

PERFECTIVE ASPECT IN FINNISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Juhana Salonen, University of Jyväskylä (Sign Language Centre)



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OUTLINE

- My research
- Theory
- Research method + data
- Results
- Conclusion
- Discussion

MY RESEARCH

Aspect modification of verbals in FinSL => main focus on perfective aspect

My research questions are:

Do these signs express perfective aspect?

JO (‘already’)

VALMIS (‘ready’)

LOPPU (‘end’)

How can we see them on syntactic level?

Theoretical framework:

Functional viewpoint - descriptive theory (Dryer 2001, 2006)

Aspect theory (Comrie 1976, Smith 1997, Rathmann 2005 etc.)

Definition of aspect

Perfective

John ran to the store

vs.

Imperfective

John was running to the store

John ran to the store

=> includes the whole event

- beginning: John started to run
- end: John finished his run



⇒ **PERFECTIVE ASPECT**
(run has completed)

John was running to the store

=> doesn't include the whole event

- no beginning
- no end



⇒ **IMPERFECTIVE ASPECT**
(run was continuous)

I = initial
F = final

e.g. Smith 1997 & Rathmann 2005

CRITERIA FOR PERFECTIVE ASPECT

Many different viewpoints but most researchers suggest:

- 1) Bounded event (completed)

I ran to the store

- 2) Can be presented both in past and future time

I ate When I have eaten, I will go out

- 3) Narrative advancement can be found but it is not compulsory

When I have eaten, I will go out

- 4) Incompatible with stative reading (this viewpoint can vary with a language)

I knew Russian

PERFECTIVE ASPECT IN FINSL?

(RISSANEN 1985,1998 & JANTUNEN 2003, 2010)



JO
(‘already’)



VALMIS
(‘ready’)



LOPPU
(‘end’)



There are other possibilities to express perfective aspect, I concentrate only on these 3 signs

These signs are often located after verbal (JO can also fuse into verbal)

and...

Rissanen (1998) regards these signs as suffix-like morphemes

Jantunen (2010) disagrees with this

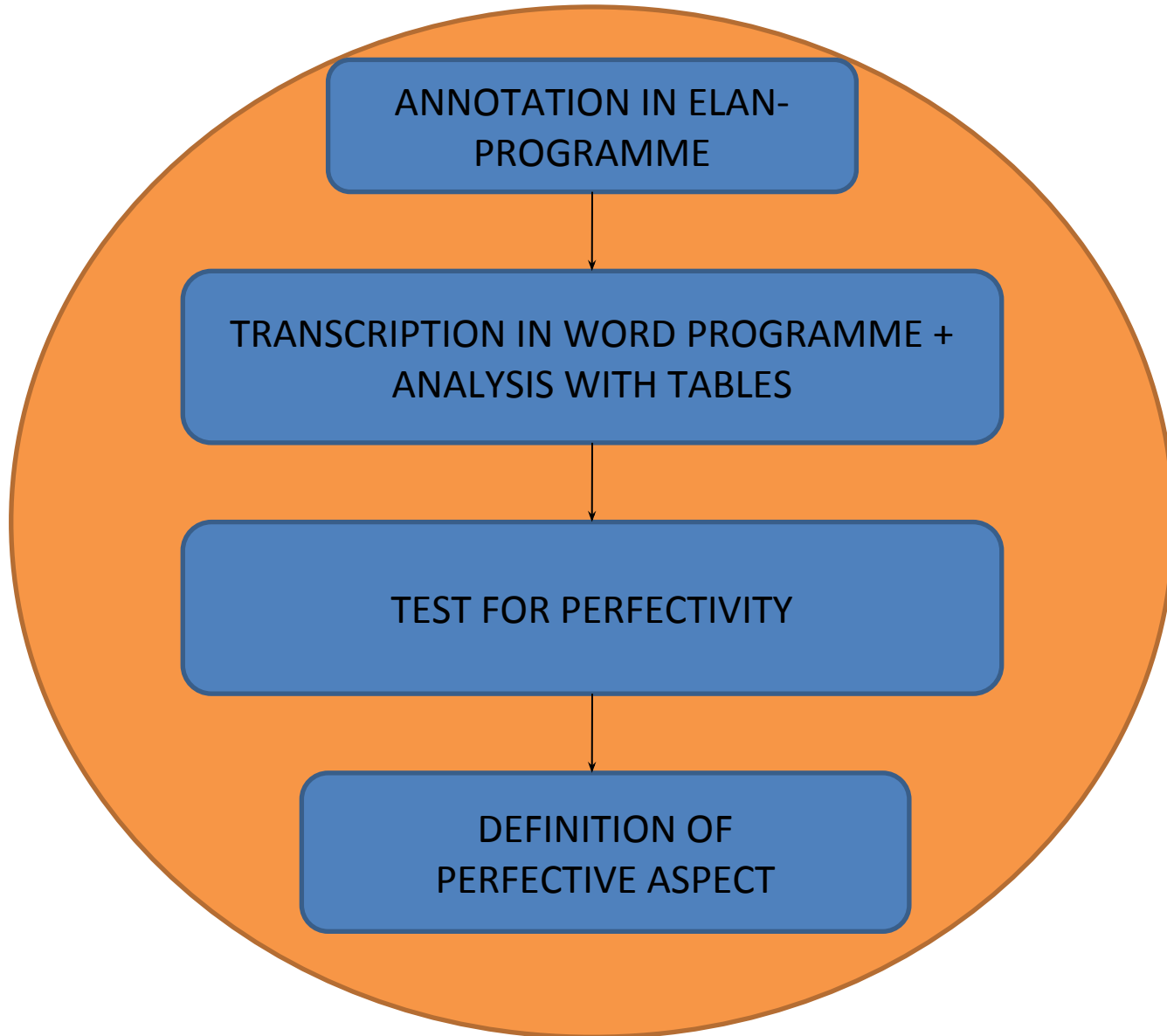
=> “it is a lexical-syntactic phenomenon, not an instance of morphological suffixation”

Rissanen (1998) has suggested:

Sign JO (‘already’) may be a candidate for tense-marker because it is used only in past context (e.g. after verbal)

It might belong to tense category (if FinSL used that)

RESEARCH METHOD



DATA

- 4 videos
 - => FAD's video newsletters 2
 - => FAD's Internet-TV 2

(total duration about 35 minutes)
- Signers are Deaf people whose mother tongue/first language is FinSL
- Signed monologues and dialogues:
news, interviews, documents etc.

ELAN

Elan - kulttuuripäivät_logo.eaf

File Edit Annotation Tier Type Search View Options Window Help

Grid Text Subtitles Audio Recognizer Video Recognizer Metadata Controls

perfektiivinen aspekti ennen verbaalia

Nr	Annotation	Begin Time	End Time	Duration
1	JO	00:00:12.339	00:00:12.529	00:00:00.19
2	JO	00:00:36.090	00:00:36.380	00:00:00.29

00:00:36.090 Selection: 00:00:36.090 - 00:00:36.380 290

Selection Mode Loop Mode

00:00:30.000 00:00:31.000 00:00:32.000 00:00:33.000 00:00:34.000 00:00:35.000 00:00:36.000 00:00:37.000 00:00:38.000 00:00:39.000 00:00:40.000

glossit [146] A-L-V-A-R A-A-L-T-O V LII "semmoinen" TEEMA MIE SITTE OS-3- TOIMIK PIIRTÄ KUV JOT TUO KYHÄT O V JO AALTO

perfektiivinen aspe [2] JO

perfektiivinen aspe [1] VALMIS

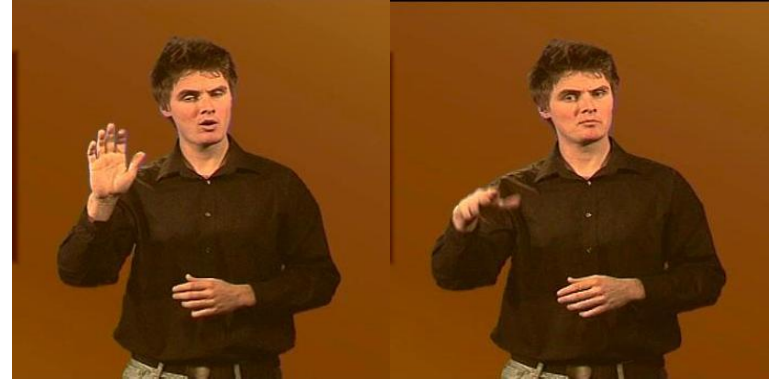
perfektiivinen aspe [1]

huulio [4] valmis jo

TABLE

	JO	VALMIS	LOPPU
PRE-VERBAL			
AFTER VERBAL			
OTHER ORDER			
TOTAL			

JO (‘already’)



- Many different mouthings:
 - [oli] ‘was’
 - [ollut] ‘been’
 - [jo] ‘already’
 - or the suffix of the verb
- Common feature: Mouthing refers to the past

VALMIS ('ready') and LOPPU ('end')



Pre-verbal JO (‘already’)

TUESDAY HE JO NORMAL SCHOOL GO

‘On Tuesday he went to the school as usual.’

2) THEN INDEX-“circle” COMMITTEE JO DRAW PHOTO...

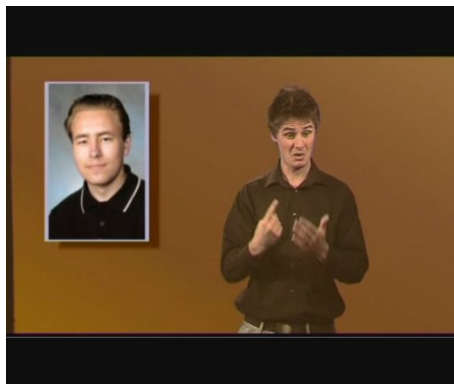
‘Then the committee drew a photo...’



After verbal JO

3) EVENT INDEX-2 PART PUPIL INDEX-4-3 WINDOW SEE **JO** SEE
'Some of the pupils saw the event from a window.'

4) YES INDEX-4-3 KNOW-ALREADY **JO** WHAT HAPPEN EARLIER...
'Well, you probably know/knew already what happened earlier...'



After verbal VALMIS (‘ready’)

- 5) ...INDEX-1 GO-“in turns” VALMIS VOCATION INDEX-1 GIVE-2-1 VALMIS
‘...I worked and studied in turns. I graduated for my job here.’
- 6) VERY-MUCH THANK SHOW INDEX-“circle” VALMIS, INDEX-1 GO
‘Thank you very much for showing this place, I’ll go now.’



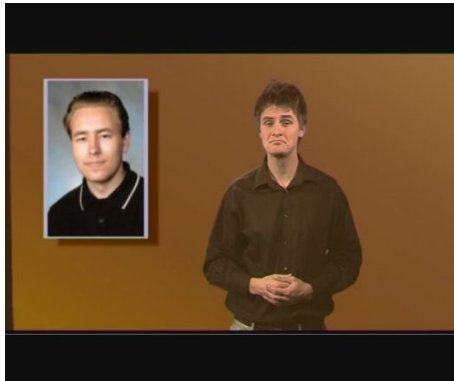
Other order: JO, VALMIS, LOPPU

7) MANY PUPIL INDEX-4-2 JO LUNCH HOUR
'Many pupils were on lunch break.'

8) INDEX-4 STUDY WHOLE INDEX-4 VALMIS...

...IT-IS-WORTH APPLICATION INDEX-4 LATER 2011 JANUARY 17TH DAY TIME UNTIL LOPPU

'When the studies have been completed...it is worth applying it until January 17th 2011.'



RESULTS (N=53)

	Jo	VALMIS	LOPPU
PRE-VERBAL	31		
AFTER VERBAL	8	6	
OTHER ORDER	2	5	1
TOTAL	41	11	1

Do these fulfil the criteria for perfectivity?

- 1) Bounded event (completed)
- 2) Can be presented both in past and future time
- 3) Narrative advancement can be found but it is not compulsory
- 4) Incompatible with stative reading (this viewpoint can vary with a language)

1) BOUNDED EVENT (COMPLETED)

- 6) VERY-MUCH THANK SHOW INDEX-"circle" VALMIS, INDEX-1 GO
'Thank you very much for showing the whole place, I'll go now.'
- + INDEX-1 EAT LOPPU, INDEX-1 OUT-GO
'When I have eaten, I'll go out.'

Clear completed event (The whole event which has process)

- 1) TUESDAY HE JO NORMAL SCHOOL GO
'On Tuesday he went to the school as usual.'
- 3) EVENT INDEX-2 PART PUPIL INDEX-4-3 WINDOW SEE JO SEE
'Some of the pupils saw the event from a window.'

=> **Terminated event (individual stage, not completed event)**

TERMINATED ↔ COMPLETED (Meir 1999)

I DO-HOMEWORK ALREADY

‘I have done my homework’ (i.e., I finished doing my homework).

10) I ALREADY HOMEWORK FINISH

‘I have (already) completed my homework.’

My data:

11) MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER HE JO MESSAGE WRITE VALMIS

‘He wrote the message (ready) on Monday 5th November.’

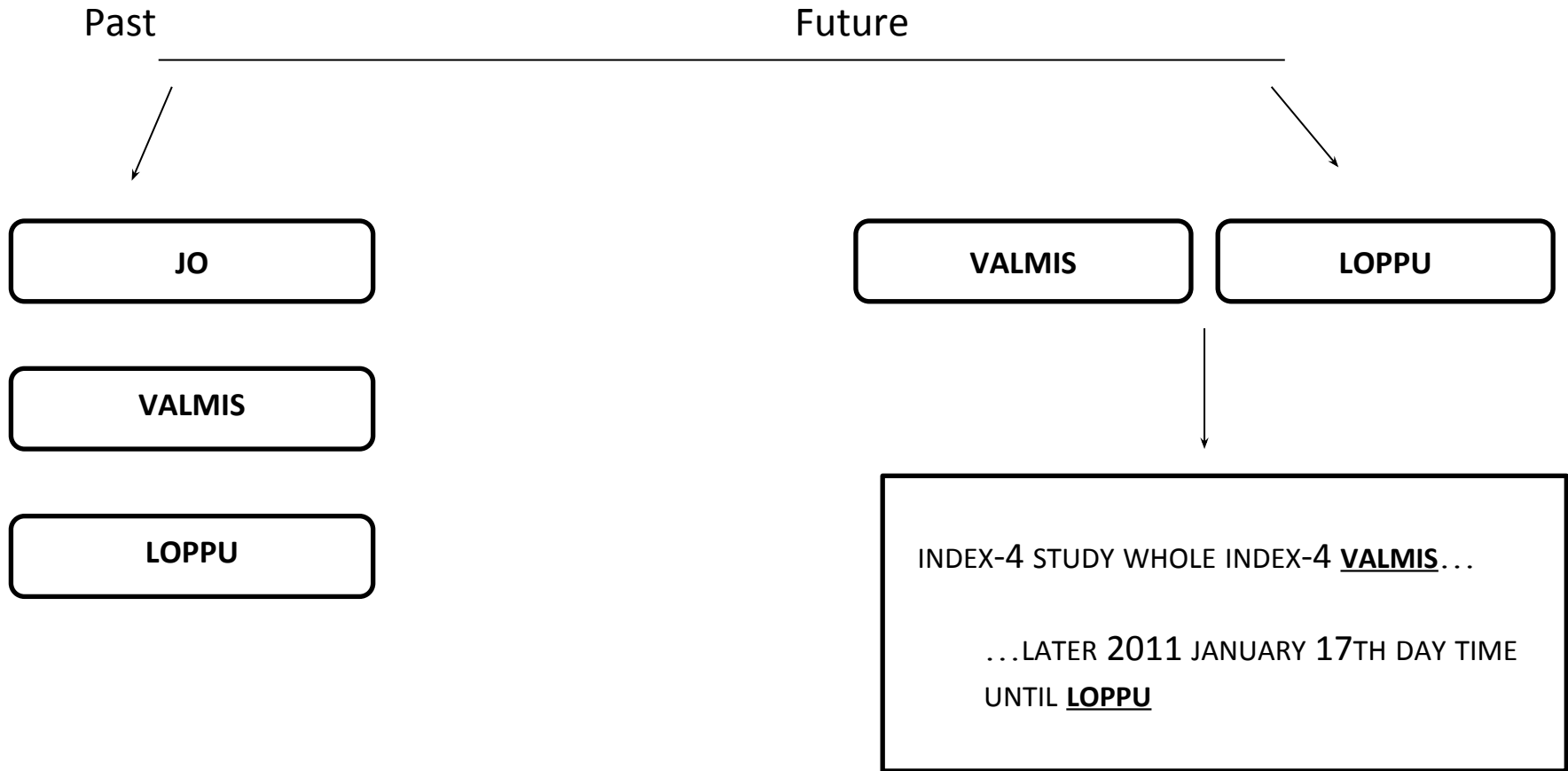
12) EVENT PROBABLY JO PLAN JO

‘The event had probably been planned.’

My suggestion:

After verbal JO can (with dynamic verbal) also include completed event

2) PAST AND FUTURE TIME



3) NARRATIVE ADVANCEMENT

6) VERY-MUCH THANK SHOW INDEX-"circle" VALMIS, INDEX-1 GO

+ INDEX-1 EAT LOPPU, INDEX-1 OUT-GO

1. EVENT COMPLETED



2. EVENT CAN START

After verbal JO can also:

INDEX-1 EAT JO, INDEX-1 OUT-GO

4) INCOMPATIBLE WITH STATIVE READING

Sign JO => often stative verbals around

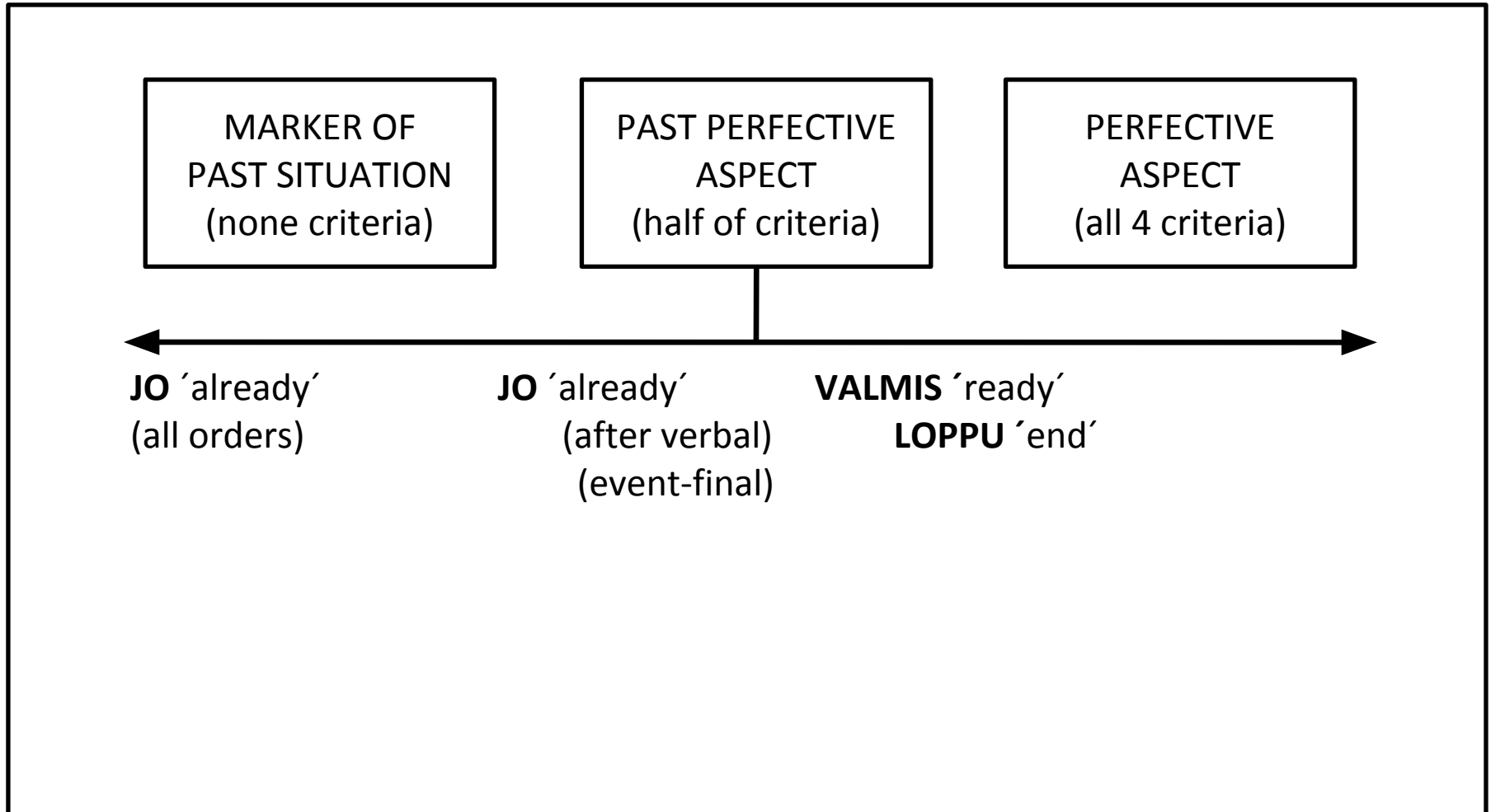
KNOW
ORDER
TRY
HAVE TIME
Etc.

often  compatible with stative reading

Sign VALMIS or LOPPU

no  often compatible with stative reading

RESULT OF TEST



CONCLUSION

1. & 2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

VALMIS 'ready' + **LOPPU** 'end'

in ending of event => **PERFECTIVE ASPECT**

Jo 'already'

all orders => **MARKER OF PAST SITUATION**

after verbal => **PAST PERFECTIVE ASPECT**

FURTHER STUDY + QUESTIONS

Phonological level (mouthing and head nod)

Sign variations

Real meaning => when it's concerned only particle (adverb)

Other ways to express perfective aspect

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