

Aorist and imperfect active participles in Bulgarian — a corpus-based study

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In the modern Bulgarian there are five types of participles: present active, aorist active, imperfect active, past passive, and gerund. Being a verbal form, participles can be marked for tense, aspect and voice, but they also may share some of the categories of the adjective as gender, number and definiteness. The imperfect active participle is an innovation in Bulgarian and a number of researchers share the opinion that its formation is connected to the grammaticalization of the category of evidentiality.

The paper aims at studying the functions of the aorist and imperfect active participles by using the empirical data of the Bulgarian National Corpus¹. After a short description of BulNC and its online search engine I will comment the results of a general search (by grammatical form, aorist and imperfect active participle of random lexemes), and a concrete search (by form of a given lexeme, including both frequent and rare lexical items). I will consider mainly the verbal usages of the participles and therefore I will analyze their temporal, aspectual and evidential characteristics. I will discuss different types of derivation of the participles: from aspectual verbal pair, i.e. *kazvam* — *kazha* ‘say’; from prefixed aspectual verbal pair — i.e. *pokazvam* — *pokazha* ‘show’; from imperfectiva tantum verbs — i.e. *pravya* ‘make’; from perfectiva tantum verbs, i.e. *napravya* ‘make’. The syntactic behavior of the participles will also be considered regarding the types of clauses in which they can be used.

¹ Bulgarian National Corpus (BulNC): <http://dcl.bas.bg/bulnc/en/>.