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### Aspectuality distinctions in Latvian deverbal nouns

This paper investigates the use of aspectual affixes with nominalizations (action nouns and agent nouns) in contemporary Latvian. The Latvian action noun derived by the suffix *-šan-* (*lasī-šan-a* ‘reading’ < *lasīt* ‘read’) and the agent noun with the suffix *-ēj-* or its allomorph *-tāj-* (*lasī-tāj-s* ‘one who reads’) stand out among Latvian deverbal nouns in showing “inflection-like” formal properties (regularity, productivity, generalness) and retaining several verbal features (concerning negation, voice, and aspectuality); for detailed information see Nau 2013 and forthcoming. The present study will look in more detail into the use of prefixes expressing aspectual meanings, especially the prefixes *iz-*, *no-* and *pa-*, as illustrated in the following examples:

- (1) *Toties pēc šī rakst-a iz-lasī-šan-as*  
But after DEM.GEN.SG.M article-GEN.SG PFX-read-ACN-GEN.SG
- vis-s kļuva skaidr-s.*  
all-NOM.SG become PST.3 clear-NOM.SG

‘However, after the (completed) reading of this article / after having read this article everything became clear.’ (Tīm)

- (2) *Lai [...] atras-tu [...] mazliet laik-a*  
PTC find-IRR a\_little time-GEN.SG
- avīz-es pa-lasī-šan-ai*  
newspaper-GEN.SG PFX-read-ACN-DAT.SG

‘In order to find a little time for reading the newspaper (for a while)’ (Tīm)

- (3) *un katr-s iz-lasī-tāj-s grāmat-as 1. lap-ā*  
and every-NOM.SG.M PFX-read-AGN-NOM.SG book-GEN.SG 1. page-LOC.SG
- ie-raksta sav-u vārd-u.*  
PFX-write.PRS.3 RPO-ACC.SG name-ACC.SG

‘and everyone who has read [the book] (literally: every reader-through) writes their name on the book’s first page.’ (Tweet archived at [favstar.fm/users/mikus\\_mezitis](https://favstar.fm/users/mikus_mezitis))

- (4) *Ap š-o laik-u tikai šeit parādījos, un arī*  
about DEM-ACC.SG time-ACC.SG only here appear.PST.1SG.RFL and also
- tad tikai kā ret-s pa-lasī-tāj-s. :)*  
then only as rare-NOM.SG.M PFX-read-AGN-NOM.SG

‘I only came in here at about that time and only as one who reads [forum posts] infrequently for a little while’ (Forum post at [sapforums.lv](https://sapforums.lv))

The paper will address the following questions:

- (i) Which aspectual meanings are found with action and agent nouns and how frequent is this use of prefixes? A preliminary analysis has shown that completive and delimitative meanings are found with nominalizations derived from verbs of different classes and that the use of such prefixes is much more common with action nouns than with agent nouns.
- (ii) In which syntactic and discourse functions are nominalizations with aspectual prefixes used? A thesis supported by preliminary analysis is that these are discourse functions characteristic for verbs rather than nouns (cf. Hopper & Thompson 1984; Fonteyn et al. 2013).

The data for this study are taken from corpora as well as from Internet forums, blogs and tweets. The latter reflect the creative use of derivational means in colloquial styles.

#### References and sources

- Fonteyn, Laureen & de Smet, Hendrik & Heyvaert, Liesbet. 2013. What it means to verbalize: The changing discourse functions of the English gerund. *Leuven Working Papers in Linguistics* 2013, 113-134.
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