

Instructions

The following fragments of text are presented to the participants before they start working on the questionnaire (except for the underlined headings in bold, which are supposed to aid the orientation of the reader):

Introduction

Dear participant,

many thanks for being willing to take part in my study! This questionnaire is supposed to help me investigate how languages express time. In the following, I will ask you to do some translations from English into your language. You can pause the questionnaire at any time and then continue at a later point, if need be.

Language

1. *Please indicate which language you will be using in this questionnaire.*
2. *Please indicate your level of proficiency in your language.*
 - *first language learned as a child*
 - *second language learned as a child*
 - *linguist entering results of field research*
 - *language not learned as child*

Instructions

*Next you will find a number of short text segments in English. For each segment, please read the entire text first, so that you get a sense of the scenario. Then translate **the bold part** into your language using an alphabetic keyboard. Try to imagine that you're translating for a friend that speaks your language. For every translation, please put the part of the sentence that you consider to be the verb in CAPITALS. Importantly, this is not a grammar test - there is no right or wrong. What I am interested in is your intuitive knowledge of your language.*

Below you can find an example of how your translation is supposed to look like. I used my native language German for this example.

*Text segment: Please don't disturb me. **I'm working right now.***

Translation: Ich ARBEITE gerade.

For some fragments, there might be multiple ways to translate them into your language. If this is the case, please write down the different translations in separate rows. If possible, try to explain what you think the difference is between the translations.

If there is anything else that you think might be relevant, feel free to add comments below your translation.

After having filled out the questionnaire, participants are presented with the following message:

End

You have translated all fragments. If you have any further comments, please indicate them here.

This is the end of the survey. Your responses have been recorded. Many thanks again for participating. Your helpfulness is very much appreciated!

In the following, the two English versions of the questionnaire will be presented. Importantly, the numbering of items is supposed to categorize them according to the semantic distinctions they target, and to facilitate the analysis by assigning a specific number to each item. In practice, the questionnaire items should be presented to the participants in a randomized order.

Similarly, any fragment in non-italic font below is supposed to aid the orientation of the researcher and should not be presented to the participants: the underlined and bold headings refer to the category a given item belongs to, while the non-underlined, bold headings refer to the specific combination of semantic distinctions targeted by a given item. The fragments below each heading which are not in bold correspond to the lexical items used to represent actional class and time reference in each item.

The fragments in *italics* correspond to the actual questionnaire items presented to the participants. As already indicated in the instructions, the parts that are not in bold represent linguistic context supposed to “nudge” participants towards a certain semantic interpretation; they do not have to be translated. The fragments in bold correspond to that part of a given item which has to be translated.

Version A

Inceptive copular states

1. **result-focus inceptive copular state remote past**
when I was a child, be angry
*One time when I was a child, I broke my favorite toy, so **I was really angry**. But then my mother comforted me.*
2. **result-focus inceptive copular state recent past**
just now, be tired
***I was really tired just now**, but this coffee woke me up.*
3. **result-focus inceptive copular state present**
(right) now, be angry
I'm really angry right now!
4. **result-focus inceptive copular state near future**
in a minute, be tired
*I didn't sleep well last night. I'm functioning at the moment, but **in a minute I will be really tired**.*
5. **result-focus inceptive copular state remote future**
someday, be angry
Someday, I will be angry at the wrong person.
6. **change-focus-inceptive copular state remote past**
when I was a child, get tired
*One time when I was a child, I didn't feel like talking a walk with my parents in the evening. **I had gotten tired** because I had been playing all day.*
7. **change-focus-inceptive copular state recent past**
just now, get angry
*A: What was wrong with you just now?
B: **I had gotten angry** because my sister lied to me, and I was still sulking.*
8. **change-focus inceptive copular state present**
right (now), get tired
*I don't know why, but **I got really tired just now**.*
9. **change-focus inceptive copular state near future**
in a minute, get angry
*I'm warning you! I'm still calm, but **I will get angry very soon**.*
10. **change-focus inceptive copular state remote future**
someday, get tired
Someday, I will get tired at the wrong moment.

Inceptive verbal states

11. **change-focus inceptive verbal state recent past**
just now, get to know
*A: **I got to know X just now!**
B: Is she nice?
A: She's really nice!*
12. **result-focus inceptive verbal state present**
know (person)
***I know X**. He's a good neighbour.*

13. change-focus inceptive verbal state near future

in a minute, get to know

I'm so excited! I will get to know X in a minute.

Homogeneous activities

14. total-view homogeneous activity remote past

when I was a child, stand

One time when I was a child, I was very sad: I stood in a corner for an hour and just cried.

15. total-view homogeneous activity recent past

just now, sleep

What time is it? I have been sleeping until now.

16. total-view homogeneous activity near future

in a minute, stand

Right now, I'm still in bed - but in a minute from now, I will be standing at the bus station and then catch my bus to work.

17. total-view homogeneous activity remote future

someday, sleep

I never get enough sleep. But someday, I will sleep for 8 full hours!

18. partial-view homogeneous activity remote past

when I was a child, stand

One time when I was a child, I was standing in the corner while my brother was playing.

19. partial-view homogeneous activity recent past

just now, sleep

When X came into the room just now, I was sleeping.

20. partial-view homogeneous activity present

(right) now, stand

[on the phone] Can't you see me? I'm standing over here!

21. partial-view homogeneous activity near future

in a minute, sleep

I'm so tired! I will be sleeping in a minute from now.

22. partial-view homogeneous activity remote future

someday, stand

Someday, I will be standing in the audience while you're singing!

Heterogeneous activities

23. total-view heterogeneous activity remote past

when I was a child, dance

One time when I was a child, I danced with my mother for hours.

24. total-view heterogeneous activity recent past

just now, work

Let me tell you what happened just now: I worked in my room for an entire hour, and then I called you.

25. total-view heterogeneous activity near future

in a minute, dance

I'm still sitting, but in a minute from now, I will be dancing until the sun comes up.

26. total-view heterogeneous activity remote future

someday, work

I am very ambitious. Someday, I will work for someone important.

- 27. partial-view heterogeneous activity remote past**
when I was a child, dance
*One time when I was a child, I **was dancing** while my sister was watching.*
- 28. partial-view heterogeneous activity recent past**
just now, work
*When X came into the room just now, I **was working**.*
- 29. partial-view heterogeneous activity present**
right (now), dance
*Please don't disturb me - I'm **dancing**!*
- 30. partial-view heterogeneous activity near future**
in a minute, work
*What is it that you wanted? In a minute from now, I **will be working** and won't have the time to talk to you.*
- 31. partial-view heterogeneous activity remote future**
someday, dance
*Someday, I **will be dancing in my garden** while my grandchildren are watching.*

Quantified-object accomplishments

- 32. total-view quantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, plant the flowers
*One time when I was a child, I **planted the flowers** that she liked the most in my grandmother's garden. She was very happy about that.*
- 33. total-view quantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, clean the windows
*Please don't touch the glass. I **cleaned the windows just now**.*
- 34. total-view quantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, plant the flowers
*I **will plant the flowers in a minute**. I'm excited about how they will look in my garden.*
- 35. total-view quantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, clean the windows
*Someday, I **will clean the windows**. But not today.*
- 36. partial-view quantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, plant the flowers
*When I was a child, I **was planting the flowers** my father had bought me while he was watching me.*
- 37. partial-view quantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, clean the windows
*When X came into the house just now, I **was cleaning the windows**.*
- 38. partial-view quantified-object accomplishment present**
(right) now, plant the flowers
A: *What are you doing?*
B: *I'm **planting the flowers** you bought me.*
- 39. partial-view quantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, clean the windows
*In a minute, I **will be cleaning the windows** while you are doing the dishes.*
- 40. partial-view quantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, plant the flowers
*Someday, I will have a garden on my own. I **will be planting the flowers** that I like the most there while my husband is watching me.*

Unquantified-object accomplishments

41. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, clean windows
I've always liked doing housework. One time when I was a child, I was cleaning windows at our house all day. No one forced me to.
42. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, plant flowers
A: *What were you doing?*
B: *Well, I was planting flowers until you guys came in just now.*
43. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, clean windows
Right now, I'm still relaxing. But in a minute, I will be cleaning windows around the house until the sun goes down.
44. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, plant flowers
Someday, I will have a garden on my own. I will plant flowers and grow vegetables there.
45. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, clean windows
One time when I was a child, I was cleaning windows all around the house while my siblings were playing in the garden!
46. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, plant flowers
I was planting flowers just now while my sister was mowing the lawn.
47. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment present**
right (now), clean windows
A: *What are you doing up there?*
B: *I'm cleaning windows.*
48. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, plant flowers
A: *I'm cleaning the terrace while you're just sitting there watching!*
B: *Well, in a minute from now, I will be planting flowers while you are watching!*
49. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, clean windows
Someday, I will be cleaning windows while my children are doing their best to make them dirty again.

Achievements

50. **total-view achievement remote past**
when I was a child, fall
One time when I was a child, I fell and hurt my knee pretty badly.
51. **total-view achievement recent past**
just now, arrive
A: *How long have you been here?*
B: *I arrived just now.*
52. **total-view achievement near future**
in a minute, fall
I feel so unsafe on my feet! I will fall any minute.
53. **total-view achievement remote future**
someday, arrive
Someday, I will arrive at the place that I always dreamed of.

Habituality

54. **present habitual inceptive state**
be angry
For some reason, I'm angry all the time.
55. **present habitual non-inceptive state**
be nice
Have you met X already? She is nice.
56. **present habitual homogeneous activity**
stand
Every morning, I'm standing in front of my house.
57. **present habitual heterogeneous activity**
work
I work in the city.
58. **present habitual unquantified-object accomplishment**
plant flowers
Every spring, I plant flowers in my garden.
59. **present habitual quantified-object accomplishment**
plant the flowers
Every spring, I plant the flowers I bought the year before.
60. **present habitual achievement**
fall
I'm falling a lot these days. I don't know what is wrong with me.
61. **past habitual inceptive state**
but not anymore, be angry
As a young man, I used to be angry all the time. Today I'm more relaxed.
62. **past habitual non-inceptive state**
be American
X used to be American. But now he changed his nationality in the meantime.
63. **past habitual homogeneous activity**
used to, stand
I used to stand at the bus station every morning. Today I take the train to work.
64. **past habitual heterogeneous activity**
used to, work
Do you see that store over there? I used to work there, but I don't anymore.
65. **past habitual unquantified-object accomplishment**
used to, plant flowers
I used to plant flowers every spring. Today I plant vegetables.
66. **past habitual quantified-object accomplishment**
used to, plant the flowers
Every spring, I used to plant the flowers I had bought the year before. But nowadays I don't have the time anymore.
67. **past habitual achievement**
used to, fall
I used to fall a lot, but since I got my walking aid, it's gotten a lot better.

Genericity

68. generic state

be small

Insects are small.

69. generic event

eat grass

*You shouldn't feed cheese to the cow. **Cows eat grass.***

Performatives

70. order

leave the room

*[Judge to defendant:] Your comments keep disturbing the people watching. **I order you to leave the room!***

71. warning

leave the room

I'm warning you to leave this room! There is a wild animal somewhere in here.

Version B

Inceptive copular states

1. **result-focus inceptive copular state remote past**
when I was a child, be tired
*One time when I was a child, I **was really tired**.*
2. **result-focus inceptive copular state recent past**
a minute ago, be angry
*I **was really angry a minute ago**. But your smile made me forget about everything.*
3. **result-focus inceptive copular state present**
right (now), be tired
*For some reason I'm **really tired right now**.*
4. **result-focus inceptive copular state near future**
in a minute, be angry
*I **will be back home in a minute**. When I see the mess my dogs have caused, I **will be very angry**.*
5. **result-focus inceptive copular state remote future**
someday, be tired
***Someday, I will be very tired**. But not today!*
6. **change-focus-inceptive copular state remote past**
when I was a child, get angry
*One time when I was a child, I wasn't in a good mood. I **had gotten angry** because I didn't get my favorite food for breakfast, and I stayed angry for the rest of the day.*
7. **change-focus-inceptive copular state recent past**
just now, get tired
A: What was wrong with you just now? You were quite rude to X.
*B: Well, I **had gotten tired**. I had been working all day and didn't have the time to have a nap before I met her.*
8. **change-focus inceptive copular state present**
(right) now, get angry
*I was happy until now - but when I saw that somebody stole my bike, I **got angry!***
9. **change-focus inceptive copular state near future**
in a minute, get tired
*I'm still awake, but I **will get tired in a minute**.*
10. **change-focus inceptive copular state remote future**
someday, get angry
*Stop teasing me like that! **Someday, I will get very angry at you**.*

Inceptive verbal states

11. **change-focus inceptive verbal state recent past**
just now, find out
A : Where will the meeting take place?
*B: On the second floor. I **found out just now**.*
12. **result-focus inceptive verbal state present**
know (fact)
A: The meeting will take place on the second floor.
*B: I **know**.*
13. **change-focus inceptive verbal state near future**
in a minute, find out
A: Where will the meeting take place?
*B: I'm not sure, but I **will find out in a minute**.*

Homogeneous activities

14. **total-view homogeneous activity remote past**
when I was a child, sleep
*One time when I was a child, I **slept for 12 hours!***
15. **total-view homogeneous activity recent past**
just now, stand
*How could you not see me just now? I **was standing right next to you!***
16. **total-view homogeneous activity near future**
in a minute, sleep
*I'm so exhausted. I will be home in a minute, and then I **will be sleeping for 10 hours!***
17. **total-view homogeneous activity remote future**
someday, stand
*When I look at these famous musicians, I always think: **someday, I will stand on that stage myself** – at least for an hour or so.*
18. **partial-view homogeneous activity remote past**
when I was a child, sleep
*One time when I was a child, I **was sleeping** while my father was doing the housework.*
19. **partial-view homogeneous activity recent past**
just now, stand
*Let me tell you what happened just now: I **was standing in the corner** while everybody else was dancing.*
20. **partial-view homogeneous activity present**
right (now), sleep
*A: Please be quiet. I'm **sleeping**.*
B: Well, you're obviously not sleeping!
A: Well, but I'm about to sleep.
21. **partial-view homogeneous activity near future**
in a minute, stand
*I'm always the first one to start dancing. But **in a minute from now, I will be standing in the corner** while everybody else is dancing!*
22. **partial-view homogeneous activity remote future**
someday, sleep
*Someday, I **will be sleeping** on my terrace while my grandchildren are playing in the garden.*

Heterogeneous activities

23. **total-view heterogeneous activity remote past**
when I was a child, work
*When I was a child, I **worked as a professional dinosaur hunter for a day.***
24. **total-view heterogeneous activity recent past**
just now, dance
*Let me tell you what happened just now: I **danced in my room for an entire hour**, and then I called you.*
25. **total-view heterogeneous activity near future**
in a minute, work
*Right now I'm relaxing, but **in a minute I will be working until late at night.***
26. **total-view heterogeneous activity remote future**
someday, dance
*Someday, I **will dance with my wife at our wedding.***

27. **partial-view heterogeneous activity remote past**
when I was a child, work
One time when I was a child, I was working in the garden with my mother while my father was repairing the house.
28. **partial-view heterogeneous activity recent past**
just now, dance
When X came into the room just now, I was dancing.
29. **partial-view heterogeneous activity present**
right now, work
Please don't disturb me. I'm working right now.
30. **partial-view heterogeneous activity near future**
in a minute, dance
What is it that you wanted? In a minute from now, I will be dancing and won't be in the mood to talk to you.
31. **partial-view heterogeneous activity remote future**
someday, work
Someday, I will be working while my grandchildren are playing outside.

Quantified-object accomplishments

32. **total-view quantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, clean the windows
One time when I was a child, I cleaned the windows at our house together with my father.
33. **total-view quantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, plant the flowers
Look! I planted the flowers you bought me just now.
34. **total-view quantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, clean the windows
I will clean the windows in a minute.
35. **total-view quantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, plant the flowers
Someday, I will have a garden on my own. I will plant the flowers that I like the most there.
36. **partial-view quantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, clean the windows
One time when I was a child, I was cleaning the windows while my brother was mopping the floor.
37. **partial-view quantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, plant the flowers
A: What happened to the flowers and plants I bought you?
B: Well, I was planting the flowers just now – while my dog was barking at me! He didn't seem to like them very much.
38. **partial-view quantified-object accomplishment present**
right (now), clean the windows
Right now is not a good time. I'm cleaning the windows.
39. **partial-view quantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, plant the flowers
In a minute, I will be planting the flowers while you are watering the plants.
40. **partial-view quantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, clean the windows
I admit, it is you who is doing all the housework at the moment. But someday, I will be cleaning the windows while you're just sitting there and watching!

Unquantified-object accomplishments

41. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, plant flowers
*One time when I was a child, I **planted flowers together with my mother in our garden.***
42. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, clean windows
A: *What were you doing?*
B: *Well, I **was cleaning windows** until you guys came in just now.*
43. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, plant flowers
*Right now, I'm still relaxing on my terrace. But **in a minute, I will be planting flowers in my garden** until the sun goes down.*
44. **total-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, clean windows
*Someday, I **will be cleaning windows at my house** until no dirt or dust is left.*
45. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote past**
when I was a child, plant flowers
*When I was a child, I **was planting flowers in our garden** while my father was watching me.*
46. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment recent past**
just now, clean windows
*Let me tell you what happened just now: I **was cleaning windows** while my sister was watching TV!*
47. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment present**
(right) now, plant flowers
A: *What are you doing in the garden?*
B: *I'm **planting flowers!***
48. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment near future**
in a minute, clean windows
*In a minute, I **will be cleaning windows around the house** while you're taking care of the dishes.*
49. **partial-view unquantified-object accomplishment remote future**
someday, plant flowers
*Someday, I **will be planting flowers in our garden** while my wife is watching.*

Achievements

50. **total-view achievement remote past**
when I was a child, arrive
*One time when I was a child, I **arrived too late to school.***
51. **total-view achievement recent past**
just now, fall
A: *Ouch, my knee hurts!*
B: *What happened?*
A: *I **fell just now!***
52. **total-view achievement near future**
in a minute, arrive
*[on the phone] Please wait for me! I **will arrive in a minute.***
53. **total-view achievement remote future**
someday, fall
*I'm tripping all the time. Someday, I **will fall.***

Habituality

54. **present habitual inceptive state**
be tired
I'm tired all the time. I don't know why that is.
55. **present habitual non-inceptive state**
be American
X is an American.
56. **present habitual homogeneous activity**
sleep
I'm usually sleeping at night.
57. **present habitual heterogeneous activity**
dance
Every Saturday, I am dancing in the street.
58. **present habitual unquantified-object accomplishment**
clean windows
A: What do you for a living?
B: *I clean windows.*
59. **present habitual quantified-object accomplishment**
clean the window
I clean the windows every Sunday.
60. **present habitual achievement**
arrive
I arrive to work at 9 every day.
61. **past habitual inceptive state**
used to, be tired
I used to be tired all the time. But since I changed my way of living, it's gotten better.
62. **past habitual non-inceptive state**
be nice
X used to be really nice. But he's become a bit grumpy since.
63. **past habitual homogeneous activity**
used to, sleep
I used to sleep at the strangest hours. Today I have a more regular rhythm.
64. **past habitual heterogeneous activity**
used to, dance
I used to dance all the time. Today I'm not as energetic anymore.
65. **past habitual unquantified-object accomplishment**
used to, clean windows
I used to clean windows for a living. Today I have a job that is paid better.
66. **past habitual quantified-object accomplishment**
used to, clean the windows
I used to clean the windows at our house. Today, this is my husband's job.
67. **past habitual achievement**
used to, arrive
I used to arrive too late to meetings all the time. Today I'm more punctual.

Genericity

68. **generic state**
be small
Insects are small.

69. generic event

eat grass

*You shouldn't feed cheese to the cow. **Cows eat grass.***

Performatives

70. performative: order

leave the room

*[Judge to defendant:] Your comments keep disturbing the people watching. **I order you to leave the room!***

71. performative: warning

leave the room

***I warn you to leave this room!** There is a wild animal somewhere in here.*