GREAT
Welcome on behalf of...  

The Time in Translation Project

PIs  |  PhD  |  Post-Docs
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Many affiliated BA, MA and PhD students
Write a semantics of the PERFECT.

> Five languages (3 Germanic, 2 Romance)

> Account for distribution at the sentence level, in narration and in dialogue

> Compositional (HAVE/BE + past participle)

> Methodology: back and forth between theory and data

Translation Mining (corpus-based) + native speaker experiments
Translation Mining
la grammaire est un système où tout se tient

Understanding the PERFECT requires us to understand the tense/aspect systems of languages in their entirety...
Translation Mining

Data from translation corpora allow us to compare tense/aspect systems of languages and study them in detail.
Example 1: translations of Camus’ *L’Étranger*, Chapter 1
ENGLISH

Perfect

Simple Past
DUTCH

Perfect

Simple Past
GERMAN

Perfect

Simple Past
Translation Mining

Using data from translation corpora to compare tense/aspect systems of languages and study them in detail.
Example 1: translations of Camus’ *L’Étranger*, Chapter 1

> Sliding scale

> Strong grip on the data
Translation Mining

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Example 1: translations of Camus’ *L’Étranger*, Chapter 1

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Translation Mining

Using data from translation corpora to compare tense/aspect systems of languages and study them in detail.

Example 1: translations of Camus’ *L’Étranger*, Chapter 1

Example 2: translations of PERFECTs in Camus’ *L’Étranger*
Translation Mining

Using data from translation corpora to compare tense/aspect systems of languages and study them in detail.
Example 1: translations of Camus’ *L’Étranger*, Chapter 1

Example 2: translations of PERFECTs in Camus’ *L’Étranger*

Example 3: translations of Harry Potter, Book 1, Chapter 1
ENGLISH

Simple Past

Past Continuous

Present

Pluperfect

Perfect
FRENCH

Simple Past

Imparfait

Present

Pluperfect

Perfect
Simple Past
Imparfait
Present
Perfect
Pluperfect
Translation Mining

- Aspectual class
- Dialogue
- SOT
- Modality
- Syntax
- ... Often driven by theoretical intuitions.
  But these are not always sufficient.
Translation Mining beyond Time in Translation
Translation Mining beyond TinT

Many phenomena can be dealt with, given proper care (referentiality, negation, etc.).

Relevant data for Second Language Acquisition

- From a generative perspective (e.g. FRH)
- From a usage-based perspective (moving beyond L2 input and studying frequency, contingency and prototypicality of L1<->L2 mapping patterns)
Time in Translation and GREAT
“An explanatory theory of temporal interpretation should constrain the number of logically possible tenses and aspects, while at the same time predicting the diversity of spatiotemporal predicates that surface crosslinguistically to express temporal relations”
Enjoy the workshop!

And visit us at https://time-in-translation.hum.uu.nl/