Perfect in Lithuanian: An empirical study

This paper presents observations regarding the meanings and functions of the analytic (or analytical) perfect forms, traditionally called "compound tenses" (Lith. sudurtiniai laikai or sudėtiniai laikai), consisting of the verb būti ‘be’ and adjectival participles in Lithuanian. I will review the traditional interpretations of the analytic perfect forms and point out some remaining problematic issues. In light of the conclusions made in my previous studies, I am going to provide some explanations of the aspectual characteristics of the Lithuanian verbs and the basic tense-aspect system in Lithuanian. The main purpose of this paper is to observe the functional-semantic content of the Lithuanian analytic perfect forms by analyzing how this content correlates with aspectual properties of verbs. By referring to the contrastive analysis with Russian, I will try to give a more detailed explanation of the meanings and functions of the Lithuanian analytic perfect forms. Moreover, based on the results of a questionnaire that was carried out in Lithuania, I will offer an analysis of the divisions in the usage domain of the simple tense forms and the analytic perfect forms in Lithuanian.