the TAM ‘systems’ in grammar (Tense-Aspect-Mood¹³). Palmer admitted that modality “[...] is a category that is closely associated with tense and aspect in that all three categories are categories of the clause and are generally, but not always, marked within the verbal complex,”¹⁴ additionally stating that “[m]odality differs from tense and aspect in that it does not refer directly to any characteristic of the event, but simply to the status of the proposition.”¹⁵ Comrie stated that “[t]ense relates the time of the situation [...] to some other time, usually to the moment of speaking,”¹⁶ but aspect is concerned “with the internal temporal constituency of the one situation; one could state the difference as one between situation-internal time (aspect) and situation-external time (tense).”¹⁷ Although

⁸ Ronald W. Langacker, *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*, Vol. II: *Descriptive Application* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991), p. 3.

⁹ Adele E. Goldberg, *Constructions at Work: The nature of generalization in language* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), p. 5.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² William Croft, *Verbs: Aspect and Causal Structure* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

¹³ Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I, p. 285.

¹⁴ Frank R. Palmer, *Mood and Modality* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), p.1.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Bernard Comrie, *Aspect: An Introduction to the Study of Verbal Aspect and Related Problems* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976), pp. 1 2.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

grammatical *tense* is connected with semantic *time* and grammatical *aspect* is linked to semantic *aspectuality*¹⁸, this paper focuses on the semantic PATH schema, together with the LINK schema, associated, according to this author, with grammatical *tense* and *aspect* coded by selected TA-constructions in English contrasted herein to their translational Polish equivalents. Nonetheless, grammar and semantics, i.e. form-meaning pairings, constitute the ‘symbolic assemblies,’¹⁹ which combine *tense* and *aspect* with *time* and *aspectuality* in TA-expressions. Hence the paper concentrates on ‘viewpoint types’, combining *tense* and *aspect*, and signals ‘situation types’²⁰ involving *time* and *aspectuality*.

The focus falls on selected differences between *perfective* in English and Polish, manifested by ‘perfective (past)’ vs. present-perfect TA-constructions in English, whose Polish versions do not code the *perfect* aspect. The ‘PATH schema’ and the ‘LINK schema’²¹ are considered to be helpful in understanding the contrast between English present-perfect TA-constructions and perfective (past) TA-constructions. While the former code present tense, the latter convey past tense, Polish, however, can express both constructions in its past tense.

While tense enables the language user to “[...] relate the time of an eventuality to a deictic center or some other reference point, grammatical aspect allows the speaker to represent the structure of an eventuality.”²²

1.3 Grammatical Aspects and Lexical Aspects in English

Carlota Smith classified linguistic aspect into ‘**Viewpoint types**,’ corresponding to grammatical aspect, and ‘**Situation types**,’ expanding Vendler’s types of lexical aspects by ‘Semelfactive’ situations, conveyed by “[c]ompact short-duration verbs.”²³ While lexical aspect, called

¹⁸ For the term ‘aspectuality’ see Henk Verkuyl, *A Theory of Aspectuality: The Interaction between Temporal and Atemporal Structure* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).

¹⁹ Langacker, *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*, Vol. I.

²⁰ Carlota S. Smith, *The Parameter of Aspect*, 2nd ed. (Dordrecht: Springer Science and Business Media, B. V., 1997).

²¹ Johnson, *The Body in the Mind*, pp. 113–119.

²² Zeno Vendler, “Verbs and Times,” *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 66, No. 2 (1957), pp. 143–160. In-text citation in: Zeno Vendler, “Aspect,” in: *The Language of Time*, eds. Inderjeet Mani, James Pustejovsky, and Robert Gaizauskas (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 7.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 288. See Table 2 for example expressions.

‘Akzionart,’²⁴ is manifested by specific ‘lexically-inherent’ **event** types and **states**, grammatical aspect is coded morphologically by verbs.

Zeno Vendler²⁵ and other researchers²⁶ distinguish between “[...] **perfective aspect**, where an entire eventuality is presented without its internal temporal structure, e.g. *John built a house*, and **imperfective aspect**, where the speaker represents internal phases of the eventuality, e.g. *John is building a house*.”²⁷ According to Comrie, “[...] perfectivity indicates the view of a situation as a single whole, without distinction of the various phases that make up the situation; while the imperfective pays essential attention to the internal structure of the situation.”²⁸

Givón distinguished *perfective* and *imperfective* aspects exhibited by “[t]he grammar of perfectivity” and concentrated on the three main aspectual contrasts: • *perfectivity*, • *sequentiality* or *relevance*, and • *immediacy* (not relating to this topic). According to Givón, “[t]he *imperfective* category is often sub-divided into two main divisions:

- *progressive-durative-continuous*: ongoing process;
- *habitual-repetitive*: repeated events.”²⁹

While *perfectivity* involves the two main divisions – *perfective* vs. *imperfective* – *sequentiality* combines with **perfective (past)** and *relevance* concerns **perfect**, which are both *perfective* aspects.³⁰ Givón³¹ summarized “[...] the similarities and differences between the perfective (past) and perfect” in a table, transposed in Table 1.

Table 1 ‘Perfective (past)’ vs. ‘Perfect’ (c.f. Givón 2001: 297 [33])

feature	past	perfect
Anteriority	+	+
absolute reference	+	–

²⁴ For example, Vendler, *Verbs and Times*.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ See also, Comrie, *Aspect*; Paul J. Hopper, “Aspect and foregrounding in discourse,” in: *Syntax and Semantics*, 12: *Discourse and Syntax*, ed. Talmy Givón (New York: Academic Press, 1979), pp. 213–241; Östen Dahl, *Tense and aspect systems* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1985); Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I; Carlota S. Smith, *Modes of discourse* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003); Croft, *Verbs: Aspect and Causal Structure*.

²⁷ Mani et al., *The Language of Time*, p. 7.

²⁸ Comrie, *Aspect*, p. 16.

²⁹ Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I, p. 287.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid., Table 1 in (33).

Perfectivity	+	+
Termination	+	+ / -
lingering relevance	-	+
Sequentiality	+	-

According to Smith,³² idealized situation types (see Idealized Cognitive Models, ICMs³³) can generally be categorized as states or events. Smith distinguished the following situations that can be classified as events: an **Activity**, an **Accomplishment**, a **Semelfactive** (momentary) event, and an **Achievement** of a particular goal. Situational types are varied in terms of specific temporal features, with special attention paid to the feature of contouring, i.e. ‘boundedness’. Smith concentrated on temporal properties such as: dynamism, telicity (**telic**, with a natural end like *die*, vs. **atelic**, lacking the natural end like *dream*), and duration. The clusters of features that distinguish the five situation types compiled by Smith³⁴ are transposed in Table 2.

Table 2 ‘Situation types’ – clusters of features

		Temporal features of situation types		
Situation types	Typical examples of verbs ³⁵ and predicates	Static	Durative	Telic
<i>States</i>	“temporary”: <i>be sad, be happy, [...], know, want, believe, have [...]</i> ; “long-lasting”: <i>be tall, be big [...]</i>	+	+	-
<i>Activity</i>	“shorter”: <i>break, smash, bend, twist, step</i> ; “longer”: <i>walk, work, read, dance</i>	-	+	-

³² Smith, *The Parameter of Aspect*, p. 19.

³³ Lakoff, *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things*, pp. 68–76.

³⁴ Smith, *The Parameter of Aspect*, p. 20 (2).

³⁵ See Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I, p. 288. The ‘typical examples of verbs and predicates’ are added to the original table presented by Smith. The ‘typical example verbs’ in relation to the following situational types States, Activity, Accomplishment, Semelfactive, as presented by Givón, are included in Table 2. As far as the example Achievement predicates are concerned, see Smith, *The Parameter of Aspect*, pp. 21–22, p. 30.

<i>Accomplishment</i>	<i>arrive/come, leave/go, finish, accomplish/succeed, obtain/get, fall, die, be born, sit down [...]</i>	-	+	+
<i>Semelfactive</i>	“Compact short-duration verbs”: <i>spit, blink, cough, shoot, kick, snap, jump, hit, slap</i>	-	-	-
<i>Achievement</i>	<i>arrive in Boston, cure the patient, leave the house, reach the top, recognize Aunt Jane, win the race, etc.</i>	-	-	+

Viewpoint types, *perfective* and *imperfective*, morphologically coded by verbs, and the said Situation types, coded lexically, even by other lexical means than the specific situation type verbs, as prepositional phrases, such as *for two years* and *at two o'clock*, or the adverbial expression *two minutes ago*, trigger a specific TA-construction. Finally, it should be taken into consideration that “[...] what one language codes lexically, another language may code grammatically.”³⁶

2. The PATH schema in perfective (past) and the LINK schema in perfect aspects

This section addresses a basic construal of CS in the ‘image schema’ of PATH containing the LINK schema as proposed by Johnson,³⁷ which, according to this author, are both exhibited by the English TA-constructions studied in this paper, through highlighting the basic contrasts between perfective (past) vs. present-perfect uses.

Johnson argued that “[...] in order for us to have meaningful, connected experiences that we comprehend and reason about, there must be pattern and order to our actions, perceptions, and conceptions.”³⁸ Consequently, he defined a *schema* as “[...] a recurrent pattern, shape, and regularity in, or of, these ongoing ordering activities.”³⁹ According to Johnson, ‘image schemata’ have a dynamic character, by changing in accord with actions in space and perceptual observations and interactions.

³⁶ Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I, p. 292.

³⁷ Johnson, *The Body in the Mind*.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 29. Johnson used italics defining the image schema.

Paths are experienced physically and ‘metaphorically,’ in numerous everyday utterances, linguistically grasped as realizations of the ‘orientational’ metaphor⁴⁰, for instance, the utterance *Get up* lexicalizes, i.e. expresses with words, the metaphor CONSCIOUS IS UP⁴¹. Johnson⁴² claimed that all paths are like routes, since they have the beginning point (A), directionality, and the end point (B). Figure 1 presents a transposed “image schema for PATH.”⁴³ The end point is signaled by an arrow, which indicates that there is no link between the event, possibly marked as (B), and the absolute time, which is the speaking time denoted by (A).



Figure 1: PATH

Relating point (A) to the ‘initial state’, spot (B) to the destination or ‘final (desired) state’, and the vector between (A) and (B) to the ‘action sequence from A to B’⁴⁴, a language user can combine the said schema with multiple clauses lexicalizing such TA-constructions as perfective (past) vs. present-perfect.

The LINK schema designed by Johnson⁴⁵ resembles the PATH schema, noting a significant difference, since ‘location’ (B) is substituted by entity (B) which is connected by a ‘bonding structure’ to entity (A), as in Figure 2⁴⁶. Consequently, the event (B) is linked to the reference time (A), which is the present time or speaking time in the case of the present-perfect TA-construction.



Figure 2: LINK

⁴⁰ George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1980).

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁴² Johnson, *The Body in the Mind*, p. 113.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 114.

⁴⁴ C.f. Johnson, *The Body in the Mind*, p. 115.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 118, FIGURE 21.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, a transposed FIGURE 21, p. 118.

Johnson argued that “[t]he LINK schema must be metaphorically interpreted to apply to abstract objects or connections, since there is no actual physical bond of the required sort to relate the objects.”⁴⁷ Therefore, the LINK schema, within the PATH schema, is related to the lexicalizations of the studied present-perfect TA-constructions in this paper, but the PATH schema is associated, herein, with perfective (past) TA-constructions.

3. Examples in English contrasted to Polish versions

This section attempts to demonstrate examples of English present-perfect TA-constructions vs. past-simple TA-constructions instantiated by examples from “Black Beauty” by Anna Sewell⁴⁸ (version a⁴⁹), and to connect the said TA-constructions to either the LINK schema, in relation to present-perfect expressions, or the PATH schema, in association with past-simple expressions. Both types, present-perfect and past-simple respectively, will be contrasted to two Polish versions, cited from “Kary Klejnot”, rendered by Jerzy Łoziński (version b⁵⁰), and “Mój Kary”, translated by Krystyna Poklewska-Koziełłowa, among others (version c⁵¹).

In present-perfect expressions,⁵² the *present* tense is combined with the *perfect* aspect, whose characteristic feature is ‘lingering relevance,’ which ‘links’ the situation / event described by the clause coding the *perfect* aspect to the reference time, in the case of the present tense to the present time, which is the ‘time of speech.’⁵³ Nonetheless, the reference situations may also be located in past and future time, then ‘countersequentiality’ occurs, e.g. “I was beginning to grow handsome; my coat had grown fine and soft,

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 119.

⁴⁸ Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty* (London: Arcturus Publishing Limited, 2018) (originally published in 1877).

⁴⁹ The book “Black Beauty” was “originally published in 1877. This edition is consistent in terms of text with the edition published on the Internet by Web-Books.Com, whose pages are without numbers; it uses the text from the first edition, and reflects the language and attitudes of the time in which it was written”, p. 4.

⁵⁰ Anna Sewell, *Kary Klejnot*, trans. Jerzy Łoziński (Poznań: Zysk i S-ka Wydawnictwo s.j., 2015).

⁵¹ Anna Sewell, *Mój Kary*, trans. Krystyna Poklewska-Koziełłowa (Warszawa: Oficyna Wydawnicza Rytm, 2000).

⁵² The predicates containing present-perfect and past-simple, i.e. perfective (past), verb phrases (TA-constructions), which are underlined in (1a), through (5a), are embraced by square brackets in the said examples, while the present-perfect expressions are signaled as P-P, the past simple expressions are indicated by P-S. Both Polish versions, from (1b) to (5b) and from (1c) to (5c), also contain the aforementioned means of highlighting the elements and utterances which are equivalent to the expressions analyzed in the English examples. Nonetheless, the said means of ‘highlighting’ the analyzed examples are not used in the three original versions.

⁵³ C.f. Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I, pp. 293 294.

and was bright black,”⁵⁴ with reference time in the past, but there is always the linking feature of ‘lingering relevance,’ although ‘termination’ may be absent, as in the case of stative situations. Consequently, the LINK schema may be evoked by present-perfect expressions, but the PATH schema is associated herein with perfective (past) expressions, always characterized by the features of ‘absolute reference,’ i.e. the time of speaking, and ‘termination,’ among other features (see Table 1). Examples (1a), through (5a), combine the two types of expressions, present-perfect and perfective (past), i.e. past-simple. First, compare (1a) to (1b–1c).

(1) a. “I wish you to pay attention to what I am going to say to you. The colts who live here are very good colts, but they are cart-horse colts, and, of course, [1. ⁵⁵ they have not learned P-P manners]. You [2. have been P-P well bred and well born]; your father has a great name in these parts, and your grandfather [4. won P-S the cup two years at the Newmarket races]; your grandmother [5. had P-S the sweetest temper of any horse I ever knew], and I think you [3. have never seen P-P me kick or bite]. [...]»” (pp. 11, 13)

Example (1a) evokes the LINK schema by three present-perfect TA-expressions. The clause denoted by [1] *they have not learned manners*, evokes a link between the past and present time, implying termination of the activity in the speaking time. The predicates denoted by [2] *have been well bred and well born*, containing a coordinated expression filling the position of the subject complement, and by [3] *have never seen me kick or bite*, respectively, signal a link to the absolute time and beyond, since a stative verb like *be* in [2] does not imply termination but triggers a link between the past and the speaking time and beyond, as *see* in [3], another stative verb. A stative verb, like *be* in [2] or *see* in [3], does not convey a change, but in the form of a present-perfect TA-expression, it implies a link between the past and the present time, by means of ‘lingering’ relevance.⁵⁶ Perfective (past) is coded by two predicates describing past time situations, denoted by [4] *won the cup two years at the Newmarket races*, referring to his ‘late’ grandfather, and by [5] *had the sweetest temper of any horse I ever*

⁵⁴ Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*, p. 18.

⁵⁵ The square brackets embracing the discussed expressions and the numbers prior the expressions in examples from (1a) to (5a), and from (1b) and (1c) to (5b) and (5c), do not occur in the original versions.

⁵⁶ C.f. Givón, *Syntax: An Introduction*, Vol. I.

knew, concerning his ‘late’ grandmother, the PATH schema seems to be parallel to a vector stretched between the past and the absolute present, as the adjective *late*, meaning ‘deceased,’ used in the comments on [4] and [5] respectively, implies no link between the past event and the reference time in the speaking time. The sum of the constructions analyzed in (1a) is [(P-P) =⁵⁷ 3; (P-S) = 2]. Now, consider (1b) and (1c).

(1) b. “– Chcę, żebyś uważnie posłuchał tego, co chcę powiedzieć. Żrebaki z którymi tutaj jesteś, są bardzo porządne, ale przeznaczone do ciągnięcia wozów, więc oczywiście [1. nikt ich nie uczy manier]. Ty [2. jesteś pełnej krwi masz bardzo dobre pochodzenie]. Twój ojciec był dobrze znany w całej okolicy, a dziadek [4. dwa lata z rzędu wygrywał wyścigi w Newmarket]. Żaden koń, którego znałam, [5. nie miał lepszego charakteru od twej babki], a nie sądzę, byś [3. kiedykolwiek widział, jak ja kopię czy gryzę]. [...]” (p. 10)

(1b) contains two analyzed instances, denoted by (1b[1]) and (1b[2]) respectively, wherein the verbs occur in the general present tense. In (1b[1]), there is the verb *uczy*, *is teaching/teaches*, deployed in the clause *nikt ich nie uczy manier*, which refers to the clause *they have not learned manners* marked by (1a[1] P-P). In (1b[2]), two verbs⁵⁸ correspond to a single verb phrase *have been* in (1a[2]), *jesteś, you are*, and *masz, you have*, in the expression *jesteś pełnej krwi masz bardzo dobre pochodzenie*, lit. *you are a thoroughbred horse you have a very good origin*, symbolized by (1b[2]), relating to the predicate *have been well bred and well born*, signaled by (1a[2]P-P). In (1b), there are also three verbs in the past tense, *widział, he saw/has seen*, corresponding to the verb phrase *have seen* in the predicate *have never seen me kick or bite* in (1a[3]P-P), the indeterminate verb *wygrywał*⁵⁹, *he kept winning/he won and then won again*, which implies repetition, pertaining to the predicate *won the cup two years at the Newmarket races* denoted by (1a[4]P-S), and *miał, he had*, rendering *had* of the predicate *had the sweetest temper of any horse I ever knew* denoted by (1a[5]P-S). Consequently, only the predicates denoted by (1a[4]P-S) and (1a[5]P-S) in the perfective (past), are expressed in the past tense in the Polish versions, by *wygrywał* in (1a[4]P-S), describing iterative

⁵⁷ This symbol = denotes ‘is equal to the following number of occurrences’.

⁵⁸ The two verbs – *jesteś, you are*, and *masz, you have* – are considered as one count of a verb phrase in the general present tense relating to the English single P-P verb phrase *have been*.

⁵⁹ C.f. *wygrywał* (indeterminate), *he won and won or he used to win*, vs. *wygrał* (determinate), *he won/has won*.

situations of Achievement, resulting in the following total for (1b): [(**P-P**)⁻⁶⁰ 3; (**P-S**)⁺⁶¹ 2].

(1) c. “– Proszę cię, słuchaj dobrze, co powiem. Tutejsze źrebaki są porządne, [1. ale na świecie bywają różne]. Jest młodzież lepsza powozowa, a tym w zaprzęgach brak dobrych manier. Ty [2. jestes dobrze urodzony]. Otrzymałeś staranne wychowanie. Twój ojciec nosił imię znane w tej okolicy, twój dziadek [4. dwukrotnie wygrał biegi w Newmarket], babcia zaś [5. słynęła ze wspaniałego charakteru], a co do mnie, to chyba [3. nie widziałeś, żebym kogoś gryzła lub kopała]. [...]” (p. 6)

Example (1c) includes two verbs in the present tense *bywają*, *having a tendency to be*, and *jestes*, *you are*. The indeterminate copula verb *bywają* occurs in the predicate *bywają różne*, *tend to be different*, denoted by (1c[1]), which translates the clause *they have not learned manners* indicated by (1a[1] **P-P**). The expression *jestes dobrze urodzony*, lit. *you are a well born horse*, signaled by (1c[2]), relates to *you have been well bred and well born* denoted by (1a[2]**P-P**). In (1c), three verbs occur in the past tense, *wygrał*, *he won*, referring to the predicate *won the cup two years at Newmarket* denoted by (1a[4]**P-S**), *widziałeś*, *you [Masc.⁶² Sing.⁶³] saw*, concerning the predicate *have never seen me kick or bite* indicated by (1a[3]**P-P**), the stative prepositional verb *słynęła (z/ze)*, *she was famous (for)*, corresponding to the expression *had the sweetest temper [...]* represented by (1a[5]**P-S**). The past tense verb *widziałeś*, referring to the verb *have seen* of the predicate denoted by (1a[3]**P-P**), does not involve any ‘morphologically’ coded link in the domain of time between the past situation and the speaking time. Therefore, again, only the expressions symbolized by (1a[4]**P-S**) and (1a[5]**P-S**), conveying perfective (past), are maintained in the Polish versions as perfective-past situations, giving the following total for (1c): [(**P-P**)⁻³; (**P-S**)⁺²]. Now, consider the examples in (2).

(2) a. “Before I [2. was **P-S** two years old], a circumstance [3. happened **P-S**] which I [1. have never forgotten **P-P**].” (p. 14)

⁶⁰ This symbol ‘-’ indicates ‘minus’, i.e. absence.

⁶¹ This symbol ‘+’ indicates ‘plus’, i.e. presence.

⁶² The abbreviation [Masc.] indicates the masculine gender.

⁶³ The abbreviation [Sing.] indicates the singular number.

- b. “Nim [2. skończyłem dwa lata], [3. wydarzyło się] coś, czego [1. nigdy nie zapomnę].” (p. 13)
- c. “[2. Miałem niespełna dwa lata], gdy [3. zdarzył się] wypadek, którego [1. nigdy nie zapomnę].” (p. 8)

The example in (2a) contains *have never forgotten* denoted by (2a[1] **P-P**), a present-perfect TA-expression, and two perfective (past) verbs, *was* of the predicate denoted by (2a[2] **P-S**), and the verb *happened* signaled by (2a[3] **P-S**). The preterit verbs in (2a[2] **P-S**) and (2a[3] **P-S**), respectively, describe past situations, distant from the speaking time, the distance pertains to the PATH schema. In (2a[1] **P-P**), however, *have forgotten* is linked in time to *happened* in (2a[3] **P-S**), which, by contrast, bears on the situation depicted by *was* in (2a[2] **P-S**). The feature of lingering relevance pertaining to the link between the state described by *have never forgotten* and the reference time in the present evokes the LINK schema. The sum total of the expressions analyzed in (2a) is [(**P-P**) = 1; (**P-S**) = 2].

Examples (2b) and (2c) respectively contain two past tense verbs conveying the perfective aspect. (2b) includes *skończyłem*, I [Masc. Sing.] *finished*, in (2b[2]), and the reflexive prefixed verb *wydarzyło się* (*wy-darzyło się*), *it happened*, in (2b[3]), while (2c) comprises *miałem*, I [Masc. Sing.] *had*, in (2c[2]), and *zdarzyło się* (*z-darzyło się*), *it happened*, in (2c[3]). The Polish predicates *skończyłem dwa lata*, lit. *I [Masc. Sing.] *finished two years*, symbolized by (2b[2]), and *miałem niespełna dwa lata*, lit. *I [Masc. Sing.] *had almost two years*, denoted by (2c[2]), are semantically equivalent to the clause *I was two years old* represented by (2a[2] **P-S**). Moreover, *wydarzyło się*, in (2b[3]), and *zdarzyło się*, in (2c[3]), are morphologically equivalent to the preterit verb *happened* symbolized by (2a[3] **P-S**). Both examples, (2b) and (2c), have the same future tense perfective verb *zapomnę*, *I will forget*, negated in *nigdy nie zapomnę*, *I will never forget*, denoted by (2b[1]) and (2c[1]) respectively. The said future tense construction expresses the present-perfect TA-construction *have never forgotten* indicated by (2a[1] **P-P**). Hence the total for both examples, (2b) and (2c), is [(**P-P**) -1; (**P-S**) +2]. Additionally, consider the sentences in (3a) compared to (3b) and (3c).

- (3) a. “«[...] John is the best groom [2. that ever was **P-S**], he [1. has been **P-P** here fourteen years] [...]»” (p. 25)

Example (3a), like (2a), contains one present-perfect stative copula verb, *has been*, occurring in the locative predicate *has been here fourteen years* denoted by (3a[1]P-P), and the preterit copula verb *was*, of the expression *that ever was*, i.e. *was the best groom*, indicated by (3a[2] P-S), coding the perfective (past) TA-system, summarized by the pattern ([(P-P) = 1; (P-S) = 1]). Compare (3b) and (3c).

- b. “John jest najlepszym masztalerzem [2. na świecie], [1. pracuje] tu od czternastu lat [...].” (pp. 29–30)
- c. “John jest świetnym furmanem, [1. służy] tu już czternaście lat [...].” (p. 18)

The two Polish versions (3b) and (3c) express *has been here for fourteen years*, signaled by (3a[1]P-P), by constructions containing general imperfective verbs in the present tense, *pracuje tu od czternastu lat*, *he/she has worked/has been working here for fourteen years*, denoted by (3b[1]), and *służy tu już czternaście lat*, *he/she has served/has been serving here for fourteen years*, indicated by (3c[1]). While the TA-construction *that ever was* labeled as (3a[2]P-S) is substituted by circumlocution, *na świecie*, *in the world*, represented by (3b[2]), it is omitted in example (3c). Both Polish versions, (3b) and (3c) respectively, note the following result ([(P-P) – 1; (P-S) – 1]). What is more, consider (4a).

- (4) a. “«He [1. has come P-P at a gallop] nearly all the way, sir, and I [2. was P-S to give him a rest here]; but I think my master would not be against it if you think fit, sir.»” (p. 76)

(4a) contains one verb phrase in the present-perfect TA-system, *has come* in the predicate *has come at a gallop* signaled by (4a[1]P-P), and one perfective (past) verb, which is *was* in the predicate *was to give him a rest here*, denoted by (4a[2]P-S). While the latter predicate triggers a situation prior to the absolute time, the ‘eventuality’ described by *has come at a gallop* symbolized by (4a[1]P-P) is linked to the speaking time. While there is the LINK schema evoked between the event described by (4a[1]P-P) and the speaking time, the PATH schema underpins the situation depicted by the clause denoted by (4a2 P-S) and the absolute time, symbolized by ([(P-P) = 1; (P-S) = 1]). Compare the examples in Polish in (4b) and (4c).

- (4) b. “– [1. Biegł galopem] właściwie przez całą drogę, sir, i [2. miałem mu tutaj dać odpocząć], ale jeśli tylko jest doktor gotów, to i mój pan na pewno by się zgodził.” (p. 111)
- c. “– Prawie całą drogę [1. przebył galopem]. [2. Miałem mu tutaj dać wytchnąć]. Ale cóż, myślę, że nasz pan kazałby dać konia.” (p. 67)

Example (4b) involves the determinate past tense imperfective verb *biegł*, *he ran*, in the predicate *biegł galopem* indicated by (4b [1]), and example (4c) also contains a determinate past tense verb, the perfective verb *przebył* (całą drogę), *he covered* (the whole way), denoted by (4c [1]), not triggering any connection to the speaking time. While the English present-perfect TA-expression, *has come* in *has come at a gallop* represented by (4a[1] **P-P**) evokes a schematic link between the event coded by *has come* and the speaking time. The predicate *was to give him a rest here* marked by (4a[2]**P-S**) is translated by a construction of the modal auxiliary verb *miałem* (coś zrobić), *I [Masc.] was to* (do something), in the past tense and the imperfective aspect, as *miałem mu tutaj dać odpocząć*, *I [Masc.] was to give him a rest here*, denoted by (4b[2]), and as *miałem mu tutaj dać wytchnąć*, *I [Masc.] was to give him a rest here* indicated by (4c[2]). Consequently, the result is ([**(P-P)–1**; **(P-S)–1**]) for both Polish versions, containing [–1] next to [**P-S**] because of the imperfective aspect conveyed by the past tense modal verb *miałem*, *I [Masc. Sing.] was to* (*do something*). With regard to the imperfective aspect of Polish past tense verbs which convey situations depicted by English constructions of perfective (past) verbs, consider examples (5a), (5b), and (5c).

- (5) a. “«My dear cousin,» said Lady Anne, laughing, «pray do not trouble your good careful head about me; I [1. have been **P-P** a horsewoman] ever since I [3. was **P-S** a baby], and I [2. have followed **P-P** the hounds a great many times], though I know you do not approve of ladies hunting; but still that is the fact [...].»” (pp. 99–100)

In (5a), there are two present-perfect TA-expressions, the copula predicate *have been a horsewoman* denoted by (5a[1] **P-P**), and *have followed the hounds many times* indicated by (5a[2] **P-P**), describing situations prior to the speaking time, which code “[...] the present result of a past event.”⁶⁴ The perfective (past) stative situation which is described by the

⁶⁴ Comrie, *Aspect*, p. 12.

predicate *was a baby* represented by (5a[3]P-S) signals the situation in the past which marks the initial stage of the said situations. Hence a link in time occurs between the situations depicted by the two coordinated expressions, *have been a horsewoman* denoted by (5a[1]P-P) and *have followed the hounds many times* signaled by (5a[2]P-P), and the speaking time. The stative situation expressed by the dependent clause *since I was a baby*, whose predicate is symbolized by (5a[3] P-S), has its reference time in the absolute time. Consequently, the LINK schema is triggered between the two prior situations, indicated by (5a[1]P-P) and (5a[2]P-P), and the present time. The PATH schema is evoked between the situation conveyed by the perfective (past) clause *I was a baby* denoted by (5a3 P-S), and the reference time. The total of the results obtained for (5a) is ([(P-P) = 2; (P-S) = 1]). Finally, consider (5b) and (5c).

(5) b. “– Mój drogi kuzynie – odrzekła ze śmiechem – ja z kolei błagam, żeby pan nie zadręczał się troską o mnie. Już [3. jako mała dziewczynka] śmiało [1. wchodziłam między konie], a potem [2. wiele razy brałam udział w polowaniach]. Tak, wiem, że nie pochwała pan, gdy czynią to kobiety, ale cóż [...]” (p. 147)

Example (5b) contains an indeterminate past tense verb in the imperfective aspect, the prefixed verb *wchodziłam* of the predicate *wchodziłam między konie*, lit.⁶⁵ [Fem.] *was going/used to go among horses*, indicated by (5b[1]), corresponding to *have been* of the clause *I have been a horsewoman* denoted by (5a[1]P-P). Moreover, the predicate *have followed the hounds many times* represented by (5a[2]P-P) is also expressed in Polish by a clause containing an indeterminate past tense imperfective verb, the root verb *brałam*, [Fem.] *many times I took*, of the clause *wiele razy brałam udział w polowaniach*, signaled by (5b[2]). The expression *since I was a baby* denoted by (5a[3]P-S) has a verbless expression in Polish as its translational equivalent, considered as a circumlocution, which is realized by *jako mała dziewczynka*, *as a small girl*, denoted by (5b[3]). Consequently, the outcome for (5b) is ([(P-P) -2; (P-S) -1]).

(5) c. “– Kuzynku drogi – roześmiała się lady Anna – doprawdy zbytnio o mnie się troszczysz. [1. Jeżdżę konno][3. od małego dziecka]. [2. Ile to

⁶⁵ The abbreviation ‘lit.’ indicates ‘literally’, or ‘word for word’.

razy brałam udział w polowaniach]... wiem, wiem, nie lubisz tego sportu dla pań, niestety [...]” (p. 87)

Example (5c) also alters the lexicalizations of the two present-perfect TA-constructions occurring in (5a). The predicate *have been a horsewoman* denoted by (5a[1]P-P) is rendered by an expression containing a determinate verb in the present tense and imperfective aspect, the root verb *jeździę* coding iterative activity, of the predicate *jeździę konno*, I [Fem.] *ride horseback*, indicated by (5c[1]). The second present-perfect TA-construction, *have followed*, of the predicate *have followed the hounds many times* denoted by (5a[2]P-P) is communicated by an expression containing the indeterminate past tense imperfective root verb *brałam*, [Fem.] *many times I took part in*, as in (5b). Additionally, example (5c) also expresses the clause *since I was a baby*, whose predicate *was a baby* is represented by (5a[3]P-S), by means of circumlocution, realized by the prepositional phrase *od małego dziecka*, *since the time of being a small child*, i.e. *since I was a small child*, denoted by (1c[3]). Thus, the result for (5c) is also ([(P-P) -2; (P-S) -1]).

Conclusion

The objective of the present paper was to demonstrate two ‘structures’ of English grammar which are absent from the Polish language. The ‘simple past tense’ and the ‘present-perfect tense’ were portrayed as perfective (past) TA-constructions and present-perfect TA-constructions respectively, with view of the semantic construal of ‘image schema,’ the PATH schema and the LINK schema, in order to sensitize Polish speakers of English to the contrast between the two said constructions. Five examples from a classic English novel, consisting of extracts of discourse, and two Polish translations were to illustrate the means Polish can adopt to substitute for the English present-perfect TA-construction, indicated by (P-P), and to cope with the ‘gap’ in Polish arising from the missing dichotomy: perfective (past) vs. present-perfect expressions. Although Polish has perfective past tense verbs, the five examples of Polish versions, from (1b–c) to (5b–c), juxtaposed with the English examples in (1a), through (5a), in Table 3, demonstrate that the English perfective (past) TA-construction, symbolized by (P-S), may be substituted by lexical means other than perfective past verbs in Polish.

Table 3 The English version contrasted to the two Polish versions analyzed

Version (a) – English	Version (b) – Polish	Version (c) – Polish
(1a) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) = 3; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) = 2])$	(1b) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 3; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) + 2])$	(1c) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 3; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) + 2])$
(2a) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) = 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) = 2])$	(2b) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) + 2])$	(2c) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) + 2])$
(3a) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) = 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) = 1])$	(3b) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) - 1])$	(3c) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) - 1])$
(4a) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) = 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) = 1])$	(4b) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) - 1])$	(4c) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 1; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) - 1])$
(5a) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) = 2; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) = 1])$	(5b) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 2; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) - 1])$	(5c) $([(\underline{\mathbf{P-P}}) - 2; (\underline{\mathbf{P-S}}) - 1])$

Table 3 demonstrates that all five expressions rendering English TA-constructions denoted by (P-P) are not equivalent to the English versions in terms of tense-aspect construction, since there is no ‘tertium comparationis’ for the English present-perfect TA-construction in Polish. Nonetheless, although Polish has a past tense, the English expressions represented by (P-S) have the same results in Version (b) and in Version (c), indicated schematically in Table 3. When Polish learners of English communicate in English, they think in Polish and their thoughts may be instantiated by the expressions in Version (b) or Version (c) that do not correspond to the English (P-P) or (P-S) expressions. Therefore, this paper attempts to sensitize Polish users of English to the image schemas of PATH and of LINK, which can be related to the said constructions, the PATH schema to the perfective (past), the LINK schema to the present-perfect, whose reference time is the speaking time. Although there may be no semantic difference between *I have done that* and *I did that two minutes ago*, because the distance of two minutes is almost nonexistent, a Polish learner of English faces a pitfall in formulating such a clause accepted grammatically, not to say **I have done that(two minutes ago)*, which is grammatically incorrect with the adverbial in brackets. The adverb *ago* evokes distance, associated herein with the PATH schema. This paper attempts to offer a hint to Polish learners of English who will find the cognitive construct of image schemas useful in distinguishing between the perfective(past) and the present-perfect TA-constructions.

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The PATH / LINK schema in Past-Simple vs. Present-Perfect English TA-expressions contrasted with Polish versions

The aim of this paper, which has an explanatory character, is to present the English perfective (past) TA-construction vs. the present-perfect TA-construction by means of image schemas of PATH and LINK, respectively, since the said constructions pose a contrast that is absent from the Polish language. Five examples of English text are juxtaposed with two Polish versions for comparison of how the two English constructions can be instantiated in Polish, the lexical means used in the Polish versions vary. Hence Polish learners of English are encouraged herein to look

for hints which will sensitize them to the usage of the past-simple construction vs. the present-perfect construction, in association with the semantic schemas of PATH and LINK in relation to said grammar constructions.

Keywords: construction, perfective (past), present-perfect, PATH schema, LINK schema, English, Polish

Słowa kluczowe: konstrukcja, dokonany (przeszły), teraźniejszy-uprzedni, schemat TRASY, schemat POŁĄCZENIA, język angielski, język polski