

## Cross-linguistic Variation in Event Realization

Jean-Pierre Koenig  
University of Buffalo

Since the work of Vendler, Verkuyl, Dowty, we know that when you have the right kind of verb, arguments, and aspect, the sentence is true if the change of state associated with the meaning of the verb occurred at reference time. But, sometimes the best intentions do not lead to the expected outcome. Many languages include sentences that should only be true when the change of state occurred, but are also surprisingly true when the change of state did not occur or the event did not culminate. Most of the literature has focused on subsets of the languages and models of the phenomenon now known as *non-culminating accomplishments* were based on those subsets of languages. In this paper, I review properties of *non-culminating accomplishments* sentences, differences between the classes of verbs that unexpectedly lead to non-culminating accomplishments in different languages, and survey the classes of semantic models that may explain the phenomenon. My conclusions are: (1) non-culminating accomplishments may be a syndrome with distinct causes across languages; (2) for some languages, the explanation seems to have to make use of scalar models of change; (3) implicatures may play a bigger role in explaining some of the data than previously recognized.