

**SLE 2017 Workshop**  
**Zürich, September 10-13, 2017**

## **Participles: Form, Use and Meaning (PartFUM)**

Organizers:

Olga Borik (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)  
Berit Gehrke (CNRS-LLF / Paris Diderot)

### **Workshop Description**

This workshop is dedicated to the form, meaning and use of all types of participles (labeled with different combinations of present, past, perfect, active, passive, imperfective, perfective, etc.), including adverbial participles/converbs (e.g. *deepričastija* in Russian), both from a synchronic and a diachronic perspective. While recent literature, especially in the field of formal syntax and semantics, has focused primarily on the by now well-described use, meaning and structure of past passive participles (cf. Rapp 1997, Kratzer 2000, Anagnostopoulou 2003, Embick 2004, Maienborn 2007, Alexiadou & Anagnostopoulou 2008, McIntyre 2013, Gehrke 2012, 2015, and many others), other participle classes have not attracted that much attention. We aim at bridging this gap by expanding the workshop theme to all possible classes of participles, ultimately in the search for an answer to the fundamental question of what is the proper characterization of participles in general.

Traditionally, participles are often treated as a hybrid of a verb and an adjective. This simple characterization already raises several important issues:

- What is ‘adjectival’ and what is ‘verbal’ in the grammatical makeup of participles? Do these ‘verbal’ and ‘adjectival’ properties characterize a participle itself or are they (partially) conditioned by the context in which a participle appears?
- If we look at their distribution, participles can appear in attributive or predicative position, or form part of a periphrastic verb form (progressive, verbal passive, perfect, etc.). This raises, among others, the following questions:
  - Can participles in predicative position (or rather, descriptively, in a position after *be* or other auxiliary/copula verbs) be verbal *or* adjectival, but those in attributive position only adjectival? Or can attributive participles also be reduced relatives of verbal constructions involving participles (if so: under what circumstances, what kinds of periphrastic verb forms do they correspond to, underlyingly, etc.)?
  - In contrast, what about participles that are used in periphrastic verb forms (tenses, voices, aspects, e.g. verbal passive, perfect, progressive), do they retain adjectival properties? Is there a possible diachronic development, in the sense that the combination of *be/have* (etc.) with a (possibly adjectival) participle developed into a periphrastic verb form?
  - What about a syntactic position where predicative and attributive characteristics of participles could be expected to combine, namely, predicate position of a relative clause nominal modifier? Do we find any/substantial differences between participial predicates of relative clauses vs. predicates of main clauses?
  - Is their cross-linguistic variation between different types of participles and their respective distribution? This is a question that becomes particularly relevant for

those constructions/participle forms that are typologically not very widespread (such as, for instance, the double perfect in various German dialects).

Further research questions we are interested in addressing in this workshop include (but are not limited to) the following:

- How many classes of participles do we need to distinguish? Is there strong independent evidence that we need more than one class of, for instance, passive participles as suggested in Parsons (1990), Embick (2004), Kratzer (2000)? Why, though, do those different participles still fall under the same label? What is the defining property? Do we find similar subclasses of participles for the other participles that are less well described?
- What are the grammatical categories that participles express? Do the terms past/present, perfective/imperfective etc. in the characterization of a participle convey the same meaning as in verbs? If not, what are the differences?
- What are the exact formal (semantic, morphological etc.) restrictions on the formation of a particular type of participle, as well as on the use of such a participle (e.g. as adjectival or verbal participle, in passive, progressive, perfect constructions, etc.)? In particular, it has been claimed in the literature that adjectival participles can only be formed on the basis of verbs that have a state component in their meaning (for passive participles, see, e.g., Rapp 1997, Gehrke 2015), that only perfective participles can be used in ‘proper’ periphrastic passives in Russian (e.g. Schoorlemmer 1995, Paslawska & von Stechow 2003), that complex relationships hold between related categories of resultativity, passive and perfect in various languages (cf. Nedjalkov 1988). Once again, the restrictions have mostly been stated for passive participles, but what about other types of participles? Are there restrictions on their formation and use and how can these restrictions be explained from a theoretical perspective?

In this workshop, we aim at bringing together researchers working on these and related questions, putting a special emphasis on the diversity of the empirical data and encouraging different theoretical perspectives on the research questions specified above. As a result, we hope to achieve a better empirical coverage of the phenomena highly relevant for a defining characterization of the category ‘participle’ as well as assemble theory-independent insights which could shed more light on the behavior of this not too much studied, controversial and diverse class of forms.

## References

- Alexiadou, Artemis, & Elena Anagnostopoulou (2008). Structuring participles. In *Proceedings of the 26<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, eds. Charles B. Chang and Hannah J. Haynie, 33-41. Somerville: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.
- Anagnostopoulou, Elena (2003). Participles and voice. In *Perfect Explorations*, eds. Artemis Alexiadou, Monika Rathert, & Arnim von Stechow, 1-36. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Embick, David (2004). On the structure of resultative participles in English. *Linguistic Inquiry* 35.3:355-392.
- Gehrke, Berit (2012). Passive states. In *Telicity, Change, and State: A Cross-categorical View of Event Structure*, eds. Violeta Demonte & Louise McNally, 185-211. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Gehrke, Berit (2015). Adjectival participles, event kind modification and pseudoincorporation. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 33.3:897-938.

- Kratzer, Angelika (2000). Building statives, ms. University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
- Maienborn, Claudia (2007). Das Zustandspassiv: Grammatische Einordnung – Bildungsbeschränkung – Interpretationsspielraum. *Zeitschrift für Germanistische Linguistik* 35:83-144.
- McIntyre, Andrew (2013). Adjectival passives and adjectival participles in English. In *Non-Canonical Passives*, eds. Artemis Alexiadou & Florian Schäfer, 21-42. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Nedjalkov, Vladimir P. (1988). *Typology of Resultative Constructions*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Parsons, Terence (1990). *Events in the Semantics of English: A Study in Subatomic Semantics*. Vol. 19 of Current studies in linguistics series. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Paslawska, Alla, & Arnim von Stechow (2003). Perfect readings in Russian. In *Perfect Explorations*, ed. Artemis Alexiadou, Monika Rathert, & Arnim von Stechow, 307-362. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Rapp, Irene (1997). *Partizipien und semantische Struktur: Zu passivischen Konstruktionen mit dem 3. Status*. Tübingen: Stauffenburg.
- Schoorlemmer, Maaïke (1995). *Participial Passive and Aspect in Russian*. PhD Thesis, Utrecht University.