

A model of TAM- semantics

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OUTLINE

1. point of departure: **why** (another) model of TAM-semantics?
2. the **model**
3. its **benefits**
4. its **problems**
5. conclusion

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS CONCLUSION

on the one hand

feature 'being claimed'
figures prominently in
T/A/M-research (Klein
1994, Palmer 2001:3f,
Pichler 2008, Bittner 2013,
cf. also Klein 2009:340f)

– even involving T+A+M
(Iatridou 2000)

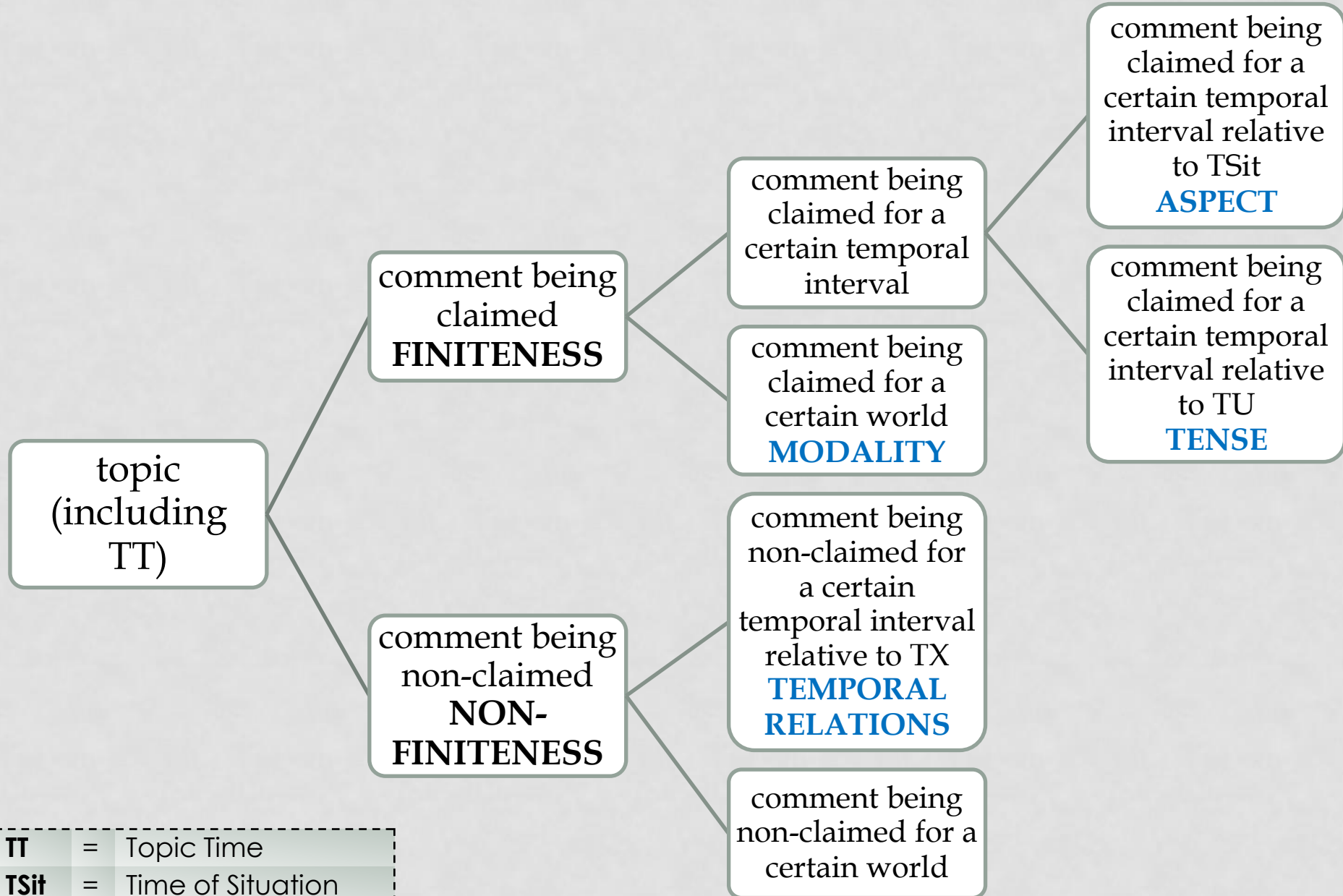
on the other hand

feature 'being claimed'
never used for explicitly
defining T+A+M

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS
CONCLUSION

model

see next slide



TT	=	Topic Time
TSit	=	Time of Situation
TU	=	Time of Utterance
TX	=	some specific time

benefits...

...concerning:

1. theoretical notions, esp. cross-linguistic applicability
2. empirical predictions

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS
CONCLUSION

1. benefits concerning theoretical notions, esp. cross-linguistic applicability
 - a. definitions sufficiently **general** to be cross-linguistically applicable in a meaningful way (cf. Nikolaeva 2013, Molnár 2016)
 - b. semantic definitions sufficient to **exclude adverbial meanings**
 - c. also **excluded: dynamic and deontic modality** (yes, this is a benefit!)

WHY | MODEL | **BENEFITS** | PROBLEMS
CONCLUSION

1. benefits concerning theoretical notions (cont.)
 - d. the **double nature of infinitives** (e.g. Malchukov 2004) is accounted for naturally
 - e. clear-cut definitional **contrast between temporal relations and aspect**

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS
CONCLUSION

2. (benefits concerning) empirical predictions
 - a. There are **no true neutral indicatives**.
 - b. Apparently **exotic categories** like conditional infinitives or infinitives of posteriority are envisaged.

problems

1. What is "non-claimed"?
2. What about subordinated clauses, questions, requests...?
3. How does the model relate to (language-specific) morphology?
4. ...wait! Where's the E in TAM-E?

conclusion

- seemingly peripheral feature **'being claimed'** unites different traditions in TAM-research
- confirms trend of **highlighting features of information structure**

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THANK YOU...

...for your attention!