

The Greek perfect

An overview, lot's of data, and a few observations

Does this verb form a perfect?

A little quiz

(i.e. What is not a perfect?)

ἀπόλλυμι,
'destroy (act); perish (mid)'

true

What is not a perfect?

εἰμί
'be, am'

false

What is not a perfect?

ἔρχομαι
'come, go'

true

What is not a perfect?

πληρόω
'fill, complete, fulfill,'

true

What is not a perfect?

ἀρκέω

‘be sufficient, satisfied, enough’

false

What is not a perfect?

γελάω
'laugh, smile'

false

What is not a perfect?

ΠΙΣΤΕΥΩ
'believe, trust'

true

What is not a perfect?

κρούω
'knock'

false

What is not a perfect?

ἀγαθοποιέω
'do good'

false

What is not a perfect?

ποιέω
'do, make'

true

What is not a perfect?

σῶζω
'save, deliver'

true

What is not a perfect?

εὐχαριστέω
'give thanks'

false

What is not a perfect?

κακοπαθέω
'suffer misfortune'

false

What is not a perfect?

εὕρισκω
'find'

true

What is not a perfect?

ἀσάπτω
'flash'

false

What is not a perfect?

φεύγω
'escape, flee'

true

What is not a perfect?

What is not a perfect?

- I am not claiming the perfect is a definite impossibility with these verbs.
- I am claiming Greek speakers did not find the perfect useful for them.
- I am claiming this lack of use is semantically motivated.

What is not a perfect?

❖ ἀκμάζω	be at the prime
❖ ἀνήκω	be is fitting
❖ ἀρκέω	be sufficient
❖ γέμω	be full
❖ (ἐκ)λάμπω	shine (out)
❖ ἐλαττονέω	have too little; have less
❖ ἐπιφάύσκω	shine
❖ ἡχέω	sound; ring
❖ κρυσταλλίζω	shine like crystal
❖ στίλβω	shine
❖ περισσεύω	abound
❖ πρέπω	be fitting (for); be fitting
❖ πυρράζω	be (fiery) red
❖ τετραρχέω	be tetrarch
❖ τύφω	smoke; smolder

Some State Predicates

❖ ὑπερέχω	be better than
❖ ὑπερπερισσεύω	be in great excess
❖ χρήζω	need; have need of
❖ ἀδυνατέω	it is impossible
❖ (ἐπι/περι)μένω	persist/await
❖ εἶμι	be
❖ ἔξεστιν	be permitted
❖ μέλλω	be about to
❖ ὁμοιάζω	be like
❖ ὀφείλω	owe; be obligated
❖ παρομοιάζω	be like
❖ προενάρχομαι	begin before
❖ συστοιχέω	correspond
❖ χρή	it ought
❖ χρονοτριβέω	spend time

Some Cognition & Emotion State Predicates

❖ δειλιάω	be cowardly	❖ έκθαμβέω	be alarmed
❖ διενθυμέομαι	consider; reflect	❖ έμβριμάομαι	be deeply moved
❖ έκλανθάνομαι	forget (altogether)	❖ έπαισχύνομαι	be ashamed (of)
❖ έλεάω	have mercy on	❖ έπιποθέω	long for; desire
❖ εύλαβέομαι	reverence; respect	❖ εύφραίνω/άγαλλιάω	be glad; rejoice
❖ εύψυχέω	be encouraged	❖ εύχαριστέω	be thankful
❖ μακαρίζω	consider blessed	❖ ζέω	be enthusiastic
❖ περιφρονέω	be disdainful	❖ θορυβάζω	be distracted
❖ προηγέομαι	esteem more highly	❖ θυμομαχέω/χολάω	be angry
❖ προσκαρτερέω	be devoted to	❖ μακροθυμέω	be patient
❖ συμπαθέω	sympathize with	❖ παραφρονέω	be beside oneself
❖ ύπονοέω	be suspicious	❖ πενθέω/ συλλυπέω	mourn; be grieved
❖ άδημονέω	be anxious	❖ σπλαγχνίζομαι	have compassion
❖ άθυμέω/έγκακέω	be discouraged	❖ στυγνάζω	be gloomy
❖ είρηνεύω	be at peace	❖ χρηστεύομαι	be kind

Some Experiential & Physiological State Predicates

❖ γυμνιτεύω	be poorly clothed	❖ κακοπαθέω	suffer misfortune
❖ ἐξουσιάζω	have authority over	❖ κομάω	wear long hair
❖ λυσιτελέω	be advantageous	❖ μυωπάζω	be nearsighted
❖ μαθητεύω	be a disciple	❖ νήφω	be sober
❖ παραθεωρέω	overlook; neglect	❖ ὀδυνάω	suffer, be in pain
❖ παραπικραίνω	be disobedient	❖ πεινάω	hunger; be hungry
❖ πτωχεύω	be poor	❖ πυρέσσω	suffer with a fever
❖ συμμερίζω	have a share with	❖ σεληνιάζομαι	be epileptic
❖ ἀγρυπνέω	be alert; look after	❖ συγκακοπαθέω	suffer together
❖ ἀφρίζω	foam at the mouth	❖ συγκακουχέομαι	suffer with
❖ γεύομαι	taste; experience	❖ συνωδίνω	suffer agony with
❖ (δια)γρηγορέω	be (fully) awake	❖ ὑγιαίνω	be healthy
❖ δυνατέω	be able; be powerful	❖ χειμάζω	be in a tempest
❖ ἐξισχύω	be strong enough	❖ χορτάζω	be satisfied
❖ ἡσυχάζω	be silent	❖ ὠδίνω	have birth pains

Some Location & Position State Predicates

❖ ἀγραυλέω	live out of doors	❖ στέγω	keep out, stand against
❖ ανάκειμαι	recline at table; recline	❖ στήκω	stand firm; stand
❖ ἄπειμι	be absent	❖ στρηνιάω	live in luxury
❖ ἀστατέω	be homeless	❖ συζάω	live with
❖ διάγω	spend one's life; live	❖ σύνειμι	be with; come together
❖ διανυκτερεύω	spend the whole night	❖ τρυφάω	live extravagantly
❖ ἐνδημέω	be at home		
❖ ζάω	live		
❖ ἰουδαῖζω	live like Jews		
❖ μεσόω	be in the middle		
❖ πάρειμι	be present; have come		
❖ περίκειμαι	be around; be put around		
❖ περιοικέω	be in the neighborhood of		
❖ προσμένω	remain; stay with; continue		

What is not a perfect?

❖ ἀθλέω	compete
❖ ἀνακρίνω	examine; question
❖ ἐκπειράζω	tempt
❖ ἐορτάζω	celebrate a feast
❖ καταδιώκω	pursue
❖ καταφιλέω	kiss
❖ μαγεύω	practice magic
❖ παραμυθέομαι	console; comfort
❖ προσωπολημπτέω	show partiality
❖ σέβω	show reverence for
❖ συνυποκρίνομαι	join in hypocrisy
❖ συνυπουργέω	join in helping
❖ τεκνογονέω	bear children
❖ τεκνοτροφέω	bring up children

Activity Predicates

❖ τελεσφορέω	produce ripe fruit
❖ τρώγω	eat
❖ τυμπανίζω	torment; torture
❖ ὑποπνέω	blow gently
❖ ψωμίζω	feed by hand
❖ ἀγαθοεργέω	do good
❖ ἀγαθοποιέω	do what is right
❖ ιερουργέω	act as a priest
❖ κακοποιέω	do evil
❖ κακουχέω	mistreat
❖ καλοποιέω	do what is right
❖ καταπονέω	torment; oppress
❖ κατασκοπέω	spy out
❖ ὀρθοποδέω	act rightly

Labor & Behavior Activity Predicates

❖ συνεσθίω	eat with	❖ ραβδίζω	beat, thresh
❖ συνευωχέομαι	feast together	❖ βαστάζω	bear; carry; pick up
❖ ἀγρεύω	hunt, fish, catch	❖ διοδεύω	travel through
❖ ἀλήθω	grind	❖ κολυμβάω	swim
❖ ἀλοάω	thresh	❖ ὀρχέομαι	dance
❖ ἀμάω	reap	❖ παραλέγομαι	sail past; coast along
❖ ἀνέω	winnow	❖ παραπλέω	sail past
❖ ἀροτριάω	plow	❖ παραπορεύομαι	go by; pass by
❖ βόσκω	feed; herd; tend	❖ περιφέρω	carry about
❖ βρύω	pour forth	❖ πέτομαι	fly
❖ γεωργέω	cultivate; till	❖ προπορεύομαι	go on before
❖ ἐλκύω	draw; haul	❖ συνοδεύω	travel together with
❖ μαστίζω	whip; scourge	❖ συντρέχω	run together
❖ ποιμαίνω	shepherd	❖ περιπατέω	walk; live

Speech & Sound Activity Predicates

❖ ᾄδω	sing	❖ γελάω/καταγελάω	laugh/ridicule
❖ αἰνέω	praise	❖ κλαίω	weep; cry
❖ ἀλαλάζω	wail; clash	❖ λατρεύω	serve; worship
❖ ἀλληγορέω	speak allegorically	❖ μυκτηρίζω	mock
❖ βρύχω/βρύκω	grind one's teeth	❖ ἐπαιτέω/προσαιτέω	beg
❖ (δια)γογγύζω	complain, grumble	❖ προσεύχομαι	pray
❖ διαλαλέω/συλλαλέω	discuss	❖ σαλπίζω	blow a trumpet
❖ διαλέγομαι	converse; argue	❖ σεβάζομαι	worship
❖ διαφημίζω	spread information	❖ στενάζω	sigh; groan
❖ (δια)χλευάζω	scoff; mock; jeer	❖ συζητέω	debate; argue
❖ (ἐκ)διηγέομαι	tell; relate; describe	❖ συνομιλέω	talk with; converse
❖ δυσφημέω	slander; defame	❖ ὑπερεντυγχάνω	plead; intercede
❖ ἐγκαυχάομαι	boast	❖ ψάλλω	sing praise
❖ (ἐκ)μυκτηρίζω	ridicule; sneer	❖ ὠρύομαι	roar

What is not a perfect?

Semelfactive Predicates

❖ ἀστράπτω	flash; gleam
❖ ἐξαστράπτω	flash or gleam like lightning
❖ κρούω	knock
❖ νυστάζω	nod; become drowsy
❖ ραπίζω	strike, slap, thrash
❖ ἄλλομαι	leap; spring up
❖ γελάω	laugh
❖ διστάζω	doubt; waver
❖ κατασείω	motion; make a sign
❖ ὀκνέω	hesitate; delay

What is not a perfect?

- Large swaths of verbs denoting states, perhaps a majority, never form perfects.
- Semelfactives and the perfect never co-occur.
- Activity predicates, similarly, do not mix well.

What is a perfect?

- Different people say different things.
- So maybe it would be helpful for us to gauge the thing they say, if we've looked at some first verbs.

What is a perfect?

❖ ἀνοίγω	open
❖ ἀποστέλλω	send; send out
❖ (ἐκ)βάλλω	put; throw; cast (out)
❖ ἐκχέω	pour out; shed (blood)
❖ ἐλαττώω	make lower; make inferior
❖ ἐλαύνω	drive (trans.)
❖ καταργέω	wipe out; set aside; abolish
❖ ρίπτω	throw; throw down
❖ κλείω	shut
❖ ἐγείρω	rise; raise up; get up
❖ ἀθροίζω	assemble; gather
❖ ἀνατρέφω	care for; bring up
❖ γυμνάζω	train
❖ κατηχέω	teach; instruct
❖ ξηραίνω	wither; dry up; to dry up

Caused Motion & Processes

❖ πυρόω	to burn; burn; fire
❖ ἐτοιμάζω	prepare; make ready
❖ λατομέω	hew (out of a rock)
❖ παιδεύω	discipline; train; educate
❖ παραλύω	weaken; disable
❖ παρασκευάζω	prepare; be ready
❖ παρίημι	weaken; let fall at the side
❖ περιδέω	wrap around (trans.)
❖ περιζώννυμι	gird (trans.)
❖ περικαλύπτω	cover; conceal; blindfold
❖ στρώννυμι	spread
❖ θησαυρίζω	store up; lay up; save up
❖ καίω	light; burn; kindle
❖ στηρίζω	strengthen; establish
❖ τραχηλίζω	strangle, put in a headlock

Caused States: Transference

❖ ἀγοράζω	buy; purchase	❖ προσφέρω	bring; offer; bring to
❖ αἴρω	take up; take away; pick up	❖ τίθημι	put; place; lay
❖ ἀντλέω	draw (water)	❖ τυγχάνω	find; experience; attain
❖ ἀποστερέω	steal; defraud	❖ κοινωνέω	share; share in
❖ δεκατόω	collect tithes; pay tithes		
❖ δέχομαι	receive; accept; welcome		
❖ δίδωμι	give; grant		
❖ δωρέομαι	bestow; present		
❖ Καταλαμβάνω	grasp; lay hold of		
❖ κληρονομέω	inherit		
❖ λαμβάνω	receive; take		
❖ μετέχω	share; partake; participate		
❖ παραδίδωμι	deliver; hand over; betray		
❖ πιπράσκω	sell		

Caused States: Status & Location

❖ ἀπογράφω	enroll; register	❖ ἐνίστημι	put, place in
❖ κρατέω	seize; arrest	❖ ἐφίστημι	place on, at
❖ λύω	untie; release	❖ ἵστημι	set, place
❖ μερίζω	divide; deal out; apportion	❖ καλύπτω	cover; hide; conceal
❖ μνηστεύω	betroth	❖ καταλείπω	leave; leave behind
❖ περιτέμνω	circumcise	❖ κρύπτω	hide; conceal
❖ στεφανόω	crown	❖ μονόω	forsake; leave alone
❖ συναρπάζω	seize	❖ παρίστημι	place beside
❖ συνδέω	bind someone with	❖ παρακαλύπτω	hide; conceal
❖ σώζω	save; deliver	❖ πιέζω	press down
❖ ἀπαλλοτριόω	estrangle; alienate	❖ συγκαλύπτω	conceal
❖ ἀποκρύπτω	hide; conceal	❖ ὑποτάσσω	subject; subordinate
❖ ἀφορίζω	appoint; set apart	❖ φανερόω	reveal; make clear
❖ διαμερίζω	divide; distribute	❖ χωρίζω	leave; separate
❖ διασκορπίζω	scatter; disperse		

Caused States: Cognition & Judgment

❖ δοξάζω	praise; glorify	❖ δικαιόω	justify
❖ ἐλεέω	show mercy	❖ δοκιμάζω	test; approve
❖ ἐξίστημι	amaze; astonish; astound	❖ δουλόω	enslave
❖ πείθω	persuade; convince	❖ ἐγκαινίζω	inaugurate; ratify
❖ πλανάω	deceive; lead astray	❖ ἐκλέγομαι	choose; select
❖ σοφίζω	make wise	❖ ζωγρέω	catch; capture alive
❖ συγχέω	confuse; confound	❖ καταγινώσκω	convict; condemn
❖ τυφώω	be puffed up; be conceited	❖ καταριθμέω	take a count of
❖ χαριτόω	bestow favor on	❖ κρίνω/κατακρίνω	judge/condemn
❖ σκύλλω	bother; annoy	❖ ὀρίζω	determine
❖ φυσιόω	make proud; puff up	❖ παραιτέομαι	refuse; reject; excuse
❖ ἀξιόω	judge worthy	❖ προκυρόω	select
❖ ἀποδοκιμάζω	reject	❖ προχειροτονέω	appoint beforehand
❖ ἀπολύω	release; set free; let go	❖ τάσσω	designate
❖ ἀφίημι	forgive; leave	❖ χαρίζομαι	forgive; give freely

Caused States: Physiological & Grooming

❖ ἀναπαύω	make rest, refresh	❖ ἀνακαλύπτω	uncover; unveil
❖ διώκω	persecute	❖ βαπτίζω	baptize
❖ ἐλκόω	cause sores	❖ διαζώννυμι	gird; tie around
❖ ἐμπίπλημι	satisfy; fill	❖ ἐνδύω	put on; clothe; dress
❖ θεραπεύω	heal; cure	❖ ἐντυλίσσω	wrap up; wrap (up); fold up
❖ θλίβω	afflict; oppress	❖ ἱματίζω	clothe
❖ ἰάομαι	heal; cure	❖ καθοπλίζω	arm; equip oneself
❖ καταστέλλω	quiet; restrain	❖ κοσμέω	adorn; decorate; make neat
❖ συλλαμβάνω	seize; arrest; apprehend	❖ λούω	wash; bathe
❖ τραυματίζω	wound	❖ ξυράω	shave
❖ τυφλόω	blind; make blind	❖ περιβάλλω	clothe; dress
❖ φιμόω	silence; put to silence	❖ σπαργανόω	wrap up in cloths
❖ ἀμφιέννυμι	clothe; dress		

Caused States: Transformation

❖ ἀγιάζω	sanctify; make holy	❖ κενόω	empty; render void
❖ ἀγνίζω	purify	❖ κεράννυμι	mix
❖ ἀφομοιόω	make similar	❖ κοινόω	defile
❖ διασπάω	tear apart	❖ κονιάω	whitewash
❖ διαστρέφω	pervert	❖ μιαίνω	defile
❖ ἐκστρέφω	pervert	❖ μίγνυμι	mix
❖ ἐντυπόω	carve; engrave	❖ παλαιόω	wear out; become old
❖ ἐρημόω	ruin; lay waste	❖ πλατύνω	enlarge; make broad
❖ θραύω	break; oppressed	❖ πωρόω	harden
❖ καθαρίζω	purify; cleanse	❖ σήπω	decay; rot
❖ κατασκάπτω	tear down	❖ σκοτόω	be darkened; darken
❖ κατασφραγίζω	seal up	❖ σπιλώω	defile; stain; to stain, defile
❖ καταφθείρω	corrupt; ruin	❖ συντρίβω	crush; shatter; smash
❖ καυστηριάζω	brand; sear	❖ σφραγίζω	seal; seal up

Caused States: Begin/End & Other

❖ ἀπόλλυμι	destroy; perish; lose	❖ πληροφορέω	fulfill; convince fully
❖ (ἀνα)γεννάω	beget (again)	❖ ποιέω	make; do
❖ διαφθείρω	destroy; corrupt	❖ σφάζω	slaughter
❖ (ἐκ)πληρώω	complete; fill; fulfill	❖ (συ)σταυρόω	crucify (with)
❖ ἐξαρτίζω	bring to an end; finish	❖ τελειόω/τελέω	complete; perfect
❖ θεμελιόω	establish; lay the foundation	❖ βαρέω	burden; weigh down
❖ θύω	kill; slaughter; sacrifice	❖ δέω	bind; tie
❖ καταρτίζω	complete; prepare; restore	❖ νικάω	prevail; conquer
❖ κατασκευάζω	build; prepare; make ready	❖ πειράζω	test; tempt
❖ κτίζω	create	❖ ριζόω	cause to take root
❖ μεστόω	fill; to fill	❖ σμυρνίζω	treat with myrrh
❖ μυέω	initiate; learn the secret	❖ σωρεύω	heap up; load up
❖ νεκρόω	put to death	❖ φωτίζω	enlighten
❖ παύω	stop; cease	❖ χρυσόω	gild; adorn with gold
❖ πελεκίζω	behead		

What is a perfect?

❖ ἀκολουθέω	follow
❖ ἀναβαίνω	come up; ascend; go up
❖ ἀνατέλλω	rise; go up (labile causative)
❖ ἀπαλλάσσω	leave; come to a settlement
❖ ἀπέρχομαι	depart; go; go away
❖ ἀποκυλίω	roll away
❖ διέρχομαι	pass through; go through
❖ ἐγγίζω	draw near
❖ εἰσέρχομαι	enter; go in (to)
❖ ἐκφεύγω	escape
❖ ἐκπίπτω	fall; fall off
❖ ἐξέρχομαι	go out; come out
❖ ἐπιβαίνω	set foot in
❖ ἐπιπίπτω	fall on; throw oneself upon
❖ ἐπισυνάγω	gather together

Processes: Motion

❖ ἔρχομαι	come; arrive
❖ καθίζω	sit down; sit
❖ καταβαίνω	go/come down
❖ καταντάω	reach; arrive at
❖ μεταβαίνω	depart; pass over
❖ παρακολουθέω	follow; accompany
❖ παρέρχομαι	pass away; pass by
❖ περιΐστημι	avoid; stand around
❖ πίπτω	fall; fall down
❖ πορεύομαι	go; travel; go out
❖ προβαίνω	advance; go forward
❖ προσέρχομαι	come up; approach
❖ συνάγω	assemble; gather
❖ συναθροίζω	gather together
❖ συνέρχομαι	come together

Processes : Communication

❖ αἰτέω	ask; ask for	❖ ἄρνέομαι	deny; repudiate
❖ ἀποδείκνυμι	proclaim; declare	❖ διατάσσω	give orders; direct
❖ γράφω	write	❖ ἐντέλλω	command; order
❖ ἐγγράφω	inscribe; write down	❖ ἐπαγγέλλομαι	promise
❖ ἐξηχέω	sound forth	❖ ἐπικαλέω	call; call upon
❖ ἐπιγράφω	inscribe; write on	❖ καυχάομαι	boast
❖ εὐαγγελίζω	proclaim good news	❖ κράζω	shout; call out
❖ καλέω	call; name	❖ μαρτυρέω	testify; bear witness
❖ λαλέω	speak; say	❖ παραγγέλλω	command
❖ λέγω/εἶπον/ἐρῶ	say; tell	❖ προεἶπον	tell beforehand
❖ παρακαλέω	urge; implore	❖ προεπαγγέλλω	promise previously
❖ προγράφω	write beforehand	❖ προσκαλέω	summon
❖ προσταύω	command; order	❖ ῥώννυμι	farewell
❖ συγκατατίθημι	agree, consent with	❖ συντίθημι	agree; decide
❖ χρηματίζω	negotiate, warn	❖ ὑποδέχομαι	receive; welcome

Processes: Various Sorts

❖ γαμέω	marry
❖ γίνομαι	be; become; take place
❖ ήττάομαι	be defeated; succumb to
❖ κατιόω	become rusty; corroded
❖ κλίνω	bend, lie down
❖ κοιμάω	sleep; fall asleep
❖ κοπιάω	toil; labor
❖ μανθάνω	learn
❖ προγίνομαι	happen before
❖ συμβαίνω	happen; come about
❖ τελευτάω	die

What is a perfect?

❖ ἀγαπάω	love
❖ ἀκούω	hear; listen to
❖ ἀπαλγέω	become callous
❖ ἀσθενέω	be sick; be weak
❖ βδελύσσομαι	abhor; detest
❖ γινώσκω	(come to) know
❖ διαφωνέω	disagree
❖ διψάω	be thirsty
❖ ἐκλανθάνομαι	forget (altogether)
❖ ἐλπίζω	hope
❖ ἐξουθενέω	despise; disdain
❖ ἐπιγινώσκω	know; recognize
❖ ἐπιθυμέω	to desire
❖ ἐπιλανθάνομαι	neglect; forget

States: Mind & Body

❖ εὐαρεστέω	please; be pleasing
❖ εὐλογέω	praise; bless
❖ ἡγέομαι	consider; regard
❖ θαυμάζω	to be amazed
❖ θεάομαι	see; look at; behold
❖ θέλω	want, wish
❖ θεωρέω	observe, look at

What is a perfect?

❖ κάμνω	be tired
❖ καταφρονέω	despise; to disregard
❖ μεθύω	drunk
❖ μεριμνάω	be anxious
❖ μιμνήσκομαι	remember
❖ μισέω	hate
❖ οἶδα	know
❖ ὁράω	see; become visible
❖ πάσχω	suffer
❖ πιστεύω	believe
❖ προγινώσκω	know beforehand
❖ προελπίζω	hope before
❖ προοράω	foresee; see before
❖ σύννοιδα	share the knowledge of

States: Mind & Body

❖ ταλαιπωρέω	be sorrowful
❖ φιλέω	love
❖ φοβέω	be afraid
❖ φρονέω	to have an opinion

States: Various Sorts

❖ ἀνθίστημι	stand in opposition; resist
❖ διαμένω	remain; continue
❖ δουλεύω	serve; be a slave
❖ εἶωθα	be accustomed
❖ ἔοικα	be like
❖ ἔχω	have
❖ θνήσκω	die; be dead
❖ μένω	remain; stay; reside
❖ παραχειμάζω	winter; spend the winter
❖ παροίχομαι	be past
❖ πλουτέω	be rich; become rich
❖ πολιτεύομαι	live; lead one's life
❖ ὑστερέω	lack; fall short of

What is a perfect?

- Change-of-state predicates dominate the field, whether as causatives or various types of processes.
- But there are still a good number of state predicates and a handful of activity-like predicates.
- The contemporary secondary literature does not have a whole lot to say about these facts

What does the literature say?

“A surprisingly large degree of consistency can be found in definitions of the meaning of the Greek Perfect, i.e. definitions of its aspectual function.”

—Stanley E. Porter, *Verbal Aspect in the Greek of the New Testament, with Reference to Tense and Mood*, 248.

Like English: Anterior

- In essence, though not exactly in use, the Greek perfect tense corresponds to the English one, in that it is not a past tense but a present one, indicating not the past action as such but the present «state of affairs» resulting from the past action (Zerwick, 1963, 96).
- The perfect system expresses the view of an action as being in some way prior (Swetnam, 1998, 138).
- The expansion of the category perfect to verbs and voices where it cannot express resultant state means that these new forms get Anterior-like semantics: they are simply not interpretable as Resultatives (Haug 2008, 302).

Event completion & Present effect

- By the Perfect the Greeks denote an action completed *for and with reference to the Present* (Curtius 1872, 281)
- The perfect (as also the pluperfect) unites in itself as it were present and aorist, since it expresses the continuance of completed action (Blass 1911, 198).
- The Perfect action is a variety by itself, denoting what began in the past and still continues: thus from the “point” root *weido*, “discover, descry,” comes the primitive perfect οἶδα, “I discovered (εἶδον) and still enjoy the results,” i.e. “I know (Moulton 1908, 109).
- The perfect denotes a completed action the effects of which still continue in the present (Smyth, 1956, 434).
- The Aktionsart belonging properly to the [perfect] tense is either fulfilment in the present of a process begun in the past or else the contemplation of an event having taken place in the past with an interval intervening, whereas the English perfect is used when no interval intervenes (Turner 1961, 81-2).
- The perfect combines in itself, so to speak, the present and the aorist in that it denotes the continuance of completed action (Blass, Debrunner, & Funk 1961, 175).
- The perfect tense basically had reference to the present state of the subject, which results from a previous, completed action or experience (Moorhouse 1982, 197).

Event Completion

- The Perfect expresses a complete action, whether it be not completed till the very moment of speaking, as γέγραφα, *I have (just) written*; or has been completed a long time before, as ἡ πλοῖς ἔκτισται, *it has been built* (Kuhner-Jelf 1866).
- “By the Perfect the Greeks denote an action completed *for and with reference to the Present*” (Curtius 1872, 281)
- “The perfect tense is used in full accordance with its meaning when the past is set in relation to the present, i.e., when something past is to be indicated as now (in the present) absolutely completed” (Winer & Moulton 1882, 338).
- The perfect represents an action as already finished at the present time; as γέγραφα, I have written (that is, my writing is now finished) (Goodwin 1889, 13)
- In its most frequent use the Perfect Indicative represents an action as standing at the time of speaking complete (Burton 1898, 37).
- The perfect tense expresses completion in the present, and hence is sometimes called the present perfect (Gildersleeve 1900).
- The perfect, considered purely as an aspect, involves the postulation of a ‘viewing point’ from which a given ‘event’, having previously taken place, is seen to be already completed (Horrocks 2010, 174).
- A property of the SUBJECT at reference time as a function of the event described by the lexical verb having run to some terminal point (Crellin 2012).

Event Completion & Result State

- The perfect indicative locates the state resulting from the completion of the preceding state of affairs in the 'present'. (Rijksbaron 2007, 35)
- *la valeur fondamentale du theme du parfait consiste a exprimer l'etat resultant de l'achevement del'action'*
(the fundamental value of the perfect tense is to express the state resulting from the completion of the action) (Ruijgh 1991, 208).

State/Stative

- The Perfect is sometimes used when the attention is directed wholly to the present resulting state, the past action of which it is the result being left out of thought (Burton, 1898, 37).
- The perfect aspect expresses the state or condition of the subject of the verb, as a result of an action (logically a prior action), but most often with comparatively little reference to the action itself (McKay 1994, 31).
- The perfect and pluperfect tense-forms occur in contexts where the user of Greek wishes to depict the action as reflecting a given (often complex) state of affairs (Porter, 1999, 39).
- The perfect and pluperfect [are] members of the stative aspect in which the speaker conceives the verbal idea as a condition or state of affairs (Young, 1994, 126).
- The aspect of the perfect is stative: it describes a state/condition rather than an action—a situation described with no reference to change or expenditure of energy. This “state” refers to the state of the grammatical subject of the sentence, not the object (Decker 2014, 329)

What does the literature say?

Something else?

- The aspect of the perfect and pluperfect is sometimes called stative, resultative, completed, or perfective-stative. Whatever it is called, the kind of action portrayed (in its unaffected meaning) is a combination of the external and internal aspects: The action is presented externally (summary), while the resultant state proceeding from the action is presented internally (continuous state) (Wallace 1996, 573).
- The perfect in NT Greek is a complex verbal category denoting, in its basic sense, a state which results from a prior occurrence. Thus, it combines three elements within its invariant meaning: the Aktionsart-feature of stative situation, the tense-feature of anteriority, and the aspect of summary viewpoint concerning the occurrence (Fanning 1990, 119-20).
- It is taken to convey stative force, imperfective aspect, and non-past temporal reference. The form itself does not in itself refer to prior occurrence, though the lexical semantics of action verbs tend to produce this effect. The state involved is always that of the subject (Evans 2001, 147).
- the perfect shares the imperfective aspect of the present tense-form, as well as the spatial value of proximity. The proximity of the perfect, however, reaches a higher degree than that of the present, thus being the value that distinguishes the two forms (Campbell 2007, 210).

What does the literature say?

- How do we account for these competing definitions?
- First, by not saying that they're competing.
 - 'Compete' conveys something about winning and losing that we maybe don't need: involving a winner on the one hand and losers on the other.
 - This hinders our capacity to engage with those we disagree.

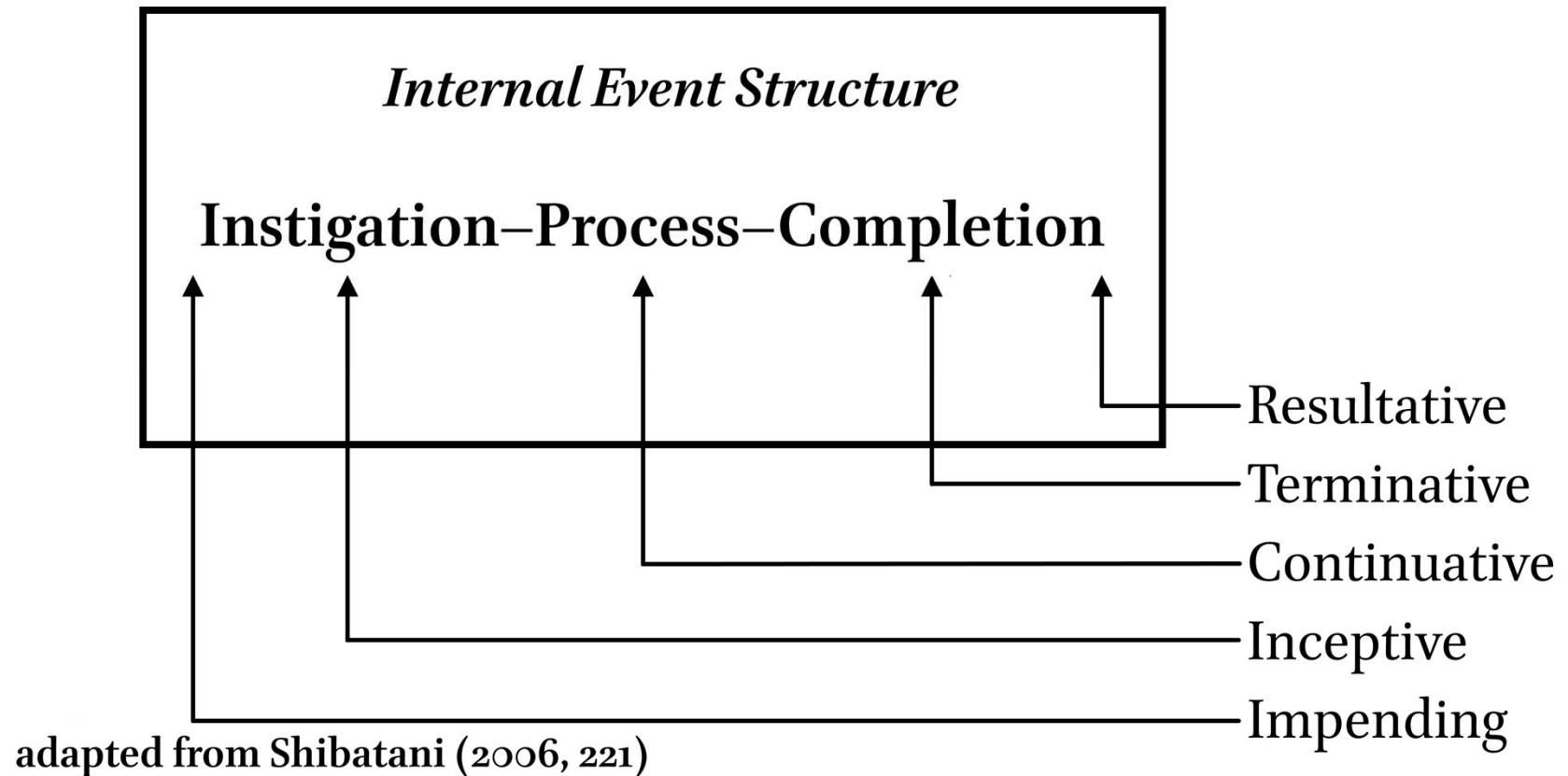
What does the literature say?

- This does not mean that we accept all definitions as correct.
- Some of these definitions, especially the ones that lean on English, are rather problematic.

What does the data say?

High Transitivity Events

High Transitivity Events



High Transitivity Events

High transitivity events:

- 1) Agentive subject
- 2) Overt, highly distinguishable object
- 3) Object undergoes a change of state.
- 4) Agent is not affect by the event/process

High Transitivity Verbs: Intransitive Middle Perfect

Perfective (Mt 26:26):

λαβὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἄρτον καὶ εὐλογήσας ἔκλασεν

Jesus, taking bread & giving thanks, broke it.

Imperfective (1 Cor 10:16):

τὸν ἄρτον ὃν κλῶμεν

the bread which we break

Perfect (Plut., Against Colotes 25 – media tantum):

ἡ δὲ κώπη κέκλασται

the oar is broken

High Transitivity Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

Tend to fall into a few semantic classes:

- Caused Motion/Transference
- Finish/Achieve
- Labor/Production
- Still have Agentive Subject & Highly affected Object
- Subject also affected by the event

Caused Motion Verbs: Act=trans. & Mid=Intrans.

- αἶρω, 'take away, remove'
 - Active: ἤρκεν χειράς ἐναντίον τοῦ κυρίου
'he has lifted his hand against the Lord' (Job 15:25)
 - Middle: ἀπὸ γὰρ προσώπου ἀδικίας ἡρται ὁ δίκαιος
'From the face of injustice the righteous person is removed' (Lxx Is 57:1)
- ἐκχέω, 'pour out'
 - Active: οὐκ ἐκκέχυκα αὐτὸ ἐπὶ γῆν
'I have not poured it out upon the land' (Lxx Ez 24:7)
 - Middle: ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ ἐκκέχυται ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν
'The love of God has been poured out in our hearts (Rom 5:5)

Transference Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

δίδωμι, 'I give x to y'

- κάγω τὴν δόξαν ἣν δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, .

The glory which you **have given** me I **have given** them (John 17:22)

καταργέω, 'I set aside x'

- κατήργηκα τὰ τοῦ νηπίου.

I did away with childish things (1 Cor 13:11)

Finish/Achieve Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

πληρόω, 'complete; fill; fulfill x'

- ὁ γὰρ ἀγαπῶν τὸν ἕτερον νόμον πεπλήρωκεν

For the person who loves another has fulfilled the Law (Rom 13:8).

τελέω, 'I finish, complete x'

- τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα

I have finished the course (2 Tim 4:7)

Middling Transitive Verbs

With a Transitive Perfect

Mid-Transitive Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

Less transitive events (Middling Transitivity Verbs?):

- 1) Agentive Subject still cause event.
- 2) Overt, highly distinguishable object.
- 3) Object undergoes a cognitive change rather than physical.
- 4) Agent's involvement in the event is itself an affected change.
- 5) Predominately communication verbs.

Communication Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

καλέω, 'call; summon'

- εἰ δὲ ὁ ἄπιστος χωρίζεται, χωριζέσθω· οὐ δεδούλωται ὁ ἀδελφὸς ἢ ἡ ἀδελφὴ ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις, ἐν δὲ εἰρήνῃ κέκληκεν ἡμᾶς ὁ θεός
But if the unbelieving spouse separates, let them. The brother or sister is not bound in such cases. It is to peace that God has called us (1 Cor 7:15).

διατάσσω, 'command, given an order'

- διατεταχέναι Κλαύδιον χωρίζεσθαι πάντας τοὺς Ἰουδαίους ἀπὸ τῆς Ῥώμης
Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2).

Communication Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

γράφω, 'write x'

- ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Πιλᾶτος· Ὁ γέγραφα γέγραφα.

Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have written" (John 19:22).

- ἀναγκαίως νῦν προσθήσομεν ταῖς προεκτεθείσαις αὐτοῦ φωναῖς παράδοσιν, ἥν περὶ Μάρκου τοῦ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον γεγραφότος

For the present purpose we must add to his statements, already quoted above, a tradition about Mark, the author of the Gospel (FPap 3.14).

Communication Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

29 And Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, kill him and bury him.” 30 Benaiah son of Jehoiada went at the tent of the Lord and said to him, “This is what the king says: ‘Come out!’ ” Joab said, “I will not come out because then I will die.” Benaiah son of Jehoiada returned and said to the king, saying, “Thus Joab spoke (λελάληκεν) and thus he responded (ἀποκρίταί) to me.” 31 The king told him, “Go and do to him just as he has said (εἶρηκεν). Kill him and bury him (Lxx 3 King 2:29–31)

Communication Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

4 And you shall speak to the whole house of Israel: 5 ‘This is what the Lord says...

...13 And my anger and my wrath will be accomplished against them, and you will acknowledge that I, the Lord, have spoken (λελάληκα) in my zeal, when I have accomplished my anger against them. 14 And I will place you in the desert with your daughters surrounding you, before all those who travel through. 15 And you will be mourned and wretched among the nations who surround you when I make a judgment against you in the vengeance of my anger. I the Lord have spoken (λελάληκα). 16 And when I have dispatched the javelins of famine against them, they also will be in a faint, and I will crush the supply of your bread. 17 And I will dispatch famine and grievous wild beasts against you, and I will take vengeance on you, and death and blood will pass through against you, and I will bring a sword against you all around. I, the Lord, have spoken (λελάληκα) (Lxx Eze 5:4-17).

Low Transitivity Verbs

With a Transitive Perfect Active

Low Transitivity Verbs: Trans. & Intrans. Perfects

Low transitive events, but still not intransitive or states:

- 1) Subject undergoes a change of state.
- 2) Subject is still volitional.
- 3) Object effects that change in the subject.
- 4) Kinds of events include:
 - learning, reciprocity, benefactive-transference
 - non-caused motion, body action

Low Transitivity Lexemes – Reciprocity

Perfective (Phil 4:15):

οὐδεμία μοι ἐκκλησία ἐκοινώνησεν εἰς λόγον δόσεως καὶ λήμψεως...

Not one church shared with me in the matter of giving & receiving

Imperfective (1 Peter 4:13):

ἀλλὰ καθὼ κοινωνεῖτε τοῖς τοῦ Χριστοῦ παθήμασιν χαίρετε

But to the extent that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings, rejoice.

Perfect (Heb 2:14):

τὰ παιδία κεκοινώνηκεν αἵματος καὶ σαρκός

the children are partakers of blood and flesh

Low Transitivity Verbs w/Transitive Perfect

μανθάνω, 'learn x'

- μεμάθηκεν ἡ γλῶσσα αὐτῶν λαλεῖν ψευδῇ
Their tongue has learned/knows how to speak lies (LXX Jer 9:4).

λανθάνω, 'escape from x'

- ποῖος δὲ τόπος ἐστὶν τῆς συνέσεως; λέληθεν πάντα ἄνθρωπον
And what is the place of understanding? It has escaped/is hidden from all people (LXX Job 28:21).

Low Transitivity Verbs w/Intransitive Perfect

πολεμέω, 'I fight x'

- ἔνθα δὴ ἄγγελον αὐτῷ ὁφθῆναι ἐστῶτα ἐπάνω τοῦ τόπου, οὗ τὸν βωμὸν ἰδρῦσθαι ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις, καὶ κελεύειν αὐτὸν μὴ ἰδρύ[ε]σθαι τὸ ἱερόν, διὰ τὸ αἵματι ἀνθρωπίνῳ πεφύρθαι καὶ πολλὰ ἔτη πεπολεμηκέναι.

Then an angel appeared to him standing above the place where the altar is set up in Jerusalem and ordered him not to set up the temple, because he was defiled with human blood and was a warrior for many years (OT Pseudepigrapha Eupolemus 30:5 [fragment #2]).

Dynamic Intransitive Verbs

(i.e. not states)

Intransitive Perfects

Dynamic Intransitive Verbs

Intransitive, non-state verbs:

- 1) A single participant undergoes a process
- 2) Kinds of events include:
 - Translational motion, body action
 - Spontaneous events, generic 'happen' verbs

Dynamic Intransitive Verbs with the Perfect

πταίω, 'trip, fall' is ambiguous with either Semelfactive (dynamic, no change) or Telic (change-of-state) readings.

Aorist: Either reading is possible.

- μὴ ἔπταισαν ἵνα πέσωσιν; μὴ γένοιτο
Did they stumble such that they fell? Absolutely not (Rom 11:11).
- ἐβρόντησεν Κύριος ... καὶ συνεχύθησαν καὶ ἔπταισαν ἐνώπιον Ἰσραὴλ
The Lord thundered ... and threw [them] into confusion and they fell before Israel (Lxx 1 Kingdoms 7:10).

Perfect: Telic (=completed) event only.

- καὶ εἶδον παῖδες Ἀδραάζαρ ὅτι ἔπταίκασιν ἀπὸ προσώπου Ἰσραὴλ
And the sons of Hadraazar saw that they have fallen in front of Israel (LXX 1 Chron. 19:19).

Dynamic Intransitive Verbs with the Perfect

ἔρχομαι, 'I come/go'

- λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι καὶ Ἠλίας ἐλήλυθεν

I tell you that Elijah certainly **has come/is** certainly **here** (Mk 9:13).

θνήσκω, 'I die'

- πατήρ μοι Βαθουῆλος ἦν· ἀλλ' ὁ ἤδη τέθνηκε

My father was Bethuel, but he has died/is dead already (Josephs, Antiquities 1.248).

Dynamic Intransitive Verbs with the Perfect

ἐγγίζω, 'draw near'

Present/Aorist: Volitional subject, motion

- ὅλως εἰς συναγωγὴν ἀνδρῶν δικαίων οὐκ ἐγγίζει, ἀλλ' ἀποφεύγει αὐτοὺς
he never comes near an assembly of righteous men; instead he avoids them
(Hermas, Man. XI, 13)

Perfect: Inanimate subject, no motion

- ἤγγικεν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ
The kingdom of God is near (Luke 10:11).

Usage Notes: Perfects & Dynamic Verbs

Highest transitive verbs only have intransitive perfects:

1. The SUBJECT of the perfect exists in a STATE.
2. That STATE exists paradigmatically in the lexicon alongside the *transitive* non-perfect.
3. The object of the transitive non-perfect is the subject of the intransitive perfect.
4. Since the perfect is intransitive: some active-only, others middle-only.

Usage Notes: Perfects & Dynamic Verbs

The middle two groups of transitive verbs have transitive perfects.

1. In the active, the OBJ is in a resultant state from the event's completion.
 - Current relevance only exists as an implication of the discourse/context.
 - Involves the grammaticalization of EVENT COMPLETION rather than relevance.
2. Perfects are *transitive* in the Active & *intransitive* in the Middle
 - ἀπέσταλκα, 'I have sent [a messenger]' \leftrightarrow ἀπέσταλμαι, 'I am sent'
 - γεγράφα, 'I have written [a letter]' \leftrightarrow γεγράφται, 'It is written'

Usage Notes: Perfects & Dynamic Verbs

The low transitive verbs have transitive and intransitive perfects.

1. The SUBJ underwent a completed change of state & exists as result state.
 - Both RESULT STATE & EVENT COMPLETION are effectively indistinguishable.
2. Transitivity & Voice alternations have lexical idiosyncrasies
 - μεμάθηκα, 'I have learned=I know [+acc]' \leftrightarrow (active-only, no middle)
 - (middle-only, no active) \leftrightarrow ήγώνισμαι, 'I have fought to the end [+acc]'

Usage Notes: Perfects & Dynamic Verbs

Intransitive Verbs have intransitive perfects

1. A completed change of state took place & a participant exist in a resultant state.
 - Usually the SUBJECT
 - For 'happen' verbs, the affected participant is often dative rather than the subject.
2. Both SUBJECT STATE & EVENT COMPLETION are effectively indistinguishable.
3. Any voice alternations are lexical idiosyncrasies

State Predicates

How well do State Predicates fit here?

The facts on the ground.

- A minority of verbs that denote states also realize a perfect in their paradigm.
- The working assumption is: the concept of EVENT COMPLETION/RESULT STATE is somehow integral to the meaning of the perfect.
- The basic idea of what is a state predicate is in opposition to the basic idea of EVENT COMPLETION/RESULT STATE.

State Predicates and Analogical Extension

When wanting to form a perfect with a state verb the language user had two possible options:

- Convert the state predicate and retain the change-of-state semantics required for the perfect.
- Convert the change-of-state semantics and retain the stativity of the verb.
- Both of these happen.

Analogical Extension: Convert the State Predicate

Both the RESULT STATE and EVENT COMPLETION readings of the perfect require a CHANGE-OF-STATE predicate.

- The former has more in common with a non-perfect state verb than the latter.

πείθω, 'persuade; make trust'

πιστεύω, 'believe, trust'

- Ἄλλους ἔσωσεν, ἑαυτὸν οὐ δύναται σῶσαι· βασιλεὺς Ἰσραὴλ ἐστίν, καταβάτω νῦν ἀπὸ τοῦ σταυροῦ καὶ πιστεύσομεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. πέποιθεν ἐπὶ τὸν θεόν, ῥυσάσθω νῦν εἰ θέλει αὐτόν·

He saved others. He can't save himself. King of Israel, is he? Let him now come down from the cross and we will believe in him. He believes in God, so let God deliver him now if he wants him (Mt 27:42-3).

Analogical Extension: Adapt the State Predicate

πιστεύω, 'believe, trust'

- εἶπεν οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοῖς δώδεκα· Μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς θέλετε ὑπάγειν; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ Σίμων Πέτρος· Κύριε, πρὸς τίνα ἀπελευσόμεθα; ῥήματα ζωῆς αἰωνίου ἔχεις καὶ ἡμεῖς πεπιστεύκαμεν καὶ ἐγνώκαμεν ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ ἅγιος τοῦ θεοῦ
Jesus then said to the twelve, Don't you also want to leave? Simon Peter answered him, "Lord to whom would we go? You have words of eternal life and we have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God (John 6:66-9).

Analogical Extension: Adapt the State Predicate

ἔχω, 'have, possess'

- καλὸν ὕδωρ ἔχομεν ἐν τῇ πατρίδι μου
We have good water in my homeland (Josephus, Antiquities 7.312).
- δι' οὗ καὶ τὴν προσαγωγὴν ἐσχήκαμεν τῇ πίστει εἰς τὴν χάριν ταύτην
We have come to have/have obtained access by faith (Rom 5:2).

Analogical Extension: Adapt the Perfect's Semantics

Reconstrue the extend the semantics of the perfect.

- Grammarians have noted that perfects with certain classes of state predicates have “intensive” meaning.
- Rijksbaron (2007, 38) puts it in this way:

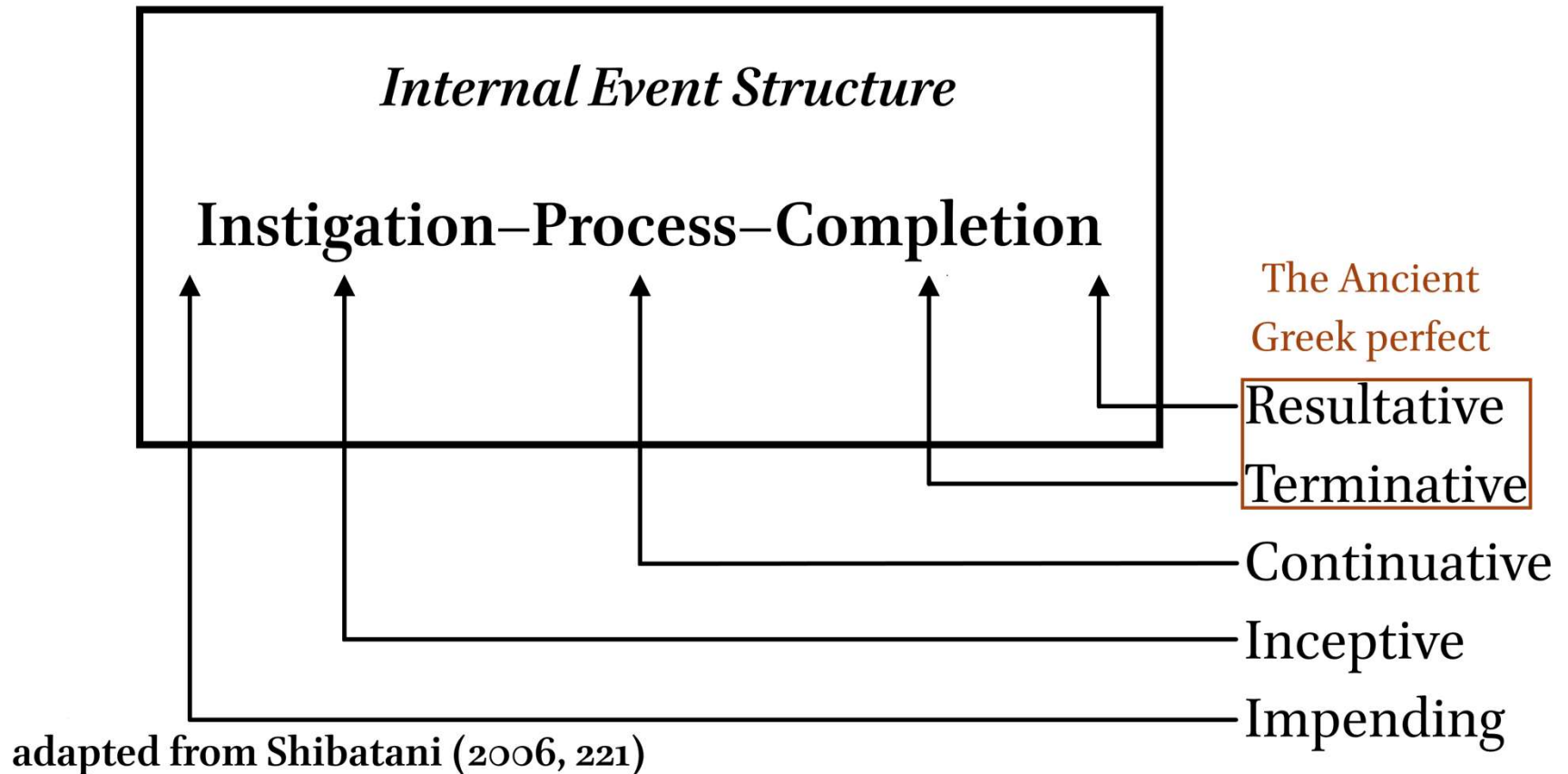
“In the case of verbs whose present stem forms [i.e. non-past, imperfective] already to some degree express a state, the perfect expresses the highest degree of that state, (so-called intensive perfect).”

Analogical Extension: Adapt the Perfect's Semantics

The structure of the analogical extension:

- Some types of states maybe be construed as scalar
- A transitive perfect refers to the COMPLETED EVENT/RESULTANT STATE

Scale of transitivity and Internal Event Structure



Experiential Scale of a Physiological State

I am not hungry

I am extremely hungry

Analogical Extension: Adapt the Perfect's Semantics

English aspectual adverbs have this exact function.

- *I'm hungry vs. I'm completely famished.*
- *John is exhausted vs. John is totally exhausted.*

Analogical Extension: Adapt the Perfect's Semantics

διψάω, 'be thirsty'

- ἐπείνασα γὰρ καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με
I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink (Mt 25:35).
- ἄγριοι καὶ θηριώδεις ἐκ φύσεως καὶ μελέτης γεγονότες, αἵματος ἀνθρωπείου δεδιψηκότες
For some influence by a reckless audacity, supported by physical prowess, and equipped in full armor for war, strike down hoards of adversaries in a general slaughter and win the well-sounding—but little deserved—name of Respected. Yet though their victory gave them renowned from who judge such things, from nature and practice they have become savage and bestial in their total thirst for human blood. (Philo, Virtues 1-2)

Analogical Extension: Adapt the Perfect's Semantics

πιστεύω, 'believe'

- εἶπεν αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ἐγώ εἰμι ἡ ἀνάστασις καὶ ἡ ζωή· ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ καὶ ἀποθάνῃ ζήσεται, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ζῶν καὶ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ οὐ μὴ ἀποθάνῃ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα· πιστεύεις τοῦτο; λέγει αὐτῷ· Ναί, κύριε· ἐγὼ πεπίστευκα ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ
Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me even if they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She answered him, “Yes, Lord. I certainly believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God” (Jn 11:25-7).

Analogical Extension: Adapt the Perfect's Semantics

μεθύω, 'be drunk'

- ἕκαστος γὰρ τὸ ἴδιον δείπνον προλαμβάνει ἐν τῷ φαγεῖν, καὶ ὃς μὲν πεινᾷ, ὃς δὲ μεθύει
For each takes his own meal in the eating, and one is hungry, and the other drunk (1 Cor 11:21).
- Καὶ τότε δ' Ἰσραὴλ μεμεθυσμένος οὐχὶ νοήσει, / οὐδὲ μὲν αὖθ' αἰσεί βεβαρημένος οὔασι
λεπτοῖς. / ἀλλ' ὅποταν Ἑβραίοις ἤξη χόλος Ὑψίστοιο / οἰστρομανῆς καὶ πίστιν ἀπ'
αὐτῶν ἐξαφελείται, / οὐρανίου ὅτι παῖδα θεοῦ διεδηλήσαντο
And then Israel, completely drunk, won't understand. / She will not even hear,
being burdened with weak ears. / But when the raging venom of the Most high
comes upon the Hebrews / it will even take their faith from them / because they
caused great harm to the son of the heavenly God (Sibylline Oracles 1.360-4).

Analogical Extension: Unintended Consequences

- Semantic bleaching is a common problem for any kind of INTENSIVE expression.
- Consider:
 - ‘How are you today?’
 - ‘I’m feeling *whelmed*.’
 - ‘I’m feeling *overwhelmed*.’

Analogical Extension: Unintended Consequences

Consider:

- The usage of the perfect with intensive and inchoative states is very old.
- Thus many perfects with state predicates are likely already bleached.
- The especially true of:
 1. High frequency verbs
 2. Verbs mostly closely related to embodied experience.

****cough**** οἶδα ****cough****

Concluding Thoughts

Concluding thoughts...

- The raw data illustrates...
 - ...a clear preference for verbs that convey a change-of-state, i.e. are telic
 - ...what looks like the grammaticalization of EVENT-COMPLETION/RESULT STATE event structure
 - (you can call it something else if you'd like—I have written what I have written.)
 - ...a preference for the subject to be the means of referring to that state
 - Whether through transitivity shifts
 - Or voice alternations

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