

The (non-) progressive in Thai*

Jiranthara Srioutai

Department of Linguistics, University of Cambridge

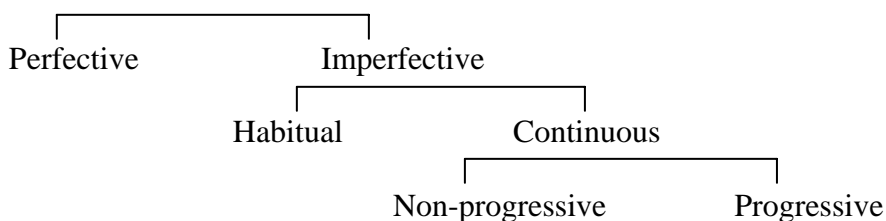
The lexical meanings of *k1aml3ang* and *y3u:I* are readily clear: ‘strength’ and ‘stay’, respectively. But when the two behave like auxiliaries, their semantics are not as transparent. They have been treated both as temporal markers conveying present time and as aspect markers specifying progressiveness, continuation, and imperfectivity. In this essay, the proposal that they tat

their occurrences in ordinary language use, with aspectual verb types and temporal measure adverbs taken into consideration, it is found that *k1aml3ang* and *y3u:I* are better seen as aspect markers conveying progressiveness and non-progressiveness, respectively. To represent *k1aml3ang* and *y3u:I* in Discourse Representation Theory, the aspectual operator PROG may be applied to the predicate.

1 INTRODUCTION

- (1) a. *k1aml3ang* VP
b. VP *y3u:I*
c. *k1aml3ang* VP *y3u:I*

From Bybee et al.’s (1994) remark that grammatical markings for the progressive aspect derive most frequently from locative constructions and tend to evolve as imperfective markers, it is expected that



* Special thanks go to my supervisor Dr. Kasia Jaszczolt and all my informants, especially Panna Chaturongkagul, Chirasiri Kasemsin and Charuwalee Huadmai.

¹ The Thai transliteration system used here is that which is found in Diller (1996).