7A.4 Hypotaxis: verbal group, expansion (1): general

In a hypotactic verbal group complex, e.g. *tried to do*, the sequence is always $\alpha \wedge \beta$. The primary group may be finite or non-finite; it is the primary group that carries the mood of the clause, e.g. *she tried to do it*, *what was she trying to do*, *having tried to do it* etc. The secondary group is always non-finite, this being the realization of its dependent status. It may be perfective, with or without *to*, e.g. *(to) do*; or imperfective, e.g. *doing*. The other non-finite form, the 'past/passive participle', e.g. *done*, usually stands for the perfective, as in *I want it (to be) done, consider it (to have been) done*; but in itself it is neutral, and in other contexts it neutralizes the distinction, e.g. *I saw it (be/being) done*.

The difference in meaning between perfective and imperfective was referred to above (Section 7.4, subsection 4). The general principle is that the perfective is 'unreal' and the imperfective is 'real'; they may be opposed in any one of a number of contrasts, as future to present, appearance to reality, starting off to going on, goal to means, intention to action, or proposal to proposition; and sometimes the difference between them is minimal. The pairs of examples in Table 7(15), will give some feeling for the distinction:

Table 7(15) Perfective and imperfective in the secondary verbal group

	Perfective	Imperfective	
	'irrealis' (to-) do	(a-, i.e. 'at, in') doing 'realis'	
Appearance	seems to know	[no special form]	Reality
Appearance leading to realization	turns out to know	turns out knowing	Realization following appearance
Initial state	starts to win	ends up winning	Final state
Activating	begins to work	keeps working	Maintaining
Goal	try to relax	try relaxing	Means
Intention	decides to write	gets down to writing	Action
Proposal	would like to paint	likes painting	Proposition
Attempt leading to success	managed to open	succeeded in opening	Success following attempt

There are numerous types of hypotactic relation, which could be approached in various different ways. It turns out, however, that they correspond fairly systematically to the different patterns in the clause complex: expansion (elaboration,

extension, enhancement) and projection (locution, idea); so we will interpret them along these lines. The present section deals with those related by expansion.

(1) Elaborating a process: phase. Here the verb in the primary group is of the 'intensive: ascriptive' class (Chapter 5, Section 5); and the semantic relation between the two is one of PHASE. The basic notion is 'be (intensive) + do', using 'do' to stand for any process.

The specific categories are shown in Table 7(16).

Table 7(16) Phase

Category: Meaning	System	Term	Aspect	Examples
[be	time-phase → tense	present in	imperf.	is doing]
[be	time-phase → tense (→ modality	future in required to)	perf.	is to do]
keep	time-phase	durative	imperf.	keeps (on) / goes on doing
start	time-phase	inceptive	imperf. / perf.	starts / begins doing / to do; gets doing; stops doing, ceases doing / to do
start + keep	time-phase	inceptive-durative	imperf.	takes to doing
[be	reality-phase → voice	passive	neutral	is done]
seem	reality-phase	apparent	perf.	seems / appears to do
prove	reality-phase	realized	perf.	proves / turns out to do

The two dimensions of phase are time-phase and reality-phase. The reality-phase, or realization, system is based on the contrast between 'apparent' (*seems to be*) and 'realized' (*turns out to be*); both are perfective, the first being unreal, the second unreal emerging into real. There is a variant of the 'realized' which is imperfective, e.g. *she turns out knowing all about it*; this is looking at it from the 'real' end, as reality emerging from appearance. We can also relate the passive to this general meaning, with its original sense of 'is (in a state of) having been realized'.

The time-phase system has split into two. The original opposition *is doing/is to do* (meaning, in modern terms, 'keeps doing' and 'will do') has disappeared, since both have turned into grammatical categories of the verbal group (see Chapter 6, Section 6.3 above). The former has evolved into tense, defined along the dimension of future/present/past. Thus the *be . . . ing* form, as in *he is doing*, which was originally two verbal groups like modern *keeps doing*, is now the secondary present tense form within the one group, meaning 'present in . . .'; e.g. *is doing* 'present in present', *was doing* 'present in past', *will have been doing* 'present in past in future', *was going to be doing* 'present in future in past' etc. The latter, the *be to . . .* form, as in *he is to do*, similarly turned into a secondary future; but here there has been a further change: *is to* has now turned into a modal form, and its function as secondary tense has been taken over by *is going to*.

The other part of the time-phase system, that has remained as a category of phase, is that of 'duration/inception': 'durative' going on, contrasting with 'inceptive/ conclusive', starting and stopping. Of these, the 'go on' term takes the imperfective; starting and stopping take either, with little difference in meaning — except that *stop*