

Just a couple of the uses of “external” prefixes have received systematic treatment in grammars, i.e. those which have “made their way” into the officially recognized system of grammatical categories, viz. the permissive *te-* (“3rd person imperative”) and the use of *be-* in the periphrastic “inceptive/continuative” constructions (*sudėtiniai pradėtiniai laikai*, cf. Dambriūnas (1960: 103–108), Sližienė 1961; Ulvydas (red.) (1971: 145–148).

Recent studies: Arkadiev (2010) on the restrictive *te-*, Arkadiev (2011a, 2011b) on the uses of *be-*, Ostrowski (2010, 2011a, 2011b, Ms., to appear) on the history of *be-*.

Etymological origins of *te-* and *be-* remain obscure, and existing hypotheses are largely speculative, cf. Vaillant 1947, Fraenkel (1962–1965: 38; 1071), Zinkevičius (1981: 195–196, 198), Smoczyński (2007: 51), cf. also works by Ostrowski.

4. The restrictive *te-*

(For a comprehensive treatment see Arkadiev 2010)

Belongs to a rare type of **restrictive markers** (elements meaning ‘only’, König 1991) morphologically attached to the verb but able to take any constituent in its scope (marked SMALL CAPITALS in the examples below): subject (9), direct (10) and indirect object (11), adverbial phrases (12), non-finite (13) and finite (14) clausal complements.

- (9) ... o *kit-q* *vard-q* ***te-žin-o*** ARTIMIAUS-J J-OS ŽMON-ÉS.
and other-ACC.SG name-ACC.SG TE-know-PRS(3) closest-NOM.PL.M 3-GEN.SG.F people-NOM.PL
'... and the other name is only to her closest friends.' (LKT)

- (10) Aš SAVO ŽMON-A ***te-myli-iu***.
I:NOM own wife-ACC.SG TE-love-PRS.1SG
'I love only my own wife.'

- (11) Kaz-ys *gimim-o* *dien-os* *prog-a* *geli-u* ***te-dovanoj-o***
p.n.-NOM.SG birth-GEN.SG day-GEN.SG occasion-INS.SG flower-GEN.PL TE-give-PST(3)
SAVO ŽMON-AI.
own wife-DAT.SG
'Kazys gave flowers only to his own wife as a birthday present.'

- (12) Aš *tav-e* PIRM-A SYK-I ***te-mat-au***.
I(NOM) you-ACC.SG first-ACC.SG time-ACC.SG TE-see-PRS.1SG
'I see you only for the first time.' (LKT)

- (13) *J-os* ***te-gal-i*** ŽAIS-TI MEIL-E...
3-NOM.PL.F TE-can-PRS play-INF love-INS.SG
'They can only play with love.' (MPA, II:15)

- (14) ... o *kit-i* ***te-myli-i*** *tik* *sav-e* *ir* ***te-nor-i***, KAD VIS-I
and other-NOM.PL.M TE-love-PRS(3) only self-ACC and TE-want-PRS(3) that all-NOM.PL.M
J-UOS TE-MYLÉ-TŪ.
3-ACC.PL.M TE-love-SBJ(3)
'... and others love only themselves and only want that everyone loved just them.'
(LKT)

Such freedom of scope taking creates potential multiple ambiguity, normally resolved only by context:

- (15) Kaz-ys ***te-dovanoj-o*** *mergait-éms* knyg-as.
p.n.-NOM.SG TE-give-PST(3) girl-DAT.PL book-ACC.PL
i. 'Only Kazys gave books to girls.'
ii. 'Kazys only gave books to girls <and not sold flowers to boys>.'
iii. 'Kazys gave books only to girls <and not to boys>'.

iv. 'Kazys gave girls only books <and not flowers>.'

v. 'Kazys only gave books to girls <and not sold books to girls>.'

Furthermore, *te-* can scope into nominal (16) and verbal (17) constituents:

- (16) ***Te-skait-au*** [MAIRONI-O *eilerašči-us*], *kit-u* poet-u ne-mégst-u.
TE-read-PRS.1SG p.n.-GEN.SG poetry-ACC.PL other-GEN.PL poet-GEN.PL NEG-like-PRS.1SG
'I read only poetry by Maironis, I don't like other poets'.

- (17) ***Ši-os*** *scen-os* *grož-i* ***te-gal-i-m-a***
this-GEN.SG.F scene-GEN.SG beauty-ACC.SG TE-can-PRS-PP-DF
[sulygin-ti SU GERV-ÉS SKRYDŽIIU]...
compare-INF with crane-GEN.SG flight-INS.SG

'The beauty of this scene can be compared only to a crane's flight...'¹

This kind of restrictive marker is a clear instance of typological *rarum*. The only parallel example of a variable scope restrictive marker being a verbal affix comes from Biniñ Gun-wok, a polysynthetic Gunwingguan language of North Australia (Evans 1995: 248–256):

- (18) ***A-djal-wokdi*** GUN-DJEIHMI.
1SG-RSTR-speak language.name
'I speak only Gun-djeihmi.' (Evans 1995: 250)

4. The polyfunctional *be-*

(For a more detailed treatment see Arkadiev 2011a, 2011b)

⇒ Aspectual functions.

⇒ Modal and evaluative functions.

⇒ The purely structural “empty” function in reflexive participles (Ambrizas (ed.) 1997: 348): triggering the “reflexive displacement”, *be-* helps avoid the morphophonological complications arising when the reflexive marker attaches to the adjectival desinence:

- (19) a. *juok-iqs-is* b. ***be-si-juok-ia-nči-o*** / #*juokiančiosi*
laugh-PRS.PA.NOM.SG.M-RFL BE-RFL-laugh-PRS-PA-GEN.SG.M

4.1. Aspectual functions of *be-*

4.1.1. Continuative

- (20) ...*miestel-yje* ***te-be-gyven-o*** *daug* *našli-u*.
small.town-LOC.SG TE-BE-live-PST(3) many widow-GEN.PL
'... in the town there still lived many widows.' (LKT)

- (21) *Tada j-is* *jau* ***ne-be-gyven-o*** *su* ŽMON-A...
then 3-NOM.SG.M already NEG-BE-live-PST(3) with wife-INS.SG
'Then he already no longer lived with his wife...' (LKT)

⇒ In the modern language only occurs with the markers of polarity: *te-* (positive) or *ne-* (negative); in Old Lithuanian independent continuative uses of *be-* are still attested until the XVIII century (Ostrowski to appear).

- (22) *Surink-a* *tada ir* *pri.pil-e* *dwilika* *pintini-u* *trupucz-u* *isch*
collect-PST(3) then and fill-PST(3) twelve bucket-GEN.PL piece-GEN.PL from
penketa *miesz-u* *dūn-as* *kur-ie* ***be-lik-a...***
five barley-GEN.PL bread-GEN.SG which-NOM.PL.M BE-remain-PST(3)

¹ Gintaras Beresnevičius, *Apie pagavimą šnipų* 1998, <http://www.tekstai.lt/tekstai>

'Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which [still] remained...' (VEE, John 6:13, quoted after Ostrowski Ms.)

4.1.2. Progressive

Rather restricted in usage, mostly occurring in non-finite clauses headed by conversbs or participles.

- (23) *Net ap.si.ašaroj-au be-skaity-dam-a.*

even shed.tears-PST.1SG BE-read-CNV-SG.F

'I even shed a few tears while reading (it).'²

- (24) *Pa-mači-au j-i be-stov-i-nt prie ol-os iėjim-o...*

PRV-see-PST.1SG 3-ACC.SG.M BE-stand-PRS-PA

at cave-GEN.SG entrance-GEN.SG

'I saw him standing at the entrance to the cave...'³

In this function, *be-* is optional:

- (25) *Dviratinink-ai važiuo-dam-i žinuči-ų siūs-ti ne-galė-s.*

cyclist-NOM.PL drive-CNV-PL.M message-GEN.PL

send-INF NEG-can-FUT(3)

'Cyclists won't be allowed to send messages while driving.'⁴

- (26) ...*ne-žin-o, k-q reiški-a jaus-ti tēv-q stov-i-nt*

NEG-know-PRS(3) what-ACC.SG mean-PRS(3) feel-INF father-ACC.SG

stand-PRS-PA

sau už nugar-os.

self:DAT behind back-GEN.SG

'[They] don't know what it means to feel one's father standing behind one's back.'⁵

Rare examples of periphrastic progressive forms with *be-* attached to the present active participle are attested only with stative verbs (27); in Old Lithuanian, the progressive was more widely attested, cf. (28).

- (27) *Aš bū-si-u be-mieg-qs, kai at.ei-s-i man-ęs guld-yti.*

I:NOM AUX-FUT-1SG BE-sleep-PRS.PA.NOM.SG.M when come-FUT-2SG I-GEN lay.down-INF

'I will be already sleeping when you come to put me to bed.' (Ambrazas (ed.) 1997: 250)

- (28) *Tu awinaeli-o ne-wir-k kolei ira be-szind-ans.*

you:NOM lamb-GEN.SG NEG-boil-IMP while AUX:PRS:3

BE-suck-PRS.PA.NOM.SG.M
'Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.', lit. 'Do not boil a lamb while it is sucking [it's mother]' (BB, Gen. 34:26, quoted after Schmalstieg 1987: 101)

Such constructions are productive only in the next function.

4.1.3. Avertive

"An action which was potentially imminent but did not ultimately get realized" (Kuteva 2001: 78). A gram well-attested cross-linguistically (Kuteva 1998).

Has been described in the literature as "compound inceptive tenses" or "compound continuative tenses", both labels being inadequate.

- (29) *Skubiai už-si-met-ė rūb-q ir buv-o be-iš-ein-a-nt-i,*

hurriedly PRV-RFL-throw-PST(3) clothes-ACC.SG and AUX-PST(3) BE-PRV-go-PRS-PA-NOM.SG.F

tačiau pri.si.min-ė, k-o čia at-ėj-us-i.

but recall-PST(3) what-GEN.SG here PRV-go-PST.PA-NOM.SG.F

'She hurriedly slipped the clothes over her and was about to go, but remembered for what reason she had come here.' (LKT)

² <http://www.tindirindi.lt/forum/planavimas-nestumas-gimdymas/gimdymas/mano-gimdymo-istorija/ilgai-lauktas-mazylis?page=1>

³ <http://www.bernardina.lt/strapsnis/~8303>

⁴ http://www.alietuvos.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19009:dviratininkai-vaiuodami-inui-sisti-negals&catid=69:aktualios

⁵ <http://www.vmsi.lt/n/4/41/Teko-leskojimas>

Contexts intermediate between the pure avertive (the action denoted by the verb phrase did not happen at all) and the pure progressive (ongoing action) are attested, where the action did happen but was interrupted:

- (30) *Pon-as Kalvait-is buv-o be-ein-qs i savo kambar-i antr-ame viešbuči-o aukšt-e, bet kažkodél netrukus grīžt-a atgal.*

mister-NOM.SG p.n.-NOM.SG AUX-PST(3) BE-go-PRS.PA.NOM.SG.M in self's room-ACC.SG second-LOC.SG.M hotel-GEN.SG floor-LOC.SG but for.some.reason soon return-PRS(3) back 'Mr. Kalvaitis left to go (lit. was going) to his room on the second floor of the hotel, but soon comes back.' (LKT)

4.1.4. *be-* in admiring contexts

Ulydas (red.) (1971: 145–146): "present participles with *be-* and no copula express events which are suddenly perceived or recognized and which cause surprise or other emotional attitude". This function, well attested in folklore, seems to be a peculiar development of the progressive.

- (31) ...*ogi Seim-e, pa.si.rod-o, j-is be-dirb-qs grup-ėje, and seim-LOC.SG appear-PRS(3) 3-NOM.SG.M BE-work-PRS.PA.NOM.SG.M group-LOC.SG kur-i vadim-a-si "francija"*

which-NOM.SG.F call-PRS(3)-RFL France
'It turns out that in the Seim he is working in the group called "France"'⁶

4.2. Modal-evaluative functions of *be-*

Understudied and hard to investigate due to (i) high degree of context-dependence and vagueness and (ii) relatively low textual frequency.

4.2.1. "Dubitative"

With events considered to have low probability, normally in the contexts of "suspended assertion" (Paducheva 2005) such as (rhetorical) questions (32), hypothetical conditionals (33) or complements of verbs expressing lack of knowledge or doubt (34)

- (32) *Kada be-su.ei-si-m, be-su.skri-si-m vėl?*

when BE-come.together-FUT-1PL BE-fly.together-FUT-1PL again

'When will we ever come together, fly together again?' (LKT)

- (33) *Ne, tai visai kitok-s jausm-as, j-ame reik-s su.si.gaudy-ti, jeigu dar kada nors be-at.ei-s.*

no this totally different-NOM.SG.M feeling-NOM.SG 3-LOC.SG.M need-FUT(3)

make.out-INF of again when ever BE-come-FUT(3)

'No, this is a totally different feeling, and one has to understand it, if it ever comes again at all.' (LKT)

- (34) *Abėjoj-u, ar j-i be-kalbė-s su man-im atvirai...*

doubt-PRS.1SG Q 3-NOM.SG.F BE-talk-FUT(3) with I-INS openly

'I doubt whether she would speak with me openly at all...' (LKT)

4.2.2. "Attenuative"

Occurs when the situation is evaluated as showing a low value of some contextually relevant parameter. Normally occurs with expressions of low degree (35) or difficulty (36).

- (35) *Daktar-ai iš.ėj-o, su.leid-ę Jurgi-ui vaist-ų, bet j-ie mažai be-pa.dėj-o.*

doctor-NOM.PL go.away-PST(3) inject-PST.PA.NOM.PL.M p.n.-DAT.SG medicine-GEN.PL

but 3-NOM.PL.M little BE-help-PST(3)

⁶ <http://www.delfi.lt/news/balsuok2011/politikoakimis/article.php?id=40931245&com=1&s=2&no=960>

'The doctors left having injected Jurgis some medicines, but these medicines hardly helped him.' (LKT)

- (36) ...*jaun-i žmon-ės sunkiai be-su.si.kalb-a su vyresni-aisiaiš*.
 young-NOM.PL.M man-NOM.PL hardly BE-agree-PRS(3) with elder-INS.PL.M.DEF
 '... the young and the elder understand each other only with difficulty.'⁷

⌚ This use of *be-* is close to the restrictive function of *te-*, and in many contexts these prefixes seem to be interchangeable. The main difference between the two is that *be-* introduces an emotional attitude lacking with *te-*:

- (37) a. *J-is ANTRADIENI-AIS te-nu.ei-dav-o i universitet-q.*
 3-NOM.SG.M Tuesday-INS.PL TE-come-HAB-PST(3) in university-ACC.SG
 'He came to the university only on Tuesdays.' (neutral statement)
- b. *J-is ANTRADIENI-AIS be-nu.ei-dav-o i universitet-q.*
 3-NOM.SG.M Tuesday-INS.PL BE-come-HAB-PST(3) in university-ACC.SG
 'He came to the university only on Tuesdays.' (something prevented him from coming more often)

4.2.3. "Universal"

In concessive conditionals with wh-words; have been documented in Drotvinas 1963 and Paulauskienė & Tarvydaitė (1986: 178–179).

- (38) ...*kur pasaul-yje be-gyven-au, visur jauči-au-si tik pakeliu...*
 where world-LOC.SG BE-live-PST.1SG everywhere feel-PST.1SG-RFL only on.the.way
 '...wherever I lived in the world, everywhere I felt myself being on the way...' (LKT)

4.3. Some generalizations

⌚ The aspectual functions of *be-* are clearly interrelated. As is claimed by Ostrowski (Ms.), the historically original meaning is the continuative, going back to the adverbial particle meaning 'still' (39). The avertive is believed to have developed from the progressive (Ulvydas (ed.) 1971: 146; Ambrasas 1990: 180–181).

- (39) *ir warto-ke-m kun-a sawa kolei be iaun-as.*
 and use-IMP-1PL body-ACC.SG own while still young-NOM.SG.M
 '...and let us use our body while it is still young.' (BP I 237.17-18, quot. after Ostrowski, Ms.)

- (40) continuative > progressive > avertive
 ? > admirable

⌚ Establishing mutual relationships between the modal-evaluative meanings of *be-* is a more difficult task, even if a purely synchronic perspective is taken (for a historical study there does not seem to be enough reliable data available, though cf. Ostrowski 2011b). As a putative common semantic feature of the three different modal-evaluative functions of *be-*, the rather abstract notion "low on a contextually relevant scale" may be taken:

- with the "attenuative" function, the scale relates to the "quality" of an actual situation;
- with the "dubititative" function, the relevant scale is that of the probability of the situation taking place in the real world;
- the "universal" use in concessive conditionals can be analysed as follows: the consequence is taken to be true even in the "worst" (least probable) of the cases denoted by the antecedent, which creates a scalar implicature whereby the consequence is also true in all other, "better" (more probable) cases (cf. König 1986: 231).

⁷ <http://forumas.draugas.lt/messageview.cfm?catid=82&threadid=29191&title=jaunimas-suauge-kalba-skirtingomis-kalbomis-mokykla-mokslai>

⌚ If the mutual relations of the functions **inside** the two domains of the uses of *be-* can be established with some degree of reliability, it is hardly possible to envisage any common rationale applying **both** to the aspectual and the modal-evaluative functions of this prefix.

⌚ From the cross-linguistic perspective, the majority of the functions of *be-* do not seem to be frequently expressed by morphological means, especially in the languages of Europe. Though the languages of the region (Slavic, Germanic and Hungarian) are rich in verbal prefixation, their preverbs express spatial and perfectivizing meanings. The "nearest" cases of prefixes with aspectual functions from the imperfective domain are attested in the languages of the Caucasus, Ossetic (Tomelleri 2011) and Mingrelian (Harris 1991). As to the scalar modal-evaluative uses of *be-*, the expression of such meanings has not been investigated cross-linguistically, but it does not seem that they are frequently expressed by bound morphology.

5. Co-occurrence restrictions of "external" prefixes

"External" prefixes are subject to rather peculiar constraints on mutual combinations.

⌚ Strict linear order *te-ne-be-*; examples like (41), though semantically well-formed, are extremely rare and considered to be "borderline".

- (41) *Žalgiris te-be-ne-tur-i (jdom-us žod-is, ar ne?) pinig-y.*
 p.n. TE-BE-NE-have-PRS(3) interesting-NOM.SG.M word-NOM.SG Q NEG money-GEN.PL
 'Žalgiris [a basketball team — P.A.] still does not have money.' — with a metalinguistic comment about *tebeneturi*: 'a funny word, isn't it?'⁸

⌚ Combinations of "external" prefixes are very restricted semantically:

- *ne-* and *te-* can combine with *be-* only in its continuative meaning;
- in combination with *be-*, *te-* does not retain any of the functions it has independently;
- the restrictive *te-* does not combine with negation:

- (42) a. **Te-ne-atėj-o PRAN-AS.*
 TE-NEG-come-PST(3) p.n.-NOM.SG
 intended: 'Only Pranas did not come.'
- b. *Ne-atėj-o tik PRAN-AS.*
 NEG-come-PST(3) only p.n.-NOM.SG
 'id.'

6. Conclusions

Lithuanian "external" prefixes are interesting for the following reasons:

- ⌚ they have not received enough attention in the descriptive and theoretical literature and remain underdocumented;
- ⌚ they show an exceptional degree of polyfunctionality and context-dependence of interpretation, as well as peculiar combinatory restrictions with respect to verbal forms and each other;
- ⌚ their functions are exceptional for verbal prefixes attested in the genetically and areally related languages (notably, they have no counterparts in Latvian and Latgalian), and some of them (e.g. the restrictive meaning of *te-*) constitute a clear typological rarity;
- ⌚ thus they can be considered among the most typologically outstanding features of Lithuanian grammar, regrettfully neglected both by traditional linguists and by typologists.

⁸ www3.krepsinis.net

Abbreviations of sources

- BB: Biblia tatai esti Wissas Schwentas Raschta Lietuwischkai pergulditas per Janą Bretkuną ... Karaliauczuiue 1579–1590.
 BP: POSTILLA. Tatai esti Trumpas ir Prastas Jschguldimas Euangeliu ... Per Jana Bretkuna ... Karaliauczuiue ... 1591.
 LKT: Lietuvių kalbos tekstykas, <http://tekstynas.vdu.lt/>
 MPA: Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas. *Altorių šešely*, <http://www.antologija.lt/texts/37/turinys.html>
 VEE: Euangelias bei Epistolas ... per Baltramieju Willenta ... Karalauczui ... 1579.

Abbreviations used in glosses

- ACC – accusative, AUX – auxiliary, CNV – converb, DAT – dative, DEF – definite, DF – default agreement, F – feminine, FUT – future tense, GEN – genitive, HAB – habitual, IMP – imperative, INF – infinitive, INS – instrumental, LOC – locative, M – masculine, NEG – negation, NOM – nominative, PA – active participle, PL – plural, PP – past participle, PRS – present tense, PRV – preverb, PST – past tense, Q – question particle, RFL – reflexive, RSTR – restrictive, SBJ – subjunctive, SG – singular

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