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Verbal Inchoative Meaning in Linguistic Categories (Based on the English and Kyrgyz Languages)

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ABSTRACT

The contribution deals with studying the functional and cognitive aspects gaps connected with the content and formal constituent parts of the verbal semantic aspectual category, phasal meanings, and means that form inchoative semantics in English and Kyrgyz languages. The aspectual space in language, represented by a universal conceptual aspectual category and corresponding semantic categories in certain languages, is a controversial and little-studied concern in linguistics today. The purpose of this study is to analyze verbal inchoative meaning in correlation with conceptual and linguistic semantic categories and means of its expression in different-systemic languages — English and Kyrgyz. The research involves the linguistic method with the interpretive approach to the study of aspectual phenomena, distributive method, the method of quantitative analysis, the empiric method, the comparative analyses method, and the functional-semantic method. The

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scientific novelty of research consists in recognizing that the aspectual space of English and Kyrgyz languages is built on the relations of non-oppositional difference. The core zone structures of the functional-semantic fields (FSFs) of the inchoative meaning in the two languages differ: in English, this field is monocentric, whereas in Kyrgyz, it is polycentric. The findings expand further understanding language functioning as the main tool of human psychological activity and communication, and contribute to modern typological and cognitive investigations in cross-linguistic aspectual studies. The results can be applied in teaching English and Kyrgyz languages, as well as in developing innovative methodology with mental maps application containing possible content and means of expressing verbal inchoative semantics.

Highlights:

- The study investigates inchoative semantics in English and Kyrgyz within a functional-cognitive framework, focusing on the interrelation between conceptual, semantic, and grammatical levels of aspectual meaning.

- It identifies that the aspectual space of both languages is organized according to the principle of non-oppositional difference, representing a new approach to typological contrastive studies.

- The analysis reveals that the functional-semantic field (FSF) of inchoative meaning is monocentric in English and polycentric in Kyrgyz, reflecting different linguistic models of aspectual structuring.

- The research applies a complex methodology combining functional-semantic, distributive, comparative, and quantitative methods to explore aspectual phenomena in depth.

- The findings contribute to cross-linguistic studies of aspectuality and can be implemented in teaching English and Kyrgyz, as well as in designing innovative mental map–based teaching methodologies.

Keywords: Conceptual and Semantic Categories; Aspectual Space; Inchoative Meaning; Functional-Semantic Field

1. Introduction

Language is an integral part of cognition and nowadays, is regarded as a complex cognitive process that is no longer considered a closed autonomous system like in traditional grammar[1]. The newest theory of language and research methodology is being worked out[2]. Appealing to the problem of linguistic categories semantics is mostly connected with the inclusion of the human mental sphere — the level of conceptual entity — in Linguistics research. It is this sphere that contains all speakers' common knowledge base, serving for language functioning. The categorial organization of this level is represented by such cognitive processes as reception, memory and thinking that are closely connected with language. Linguistic categories, being the arranging principles of thinking, reproduce the properties and relations of existence and knowledge in a universal and highly concentrated form[3].

Linguistic categories have a semantic base, as means of language are grouped in categories according to their meaning, lexical or grammatical. We find in Sergeeva N. that linguistic categories are meaning categories, i.e., they are semantic categories. We will refer to linguistic categories

with the functional approach that regards language as a tool for different functions' realization in the process of communication and thinking. In this study, language units rendering the inchoative meaning are regarded close to the context they are used in, not taken separately[4].

The functional approach to linguistic categories assumes that knowledge and its units are represented in language in the form they are used in verbal communication for rendering, receiving or changing information[3]. Currently, investigating any linguistic category, semantic or grammatical, is commonly covered in the frame of the cognitive approach. It is assumed that in studying the cognitive function of language, one regards the processes of language production and comprehension, cognitive structure types and their language representation, as well as linguistic and conceptual categories[5].

The verb aspect category perspective is a controversial and little-studied concern in linguistics today. Though reviewed concepts on the verb categories and semantics continue to appear nowadays[6–8], the issue of aspectual relations remains debatable. Within general verbal aspectual studies, there are tendencies to attribute the aspect category characteristics not so much to the verbal form proper as to the whole

utterance or categorial situation with its predicate core. It increases the relevance of studying the functional-semantic field of the inchoative meaning in different systemic languages, like English and Kyrgyz, as hypothetically its outlying sphere is composed not by verbal predicates but by means of other language levels' units. The novelty of the current investigation is to explicitly structure and describe in the comparative aspect, the functional-semantic field (FSF) of the inchoative verbal meaning in the English and Kyrgyz languages. These data have not been encountered before.

The characteristic feature of linguistic typology is cross-linguistic comparison [9]. Language universal typological exploration is based first of all on fundamental conceptual categories, whilst the functional grammatical approach to the study of certain languages builds directly on language semantic functions. The approach developed on the functional grammar axiom, provides an opportunity to demonstrate the relations and interdependence of multilevel functional-semantic categories. It will promote connecting language and speech phenomena into a single whole [10]. Regarding the correlation of conceptual and semantic categories, we could argue that they are identical. Semantic categories are the foundation for the typological study of languages in the frame of Functional semantic field theory [11].

This study aims to investigate the gaps connected with principles of arranging the aspectual space and types of relations occurring inside it in different systemic languages — English and Kyrgyz. The object of investigation is singling out the functional-semantic field of the initial phase of the verbal action meaning in the English and Kyrgyz languages. Namely, structuring and describing the FSF of the verbal inchoative semantics and means of its expression in the English and Kyrgyz languages.

Regarding the most important views on the aspectual space perspective in language, this study states that it is not enough to represent the aspectual category meaning as a separate FSF. The aspectual space constitutes a system, the elements of which are represented by several FSFs expressing the course of the action distribution in time. Aspect, being the most central and important grammatical category of the aspectual space in Slavic languages, is commonly regarded as an opposition of perfect/imperfect, for example, in Hripsime A. Derdzakyan [12]. The current study shows that the functional analyses of oppositional and non-oppositional

aspectual meanings can be applied to other languages with a different structure, with a different correlation between the morphology and syntax.

In the context of most fundamental views in Linguistics, the current contribution assumes that the semantic category of methods of the verbal action (MVA) is represented in language by aspectual subclasses correlated with the lexical meaning and is not identical to the category of aspect correlated with the grammatical meaning. The hypothesis we argue for is that phasal meanings, the action beginning included, are related to the sphere of the qualitative aspectual space, namely, to the peripheral components of the aspectual system. The initial phase of the verbal action is regarded here as a separate FSF inside this system. Verbs denoting the beginning of the action are generally represented as inchoative, ingressive and inceptive; they possess specific features and these designations are not synonymous.

The results and findings can be applicable in further typological linguistics research, aspectual studies, functional grammar teaching, as well as in translation studies.

2. Theoretical Framework

The functional-semantic approach in the comparative typological study of languages and certain linguistic phenomena is quite justified, as shown above. This approach is assumed to be rational in the aspectual category investigation and the inchoative functional-semantic category study too, as different language levels means and methods, in their entirety and interaction, are involved in rendering this category meaning. It was long ago when the Dutch linguist Simon Cornelis Dik defined the functional-semantic approach to language as a constituent of the General theory of any language's grammatical arrangement. Since then, language has been regarded from the point of view of its functioning [13]. Mathesius, Jacobson, Boduen de Kurtene, Balli, Nedyalkov, Siewierska, Melchuck, Dressler and many other scientists are proponents of this linguistic methodological principle. This approach facilitates the study of the language's predicative, syntactic and utterance structures' norms. Investigating a semantic category is impossible without the simultaneous study of its functional-semantic field properties, wherein the latter represents the two-lateral (content-formal) unity formed by grammatical (morphological and syntactic) means

of the language, along with interacting with them, lexical, lexical-grammatical and word-forming elements that belong to the same semantic zone, one of the aspectual zones[11]. The followers of this methodology continue applying its specific features in today's studies. Siutkina N.P., analyzing the functional-semantic approach and the concept of the functional-semantic field, states that language functions and principles are universal. It facilitates investigating semantics within the concept of FSF in languages[14].

The verbal lexica in language represents a special type of linguo-cognitive categorization of the information perceived from the surrounding world as a result of world cognition. This linguo-cognitive categorization, being a means of the verbalized arrangement, is conditioned by the ability to reflect the sequential change of phenomena, duration and characteristics of the action from the point of view of the distribution of its course over time, which becomes the object of the study within the framework of the functional semantic aspectual category[15].

Speaking of the aspectual meaning, it can be regarded as a conceptual category and a semantic one. Here, some words about the difference between conceptual and semantic categories. In modern linguistics, conceptual and semantic categories are sometimes regarded as equivalent notions without separating cognitive from linguistic. We do not support this idea after other linguists[3]. Indeed, conceptual categories, being more abstract and universal, correlate first of all with the mental activity, they are categories of consciousness. Semantic categories exist only in language. Conceptual categories represented in all languages present the basis for typological investigation of different systemic languages. In analyzing ways of expressing them by means of linguistic semantic functions, we can find identical and different features in languages. Semantic categories, in their turn, represent the base for investigating different language levels within the FSF category.

The conceptual aspectual space is represented in many languages, as it is a universal field in its own way. This conceptual aspectual field can be expressed in different ways and by different linguistic means in different systemic languages, giving rise to the existence a corresponding semantic aspectual category. Thus, we understand that the conceptual field of the aspectual category in a certain language is composed of some semantic, lexical and grammatical (morphological) cat-

egories. The field can comprise the morphological category of aspect (like in the Russian and some other Slavic languages), verb aspect group formations characterized by not full grammaticalization (like in native American languages), verb aspect forms' elements with aspect-tense meaning (like in English, German, French), combinations with phase verbs (like in Russian, English, Kyrgyz), by some analytical aspect constructions (like in English), by Aktionsarten (like in Russian) and others[11].

Every FSF requires a semantic dominant that serves as a basis for its structuring. Commonly, the semantic dominant of the aspectual category of FSF is the character of the course and distribution of the verbal action over time, first mentioned by Peshkovskij A.M.[16]. We agree with Ismailova G.K., who says that aspect is a way of seeing the situation[17]. As mentioned above, the aspectual meanings in the general sense can be regarded as a conceptual field, thereby highlighting their universal nature and cognitive content in different languages. In making the aspectual FSF projection in a certain language, different levels of the language under study can be involved, and the nucleus of this FSF is assumingly the morphological aspect category, as mainly, aspectual meanings are accumulated in the verbal predicate. The aspectual system space comprises some categories, the nature and interconnection of which can be analyzed. Characteristics of the course and distribution of the verbal action over time — telicity/atelicity of the action, presence/absence of the inner limit, action as a limited process or an integral fact, action multiplicity, duration, phase, perfection — find their expression first of all in the verb group and verbal predicate itself[18]. But this approach faces a number of discrepancies.

Firstly, the aspect being a conceptual category does not find its expression as a morphological category in many languages. If in a number of Slavic languages (Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Bulgarian, etc.) we can say that the core of the aspectual field is the morphological category of aspect represented by the opposition of perfect/imperfect[19], the existence of this category in English, German and Kyrgyz, for instance, remains a question. Thus, the aspectual category as a functional semantic category includes not only grammatical elements but also lexical ones, which represent methods of the action distribution over time[20]. Aspect concerns the linguistic representation of the "internal" temporal

properties of a situation [21].

Secondly, nowadays, the aspectual semantic category is viewed not as one FSF, as some time ago, but as a complex of FSFs, each of which possesses the mentioned above property — the multiplicity of the course and distribution of the verbal action over time. It is this approach that takes into consideration all the peculiarities of the systemic organization of the aspectual space. To fully characterize the nature of the aspectual semantic category, let us think of the idea of the system: "…the system represents an abstract scheme as a variety of concrete elements with a definite number and type of relations among them" [22]. All the elements are joined together but have a certain degree of isolation and independence from one another. The same concerns the aspectual semantic space: we can regard the FSF elements comprised in it separately, meanwhile, the connection among them exists in any case.

We cannot regard the aspectual semantic category as an FSF with a polycentric structure as its constituents are not separate categories but groups of FSFs, such as limit or telicity, duration, multiplicity, perfect, action, state, relation, phase and others, with a combination of language means. These FSFs are in a certain intercorrelation but possess some independence [11]. In this investigation, we show that the FSF of phase, namely methods of the verbal action (MVA) included in this FSF, correlates with the FSF of limit or telicity.

In the Western tradition of functionalism, the term State of affairs (SoAs) is often used, which correlates with the notion of MVA in the Russian theory of functional grammar [23]. Such situations are designated as the core predication and are regarded from the position of the internal time and agency presence. Thus, we speak about the analyses of the predicate's MVA. Predication is viewed as the designation of SoAs (an action, process, position or state) of a certain type. But predication by itself cannot relate to some SoAs, to some factual event, until this event finds its confirmation in some space-temporal relation in the utterance. So, the characteristics of the event are directly connected with the utterance or linguistic expression, not with a concrete situation that occurred once in the real world. The state of affairs represents a kind of reality coded by means of grammatical linguistic units [23].

Typology of the event characteristics takes a special place in the functional grammar. It takes a holistic approach to the categories of aspect and tense, as it describes in detail the nature of the interaction of lexically expressed MVA (Aktionsart) and the grammatical aspect. Like any semantic category, aspect can be regarded both as a grammatical category and a conceptual universal category represented in all languages. The opposition of perfect/imperfect is one of the main characteristics that characterizes the aspectual relationships in language when we speak of aspect. The grammatical categories of perfect/imperfect in Slavic languages, common and continuous in the English language, are only variants of the concrete realization of the general division [23].

We report here that the means of expressing aspectual zones semantics go well beyond the morphological category of aspect. The same idea we find in Kabakchiev K. [24], where he demonstrates how aspect is realized across languages. He says that, seemingly in VA languages, there is no difference in aspect effectuation: aspect is realized directly by the verb. Moreover, we find that a complex interaction between tense, mood and aspect exists cross- linguistically. But factual material shows there are other nonverbal means of rendering this semantics. Our study proves this idea.

Till now, MVA as a subclass in the aspectual field has not found a clear-cut status across languages. The idea of Aktionsart was devised by K. Brugman [25] back in 1885, as an equivalent to the idea of the verb aspect in the Russian language. This term, as a cross-language equivalent of verbal aspect, was used till 1908 when Siguard Agrell [26], a Swedish professor of Slavic languages, published his work "Aspektanderung und aktionsartbildung beim polnischen zetworte" in which he distinctly separated the idea of the verb aspect and MVA. The term MVA designates semantic functions of prefixed verbs that specify how the action is performed, or the method of its performance [26]. From this point of view, the idea of MVA is very close to the idea of Aktionsart. The latter does not deal with grammar and is regarded only from the position of the verb semantics, specifically of the semantic properties of the verb tense, thereby differing from the idea of aspect Agrell spoke about in his thesis in 1908 as a category dealing just with the verb telicity/atelicity [27].

So, means of expressing inchoative meanings lie outside the scope of pure Aktionsart. It is worth noting that the presence of the Aktionsart category is doubted in English [28]. In English linguistic literature, we find that the actionsart category is correlated with the notion of lexical aspect [29]

that is opposed to the grammatical aspect[21], though the question of the identity of these concepts arises.

There is another no small issue: the correlation between phasing and aspectuality, which creates a disagreement among scientists. Phasing is regarded either as a component of aspectuality or as an autonomous category. A special focus in this research lies in singling out implicit means of inchoative meaning expression in the English and Kyrgyz languages. The challenge is in the following: from one side, the inchoative meaning expresses the beginning of a new action or state but simultaneously it expresses a completed action that has achieved its limit. This research shows that phasing in English constitutes a separate category different from the grammatical and lexical aspects. We state here that the Aktionsart category does not exist in English; moreover, the notion of lexical aspect is not identical to the Aktionsart category. The structure of the functional-semantic category of the inchoative semantics is presented not only in the plane of expression but in the plane of its rendered content as well.

The same theory we applied to the study of the aspectual space in the Kyrgyz language. There are its own analytical and synthetic means of the aspectual semantics expression in the Kyrgyz language. The issue of the verbal inchoative semantics in the Kyrgyz language has not received a clear regarding till now. The study of Sadyrova G.K., for example, gives a typological comparison of inchoative verbs in the Russian and Kyrgyz languages without an explicit structuring of the semantic category's FSF in the Kyrgyz language and without explaining the correlation between the conceptual aspectual category and the corresponding semantic category rendering the inchoative MVA in the Kyrgyz language[30]. Thus, gaps remain and require fresh ideas.

This study regards the main aspectual categories in the Kyrgyz language, stating that the category of the verbal aspect as well as the category of MVA, find their expression in the Kyrgyz language, which is contrary to Derbisheva[31], who says that the categories of aspect and tense of the Kyrgyz verb are transformed into a single aspect-tense system. The problem of aspectologists who study the issue about the presence of the verb aspect category in the Kyrgyz language is in the fact that they compare, this one way or another, aspectual relations existing in the Kyrgyz language with the opposition of perfect/ imperfect in the Russian language not taking into consideration that there can exist non-oppositional differences in the aspectual meanings of different systemic languages.

Regarding opinions of some aspectologists and analyzing means of expressing aspectual semantics in sampling, we arrive at the conclusion that the category of the verbal aspect in the Kyrgyz language is represented by the relations of non-oppositional difference among its constituents[32,33]. For example, the suffix -*й* can express instant actions and the transition to a new state in different kinds of contexts; it can express the inchoative semantics as well. The suffixes -*ңда, -ңдө, -ңде, -ңдө* serve for expressing iterative actions, but in some contexts, the suffix -*ңда* can express habitual and durative actions.

So, the aspectual differences shown briefly above are realized within one and the same semantic unity — the course of distribution of the action in time. It proves the idea of the relations of non-oppositional difference among the constitutive parts of the aspectual semantics sphere, here in its inchoative sphere. These relations are based on the principle of natural classification: the course of distributing the action over time is a general notion in relation to the existing verbal forms expressing the character of the action distributing, whether it is single, iterative, durative, semelfactive or limited.

The MVA category in the Kyrgyz language is considered word-forming and represents lexical-grammatical classes of words (the suffixes -*ылда*, -*кыра* add inchoative semantics to the lexical meaning of the verb). Another peculiarity of the Kyrgyz language is the absence of the infinitive; the form of the second person in the Imperative Mood can express the inchoative semantics (*жүгүрүп кетүү, чуркап чыгуу*). The main Kyrgyz verb expressing the beginning of the action, state or process is *баштоо*. The analyses show that the inchoative semantics can be expressed without this verb as well by means of other not inchoative verbs due to the context. We also noticed that in scientific literature on this topic, no attention is paid to the subdivision of the beginning verbs into the subgroups mentioned in this study: inchoative, ingressive, and inceptive. The samples regarded in the study show that an explicit qualitative aspectual semantics is present in the Kyrgyz language.

The results and findings provide a deeper understanding of the language and can be applicable in further typological linguistics research, aspectology and functional grammar

teaching.

3. Methodology

3.1. Materials

To conduct the research, a wide range of sampling was used. Out of 750 linguistic samples, 400 were taken from English fiction and 350 from Kyrgyz prose of the 20th century. For the English language, works of English and American novel writers were used, such as J. Austen, E. Bronte, Ch. Dickens, T. Dreiser, E. Hemingway, H. Merville, G. Orwell, O. Wilde. For the Kyrgyz language, a number of works of the Kyrgyz writer Ch. Aitmatov was used. All in all, more than 750 units of factual material were regarded and analyzed. Corpus sampling was random as it is considered the most reliable and reflects data in an unbiased manner. The genre and period of fiction analyzed did not matter much, as language aspectual space is universal at least at the conceptual level.

3.2. Procedure

The research involves methods founded on categorial semantic elements. Those are known since the last century as ones that pay considerable attention to the original meaning and formal means of its expression. The aim is to single out universal meaning tasks and establish a set of formal means for their solving. The analyses from the meaning to the form do not exclude the analyses from the form to the meaning: their interaction facilitates modelling speech activity of the speaker and listener, that is the category semantics components can be viewed as the center or core and the periphery; prototypes and their environment; invariant/variant, etc. Such a vision makes the category elements relations analyzable according to their function[11].

The investigation included a combination of methods. The linguistic method with the interpreting approach to the study of aspectual phenomena, which presupposes the analysis of the language semantics proper. The distributive method is facilitated by the surroundings of the language unit. The method of quantitative analysis was adapted to sampling, helping single out regularities and symmetries in the languages concerned. The empirical method involves comparing the new knowledge with traditional views. The comparative analysis method allowed us to analyze the inchoative

semantics rendered in the two systemic-different languages to see the identity and difference. It is the complex of analyses that can promote getting true results.

4. Results

4.1. The Functional-Semantic Field of the Inchoative Meaning in the English Language

4.1.1. The Core Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

English verbs of the beginning belong to the sphere of phase determination. In this study we differentiate 3 types of beginning action verbs.

Inchoative. A peculiarity of such verbs is that the presence of telicity covers only the beginning of the action, while the action itself can continue; certain properties accumulate promoting the change of the situation. *"Here is April come!" said she, "I **get** quite **anxious** about you"* (Aitmatov, "Jamilya").

Ingressive. Verbs of ingressive type designate the action, the beginning and end of which present a single entity. This type only shows the action's appearance, there is no show of the action's development. Here we just have the actional content and no statal one: *I knelt and **started to pray** and prayed for everybody I thought of* (Hemingway. "The sun also rises"). Ingressive verbs in English are often accompanied by post-position particles: *Someone asked Georgette to dance, and I **went over** to the bar* (Hemingway. "The sun also rises").

Inceptive. This phase of beginning differs from the ones mentioned above: the first features of the action beginning are shown in the phase of developing, *"He **starts to fall** asleep."* In English, this type is rare, and the semantics is expressed by analytical means

Given a common term for all the types of beginning verbs, we state here that the inchoative meanings in the English language can be represented as a monocentric FSF situated in the peripheral part of the qualitative semantic aspectual category zone, namely in the phase FSF as one of the aspectual micro-fields. The center of this FSF is represented by the semantic invariant that combines linguistic means of different language levels, interacting for the expression of the inchoative semantics. This inchoative semantic invariant

is referred to here as a specific category and cannot be identified either with the aspect category, grammatical or lexical, or with MVA, as it does not express the course of the action distribution in time proper, but just indicates the fact of the beginning phase appearance. The latter is realized by means of verbal predicates *begin, start, commence, inchoate, and initiate*. Depending on the noun in the context these verbs interact with, we characterize the beginning of the process or the transition to a new state.

*The music **started** and Robert Cohn said: "Will you dance this with me, Lady Brett?* (Hemingway. "The sun also rises"). The verb *start* is a notional verb here. The beginning of the action is directed to the noun *music*, along with it, we speak about the beginning of a new state: it was quiet — one state, then the music started — a qualitatively new state.

It should be noted here that regarding the verbs *begin, start, and commence* as the main means of expressing the phase aspect in English is quite justified. These verbs possess different shades of inchoative meanings and differently characterize the initial phase of action. As Parfenova says (2009), *to initiate the project* and *to launch the project* render different phases of the beginning of the action: in case of *initiate,* it is a question of the beginning of the project working out, in case of *launch,* it is a question of the beginning phase of the project implementation. Besides, one should also consider stylistic peculiar features of these phase verbs. *Start* and *begin* are most neutral in this sense and are come across in all the genres and styles. The use of the verb *commence* is more characteristic of fiction. The verbs *initiate* and *launch* are more peculiar in publicist texts.

4.1.2. The Near-Core Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

The near-core zone comprises lexical-grammatical means of inchoative semantics expression. As a rule, these are constructions with the verbs *begin* and *start* + infinitive or gerund, as well as constructions with the verb *become.*

> *The grass **began to grow** upon the roof, and in the crevices of the basement paving* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The inchoative meaning is expressed here by the compound verbal predicate, where *began* points out that the action started, and the infinitive *to grow* bears the lexical meaning and characterizes a new state.

> *The grain **was** just **beginning to ripen** and the fields were full of poppies* (Hemingway. "The sun also rises").

Here, a gradual transition into a new state is realized by means of the verb *begin* in the Present Continuous Tense. The verb *to ripen* also contains the inchoative semantics in its lexical meaning. The suffix *-en* implies transiting into a new state, which is a feature of the inchoative meaning.

> *...and I **started to think** about Brett and all the rest of it went away. I was thinking about Brett and my mind stopped jumping around and **started to go** in sort of smooth waves. Then all of a sudden, I **started to cry**. Then after a while **it was better** and I lay in bed and listened to the heavy trams...* (Hemingway. "The sun also rises").

The verb *started* in combination with the infinitive *to think* characterizes the change of the emotional state and thinking processes. *Started to cry* – the transition into another physiological state. *Was better* means 'became better', *then after a while* assures in this transition.

> *...though **beginning** to feel myself rather an old married man, and that my dancing days are over...* (Austen. "Emma").

Using Participle 1 from the verb *to begin*, expresses another feature of inchoative semantics – intensification of the action.

> *"Upon my word", said Emma, "I **begin to doubt** having any such talent"* (Austen. "Emma").

The verbs *to feel* and *to doubt* are statal, in combination with the verb *to begin,* providing the beginning of the action and the completion of its initial form.

> *The party itself seemed **to get colder** and **colder**, and **to be gradually resolving** into a congealed and solid state, like the collation round which it was assembled...* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The auxiliary verb *to get,* in combination with the adjective in the comparative degree, expresses the increasing gradation in transiting from one state into another, the begin-

ning of a new phase of the state.

> *A few minutes more, and Emma hoped to see one troublesome companion deposited in his own house, **to get sober and cool**, and the other **recover his temper and happiness** when this* visit *of hardships were over* (Austen. "Emma").

In this example, the combination of the verb *to get* with the homogeneous adjectives *sober* and *cool* does not express the intensification of the action, just the change of the previous state into a new one.

> *Solomon **looked a little graver** as he finished his dinner, and glanced from time to time at the boy's bright face* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The compound nominal predicate in this example expresses a physiological state, but the comparative degree of the adjective *grave* adds a shade of the inchoative meaning – 'began thinking' – and can express the beginning of a new phase of a state.

> *Her tone of voice arrested Florence, who **had started from her seat again**; and held her fastened to the spot...* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The verb *to start* in the Past Perfect Tense means changing of position in space: Florence was sitting, then stood up. *Had started* expresses the beginning and completion of the beginning phase of the new state. The same semantics is expressed in the following example.

> *"Will I go" she repeated, **turning very red**, and breathing quickly as she looked round at her mother* (Austen. "Emma").
> *Through the whole building white **had turned yellow**, **yellow nearly black**; and since the time when the poor lady died, it **had slowly become a dark gap** in the long monotonous street* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The construction *had turned yellow* means changing of color, that is, of the physical state. *Had become a gap* expresses a new state as well.

> *Paul closed his eyes with those words, and **fell***

> ***asleep*** (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The verb *fell* in itself does not contain the seme of inchoativity, but in combination with the adjective *asleep,* it becomes a phrasal verb and expresses this meaning.

> *He **got up** and looked out of the window* (Wilde. "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime").
> *After a fortnight Lord Surbiton **got bored** with Venice…* (Wilde. "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime").
> *Another time, in the same place, he **fell asleep**, and slept quietly for a long time* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

Here we see the coming of a new situation, a new state, and its continuation for a period of time: the category of MVA is closely connected with the categories of aspect and tense.

Thus, the main means of rendering the inchoative semantics in the English language are compound predicates in which the auxiliary verb can combine both with the indefinite form of the verb, being the verbal part of the predicate, and with the noun, adjective and participle, being the nominal part of the predicate. Inchoative semantics can be expressed in this zone by phrasal verbs as well.

4.1.3. The Close Periphery Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

This zone of FSF of inchoative semantics includes:

- *Lexical Means*

> *He **had risen**, as his farther had before, in the course of life and death, from son to Dombey…* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

Had risen it not used in its direct meaning, it does not mean the change of one space position (was sitting) into another (stood up). Nevertheless, the verb is considered to be inchoative here as it expresses transiting from one state (was poor) into another (became rich).

> ***When he saw** my horse's breast fairly pushing the barrier, he did put out his hand to unchain it …* (Bronte. "Wuthering Heights").

The verb *saw*, bearing no inchoative semantics by itself, renders here this semantics due to its contextual lexical meaning, expressing simultaneously the beginning of the

new situation ('began seeing') and the completion of its initial phase ('now he is seeing').

- Phraseological Syntactic Constructions

*After stating this curious and unexpected fact, Mr. Toots **fell into a deep well of silence*** (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

If we regard the meaning of each component of the construction in bold type separately, we will not find any seme of the inchoative meaning, but together they form the semantics to be interpreted 'got silent', 'began being deeply silent'.

*The Major, under cover of the dimness**, swelled, and swelled,** and rolled his purple face about, and winked his lobster eye, until **he fell into a fit of wheezing**, which **obliged him to rise and take a turn or two about the room**, before his fair friend could proceed* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The situation demonstrates a gradual accumulation of properties leading to changing of the situation. The beginning of the new phase is expressed by the construction *fell into a fit of wheezing* and *obliged him to rise*.

*Mrs. Pipchin's constitution wouldn't **go to sleep** without sweet-bread* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").
*I **sank back** in bed, and **fell asleep*** (Bronte. "Wuthering Heights").

Here, the inceptive semantics is expressed by phraseological constructions as well.

Thus, the lexical means of expressing inchoative semantics in the English language can be inchoative verbs proper, phrasal verbs and phrasal inchoative constructions.

4.1.4. The Far Periphery Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

- Syntactic Means

To syntactic means of expressing inchoative meaning can be related to analytical constructions with prepositions, conjunctions, adverbs, particles, etc.

*He was wishing to get the better of his attachment to herself, she **just recovering** from her*

mania for Mr. Elton (Austen. "Emma").

The particle *just* testifies that the action started, the particle *recovering* renders the transition into a new state and the initial phase of a new state.

*…he shook her heartily and gratefully by the hand, and **entered on** the subject…* (Austen. "Emma").

The preposition used with the verb with no common inchoative semantics adds this meaning and can be interpreted 'started reasoning'.

*He **rose up**, looking eagerly at the horizon* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

Here, the preposition adds the inchoative semantics: changing of position gives the initial phase of a new situation. The same is in the following:

*The count **stood up*** (Hemingway. "The sun also rises").
*As he watched… Winston **had a curious feeling** that this was not a real human being…* (Orwell. "1984").

By means of the complex syntactic construction introduced by the conjunction *as*, a gradual transition into a qualitatively new state is expressed.

- Contextual Means

*For a moment, the **closed eye lids trembled**, and **the nostril quivered**, and the faintest shadow of a smile was seen* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The sequence of the actions described in the situation demonstrates the beginning of the action *trembled* and *quivered* after what the smile was seen.

*Mrs. Martin had told her one day (and **there was a blush as she said it**) that it was impossible for anybody to be a better son* (Austen. "Emma").

Here, the context facilitates interpretation of the semelfactive construction as the initial phase of a new physiological state.

*I **thought him very plain at first**, but **I do***

not think him to be so plain now (Austen. "Emma").

The context prompts that after some time the opinion began changing, and now I started not to think as before.

*But he certainly had a sense within him, that if his wife **should sicken and decay**, he would be very sorry…* (Dickens. "Dombey and son").

The modal verb *should* in this context forms the meaning of the beginning of further actions.

*With diligence and good luck, he **may be rich in time*** (Austen. "Emma").

The adverbial modifier *in time* in this context adds the inchoative semantics to the utterance.

*No one had **made him feel better*** (Hemingway. "For whom the bell Tolls").

The context forms the meaning of the beginning of the action, the whole sentence bears this meaning as well.

The analyses shows that the contextual means in English rendering the inchoative semantics can be grouped. The most widely used is the sequence of actions or events, and the bearer of the inchoative semantics in such cases is one of the predicates. As to the subject of actions, there can be one or several. The next group is represented by the verb *to make* when the whole construction expresses the beginning of the action. And the third group comprises constructions expressing cause-effect links where the inchoative verb acts as either cause or effect, and is involved in a complex sentence with an adverbial clause of time.

4.2. The Functional-Semantic Field of the Inchoative Meaning in the Kyrgyz Language

4.2.1. The Core Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

The FSF of the inchoative semantics in the Kyrgyz language is a loose one with several cores that can express one meaning. There is no certain grammatical category in its center as a bearer of the inchoative meaning. Kyrgyz verbs in the first form can contain the inchoative meaning due to the ability to express telicity/ atelicity in different contexts. We assume after Makhtanova (2005) that the core zone of the inchoative semantics covers the verbs which imply the

inchoative meaning due to the absence of suffixes expressing multiplicity, duration and atelicity of the action.

*Бетинен жыштер куюлуп, мандайындагы кан тамырлар жарылып кетчудой **кабарган** …* (Aitmatov. "Jamilya").
'The veins **throbbed** on his dark, wet forehead' (translation is personal and unofficial).

The verb *кабар* contains the inchoative seme realized lexically. The seme of the beginning of the action is also expressed in the verb by absence of grammatical suffixes with other verbal aspectual characteristics: multiplicity, duration and atelicity of the action. Using the verb *кабар* in the form of the past, expresses in this context the fact of the appearance of the action, but not the action in process.

*Чу, аттарым, **ылдамда**! — деп, арабаны **тездеттим*** (Aitmatov. "Jamilya").
'Giddyap, my horses, **hurry up! —** I **sped up** the cart' (translation is personal and unofficial).

The verb, *ылдамда,* contains the beginning semantics realized lexically, in the verb *тезден* the transition to a new state is implied: now the cart is moving quicker.

Cognitive verbs form a micro field of the core zone of the semantic inchoative field.

*…Эдигей эчтеме уккан жок, бирок **түшүндү*** (Aitmatov. "Jamilya").
'Edigej couldn't hear but **understood**' (translation is personal and unofficial).

The verb, *түшүндү,* is cognitive and contains the inchoative semantics by default.

Another constituent of the inchoative field is represented by the constructions with the verb *баштоо* ('begin') that are used for describing the state changing. The constructions given represent analytical means of expressing the inchoative MVA in the Kyrgyz language.

*Жорго **ордунан** козголду, араба **кыйчылдап**, дөнгөлөктөр кара жолдо **кылдырттай баштады*** (Aitmatov. "Gulsarat").
'The pacer **has moved**, the cart **creaked**, the wheels **rattled**' (translation is personal and unofficial).

Another means of performing the function of the in-

choative MVA are the verbs derived from adjectives by means of the suffix *ap/p* which renders the transition into a new state:

> *Эдигей моюн толгой* **кабагын** *чытып, ого бетер* **түнөрдү** (Aitmatov. "Jamilya").
> 'Edigej **frowned** and **toughened up**' (translation is personal and unofficial).

One of the semantic micro fields forming the central zone of the inchoative meaning are non-finite constructions describing transiting to a new state. Verbal predicates with affixes *-ар/-а, -ык, -ай, -ша /-шы* are also included in this micro field. *Кыскар/ кыска болуу* —'to become short'.

There is another element of the FSF of inchoative semantics in the Kyrgyz language – constructions with the verb *чык* used in the function of the main verb. The verb in this function is telic and characterizes the beginning of the action, state, process.

> *«Чуур-р-р» —* **этип** *ышкырык* **чыкты** (Aitmatov "Betme-Bet").
> 'A shrilling whistle **erupted**' (translation is personal and unofficial).

The verb *чык* renders the action of moving out — *erupted,* and in combination with the noun *ышкырык* ('whistle') it acquires the inchoative semantics.

> *Тамдын кара шыбагы аяктаарда* **согуш чыкты** (Aitmatov "Betme-Bet").
> 'When the adobe walls were ready, the war **began**' (translation is personal and unofficial).

The suffixs *чык* performing the function of the main verb bears the inchoative semantics — 'began'.

> *Данияр биздин айылда жакында эле* **пайда болду** (Aitmatov "Jamilya").
> 'Daniyar **appeared** in our ail for the first time' (translation is personal and unofficial).

The inchoative meaning is expressed lexically by the compound verb *пайда болду.*

> *Мемиреп тынчый түшкөн вагондор бирин бири ойготкондой силкинишип, поезд* **ордунан козголду** (Aitmatov "Betme-Bet").
> 'The cars were rustling hard, and the train **set off** on its way' (translation is personal and un-

official).

The verb *козголду* by itself does not have markers of the inchoative semantics, but in this combination a telic action is supposed, expressing its initial phase.

Analyzing means expressing the core zone of the inchoative semantic category in the Kyrgyz language (see **Table 1**), we found some similarities with the English language despite the differences in the type and structure of these languages. In both languages the qualitative aspectual characteristics are represented in inchoative verbs. In both languages the aspectual features are represented by the non-oppositional relations and cannot be identified with perfect/ imperfect in Slavic languages.

Thus, means of expressing the inchoative meaning in the core of the field are in equipollent relations and form a loose center.

4.2.2. The Near-Core Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

This zone is represented by the elements of grammatical periphery – analytical constructions with auxiliary verbs. They express the main inchoative meaning and are considered non-morphological, as they do not form a paradigm. Besides, sampling demonstrates a close connection between the FSF of the inchoative semantics and the FSF of the state.

- *Lexical-Grammatical Means*

> *Мени көрө салып, Жамийла чукул* **бурулуп кетти** (Aitmatov "Jamilya").
> 'Seeing me, Jamil **turned** sideways' (translation is personal and unofficial).

An auxiliary verb *кет* in the analytical construction *бурулуп кетти* bears the aspectual inchoative meaning and expresses the direction of the action to the opposite side from the speaker by means of the verbal form *бурулуп.* The action is telic. The beginning of the action is accented by the context with the causal relations: Jamil turned sideways after seeing me.

> *Бирок, бир аздан кийин* **ал туруп кетип,** *нары суу аккан чоң сайдын тик ылдый түшкөн кашатына* **барып туруп алды** (Aitmatov "Jamilya").
> 'A short while later, he **rose** and **walked** over

to the river' (translation is personal and unofficial).

Турур кетип ('rose') indicates a change in action expressed analytically by means of the auxiliary verb *кет* changing the action into telic. The main lexical meaning is expressed by the verb *тур* ('to rise'). The construction *барып турур алды* ('walked') expresses the occurrence of the action; the lexical meaning is enclosed in the word form *барып*. Using two auxiliary verbs shows a gradually developing action. The context conditions the inchoative meaning as well: walked after rose. Constructions as *барып турур алды* are called three-member constructions showing different aspectual meanings, inchoative included.

Main means of expressing inchoative semantics in the near-root zone are shown in **Table 2**.

Table 1. Expressing inchoative semantics in the core zone.

Means	Frequency of using, %
Verbs of dual character with the inchoative seme	30%
Cognitive verbs	30%
Constructions with the verb *баштоо*	20%
Constructions with the verb *чык*	10%
Verbs with affixes *-ар/р, -ык, -ай, -ша/-шы*	10%

Table 2. Expressing inchoative semantics in the near-root zone.

Means	Frequency of Using, %
Auxiliary verbs with inchoative meaning:	
кет	15%
кал	15%
бол	11%
жибер	11%
кой	11%
кел	7%
ал	7%
Three-member constructions with *noun/ adjective +бол+auxiliary verb:*	
чык	4%
кыл	4%
түш	4%
көр	4%

4.2.3. The Close Periphery Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

In the sphere of the close periphery, we place word combinations expressing the inchoative meaning; they are formed by the syntactic linkages of government and apposition. The verb in these word combinations taken separately from the dependent word cannot express the inchoative meaning. Predicative structures of the simple and composite sentences are also situated in this zone.

> *…көзүм караңгылап жатты. Тигине Данияр токтой калып, ээрдин кесе тиштеп, көзүн жумду. Менин да башым айланып, жер көчүп бара жаткансыйт* (Aitmatov "Jamilya").

'…my vision was getting dark. Daniyar stopped, biting the saddle and closing his eyes. I also felt dizzy and the ground seemed to be moving.' (the translation is personal and unofficial).

The collocation *көзүм караңгылап жатты* ('my eyes went blank') expresses a physiological state change and the beginning of a new one. The collocation *көзүн жумду* ('screwed up eyes') expresses the beginning of the action too, it cannot be regarded as semelfactive: the action has not completed, it is keeping on. The word combination *башым айланып* ('I felt dizzy') expresses the physiological state change and contains the inchoative meaning. *Жер көчүп бара жаткансыйт* ('the ground began to slide from

under my feet') is a phraseological construction that contains the inchoative meaning. The compound verb *бара жаткан* taken separately from the noun *жер* will not contain the inchoative semantics: the progressing action will be expressed.

4.2.4. The Far Periphery Zone of the Inchoative Semantics

- Contextual Means

> *Ала-Тоо бийигине күн нуру **жайыла берди*** (Sidikbekov. "Mountain Aracinda").
> 'The sun slowly filled with its light mountain Ala-Too' (the translation is personal and unofficial).

The beginning of the action is evolutionary, the transition to a new state is gradual. The context implies this meaning as in another context analytical forms with the auxiliary verb *бер* express progressive actions.

> ***Аңгыча** тык **токтоду**, капилет бирдемеге кептелгендей эки колун серейте бооруна алып, чочоюп отура калды* (Aitmatov. "The day lasts more than a hundred years").
> 'Suddenly he stopped, hands on his chest, and trembled, sat down, stumbling upon something' (the translation is personal and unofficial).

The unexpectedness and telicity of the action is implied due to the adverb *аңгыча*. Without it, the verb *токтоду* will be deprived of the beginning semantics.

Kyrgyz verbs are characterized by duality feature: context can change a telic action to an atelic one. The sequence of changing actions and events, casual relations are considered contextual means of expressing the inchoative semantics in the Kyrgyz languages.

Thus, if the FSF of the inchoative semantics in the English language is represented by the monocentric structure, the FSF of the inchoative semantics in the Kyrgyz language is represented by the polycentric structure. Consequently, there are more components expressing the meaning of the beginning of the action in Kyrgyz than in English. The verbs in both languages which express mental, visual, auditory and sense perception, as well as emotional and physiological states are considered implicit markers of the inchoative meaning. This meaning is realized in the context, as the mentioned verbs have a dual character and can express either the meaning of telicity or atelicity in different contexts.

5. Discussion

These findings highlight cross-linguistic regularities in expressing inchoative meaning across typologically distinct systems, providing new insights into the universality of aspectual relations.

The purpose of the study is to describe the functional-semantic field of the semantic category of the inchoative semantics in the English and Kyrgyz languages. In comparison with the previous investigation of the aspectual relations, this contribution states that the aspectual space of the English and Kyrgyz languages builds on the relations of non-oppositional difference. The core zone structures of the FSFs of the inchoative meaning in the two languages differ: in the English language, this field is monocentric, in the Kyrgyz language, it is polycentric. This statement can be regarded as a novelty of the study.

In the English language, the main linguistic categories of the aspectual semantic field are the morphological category of aspect, the lexical category of aspect and the category of phasal aspect as a separate category. The opposition perfect/ imperfect, though present in English, is not considered morphological: its expression is realized by means of syntax and is defined by the predicate valency. The lexical aspect and verbal predicates within this category are based on the feature of the action telicity/ atelicity. The lexical aspect category is not identical to the methods of the verbal action category. Phasal verbal meanings, inchoative included, are referred to the sphere of qualitative aspectual semantics, though peripheral not central. The phasal FSF is represented in this study as a separate one in the qualitative aspectual space, as it does not designate the course of distribution of the action in time proper but just states the fact of one of the phases occurring.

In the Kyrgyz language, the aspectual space is represented by the methods of the verbal action category, which is considered a separate aspectual category. Kyrgyz auxiliary verbs bear aspectual meanings and express the inchoative semantics: verbs of mental and sense perception implicitly

express the inchoative semantics in a certain context due to their dual character.

The findings can be involved in further aspectual investigation in the languages in question. The peripheral zone of the inchoative semantics FSF is not completed, as means of expressing the beginning phase of the action and all its shades are numerous and even endless. Languages are subjected to regular processes, such as grammaticalization and simplification. New means of expressing meanings are certain to appear.

This cross-linguistic study helps reveal both universal and specific features of verbal systems in German and Turkish languages that enrich typological classifications, which can now be made not only on the basis of lexical and phonetic similarities but grammatical as well.

This study facilitates comparing the languages mentioned with other language families, that finally is of great importance for defining the linguistic picture of the world.

Besides, the study can be used in teaching the English and Kyrgyz languages, in developing innovative methodology with mental maps application containing possible senses (content) and means of expressing (forms) the verbal inchoative semantics. The results are recommended for using in translation investigation: for semantic shift and dissonance avoiding.

6. Conclusions

The relevance of the article is in combining achievements of comparative and cognitive linguistics. Comparative study detects convergence and divergence of two languages. Problems of cognitive linguistics – the study of the relationship between language and knowledge, investigation of processes of conceptualization and categorization of the world by linguistic categories.

These findings highlight cross-linguistic allomorphic and isomorphic features in expressing inchoative meaning across typologically distinct systems, providing new insights into the universality of aspectual relationship. The article shows that means of expressing language semantics are various and not constant. It opens up new perspectives in learning language functioning in the world cognition.

Author Contributions

All authors made significant contributions to the conception and design of the research, analysis, and interpretation

of the results. O.S. and D.T. conceptualized the study, developed the theoretical framework, and prepared the manuscript draft. T.Y. and B.A. contributed to data processing, linguistic analysis, and the critical revision of the paper. Z.B. and A.A. participated in the translation verification and final approval of the version to be published. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript. The authors agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work, ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Institutional Review Board Statement

This study did not involve human or animal participants; therefore, it did not require an institutional review board statement. The research is based exclusively on linguistic materials, corpora, and published academic sources.

Informed Consent Statement

Not applicable. This study did not involve human or animal participants.

Data Availability Statement

The datasets generated and analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. All linguistic data, including corpus examples and analytical tables, were obtained from publicly available academic and linguistic sources.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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