

Maximilian Berthold

### Nominal Aktionsarten

Based on a convincing amount of semantic properties shared by verbal tense and the German temporal adjective *damalig*, I concluded in my last presentation that the adjective is a functional nominal tense. In this talk, I want to address what initially appear to be semantic differences between *damalig* and verbal tense. First, intuitions may suggest that *damalig* exhibits semantic restrictions with particular types of nouns such as *die damalige Milch* ('the milk at the time'). Second, German native speakers share the intuition that sentences such as *Der damalige Taxifahrer sang die ganze Fahrt* ('The taxi driver at the time sang the whole ride) is odd in contexts in which *damalig*'s reference time is close to the time of utterance (e.g., *yesterday/last week*). This behavior would be undesirable if we maintain the assumption that a nominal tense behaves like a verbal tense because verbal tense neither exhibits semantic restrictions with any verb classes nor distinguishes between particular event times. Instead, I will argue that the oddness in the given example is due to the inherent temporal properties of a specific set of nouns. I propose to extend the idea of 'Aktionsarten' to the nominal domain which aims to shed light on the internal temporal constituency of a particular noun. I will sketch an outline based on initial observations and raise questions that will have to be addressed to formalize this proposal.