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Some remarks on the role of the reference point in the construal configuration of "more" and "less" grounding predications -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Grounding predications: Conceptual structure -- 3. A more gradual view on grounding and its consequences -- 4. The German preterit subjunctive as a grounding predication -- 5. The status of *werden* + infinitive as a grounding predication -- 6. The status of *würde* + infinitive as a grounding predication -- 7. Conclusion -- References -- New current relevance in Croatian -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Usages of the Croatian aorist -- 2.1 Narrative aorist -- 2.2 The aorist of recent actions -- 2.3 The aorist of proverbs -- 2.4 The aorist of future actions -- 2.5 The predominance of the first person singular -- 3. Current usage tendencies of the aorist -- 3.1 Current usage tendencies: The corpus -- 3.2 Current usage tendencies: Speakers' judgments -- 4. Discussion and cognitive analysis -- 4.1 The aorist and epistemic immediacy -- 4.2 The aorist and the moment of speech -- 4.3 Epistemic immediacy revisited: Two virtual planes -- 5. Conclusion -- References -- Aspect as a scanning device in natural language processing -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The aspectual system in Arabic: An overview -- 3. Aspect in imagery -- 3.1 Aspect as an image-building tool -- 3.2 Aspect as a scanning device -- 4. Aspectual scanning: The case of Arabic -- 4.1 Scanning modes -- 4.2 Scope of awareness in aspectual representation -- 4.3 Aspect as a zooming device -- 5. Conclusion -- References -- Part III. Descriptive application -- Imperfective aspect and epistemic modality -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Imperfective aspect and subjectivity -- 2.1 Modal verbs -- 2.2 Counterfactual -- 2.3 Perspectivized discourse -- 3. Imperfective aspect and anaphoric temporal reference -- 3.1 The semantics of tense and aspect. 3.2 The subjective potential of imperfective aspect -- 4. Aspect and modality in Russian -- 4.1 Counterexamples to the imperfective-epistemic link -- 4.2 Discussion: Imperfective and anaphoric in Russian -- 5. To conclude -- References -- Communicating about the past through modality in English and Thai -- 1. The rationale and objectives -- 2. Time as modality -- 3. Merger representations -- 4. The modality of the past: Evidence from English -- 5. Possible uses of *d1ay1II* -- 6. A unified account of *d1ay1II* -- 7. Concluding remarks -- References -- The epistemic uses of the English simple past and the French *imparfait* -- 1. Introduction -- 2. A temporal definition of the SP and the IP -- 2.1 Past morphology means past -- 2.2 Tense and aspect -- 2.3 Definition -- 3. Remarks on the uses of tenses -- 3.1 'Temporal' versus 'modal' uses -- 3.2 'Epistemic' versus 'illocutory' uses -- 4. Dialogism and verbal tenses -- 4.1 The notion of dialogism -- 4.2 The dialogic uses of tenses -- 5. The conditional and the optative uses of the SP and the IP -- 5.1 Preliminary observations -- 5.2 A dialogic account -- 5. Conclusion -- References -- Name index -- Subject index.

This chapter explores the connection between past tense and modality in English and French. After arguing for a temporal definition of past tenses, I reinterpret the classical opposition between temporal uses and modal uses in terms of the speakers's referential or subjective intentionality. I further distinguish between the epistemic uses - which express the speaker's assessment of the probability of the denoted situation - and the illocutory uses - which express the speaker's degree of commitment in her speech act. I finally suggest an analysis of two epistemic uses of the English simple past and the French imperfect, namely their conditional use and optative use, thanks to the notion of dialogism, which refers to the heterogeneity of the enunciative sources of a given utterance.
