

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996308798903316
Autore	Altshuler Daniel <1981->
Titolo	Events, states and times : an essay on narrative discourse in English / / Daniel Altshuler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter Open, , [2016] ©2016
ISBN	3-11-048591-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 176 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	401/.41
Soggetti	Discourse analysis, Narrative Grammar, Comparative and general English language - Verb phrase English language - Semantics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 165-176).
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Part I: Narrative progression: From discourse connectivity to event partitivity -- 1. Preliminary thoughts: Narrative discourse -- 2. Prominence: A look at 'now' -- 3. Coherence: A look at NARRATION and RESULT -- Appendices -- Part II: Semantics and pragmatics of tense: The nuts and bolts -- 4. Cessation and double access -- 5. Sequence of tense -- 6. Concluding thoughts: Ways of composing with viewpoint aspect -- Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	This monograph investigates the temporal interpretation of narrative discourse in two parts. The theme of the first part is narrative progression. It begins with a case study of the adverb 'now' and its interaction with the meaning of tense. The case study motivates an ontological distinction between events, states and times and proposes that 'now' seeks a prominent state that holds throughout the time described by the tense. Building on prior research, prominence is shown to be influenced by principles of discourse coherence and two coherence principles, NARRATION and RESULT, are given a formally explicit characterization. The key innovation is a new method for testing the definitional adequacy of NARRATION and RESULT, namely by

an abductive argument. This contribution opens a new way of thinking about how eventive and stative descriptions contribute to the perceived narrative progression in a discourse. The theme of the second part of the monograph is the semantics and pragmatics of tense. A key innovation is that the present and past tenses are treated as scalar alternatives, a view that is motivated by adopting a particular hypothesis concerning stative predication. The proposed analysis accounts for tense in both matrix clauses and in complements of propositional attitudes, where the notorious double access reading arises. This reading is explored as part of a corpus study that provides a glimpse of how tense semantics interacts with Gricean principles and at-issueness. Several cross-linguistic predictions of the analysis are considered, including their consequences for the Sequence of Tense phenomenon and the Upper Limit Constraint. Finally, a hypothesis is provided about how tense meanings compose with temporal adverbs and verb phrases. Two influential analysis of viewpoint aspect are then compared in light of the hypothesis. The monograph is directed at graduate students and researchers in semantics, pragmatics and philosophy of language. The analysis of narrative discourse that is developed in the monograph synthesizes and builds on prior collaborative research with Corien Bary, Valentine Hacquard, Thomas Roberts, Roger Schwarzschild, Una Stojni, Károly Varasdi and Aaron White. Daniel Altshuler is an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the School of Cognitive Science, Hampshire College and an Adjunct Professor of Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

---