VEIKSMAŽODŽIO MORFOSINTAKSĖ BALTŲ KALBOSE / VERBA MORFOSINTAKSE BALTU VALODĀS /
VERBAL MORPHOSYNTAX IN THE BALTIC LANGUAGES

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Perfect in Lithuanian: An empirical study

This paper presents observations regarding the meanings and functions of the analytic (or analytical) perfect forms, traditionally called "compound tenses" (Lith. *sudurtiniai laikai* or *sudėtiniai laikai*), consisting of the verb *būti* 'be' and adjectival participles in Lithuanian. I will review the traditional interpretations of the analytic perfect forms and points out some remaining problematic issues. In light of the conclusions made in my previous studies, I am going to provide some explanations of the aspectual characteristics of the Lithuanian verbs and the basic tense-aspect system in Lithuanian. The main purpose of this paper is to observe the functional-semantic content of the Lithuanian analytic perfect forms by analyzing how this content correlates with aspectual properties of verbs. By referring to the contrastive analysis with Russian, I will try to give a more detailed explanation of the meanings and functions of the Lithuanian analytic perfect forms. Moreover, based on the results of a questionnaire that was carried out in Lithuania, I will offer an analysis of the divisions in the usage domain of the simple tense forms and the analytic perfect forms in Lithuanian.