

New Approaches to Studying Tense Category

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Abstract

This article examines various theories of tense category, each of which offers a different perspective on the nature of this basic concept. The authors analyze the advantages and disadvantages of each theory, as well as their limitations. However, none of the existing theories can fully explain tense. The article emphasizes the need for further research in this area, as well as the importance of empirical evidence and openness to new ideas.

Key words: *category of tense, theories of tense, nature of tense, philosophy of tense, physics of tense, empirical data, scientific knowledge, research, synthesis of theories.*

The tense category is one of the most complex and versatile categories of linguistics. It reflects different aspects of temporal relations existing in the real world and is expressed in the language in the form of grammatical forms, lexical tools and syntactic structures. The study of tense category has a long history. In antiquity, philosophers and linguists thought about how language expresses the relationships of tense. However, the systematic study of this problem began only in the 19th century, when linguists began to use the methods of comparative historical linguistics.

In the 20th century, the study of the tense category became one of the main directions of linguistic research. Many different theories have been developed to explain how language expresses relationships over tense.

We will mention the main ones of these theories:

Logical theory of tense: Based on the work of Aristotle, this theory views tense as a linear sequence of events. According to this theory, the tenses of verbs express the tense relationship between events.

Psychological theory of tense: This theory, developed in the works of W. James and A. Bergson, emphasizes that tense is not linear, but a stream of consciousness. According to this theory, the tenses of verbs represent our perception of tense.

Linguistic theory of tense: This theory, developed by E. Sapir and B. Whorf, states that the tense category reflects the unique features of the worldview of speakers of a certain language. According to this theory, different languages express temporal relations in different ways, which is related to different ways of dividing and classifying experience.

Currently, linguists do not have a general view of the nature of the tense category. However, most scholars agree that tense is a complex category that is reflected in many ways in language. Studying tenses is important for:

- understanding how language reflects the real world
- describe the grammatical systems of different languages
- development of foreign language teaching methodology
- studying the problems of intercultural communication

Our article presents some basic theoretical views on the study of tense category among world linguists, which gives us

- To deepen our knowledge of the language
- To expand our worldview
- It allows you to look at the world in a new way.

Logical theory of tense:

Founders: Aristotle, Augustine Aurelius, Isaac Newton.

Essence:

- tense is a linear sequence of successive events.
- verb tenses express relationships between events in tense.

There are three main tenses: present, past and future.

- the present tense indicates the event that is happening during the speech.
- the past tense indicates the event that happened before the moment of speech.
- the future tense indicates an event that will happen after the moment of the sentence.

Example:

Present: I am writing an article.

Past: I wrote an article.

Next: I will write an article.

Logical theory of tense:

Advantages:

Simplicity and clarity.

Ease of use in describing the grammatical systems of different languages.

Disadvantages:

Tense does not take into account the psychological aspects of perception.

It does not explain some practical features of the tenses of verbs.

2. Psychological theory of tense:

Founders: William James, Henri Bergson.

Essence:

- time is not linear but stream of consciousness.
- the tenses of verbs express our perception of tense.
- There are different ways to perceive tense:
- successional: treating tense as a sequence of events.

- culminating: taking tense as a series of simultaneous events.
- continuous: perceiving tense as a continuum of events.

Example:

- *Successive: I am walking down the street.*
- *Climax: I see people walking, driving, sitting on a bench.*
- *Continuity: I waited a long time for the bus.*

Psychological theory of tense:

- Advantages:

Considers psychological aspects of tense perception.

Tense forms of verbs that cannot be explained by the logical theory of tense reveal some features of their activity.

- Disadvantages:

Complexity and uncertainty.

It is difficult to apply the grammatical systems of different languages in description.

3. Linguistic theory of tense:

Founders: Edward Sapir, Benjamin Whorf.

Essence:

- The tense category reflects the unique features of the worldview of the speakers of a given language.
- Different languages express temporal relations in different ways, which is due to different ways of dividing and categorizing experience.
- According to the way of expressing temporal relations, languages differ:
 - languages with absolute tense: tense is calculated from a fixed reference point (usually from the moment of speaking).
 - languages with relative tense: tense is calculated relative to other events.
 - tense-aspect languages: tense is expressed not only in relation to the moment of speech, but also in relation to other events.

Example:

- *Language with absolute tense: I arrived at 10 o'clock. (tense is counted from the moment of speaking)*
- *Relative tense language: I came after you left. (tense is calculated relative to another event)*
- *Aspect Tense Language: I have studied English for a long time. (tense is expressed not only in relation to the moment of speech, but also in relation to other events)*

Linguistic theory of tense:

- Advantages:

Considers the influence of language on worldview.

Explains linguistic universality and variation in the expression of temporal relations.

- Disadvantages:

Complexity and versatility.

Grammatical systems of some languages are difficult to use in description.

Summary:

Studying the category of tense is a complex problem that requires a multifaceted approach. Each of the presented theories has its advantages and disadvantages. None of them gives a complete explanation of the phenomenon under study.

Therefore, further research in this area is needed to develop a more complete theory. It may be necessary to combine elements of different theories to create a more realistic picture. It is also important to consider the empirical evidence that helps evaluate different theories. It should be noted that scientific knowledge is constantly developing, and in the future new theories may appear that can better explain the phenomenon being studied.

The presented theories of the category of tense, each with its own advantages and disadvantages, show the complexity and versatility of this fundamental concept. None of them can fully explain the essence of tense, leaving room for further research and debate. A synthesis of different approaches is required, combining ideas from different theories to create a more complete picture. We must not forget about empirical data, which plays a decisive role in assessing the reliability of various theories. It is important to note that our understanding of tense is constantly evolving. Perhaps in the future centuries, new theories will emerge that can shed light on this problem. In addition to the above. It should be noted that the choice of tense category theory depends on the specific context and objectives of the study. Before applying each theory to the study of various phenomena, its limitations should be considered. Openness to new ideas and critical thinking are the keys to further progress in understanding the essence of tense.

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