Marius Velică, *Aspects of Aspect*, Galați, Zigotto, 2012

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Anyone who has ever tried to understand the English verb – even for a short period of time – could not emphasise enough the importance of understanding the English Aspect. Placing this issue under scrutiny, Marius Velică's book represents a salutary endeavour which comes to contribute to the general effort of the linguistic community to further explain the ramifications that rise when analysing the English Aspect from one perspective or another.

The book is organised into eight chapters and it approaches the English Aspect in a progressive manner: from a classical and a little old-fashioned analysis with clear and unquestionable conclusions to a somehow modern comprehension of what aspect means, what it does and how it acts in communication in terms of the laws governing its behaviour. As the author confesses, the book has its origin in a rather narrower approach to aspect. He was originally concerned with finding ways of translating the English Progressive Aspect into Romanian. He eventually decided to adopt a more general view; thus, the first chapter of the present book is concerned with outlining some preliminary remarks regarding the time-tense-aspect relationship. Chapter 2 analyses from a grammatical viewpoint what happens when using the Progressive Aspect with the Indicative, the Subjunctive, the Conditional and the Imperative Moods. The third chapter focuses on the grammatical, lexical and semantic behaviour of the English verbs in terms of Aspect offering a classification of verbs according to their

lexical aspect as well as an analysis of verbs that are not usually used with the Progressive Aspect. The fourth chapter is dedicated to modal verbs and their specific ways of expressing various aspects with a special subsection that pays attention to their relation with the Progressive Aspect. Chapters 5 and 6 approach the Perfect Aspect with focus on the concepts such as Perfective, Imperfective, Habitual and other aspectual values. The author's interest in translation resurfaces in the seventh chapter which has a strong applied nature as it addresses problems of translating the Imperfective into Romanian. As expected, the last chapter is dedicated to drawing the conclusions. This chapter comprises no less than 37 main conclusions many of them consisting, on their turn, of multiple sub-conclusions; the manner in which the author organizes this final chapter transforms it in a somehow independent resource concerning the English Aspect that could be consulted up to a point on its own without reading the whole book.

The pinpointed structure of this book, the clearly delineated conclusions as well as the richness of examples that come to sustain the theoretical component recommend Marius Velică's *Aspects of Aspect* as a useful tool for studying the inherent intricacies of the English verb.