

Alfred Schopf's account of the past tense on the basis of Reichenbach's theory



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ALFRED SCHOPF'S ACCOUNT OF THE PAST TENSE ON THE BASIS OF REICHENBACH'S THEORY

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GRIN Verlag Jun 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, printed single-sided, grade: 1-2 (A-B), Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Seminar for Anglistics), course: Hauptseminar 'Semantics of Tense', language: English, abstract: With the presentation of his theoretical model for the semantic analysis of tenses, Hans Reichenbach (1947: 287 298) supplied to linguistic research a tool that has since then been made use of in a large number of publications. His model, consisting of the three core elements point of speech (S), point of event (E), and point of reference (R), has been widely accepted to constitute an appropriate theory for the analysis of the English verbal tenses. Nevertheless, since its first publication, several attempts and proposals for modifications on Reichenbach's model have been presented. In most of these works, the focus is pointed on research on the past tense. A large number of linguists as well as logicians have proposed modifications concerning different temporal extensions of both reference and event time, interpretations of these two times in terms of definite and indefinite points in time, their relation to each other, and, finally, successive reference points in sentence sequences. Therefore, when Alfred Schopf (1987) presents his proposal, it has a basis of a long tradition of earlier works containing different views and proposing different approaches which can either be followed or rejected. In this paper, Schopf discusses three aspects of the use of the English past tense and refines Reichenbach's analysis of this tense. First, Schopf explains the information conveyed by an isolated past tense sentence by interpreting it in terms of a search instruction. Secondly, he contributes to...

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