

## ENHANCING LANGUAGE AWARENESS IN ESP BUSINESS COURSES THROUGH ENGLISH PERFECT TEACHING IN CONTRAST WITH BULGARIAN EQUIVALENTS. RESEARCH ON ENGLISH PERFECT EQUIVALENTS IN BULGARIAN

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**Abstract.** *The paper treats the relevance of the English perfect language awareness enhancement in terms of form and semantics in ESP business courses, motivating and exemplifying most frequent instances of Bulgarian – English negative, but also positive language transfer. The study, based on business translation materials research on Bulgarian underlying functional equivalents of the English perfect periphrasis, not only considers Bulgarian correspondences features, but also explores their degree of semantic overlapping with the examined category in English. The approach of contrastive teaching is put forward as a method of crucial importance in fighting interference, greatly due to the significant number of Bulgarian correspondences, such as, Bulgarian present, perfect, present/perfect passive and aorist, among others, and of promoting, this way, specific and overall business ESP learners' awareness. Contrastive teaching procedures, usually involving the auxiliary comparative teaching approach, are presented in detail at basic grammar teaching stages. Each stage objectives are commented on and general contrastive teaching method outcomes are stated.*

**Key words:** *ESP, language awareness, present, perfect, aorist, past simple (preterit), language transfer, contrastive teaching*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

There have always been controversies between ESP (ELT) professionals as to ESP curricula design, ESP course content and teaching activities, and more specifically, about the predominance of content (terminology) to grammar and functional knowledge. It must be admitted, though, that due to the specificity of vocational language training, some equilibrium needs to be preserved, which will allow the learners to become equipped with all the major communicative competence components. This is an essential prerequisite for the successful occurrence of linguistic encoding and decoding processes in required acts of oral or written communication. As it has already been argued on many occasions, there is a strict connection between communicative competence components and language awareness (LA). The purpose of the current study is to reveal, on the one hand, the need of increased LA within the context of ESP teaching, and, on the other, to put forward ideas as to the contrastive teaching (CT) of the English perfect, in terms of form and semantics, CT being an important LA procedure.

The paper will comply with the following outline: first ESP (and business ESP) distinctive characteristics will be examined, secondly, the relevance of LA improvement

in the sphere of the English perfect form, semantics and use will be motivated and exemplified, based on a study of the English periphrasis Bulgarian equivalents revealing convergences and divergences with the perfect, promoting negative (but also positive) transfer, and, finally suggestions will be put forward as to the category CT in stages by means of pattern observation, deduction/induction, hypothesis formulation, translation for teaching purposes, error correction, etc. In the end, conclusions will be made with respect to the usefulness of considered CT (often performed jointly with comparative teaching (CpT)) approach implemented with ESP business learners.

## 2. UNDERLYING FEATURES OF ESP

Although ESP is a branch of ELT, and, consequently, of applied linguistics, it is characterized by its own features, most crucial of which are meeting “specific needs of learners”, making use of “underlying methodology and activities of the discipline it serves”, “centered on the language appropriate to these activities in terms of grammar, lexis, register, study skills, discourse and genre” (Dudley-Evans 1997 in Anthony 1998 and Sešek 2005). Most often courses are developed for intermediate or advanced learners (*ibid.*), specific use of vocabulary, grammar and functions always depending on previously acquired competence, which we deem, should be assessed at least at B1/B2 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to allow a successful curriculum design.

Though to Widdowson 1983 (in Sešek 2005) ESP aims at a limited competence determined by the specificity of communicative tasks, we must state that business English courses, and predominantly these ones designed for higher levels, often require quite significant language knowledge and awareness due to the great variety of communicative situations and tasks executives and employees working in the multiple spheres of economics, production, sales, advertising, finances, innovations, etc., have to deal with. Quite frequently, executives need not only to be basically understood or essentially grasp counterparts’ speech, but they also have to be able to convey a great array of complex messages in oral and written texts and comprehend ensuing information in response. We must obviously argue that LA training, a vital facilitator in language information encoding/decoding, turns out to be crucial as it greatly preconditions successful language reception and production, and, this way, communication (cf. Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2013a).

Even though ESP courses are typically targeted at particular groups of learners, the language required largely intersects with general purpose language (Robinson 1991 in Sešek 2005). It has turned out, as it will be revealed later on, that some categories, hard to master in general English (the English perfect, for example), require efforts in teaching, understanding and implementing in ESP as well, and particularly in Business English. It will not be denied, though, that meanings and uses of language items may deviate from general language ones. However, specific connotations and functions are always related to original and basic ones.

To conclude, before proceeding with exemplifying the necessity of the English perfect LA enhancement in business courses, taught to Bulgarian learners, we shall mention some trends in linguistics and applied linguistics, contributing to ESP development. ESP characteristics are partly corollary of the following tendencies and scientific advances: focus on the learners, fixing the attention mainly on language ‘use’ rather than ‘usage’ and educational psychology development exploring learning attitudes and motivation (cf. Hutchinson & Waters 1987 in Pradhan 2013). Above mentioned research spheres, largely influencing ESP progress, supply yet another proof that the collaboration between

contextualized, specialized approaches and general English ones, along with the emphasis on interest, motivation, cognition and awareness, must be vital in ESP teaching (cf. Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2013b exploring LA – motivation connection).

### 3. EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE ENGLISH PERFECT MASTERING PROBLEMS

Research has been carried out in the field of Bulgarian → English translation texts (12 papers)<sup>1</sup> in the sphere of economics, treating numerous business issues under the rubrics of innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and financing, human capital, information and communication technologies and green energy governance. This article section has set the purpose of presenting most frequent and significant English perfect translation equivalents in Bulgarian, this way illustrating some tendencies in English and Bulgarian use, on the one hand, and, on the other, motivating underlying English perfect learners' errors through discussing Bulgarian counterparts' (present, perfect and aorist) prominent features and commenting on their convergence degree with the examined English category.

#### 3.1. Equivalences and numbers

Exhaustive contrastive analysis of the English perfect equivalences in Bulgarian, in examined sources, testifies to the following forms and percentages summed up in the tables below.

Table 1 English perfect equivalences in Bulgarian in contrasted sources

Contrasted sources	English perfect	Bulgarian equivalents	Percentage of all uses
Innovation2011-Иновации 2011	English perfect	<b>Present (сегашно време)</b>	44,83%
Innovation2011-Иновации 2011	English perfect	<b>Perfect (перфект (минало неопределено време))</b>	32,76%
Innovation2011-Иновации 2011	English perfect	<b>Present / perfect (сегашно време / перфект) in the passive</b>	17,24%
Innovation2011-Иновации 2011	English perfect	<b>Noun (съществително)</b>	5,17%
Reports2011-Анализи 2011	English perfect	<b>Present (сегашно време)</b>	58,96%
Reports2011-Анализи 2011	English perfect	<b>Perfect (перфект (минало неопределено време))</b>	12,72%
Reports2011-Анализи 2011	English perfect	<b>Present / perfect (сегашно време / перфект) in the passive</b>	14,45%
Reports2011-Анализи 2011	English perfect	<b>Noun (съществително)</b>	1,73%
Reports2011-Анализи 2011	English perfect	<b>Aorist (аорист (минало свършено време))</b>	11,56%
Reports2011-Анализи 2011	English perfect	<b>Imperfect/Unfinished aorist (имперфект (минало несвършено време)/ аорист от несвършен вид)</b>	0,58%

<sup>1</sup> Researched materials pertain to the sources (collection of papers): Иновации.бг 2011, Анализи 2011, Innovation.bg 2011 and Reports 2011.

Table 2 Mean numbers of equivalences in contrasted sources

	Bulgarian equivalents	Percentage of all uses
English perfect	<b>Present (сегашно време)</b>	51,90%
English perfect	<b>Perfect (перфект (минало неопределено време))</b>	22,74%
English perfect	<b>Present / perfect (сегашно време / перфект) in the passive</b>	15,85%
English perfect	<b>Noun (съществително)</b>	3,45%
English perfect	<b>Aorist (аорист (минало свършено време))</b>	5,78%
English perfect	<b>Imperfect/ Unfinished aorist (имперфект (минало несвършено време))<sup>2</sup></b>	0,29%

### 3.2. Explanation of equivalences and learners' error motivation

Most English perfect Bulgarian equivalents, such as *the present, the perfect and the present/perfect in the passive* (both forms of the present and perfect passive in Bulgarian coincide), can be easily motivated by means of the examined category values, and of Bulgarian correspondences characteristics, which will be concisely treated in the study. Bulgarian *aorist* equivalent, which may seem a rather improbable correspondence, can also be elucidated in the perspective of aorist meanings (perfect ones and typically deictic), as well as of *some newly amplified trends* in this category interpretation and use. Equivalences fan clarification will serve the two-fold objective of illustrating the richness of Bulgarian correspondences, greatly responsible for the many learner hardships in mastering the perfect, on the one hand, and, on the other, of suggesting ways of overcoming them through LA enhancement procedures at CT stages <sup>3</sup>.

#### 3.2.1. Most significant equivalences illustration

This article section aims at presenting crucial equivalences, this way facilitating comments on their interpretation.

#### *English perfect – Bulgarian present*

(1) **“For several years now *Innovation.bg* has refuted** a number of myths related to the standard system of indicators for measuring innovation as ... a result mainly of R&D.” – “*Иновации.бг* вече няколко години опровергава редица митове, свързани със стандартната система от индикатори за измерване на иновациите като ... и резултат основно на научните изследвания.” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, p.12, p. 12)

(2) **“Bulgaria’s outdated National Innovation Strategy, adopted in 2004, has not been implemented in the last few years ...”** – “Остарялата Иновационна стратегия на България от 2004 г. от няколко години не се изпълнява ...” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, p. 16, p. 17)

(3) **“In the last two years, the number of patents issued to Bulgarian persons has increased by over 40% annually.”** – “Броят на издадените патенти на български лица за

<sup>2</sup> There was just one Bulgarian imperfect equivalence instance in researched materials, the form of which also allows the unfinished aorist interpretation.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. in Schmidt 2010 as well as in many authors referred to in his study as to the crucial importance of LA improvement in ELT (FLT); CT procedures (though not bearing this name in referred to paper) are also mentioned among LA enhancement techniques.

последните две години се увеличава с над 40% годишно.” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, р. 23, р. 24)

(4) “Most interesting are the companies which **have managed to establish** their own Bulgarian brand or product on **international markets** such as ...” – “Най-интересни са тези компании, които **успяват да наложат** собствен (български) бранд/продукт на **международните пазари** като ...” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, р. 40, р. 41)

(5) “Bulgaria **has not yet devised** a new action plan on emissions for 2008 – 2013. – България **все още няма разработен нов план** за действие по отношение на емисиите за периода 2008 – 2013 г.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, р. 12, р. 12)

(6) “The country **has managed to preserve** very low electricity prices for the population thanks to the use of fully depreciated nuclear and coal plants...” – “Държавата **успява да поддържа** най-ниските цени на електроенергията за крайния потребител в Европа на цената на напълно амортизирани атомни и топлоелектрически централи ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, р. 19, р. 21)

(7) “The economic and financial crisis **has put a considerable strain** on Europe’s public finances ...” – “Икономическата и финансовата криза **оказва огромен натиск** върху европейските публични финанси...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, р. 25, р. 28)

#### *English perfect – Bulgarian perfect*

(8) “The public administration in Bulgaria **has not made an effort to offer** this instrument to the potential beneficiaries of the Operational Program.” – “Държавната администрация в България **не е направила усилие да предложи** този инструмент на потенциалните бенефициенти на Оперативната програма.” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, р. 17, р. 18)

(9) “The staff engaged in R&D **has increased by 20% in the last ten years.**” – “**За последните десет години** броят на персонала, зает с НИРД, **се е увеличил с 20%.**” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, р. 37, р. 37)

(10) “Bulgaria’s government **has repeatedly declared intentions** to focus innovation policies and economic development priorities on high-tech sectors ...” – “Правителството на България **многократно е декларирало амбиции** да ориентира иновационните политики и приоритетите за икономическо развитие към високотехнологичните сектори ...” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, р. 45, р. 47)

(11) “Bulgaria **has undertaken a serious commitment** in support of the European Energy Strategy ...” – “България **е поела сериозен ангажимент** в подкрепа на европейската енергийна стратегия ...” (Innovation/Иновации 2011, р. 64, р. 70)

(12) “Achieving security, sustainability, and competitiveness ... seem daunting goals ... especially when they pertain to a union of twenty-seven states for which energy **has been the linchpin** of national sovereignty for ages.” – “Едновременното постигане на сигурност, устойчивост и конкурентоспособност е трудно, особено когато става дума за съюз от 27 държави, за които **в продължение на десетилетия** енергетиката **е била съществен елемент** от националния суверенитет.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, р. 17, р. 19)

(13) “These so-called statistical transfers are only allowable provided that the selling country **has reached its interim renewable targets.**” – “Тези т.нар. статистически трансфери са допустими само при положение, че продаващата страна **е достигнала своите междинни планове** за използването на възобновяеми източници.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, р. 33, р. 36)

(14) “At present, Bulgaria has not yet sold a single ton of its emissions internationally ...” – “До момента България не е продала на международния пазар нито един тон от емисиите си ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 43, p. 48)

(15) “Bulgaria has signed binding agreements within the EU legal framework ...” – “България е подписала обвързващи споразумения с Европейския съюз ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 67, p. 75)

(16) “In addition, the development of a national legal framework on climate change has already been launched ...” – “Освен това разработването на национална правна рамка за климатичните промени вече е започнало ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 80, p. 89)

*English perfect – Bulgarian present / perfect in the passive*

(17) “A total of 36 technology platforms have been established, which covet the development of the main scientific and technological fields ...” – “Създадени са 36 технологични платформи, които покриват развитието на основните научно-технологични области ...” (Innovations/Иновации 2011, p. 52, p. 53)

(18) “Although the first European technology platforms have been functioning for nearly ten years, Bulgarian participation has not been registered in any one of them.” – “Въпреки че първите европейски технологични платформи функционират от почти десет години, в нито една от тях не е регистрирано българско участие.” (Innovations/Иновации 2011, p. 52, p. 53)

(19) “Some of the funds ... have been channeled into the implementation of projects in the field of energy and new energy sources.” – “Част от средствата ... са насочени към изпълнението на проекти в областта на енергетиката и новите енергийни източници.” (Innovations/Иновации 2011, p. 64, p. 69)

(20) “So far, measures have been focused primarily on final consumption ...” – “Мерките, предприети досега, са насочени предимно към крайното потребление ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 15, p. 16)

(21) “While 192 countries have already adopted the Kyoto protocol ...” – “Въпреки че протоколът от Киото е приет от 192 държави ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 40, p. 44)

(22) “For the past eight years, Bulgaria has adopted three legal acts on promoting energy from renewable sources ...” – “За последните осем години са приети три нормативни акта за насърчаване на енергопроизводството от възобновяеми източници ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 46, p. 51)

(23) “Bulgaria has harmonized its legislation with the EU’s “Climate - Energy” package ...” – “Българското законодателство е приведено в съответствие с пакета на ЕС „Климат и енергетика” ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 80, p. 89)

*English perfect – Bulgarian nominal equivalent*

(24) “Although the activity of NIF has practically been terminated, its functions should be restored ...” – “въпреки де факто прекратената дейност на НИФ неговите функции трябва да бъдат възстановени ...” (Innovations/Иновации 2011, p.34, p. 34)

(25) “They provide for fixing the price ... only after a project has been completed.” – “Цените ... подлежат на фиксиране едва след изграждане на проекта.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 58, p. 65)

**English perfect – Bulgarian aorist**

(26) “The introduction of a green energy line in the electricity bills of customers **has focused public attention** on the high preferential pricing of RES-E.” – “Включването на добавка за зелена енергия към сметките за електроенергия на потребителите **насочи общественото внимание** към високите преференциални цени на електроенергията от възобновяеми източници.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 13, p. 14)

(27) “The financial and economic crisis **has resulted** in a decrease in the consumption of energy in the country, and the EU as a whole ...” – “Финансовата и икономическата криза **доведе до** намаляване на потреблението на енергия в България, е и в целия ЕС ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 14, p. 16)

(28) “A decade **has passed now since** the *Lisbon Strategy* and the subsequent first *EU Sustainable Development Strategy* for Europe **were formulated**.” – “**Измина едно десетилетие от** разработването на Лисабонската стратегия и на последвалата я първа *Стратегия за устойчиво развитие на Европейския съюз*.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 17, p. 19)

(29) “The Fukushima disaster **has reminded the world** that nuclear energy can hardly be termed green, although it does not produce greenhouse gases.” – “Катастрофата във Фукушима **напомни** на света, че ядрената енергия едва ли може да бъде наречена „зелена“, въпреки че не отделя парникови газове.” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 18, p. 20)

(30) “The tragedy **has revealed** that nuclear energy is inherently centralized and bulky, and insulated from independent oversight ...” – “Трагедията **потвърди факта**, че ядрената енергетика е твърде централизирана, тежка и недостъпна за независим надзор ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 18, p. 20)

(31) “**More recently**, the United States, as well as fast developing emerging market countries, **have signed** that that they would prefer to settle for 2005 as the base year ...” – “**Съвсем наскоро** Съединените щати, както и бързоразвиващите се нови пазари, **обявиха**, че биха предпочели като базова година да се взема 2005 ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 40, p. 45)

**English perfect – Bulgarian imperfect/Bulgarian unfinished aorist<sup>4</sup>**

(32) “**More recently**, governments **have turned** to nuclear I order to meet their greenhouse gas goals and growing energy needs ...” – “**След 2000 г.** правителствата **се обръщаха** към използването на ядрената енергия, за да отговорят на изискванията за ограничаване на парниковите газове и едновременно с това да посрещнат нарасналите си потребности от енергия ...” (Reports/Анализи 2011, p. 18, p. 20)

3.2.2. *Commenting on adduced equivalences***English perfect – Bulgarian present; English perfect – Bulgarian perfect; English perfect – Bulgarian present/perfect (passive)**

Most frequent equivalences, as it can be noticed from tables 1 and 2, and namely, **En perfect – Bg present**, **En perfect – Bg perfect** and **En perfect – Bg present/perfect**

<sup>4</sup> Nominal as well as imperfect Bulgarian equivalences will not be commented on later in the paper; they turn out not to be really relevant in terms of learners' errors investigation. What is more, the fact that *обръщаха* from the above (32) example, refers to both imperfect and unfinished aorist tenses, reduces even more the imperfect equivalences percentage in the examined translation materials. Nominal and imperfect correspondences are mentioned just to illustrate the variety of English perfect counterparts in Bulgarian.

(**passive**), quite naturally stem from the mentioned forms' features, in both languages. To motivate these correspondences, we shall refer to table 3 below (rf. Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2009, 2010), presenting concisely English perfect basic and derivational features, as well as to some essentials characterizing studied Bulgarian equivalents.

Table 3 English perfect values

<b><u>Essential meaning 1:</u></b> <i>Resultativity</i>	<b>Derivational meanings, stemming from both essential meanings combination:</b>	<b><u>Essential meaning 2:</u></b> <i>"Extended now" (McCoard 1978), Current relevance or Correlative deicticity</i> (term of ours) (since; for; so far; in the last years)
<b><u>Derivational meanings:</u></b> <i>Possessive resultativity</i> (with verbs referring to possession)	<i>Acquired experience</i>	<b><u>Derivational meanings:</u></b> <i>"Not yet" perfect</i>
<i>Present nearness</i> (just. recently, lately)	<i>Superlative perfectness</i> (the most, the first, the fifth, etc.)	<i>Omnitemporality</i> (always, never)
<i>Anteriority; Transpositional use</i> (after, when + have + past participle)	<i>Perfect generalization</i> (someone (everything, all things, etc.) + have + past participle)	<i>Progressive actuality</i> (have + past participle + more and more + over the past (last years))

The chart, in line with many previous studies conducted by eminent researchers, amongst whom McCawley 1971, Comrie 1976, Brinton 1988, McCoard 1978, Cohen 1989 and others, testifies to the English perfect underlying aspectual features, and namely to its present boundedness, resultativity and current relevance, characteristics basically differentiating the category from the preterit in English, not allowing perfect deictic affiliation. To refer to the above exemplifying utterances, the crucial for the English perfect current relatedness can be detected not only in the typical periphrastic structure (have + past participle) insisting on present result "acquisition", but also in contextual factors, such as: for several years now (1), in the last few years (2), in the last ten years (9), for the past eight years (22), not yet (5), (14), so far (20), for ages (12), already (16), (21). It should be pointed out, though, that the perfect value of remaining utterances from (1) to (23), which do not contain any of the above-mentioned markers, cannot be doubted as all of them, due to the overall context exhibit the typical perfect tight connectedness to the present and resultativity.

To entirely elucidate correspondences we must also refer to **Bulgarian present and perfect categories**, justifying adduced equivalences. The basic meaning of Bulgarian present is to refer to a process parallel to the moment of speaking, taking into account the fact that the process may coincide with the utterance moment or it may overlap with a wider time period, including or going through the "now" (rf. BAS grammar (ГСБКЕ)<sup>5</sup> 1983, Pashov 2013). Thus, Bulgarian present possesses two basic varieties, with concrete and general time reference point, the generalized present expressing either repetitiveness

<sup>5</sup> ГСБКЕ stands for *Граматика на съвременния български книжовен език* 1983.



or continuously habitual activities and quite often accompanied by the unfinished verb aspect (несвършен вид). As a result of the utterance moment inclusion in the larger time lapse, generalized present activities refer to some time period, prior and posterior to the “now” and, consequently, process non-interruption at the moment of speaking can be observed (cf. BAS grammar).

Referred to Bulgarian present tense values motivate not only these translation equivalents, which involve the above-mentioned “for” or “in the last years” meanings, but also the “not yet” ones (stemming from current relevance value, see table 3), as well as *contextually determinable* meanings as *current relevance*, *resultativity (combined or not with experience)* or *both* at the same time (ex. (1) – (7)). Thus, examined English perfect – Bulgarian present equivalences, such as:

- “For several years now *Innovation.bg* has refuted” – “Иновации.бг вече няколко години опровергава” (1) (*typical “extended now”*),
- “Bulgaria’s outdated National Innovation Strategy, adopted in 2004, has not been implemented in the last few years ...” – “Остарялата Иновационна стратегия на България от 2004 г. от няколко години не се изпълнява ...” (2) (*typical “extended now”*),
- “In the last two years, the number of patents ... has increased by over 40% annually.” – “Броят на издадените патенти ... за последните две години се увеличава с над 40% годишно.” (3) (*typical “extended now” with resultativity and experience*),
- “The economic and financial crisis has put a considerable strain on Europe’s public finances” – “Икономическата и финансовата криза оказва огромен натиск върху европейските публични финанси” (7) (*contextualized mixed resultativity / “extended now” values*),
- “... the companies which have managed to establish their own Bulgarian brand or product on international markets such as ...” – “... тези компании, които успяват да наложат собствен (български) бранд/продукт на международните пазари като ...” (4) (*contextualized mixed resultativity / experience / “extended now” values*),
- “The country has managed to preserve very low electricity prices” – “Държавата успява да поддържа най-ниските цени на електроенергията” (6) (*contextualized mixed resultativity / experience / “extended now”*),
- “Bulgaria has not yet devised a new action plan ...” – “България все още няма разработен нов план за действие ...” (5) (*“not-yet” perfect*),

may show **formal translation asymmetry**, though not a semantic one at all. This really *high degree of semantic perfect - present equivalence* stems from the fact that all English perfect meanings, essential and derivational ones (see table 3) function on the grounds of the intimate blending with the present. There is certainly some *overlapping* between typical *English perfect* values and *Bulgarian present* ones due to both forms tight current connectedness.

Is *Bulgarian perfect* tightly bound with the present and, consequently, *how convergent* is it to its *English counterpart*? This issue will be dealt with in the next paper section.

**Bulgarian perfect** turns out to be a crucial English perfect equivalent, though not the most frequent one in researched business articles. The following lines are devoted to Bulgarian perfect category features in the purpose of motivating the second in translation rate correspondence type.

**The perfect in Bulgarian**, which is considered as a *tense and not an aspect*, in contrast with the English form, is characterized by its *dual nature* revealed in its use. Bulgarian perfect (минало неопределено време or indefinite past) can concern a current result of a past process (*without deictic references*), on the one hand, and, on the other, a past time moment (*with deictic references*), this way, coming closer to or approximating *the aorist*. It should be kept in mind, though, that these “aoristic” perfect values, laden with specific connotations, *still possess resultativity* and also, *present connectedness*.

We will proceed by commenting on the most essential views of prominent researchers on the examined category in Bulgarian as to its crucial characteristics and use. To Lindstedt 2000 (in line with Dahl 1985) the perfect, including Bulgarian perfect is a “crosslinguistic category”. Though based on the verb *съм* (*to be*), in the present, and not on *have*, as in English, and *the finished past active participle*, and not on *the past participle*, Bulgarian perfect is likewise the English category, a periphrastic structure with *many similar values*. The finished past active participle, also refers to a *current result*; what is more, it can be established that the attributive construction based on the most existential verb (*to be*), does not reveal a result “possession” as it is the case in English (and in many other European languages), but it puts a sign of equality between the recipient of procedural result and the result itself. Bulgarian perfect composition predetermines to some extent its first typical value, matching the Maslov 1990 definition (in Lindstedt 2000: 259): “present state or a result of a preceding action or change, and/or expressing a past action, event or state that is somehow important to the present and is considered from the present point of view, detached from other past facts”. Examined typical Bulgarian perfect value gives rise to derivational meanings, such as the “*presuppositional*” use (... *е написал* ...) (Lindstedt 1985: 222, citing Stankov 1976), the *existential use* (Lindstedt 1985: 223) (involving *никой* (nobody), *никъде* (nowhere), etc.), the *current relevance use*<sup>6</sup>, the *experiential use*<sup>7</sup> (a few (n number) times) (cf. Lindstedt 1994). Though they intersect<sup>8</sup>, likewise in English, Bulgarian perfect types<sup>9</sup> bear their own characteristic features, differentiating them from the aorist as well as from the aoristic perfect.

Though Bulgarian perfect, *in contrast with its English counterpart*, has also the ability to refer to an accomplished past process *deictically located in time and space*, this “aoristic” perfect still possesses many *typical perfect values*, such as the present relatedness, resultativity, experience and inference (deduction). Thus, for example,

<sup>6</sup> Lindstedt does not use this term; though some of his views on the existential perfect equally well describe the current relevance perfect, referring to ongoing situations which began in the past.

<sup>7</sup> Lindstedt (1985: 224) considers that the existential Bulgarian perfect is often marked by negation or interrogation, a statement I partially disagree with; these cases frequently refer to current relevance use or to experiential meaning, in case of plurality as in “Гледали ли сте тези филми?” (Have you seen these films?, my translation) – transformation of a Lindstedt’s (ibid.) example.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. to Lindstedt (1985: 226) where it is said that “... existential and resultative perfect” “do not entirely exclude each other”.

<sup>9</sup> It must be said that value variation is sometimes dependent on aspect, as in: *Виждаш ли си го досега?* / *Видял ли си го досега?*, the first utterance expressing current relevance and experience, while the second, combination of current relevance and result. Likewise, “Какво е станало” testifies to resultativity, though “Какво е ставало” may reveal current relevance, experience or omnitemporality or a combination of mentioned values, according to the overall context. There are hardships related to the English translation of the above instances due to the tense/aspect morphological integration in Bulgarian; these values can be though transferred by means of compensatory mechanisms, such as adverbials indicating the number of occurrences, the perfect continuous or even the aorist (cf. to a successful English translation of a Bulgarian perfect in the imperfective aspect, Lindstedt (1985: 234).

though accompanied by time determination, Bulgarian *perfect* meaning in: “Събудил съм се днес в нем часа”<sup>10</sup> (Andreychin 1957 in Lindstedt 1982: 249), is *different*, in our view, from the *ao*rist interpretation in: “Днес се събудих в нем часа”<sup>11</sup> in terms of *resultativity* and its *related values*, but *similar* in terms of *deicticity*. We must state that this Bulgarian perfect *duality* reveals a *close aorist / perfect relationship*, a fact supported in many ways, among which, the coincidence in form of the Indirective aorist (ходил (e)), which may preserve its auxiliary in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person as well, with the perfect (rf. Lindstedt 1994: 48), conclusive and reported forms, *bringing closer* in some respects, both, perfect and aorist categories.

The transparency of Bulgarian *aorist / perfect connectedness* can be clearly supported through the so-called conclusive or “inferential” perfect (Lindstedt 1982). Above mentioned Bulgarian *aoristic perfect / aorist* divergences and similarities are likewise valid in the following pair of utterances: “Бил е тук миналата неделя” (a Lindstedt’s example, *ibid.* 1982: 254)<sup>12</sup> and “Беше тук миналата неделя”<sup>13</sup>, the first, pertaining to the *inferential perfect type*, in which “the speaker has not witnessed the event ... but only infers it from the evidence at hand” (*ibid.*), and, the second, testifying to *completeness, deicticity and lack of present relevance*. Notwithstanding the examined perfect value *similarity* with the indirect or reported aorist “бил е” (both forms refer to a non-witnessed process), the inferential utterance pertains to the set of *aoristic perfect uses*, in our view, referring to conclusions based on a *past process activity result*. We cannot underestimate, though, the many discussions carried out so far as to whether treated inferential (or called by some authors “evidential”) forms belong by their nature to a type of Bulgarian *conclusive aorist, to the perfect (or to both)* (rf. among others, Alexova 2003, 2004, Nitsolova 2007, Kirova 2011, Kutsarov 1993)<sup>14</sup>. What is certain, though, in my view, is that all form / meaning convergences and divergences, along with their analyses performed so far, testify to *Bulgarian perfect duality*, on the one hand, and to *Bulgarian perfect / aorist tight connection*, on the other, based on the *aoristic perfect / inferential perfect / conclusive aorist / reported aorist connections*<sup>15</sup>.

After having presented crucial Bulgarian features, we shall proceed with explicating *English perfect – Bulgarian perfect translations* (ex. (8) – (16)). Most exemplifying utterances explicitly reveal the *intersection* of essential perfect values of both forms. It

<sup>10</sup> English translation is mine: “I must have woken up at 5 AM today.” or “I woke up today at 5 AM and it was so early!”, depending on context.

<sup>11</sup> English translation is mine: “I woke up today at 5 AM.”

<sup>12</sup> English translation in Lindstedt (1982: 253): “He *must have been here last Sunday*.” (italics and bold are mine).

<sup>13</sup> He *was here last Sunday*.; my example and translation

<sup>14</sup> Alexova (2003:2) considers that “... the *inferential perfect* and *conclusive aorist* belong to two paradigms...” (English translation is mine); to Alexova 2004 *the conclusive aorist represents a transposition perfect use* (“Иво: - Купи ли подарък?” – “Иво попита баща си дали е купил / купил ли е подарък”, Ivo: “Did you buy a present?” – Ivo asked his father if he had bought a present, my translation); in Nitsolova’s 2007 view, it is frequently *hard to differentiate treated types of aorist and perfect*; Kirova 2011 states that *reporting* is a manifestation of *evidentiality*, thus, in my view, quite logically *дали е купил / купил ли е* (above), *possesses perfect characteristics*, as “... it is on the grounds of the perfect ... that the whole evidential category is developed” (*ibid.*). In other words, it should be stressed, in my view, that there is a tight *perfect/reporting connectedness*. What is more, Kutsarov (1993: 87) states that “... conclusive forms lay in the foundation of yet another narrative plan, the plan of conclusion” (my translation), a fact which again corroborates the conception of Bulgarian perfect/aorist closeness.

<sup>15</sup> Referred to Bulgarian perfect/aorist relatedness can be also historically supported as, according to Totomanova 2004 evidential and thence indirect meanings developed on the grounds of Bulgarian resultative forms.

should be mentioned though that the *degree of counterparts' convergence in meaning* is much higher than in already examined English perfect – Bulgarian present equivalences. English and Bulgarian periphrases function with their typical acceptations, such as:

- “The staff engaged in R&D **has increased by 20% in the last ten years.**” – “За последните десет години броят на персонала, зает с НИРД, се е увеличил с **20%.**” (9) (*current relevance*),
- “... especially when they pertain to a union of twenty-seven states for which energy **has been the linchpin** of national sovereignty **for ages.**” – “... особено когато става дума за съюз от 27 държави, за които **в продължение на десетилетия** енергетиката **е била съществен елемент** от националния суверенитет.” (12) (*current relevance*),
- “The public administration in Bulgaria **has not made an effort to offer** this instrument ...” – “Държавната администрация в България **не е направила усилие да предложи** този инструмент.” (8) (*implicit current relevance and “not yet”perfect*),
- “**At present, Bulgaria has not yet sold a single ton** of its emissions internationally ...” – “До момента България **не е продала** на международния пазар **нищо един тон ...**” (14) (*explicit/implicit current relevance and “not yet”perfect*),
- “Bulgaria **has undertaken a serious commitment** in ...” – “България **е поела сериозен ангажимент** в ...” (11) (*result*),
- “In addition, the development of a national legal framework on climate change **has already been launched** ...” – “Освен това разработването на национална правна рамка за климатичните промени **вече е започнало** ...” (16) (*result*),
- “Bulgaria’s government **has repeatedly declared intentions** ...” – “Правителството на България **многократно е декларирало амбиции** ...” (10) (*experience*),
- “Bulgaria **has signed binding agreements** ...” – “България **е подписала обвързващи споразумения** ...” (15) (*experience*),
- “... the selling country **has reached its interim renewable targets.**” – “... продаващата страна **е достигнала своите междинни планове** за използването на възобновяеми източници.” (13) (*result and experience*).

It must be mentioned again, before concluding with *English perfect – Bulgarian perfect equivalences* examination, that notwithstanding the above mentioned relatively high convergence degree of examined counterparts, *there is not an absolute overlapping* of both languages perfect values due to Bulgarian periphrasis endowment not only with *resultativity and current connectedness meanings*, but also with *deicticity*. As it will be revealed later, this peculiar feature turns out to be relevant in Bulgarian interference elucidation.

Having illustrated *English perfect – Bulgarian perfect equivalences*, we will proceed with the third by occurrence rate correspondence *English perfect – Bulgarian present / perfect passive*. It must be stated though that *English perfect – Bulgarian present / perfect passive equivalences* (ex. (17) – (23)) will not be examined in detail, due to Bulgarian *passive form coincidence* for both categories, present and perfect; this is most often the larger context which witnesses to whether the value pertains to the present or to the perfect.<sup>16</sup> Thus, already performed justification of Bulgarian *present and perfect equivalents* will be considered sufficient. However, values of individual exemplifying utterances will be briefly mentioned as it follows:

<sup>16</sup> In my view, referred to formal equivalence not only stems from auxiliary verb “съм” coincidence in Bulgarian present and perfect passive (cf. BAS grammar), but also from the semantic closeness of Bulgarian present and perfect categories.

- “While 192 countries **have already adopted...**” – “Въпреки че протоколът от Киото **е приет** от 192 държави...” (21) (*result*),
- “Bulgaria **has harmonized** its legislation...” – “Българското законодателство **е приведено в съответствие...**” (23) (*result*),
- “A total of 36 technology platforms **have been established...**” – “Създадени са 36 технологични платформи...” (17) (*result and experience*),
- “Some of the funds ... **have been channeled into...**” – “Част от средствата ... са насочени към...” (19) (*result and experience*),
- “So far, measures **have been focused** primarily on...” – “Мерките, предприети досега, са насочени предимно към...” (20) (*current relevance and experience*),
- “For the past eight years, Bulgaria **has adopted three legal acts...**” – “За последните осем години са приети три нормативни акта...” (22) (*current relevance and experience*),
- “Bulgarian participation **has not been registered...**” – “...не е регистрирано българско участие...” (18) (*implicit “not-yet perfect”*).

### English perfect – Bulgarian aorist

At first glance *English perfect – Bulgarian aorist* correspondences, established in analyzed business texts, may seem inappropriate, though they are a *relevant and significant fact*, which can be explained and motivated. *What do detected aoristic forms in Bulgarian really express and are they in researched materials truly deictic, just because of Bulgarian aorist irrefutable underlying deictic value?* To adequately answer these queries we shall examine Bulgarian aorist (English simple past (preterit) most prominent counterpart) crucial and intrinsic characteristics referring to renowned studies and statements.

In accordance with the BAS grammar, Bulgarian aorist refers to processes *finished*, accomplished or interrupted before the utterance moment and deictically determined, the activity being potentially close to the moment of speech or remote from it. Concreteness, *temporal* (and we may also add *spatial*) localization are related to conveying *eyewitness knowledge* of an event; the activity completeness contributes, especially in the perfective (finished) aorist case<sup>17</sup>, to create a narrative; repetition or duration of finished processes are frequently conveyed values. *How are then already mentioned Bulgarian aorist basic meanings compatible with the English perfect values intrinsically marked with resultativity and current relevance and not with deicticity and completeness?* We must not underestimate the fact that Bulgarian perfective (finished) aorist possesses, along with its traditional meaning of deictic completion, *a value of perfectness and resultativity* (cf. Stankov 1976: 49, 50, 51, 62, 63); in case we add to the finished aspect components pertaining to specific resultative modes of action, some finished aspect verbs may refer not only to the activity, but also to its *current result*. Thus, the utterances, “*Реши ли задачите? – Реших ги.*”<sup>18</sup> (ibid: 51), though alluding to a known deictic past reference moment, contain undeniable *present resultativity shades*.<sup>19</sup> What is more, *Bulgarian*

<sup>17</sup> Bulgarian unfinished aorist likewise expresses finished processes, though in general; information is not provided as to *whether they were accomplished until the end* or interrupted.

<sup>18</sup> In my view, in compliance with Stankov’s 1976 findings, both utterances may be *either translated* into English by “*Did you solve the problems?*” – “*Yes, I did.*” or by “*Have you solved the problems?*” – “*Yes, I have.*”, depending on context parameters, laying stress either on deicticity and completeness or on resultativity.

<sup>19</sup> Lindstedt (1986:12), analyzing Bulgarian aorist in terms of layers of boundedness, refers to Stankov 1980 treating *finished aorist values* as expressing *whole, unified and completed processes*. I would guess that the

*finished aorist*<sup>20</sup> refers to past activities which the speaker considers must have happened in an *already expected way*, such as “Издържа ли си изпита?; Срещнахте ли се и днес?”<sup>21</sup> (ibid: 62), which, in our view, strongly supports the considered *aoristic perfectness value*. It is so, due to the fact that the speaker uttering the question expects its answer; *this expectation* namely, logically existing at *the current moment*, unites the *finished past process to its present result*.

**Bulgarian finished aoristic values** have proved to *partially overlap*, as a result of the above examination, with **Bulgarian perfect essential meanings, and thence, with English perfect acceptations**. It must be mentioned that contemporary Bulgarian written / oral production observation witnesses to *more and more instances of perfect aoristic uses, implemented where the perfect would be completely suitable*; Bulgarian perfect though does not possess the *aoristic eye-witnessing hue* often contributing to utterances vividness and certainty. Thus, for example, nowadays radio listeners or TV viewers are more likely than before to hear in journalistic speech production (a linguistic practice raising some objections) “Нека разберем какво *решиха* депутатите днес в Народното събрание” instead of “Нека разберем какво *са решили* депутатите днес в Народното събрание”<sup>22</sup>, the first utterance laying emphasis on eye-witnessing hues, and the second, on inferential ones.

The following instances, completely acceptable and the variants of which are quite typical for today’s Bulgarian written / oral production are yet another proof in support of some Bulgarian aoristic meanings closeness to Bulgarian and English perfect values. The aorist (ex. (1), (2), (3), (4)), can be replaced by the perfect (ex. (1a), (2a), (3a), (4a)), though with *variation in hues*.

- (1) “В продължение на три години той *работи* по автобиографията си и **сега** книгата излиза.” - (1a) “В продължение на три години той *е работил* по автобиографията си и **сега** книгата излиза.”
- (2) “Цената на електроенергията *се вдигна* в последните години.” - (2a) “Цената на електроенергията *се е вдигнала* в последните години.”
- (3) “**Наскоро** тя *нарисува* нова картина.” – (3a) “**Наскоро** тя *е нарисувала* нова картина.”
- (4) “Цената на петрола *се вдигна* и **днес** този факт се изразява в следното ...” – (4a) “Цената на петрола *се е вдигнала* и **днес** този факт се изразява в следното ...”

English translation correspondences will be analyzed here below:

- (1) **There are two options:** (1\*) “He **worked** for three years on his autobiography and now the book is appearing.”; (1\*\*) “He **has worked** for three years on his

contrast between Bulgarian *finished aorist completeness* and *unfinished aorist incompleteness* greatly contributes to the examined *aoristic perfect meaning*.

<sup>20</sup> I would assume that this *interesting perfective aoristic value in Bulgarian* is preconditioned by the existence of both aoristic types (*finished* and *unfinished*) with their meaning variations.

<sup>21</sup> Both utterances here again may be translated, depending on overall context, by “Did you pass your exam?” or by “Have you passed your exam?”; by “Did you meet him/her again today?” or by “Have you met him/her again today”, not underestimating the fact that *today* in both languages contributes to present relatedness and, thus, leads either to *perfect or to aoristic perfectness*.

<sup>22</sup> English translation of both utterances “Let us learn what decisions MPs *took* (1) / *have taken* (2) today.” It must be taken into account that *Bulgarian aoristic example above* contains resultativity, which is not the case with its English counterpart (preterit or simple past), and is, consequently, *much closer to Bulgarian and English perfect values*.

autobiography and now the book is appearing.” (1\*) obviously does not convey any perfect meaning at all in comparison with (1\*\*) revealing resultativity and current relevance. However, it must be mentioned that the second (1\*\*) English interpretation (the aoristic perfect one) of Bulgarian (1) is much more likely than (1\*); (1\*), the completely finished and cut off from the present interpretation, more frequently would appear with exact time determination, such as: “В продължение на три години – **от 2009 до 2012...**” – “for three years - **from 2009 to 2012 ...**”. (1a) **translation coincides with (1 \*\*)**. It should be though kept in mind that Bulgarian (1a) contains inferential hues apart from typically current relevance ones.

- (2) Both examples ((2) and (2a)) translation is unambiguous and identical – “**в последните години**”, meaning “**over the last years**” is related to the present and, consequently, invariably requires the English perfect: “The price of electric power **has risen over the last years**”. Here again (2a) in Bulgarian contains inference or evidentiality.
- (3) Both examples ((3) and (3a)) translation is unambiguous and identical due to the use of “**наскоро**” – “**recently, lately**”, unavoidably leading in British English to the perfect: “She **has recently painted** a new picture.” Bulgarian (3a) example inferential hue is still present.
- (4) Both examples ((4) and (4a)) translation is here again unambiguous and identical not only due to contextual factors (the use of “**днес**” – “**nowadays**”), providing the relationship with the present, but also to the background knowledge fact of the immediate relationship between oil price and all spheres of economy; the perfect is thus the only convenient way of translation: “Oil price **has risen and nowadays** this fact finds its expression in...” Similarly to above, (4a) in Bulgarian is characterized with inferential shades.

Having presented most essential Bulgarian perfect finished aorist features, we will proceed by analyzing the above English perfect – Bulgarian aorist equivalences ((26) - (31)) in terms of values:

- “The financial and economic crisis **has resulted** in ...” – “Финансовата и икономическата криза **доведе до** намаляване на ...” (27) (*result*),
- “The introduction of a green energy line in the electricity bills of customers **has focused public attention** on...” – “Включването на добавка за зелена енергия към сметките за електроенергия на потребителите **насочи общественото внимание** към ...” (26) (*result*),
- “The tragedy **has revealed** that ...” – “Трагедията **потвърди факта**, че ...” (30) (*result*),
- “The Fukushima disaster **has reminded the world** that ...” – “Катастрофата във Фукушима **напомни** на света, че ...” (29) (*result*),
- “**More recently**, the United States ... **have signed** that that they would prefer to settle for 2005 as the base year ...” – “**Съвсем наскоро** Съединените щати ... **обявиха**, че ...” (31) (*result and present nearness*),
- “A decade **has passed now since** ... **were formulated**.” – “**Измина едно десетилетие от** разработването на ...” (28) (*current relevance*).

The above exemplifying utterances from researched business English texts primarily reveal resultativity and current relevance in English perfect-Bulgarian aorist correspondences. However, this does not exclude other values appearance in different contexts.

**What follows out of the above comments and observations?**

As it has already been shown, the English perfect turns out to be the equivalent of various forms in Bulgarian (rf. above tables 1 and 2) in business English texts, which can be represented through the following fan of basic correspondences:

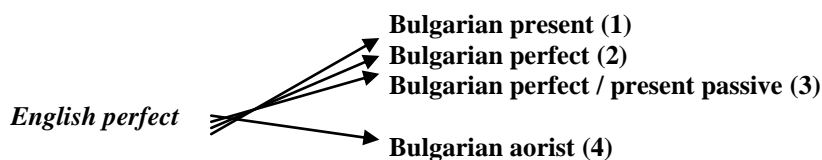


Fig. 1

Furthermore, what has proved to be really crucial in learners' interpretation of English perfect values is the fact that established equivalent categories in both languages *do not completely overlap*. In compliance with the above translation equivalences analysis, **Bulgarian present** corresponds to the *English perfect* within the semantic range of *current relevance or "extended now"*, *"not-yet" perfect or mixture of current relevance and resultativity*; **Bulgarian perfect** matches *English perfect* acceptations, such as *resultativity, experience, "not-yet" meaning (and, consequently, "so far" value), current relevance (or "extended now") and the combination of current relevance and resultativity* (rf. table 3) **only in its typical perfect, but not aoristic (deictic) perfect connotations**. **Bulgarian perfect / present passive** periphrastic equivalents function within the same boundaries (*pertaining to referred to Bulgarian present and perfect acceptations*) as it has already been commented on. It has also become evident that **Bulgarian aorist in its resultative finished aoristic acceptance (and not typically deictic value), referring to present nearness, current relevance, current result and experience,** does match with hues of eye-witnessing and expressivity essential *English perfect* values.

3.2.3. *The variety of English perfect equivalents in Bulgarian and business English learners' interference in mastering English perfect values*

As it has already been proved on many occasions<sup>23</sup>, *similar in form and/or meaning* categories in *two or more* languages are susceptible to mutually influence themselves in terms of formation and/or value acceptations in learners' knowledge building, this way leading to positive or negative transfer (interference). Transfer is cognitively preconditioned by knowledge formation mechanism always comparing new with existing pieces of information. Not only negative, but positive transfer should also be studied, both types being significant to degrees and ways of knowledge acquisition; it must be equally taken into consideration that *intralingual interference* quite often accompanies *interlingual one* (rf. Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2011). A great number of equivalences of a FL category in a NL (and/or in FL1) normally leads to a great opportunity for language transfer due to omnipresent *inner translation* and unconscious calquing (in the light of Danchev 1991), not only in form, but also in meaning. Interference, though logically

<sup>23</sup> Rf. Selinker 1969, 1972, Brown 1987, Odlin 1989, Danchev 1982, Danchev 2001, Shopov 2002, Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2011 and many others



expected and practically experienced must be proved, to be more efficiently fought with. Establishing negative transfer<sup>24</sup> usually happens by means of an adopted procedure developed by Corder 1971 and Corder 1981 and consisting in the following basic steps: (1) determining *overt* (evident) and *covert* (hidden, wrong functioning in overall context) errors in learners' production; (2) *overt error literal translation* into NL (FL1) (its adequate functioning reveals *calquing* and error interference etiology); (3) erratic utterance translation from NL (FL1) into target language and *error analysis* and (4) *contrastive analysis*.

Detailed analysis of business ESP learners' production, performed by means of the above algorithm, (likewise in general English students' case) has revealed on many occasions direct calquing (witnessing to negative interference) from Bulgarian in the field of English perfect values mastering, negative transfer being obviously due to the significant number of Bulgarian correspondences (cf. fig. 1). Studied phenomenon will be illustrated by presenting and analyzing the following erratic utterances typical to ESP students, here below referring only to a few characteristic examples for the reason of conciseness:

(1) (A) **WRONG:** "We *have discussed\** the issue at **last week's** meeting."; **RIGHT:** "We *discussed* the issue at **last week's** meeting."; **LITERAL BULGARIAN TRANSLATION:** "Обсъдили сме въпроса на заседанието от **миналата седмица**."; (B) **WRONG:** "The company *has launched\** the new brand **in 1988**."; **RIGHT:** "The company *launched* the new brand **in 1988**."; **LITERAL BULGARIAN TRANSLATION:** "Компанията е пуснала в продажба марката **през 1988**"<sup>25</sup>

**ANALYSIS:** Bulgarian **PERFECT and/or AORISTIC PERFECT** interference has been established in juxtaposing overt error with its literal translation equivalent, due to Bulgarian *aoristic perfect* ability to refer to *deictically determined, though resultative, events*. Additionally, the above calquing may be the result of *secondary interference* (or *intra-lingual interference*<sup>26</sup>), stemming from Bulgarian *conclusive perfect connection with the reported aorist* (cf. above) and, thence, with the variety of aoristic acceptations, as well as from the already examined *Bulgarian finished aorist perfect meaning*, leading to "equalizing" in the learners' understanding of the values of Bulgarian **typical perfect** with the values of the **aoristic perfect, perfect meaning aorist** and, why not, thence, with these ones of the **deictically determined aorist**. Equalized values can be subsequently *wrongly transferred* (calqued) onto English perfect acceptations, the learners assuming that the English perfect is not only a resultative category joining past and present, but may also contain deicticity. Under these circumstances the students can be very likely to put a sign of equality not only between *the English perfect and Bulgarian aoristic perfect*, but also between *the English perfect and past simple (preterit) values*, based on the *partial*

<sup>24</sup> A similar procedure is also applicable in positive transfer determining, though based not on errors, but on illogically correct learner production.

<sup>25</sup> Literal translation equivalent of (A) is quite close to the aoristic Bulgarian translation: "Обсъдиме въпроса на заседанието от **миналата седмица**." Likewise, literal translation equivalent of (B), to: "Компанията пусна в продажба марката **през 1988**.", aoristic perfect equivalents containing a conclusive hue, whereas the finished aoristic ones reveal the eye witnessing value of certainty and completion. Bulgarian equivalents nearness in meanings preconditions the already mentioned and commented on later intra-lingual interference.

<sup>26</sup> It has become evident (cf. Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2011 on French-English past simple (preterit) / perfect contrastive analysis) that intra-lingual interference, stemming from calquing values / forms between categories similar in terms of form or semantics within the source or target language, also preconditions inter-lingual interference.

*overlapping* of Bulgarian perfect with its aoristic perfect variant and this way, with some Bulgarian aoristic acceptations.

(2) **WRONG:** “Please, be aware that our address and phone number *changed\**”; **RIGHT:** “Please, be aware that our address and phone number *have changed*”; **LITERAL BULGARIAN TRANSLATION:** “Моля, имайте предвид, че адресът и телефонният ни номер *се промениха*.”<sup>27</sup>

**ANALYSIS:** The calquing, revealing interference, originates from wrongly transferring Bulgarian *finished perfect aorist resultativity* onto the English simple past (preterit) (value it does not possess in English),<sup>28</sup> which, similarly to above may stem from some learners’ assumption that there is a sign of equality between Bulgarian perfect and aorist meanings, and, consequently, between their English counterparts (intralingual transfer leading to interlingual interference). However, positive transfer is here again possible due to “*са се променили/ са променени*” in translation matching typical perfect acceptations (rf. above in the section on perfect and present/perfect passive analysis in Bulgarian).

(3) **WRONG:** “They *invested\** millions in advertising **so far/ over the last years/ since 2000/ for 25 years/ for many years.**”; **RIGHT:** “They *have invested* millions in advertising **so far/ over the last years/ since 2000/ for 25 years/ for many years.**” **LITERAL BULGARIAN TRANSLATION:** “До настоящия момент/ през последните години/ от 2000 г./ в продължение на 25 години/ в продължение на много години *те инвестираха* милиони в реклама.”<sup>29</sup>

**ANALYSIS:** In compliance with the above comments, calquing primarily originates from *Bulgarian finished aorist perfect acceptation*, which renders the translation utterance correct, and secondarily, from *equalizing Bulgarian finished aorist meaning with Bulgarian perfect value*, leading to equality in some, if not all, learners’ understanding, between the English perfect and simple past (preterit) acceptations.

(4) **WRONG:** “She *is\** the company CEO **since 2010/ for 5 years/ since her promotion.**”; **RIGHT:** “She *has been* the company CEO **since 2010/ for 5 years/ since her promotion.**”; **LITERAL BULGARIAN TRANSLATION:** “Тя *е* главен изпълнителен директор на компанията **от 2010 г./ в продължение на 5 години/ от повишението си.**”

**ANALYSIS:** In that case language interference is due to calquing motivated by the *partial Bulgarian present / English perfect overlapping* in meaning (rf. above in the section on Bulgarian present analysis), causing erratic equalization of Bulgarian present use with the examined English category. Similarly to above, interference may stem from intralingual transfer, and namely, from the wrong equalization of Bulgarian typical perfect with Bulgarian present values caused by their *partial overlapping*, which then

<sup>27</sup> Literal translation equivalent is here again similar in value (with the exclusion of additional hues) with: “Моля, имайте предвид, че адресът и телефонният ни номер *са се променили/ са променени*.”

<sup>28</sup> Although the English simple past (preterit) was mentioned, we do not deem necessary to examine here its essential characteristics. It is true that this type of error may stem not only from equalizing values of Bulgarian categories and, this way, of the English ones, but also from English simple past mastering problems. However, contrastive teaching of the simple past is not among the objectives of the current paper (rf. to Ruzheкова-Rogozherova 2011 as to some details on the English simple past characterization and contrastive teaching with its French counterpart).

<sup>29</sup> Similarly to above, positive transfer is here again likely to occur as a result of a possible Bulgarian perfect translation equivalent: “До настоящия момент/ през последните години/ от 2000 г./ в продължение на 25 години/ в продължение на много години *те са инвестирани* милиони в реклама.”

leads to another degree of erratic equalization, between the English counterparts, perfect and present.

(5) **WRONG:** “This strategy *outperforms*\* for many decades in machine building.”;  
**RIGHT:** “This strategy *has outperformed* for many decades in machine building.”;  
**LITERAL TRANSLATION:** “Тази стратегия дава много по-добри резултати от очакваното в продължение на много десетилетия в областта на машиностроенето.”<sup>30</sup>

**ANALYSIS:** As it has been already established, direct Bulgarian calquing, due to Bulgarian present value partial overlapping with the English perfect meanings, preconditions the examined erratic utterance, as well as already treated secondary intralingual interference (rf. the above example analysis).

#### 4. MUST THE ENGLISH PERFECT BE CONTRASTIVELY TAUGHT IN BUSINESS ESP COURSES AND HOW?

Already exemplified and motivated Bulgarian interference in the process of mastering the English perfect in ESP business courses reveals the importance of the examined category *contrastive teaching*<sup>31</sup>. Presenting to ESP learners the *English perfect characteristics in contrast* (convergences and divergences in terms of form and semantics) *with its Bulgarian equivalents' features* contributes to building the understanding that *form / meaning similarities* between categories belonging to two (or more) languages *are not necessarily complete*; in fact, there are many discrepancies in terms of form / meaning between counterparts, as shown in the above discussion. The better *awareness* of similarities and differences leads to the better and more exhaustive *comprehension of real equivalences* between categories pertaining to two (or more) languages, with reference to form and meaning, and this way, preconditions the reduction of interference errors. Thus, contrastive teaching, if appropriately carried out at its various stages, contributes to the specific and also overall learners' *language awareness*<sup>32</sup> and is, consequently, tightly connected with minimizing errors in other related fields of language, apart from deliberately taught ones.

##### 4.1. Stages of the English perfect contrastive teaching with Bulgarian in business ESP classes

Successful contrastive teaching, likewise grammar teaching in general, follows the already proved as efficient stages of *lead-in, elicitation, explanation, accurate representation* and *immediate creativity* (rf. Harmer 1991), though, in the examined approach English category specific features are taught *in juxtaposition with its Bulgarian counterparts* in terms of form and values. Quite frequently *interlingual contrasts* are

<sup>30</sup> Similarly to above, positive transfer is likely to occur as a result of a possible Bulgarian perfect translation equivalent: “Тази стратегия е давала много по-добри резултати от очакваното в продължение на много десетилетия в областта на машиностроенето.”

<sup>31</sup> Rf. to James (1980: 154), “Contrastive teaching” involves presenting to the learner at the same time all the terms in a linguistic system of L2 which, as a system, contrasts with the corresponding L1 system.”; in our works though we consider this version of the approach rather idealized and focus on the contrastive teaching of categories with a proven high degree of interference.

<sup>32</sup> Rf. as to the close relationship between contrastive teaching and language awareness in Ruzhekova-Rogozherova 2014, the study referring to many researchers in the field of language awareness and to a linguistic experiment performed by the author

accompanied by *intralingual comparisons* due to already mentioned intralingual interference contributing to positive or negative *transfer*. Some *error analysis* components are also performed, in compliance with the above commented on interference identification algorithm, in the purpose of studied category equivalents better *understanding* and, consequently, more conscious and correct implementation in written and/or oral speech production. Illustrative examples will be adduced here below to provide illustration of contrastive teaching stages.

#### 4.1.1. Lead-in stage

We suggest implementing *equivalent translation paragraphs* in the purpose of providing some initial idea of the English category meanings and use as well as of its Bulgarian counterparts' values and getting the learners acquainted with the existence of *convergences and divergences between forms in both languages*. It will also be valuable to use *another set of translation paragraphs* to refresh students' ideas as to diverging uses and meanings of the *English perfect and simple past (preterit)*, quite often confused as a result of already analyzed interference (primary (interlingual) and secondary (intralingual)). Thus, contrastive teaching approach, involving *comparisons between categories belonging to two (or more) languages* will be facilitated by comparative teaching *involving comparisons between categories pertaining to one language* (either the target and/or the source language) and fighting intralingual negative transfer, this way, also contributing to learners' language awareness enhancement.

#### First set of paragraphs<sup>33</sup>

(1) "The **recent** disaster in Fukushima **has clearly demonstrated** that, while nuclear power plants emit almost no greenhouses gases, in the wake of accidents they can be extremely harmful to the environment. Even in the absence of such "black swan" calamities, the nuclear industry **has not yet found** a way to solve the problem of long-term (permanent) storage, which was one of the reasons for its loss of popularity in the 1990's." (Reports 2011: 56)

(1a) "**Неотдавнашната** катастрофа във Фукушима недвусмислено **показва**, че макар атомните електроцентрали на практика да не отделят почти никакви парникови газове, въздействието им върху околната среда може да бъде изключително вредно. Да настъпват такива необичайно големи бедствия, ядрената индустрия **все още не е намерила** начин за справяне с проблема за дългосрочното (окончателно) складиране на отпадъците, което е и една от причините за замирането на отрасъла през 90-те години на миналия век." (Анализи 2011: 62)

(2) "**For years** governments **have tried** to reach climate change and energy targets through quick fixes, such as replacing coal with natural gas. This **has led** to a **gradual increase** of energy dependence on Russia. (...) The Fukushima disaster **has reminded** the world that nuclear energy can hardly be termed green, although it does not produce greenhouse gases. The tragedy **has revealed** that nuclear energy is inherently centralized and bulky, and insulated from independent oversight, which creates high risks of government capture and governance failures." (Reports 2011: 18)

(2a) "**В продължение на години** европейските правителства **се опитват** да постигнат целите, поставени пред енергетиката в контекста на климатичните

<sup>33</sup>Exemplifying paragraphs belong to the above referred to collection of business materials in Bulgarian and English.

промени, посредством бързи решения, едно от които е заместването на въглищата с газ. Това **постепенно увеличава** енергийната зависимост на Европа от руския газ. (...) Катастрофата във Фукушима **напомни** на света, че ядрената енергия едва ли може да бъде наречена „зелена“, въпреки че не отделя парникови газове. Трагедията **потвърди** факта, че ядрената енергетика е твърде централизирана, тежка и недостъпна за независим надзор, като така създава висок риск от корупция и грешки от страна на правителството.” (Анализи 2011: 20)

(3) “The increase of R&D expenditure should essentially exceed GDP growth which **has rarely happened in the last decade**. (...) R&D expenditure in the sectors of higher education and enterprises **has increased** by an identical rate (slightly 3.6-fold) and merely twice larger sums **have been distributed** for the state sector (publicly funded research units, BAS, AA). **Over the ten-year period**, there **has been** a relative increase of the share of higher education, enterprises and non-profit organizations at the expense of the state sector.” (Innovation 2011: 32)

(3a) “Необходимо е ръстът на разходите за изследователска и развойна дейност да превишава съществено ръста на БВП, което **през последното десетилетие се е случвало** рядко. (...) С еднакъв темп **нарастват** разходите за НИРД в секторите „Висше образование“ и „Предприятия“ (малко над 3,6 пъти) и едва 2 пъти по-големи суми **се разпределят** за държавния сектор (ведомствени изследователски звена, БАН, ССА). **За десетгодишния период** относително **се увеличава** делът на висшето образование, предприятията и нетърговските организации за сметка на държавния сектор.” (Иновации 2011: 32)

#### Second set of paragraphs

(4) “Bulgaria’s membership in the European Union **was accompanied** by high expectations for improvement of the business climate and the living standards in the country. The global financial and economic crisis of **2009 – 2010**, however, **dealt** a severe blow to economic growth, **increased** unemployment and **reduced** private and public capacity for investment. Bulgaria **remained** one of the few stable EU member-states financially and fiscally, but this **did not change** the position of the Bulgarian economy as the poorest in the EU and requires bold measures for overcoming the slowdown.” (Innovation 2011: 11)

(4a) “Членството на България в Европейския съюз **бе свързано** с множество очаквания за подобряване на бизнес климат и жизненото равнище в страната. Световната финансово-икономическа криза от **2008 – 2010 г.** **нанесе** сериозен удар върху икономическия растеж, **повиши** безработицата и **намали** финансовите възможности на частния и държавния сектор за инвестиции. България **остана** една от малкото финансово и бюджетно стабилни страни – членки на ЕС, но това **не променя** позицията на българската икономика като най-бедната в ЕС и изисква смели и решителни мерки за преодоляване на изоставането.” (Иновации 2011: 11)

(5) “With Bulgaria’s accession into the European Union **in 2007**, the country **adopted** a very comprehensive but badly structured law on promoting renewable energy sources. Its guaranteed high and stable preferential prices for electricity produced from renewables **led** to a quick and chaotic explosion of wind and photovoltaic projects (...). (...) However, as preferential prices **kicked in**, electricity prices for consumers **started to** marginally **increase**, which, coupled with the introduction of a specific green energy line in monthly electricity bills, **created** a popular public backlash against renewable energy.” (Reports 2011: 19-20)

(5a) “След приемането ѝ в Европейския съюз през 2007 г. България *въвежда* обширен, но недобре структуриран закон за насърчаване на използването на възобновяеми енергийни източници. Гарантираните в него високи и стабилни преференциални цени на електричеството, произвеждано от възобновяеми енергийни източници, *довеждат* до бърз и хаотичен бум на вятърните и фотоволтаичните проекти (...) (...) С въвеждането на преференциалните цени цената на електроенергията за крайните потребители *се повиши*, което съвпадна с добавянето на реда за зелена енергия към месечните сметки за електричество и *предизвика* бурна обществена реакция против използването на възобновяеми енергоизточници.” (Анализи 2011: 22)

#### Use of both sets of paragraphs at lead-in stage

At lead-in learners are asked to *read both contrasted sets of paragraphs, concentrate on identically underlined structures (taught English periphrasis, English simple past* (in the above texts, in bold and italicized), on their *Bulgarian counterparts* as well as on *contextual markers* requiring a specific category implementation (here presented in bold and underlined) and **enumerate English perfect and simple past Bulgarian equivalents**. Their attention is drawn to the fact that **there is no absolute correspondence in terms of form** between categories in examined materials so that they may later come to the conclusion of the quite **frequent interlingual form/meaning asymmetry** observed on various occasions in many languages, and, more specifically here, between the English perfect and its Bulgarian equivalents<sup>34</sup>.

#### 4.1.2. Elicitation stage

This teaching stage naturally follows from the previous one and usually involves *questions intended to make learners formulate hypotheses* as to the underlined equivalences and contextual factors in the already presented sets of paragraphs. Questions similar to the following ones may be asked:

- Are extracts (1) and (1a) intended to tell us **when** the Fukushima disaster **happened** (underlined words are deliberately stressed) or rather inform us about its *current outcome* and the lessons which must be learnt?
- Does this point of view motivate the English perfect use in “*has clearly demonstrated*”?
- What does Bulgarian aorist mean in “недвусмислено *показва*”?
- Is there any connection between the use of “The **recent** disaster” and “**Неотдавнашната** катастрофа” and the perfect/aorist uses in contrasted paragraphs? Why?
- Can you motivate convergences between “the nuclear industry **has not yet found** a way to solve the problem” and “ядрената индустрия **все още не е намерила** начин за справяне с проблема”?
- What is the value of “*have tried*”, “*has led*”, “*has reminded*” and “*has revealed*” in extract (2)? What is the value of equivalent Bulgarian translations in extract (2a) “*се опитват*”, “*увеличават*”, “*напомни*” and “*потвърди*”? Does this mean that there is overlapping between the English perfect, Bulgarian present and finished aorist? Is this convergence in meaning complete or partial?

<sup>34</sup> At this stage and later, with French FL learners, it is recommendable to expatiate on the English perfect equivalents in French and, also on Bulgarian/French aorist/perfect connections, offering some similarities.

- Is there any connection between both paragraphs ((2) and (2a)) use of perfect / present and contextual determiners “**for years**” and “**в продължение на години**”? Why are different forms used in identical contexts?
- Is there any relationship between the perfect in extract (3) and contextual factors “**in the last decade**”, “**Over the ten-year period**”? Can you make hypotheses as to Bulgarian equivalents value and use in extract (3a) in connection with “**през последното десетилетие**” and “**За десетгодишния период**”?
- Can you have a look at the second set of paragraphs, after having established most frequent English perfect equivalents in Bulgarian business English texts (Bulgarian present, perfect and finished aorist)? How do you motivate the tense form used in extracts (4) and (5)? Which are the most typical English past simple values? Are there any contextual factors determining the past simple implementation in both paragraphs, “*was accompanied*”, “*dealt*”, “*increased*”, “*remained*”, “*did not change*”, “*adopted*”, “*led*”, “*kicked in*”, “*started*”, “*created*”, and which ones?
- How can you explain English past simple Bulgarian equivalents “*бе свързано*”, “*нанесе*”, “*повиши*”, “*намали*”, “*остана*”, “*не променя*”, “*въвежда*”, “*довеждат*”, “*се повиши*” and “*предизвика*” in extracts (4a) and (5a)? Why are two Bulgarian forms implemented? Does their joint use make Bulgarian aorist and present identical in meaning with the English past simple?
- Why, in your view, do *Bulgarian finished aorist and present function as English perfect equivalents* in explored business texts? Why do the same forms also function as *equivalents of the simple past*? Does this mean *Bulgarian explored forms* possess a *large range of values*, some of which *convergent with the perfect* and some, typically aoristic (deictically past)?

#### 4.1.3. Explanation stage

This stage is also supposed to naturally follow from the previous ones and is intended, along with them, to raise learners’ language awareness not only as to the *English perfect*, but also as to its above mentioned and analyzed *Bulgarian equivalents* in business texts. It is also crucial for learners to reach and consolidate the understanding of the *partial asymmetry* in terms of form and semantics between the English periphrasis and its Bulgarian counterparts, which will provide the students with the ability *not to literally translate* from NL, but to *consciously build utterances clothing conveyed meaning into the appropriate form*. Some explanatory activities should be also devoted to pointing out English past simple (preterit)/perfect divergences in the purpose of eliminating to a higher extent not only *primary (interlingual) interference*, but also *secondary (intralingual, see above) calquing*. We suggest using at this stage also the same above presented sets of paragraphs in order to benefit from already elicited learners’ answers and lead them to a high degree of awareness in considered issues. Here below follow most relevant explanation sub-stages.

- Learners’ attention is drawn (Fig. 1) to the fan of established most frequent English perfect Bulgarian equivalents in business English texts. If appropriate, students may be informed about various equivalents’ approximate use in percentages.
- Paragraphs are again referred to with illustrative equivalences examples, such as “*has clearly demonstrated*” – “недвусмислено *показва*”, “**For years** governments *have tried* to...” – “**В продължение на години** европейските правителства *се опитват*

да...”, etc. (*English perfect/Bulgarian present*); “the nuclear industry **has not yet found** a way to solve the problem...” – “ядрената индустрия **все още не е намерила** начин за справяне с проблема...”, “which **has rarely happened in the last decade**” – “което **през последното десетилетие се е случвало** рядко” (*English perfect/Bulgarian perfect*); “The Fukushima disaster **has reminded** the world” – “Катастрофата във Фукушима **напомни** на света”, “The tragedy **has revealed** that...” – “Трагедията **потвърди** факта, че...” (*English perfect/Bulgarian aorist*).<sup>35</sup>

- Equivalences of contrasted categories are motivated by means of explaining the English perfect *partial overlapping* with its Bulgarian counterparts, with appropriate and learner-friendly terminology. Considered values of Bulgarian equivalents (cf. 3.2.2. above) are revealed through exemplifying utterances (the above utterances from 3.2.1. can also be used) and put forward:
  - *Bulgarian present* (reference to a process parallel to the moment of speaking, *utterance moment inclusion in the larger time lapse – English perfect overlapping value*);
  - *Bulgarian perfect* (1 *perfect for current result, experience, not-yet, current relevance - overlapping value with English perfect meanings of current relevance, experience, result, not-yet perfect*; 2 *aoristic, deictic reference perfect, not overlapping* with examined English periphrasis meaning, **although still possessing some perfect features** (important to draw learners’ attention to));
  - *Bulgarian aorist* (1 *Bulgarian finished non-deictic aorist with eye witnessing hues, resultativity, expected current result - English perfect overlapping value*; 2 *typical aorist*, most often deictically determined and referring to separated from the present events, **not overlapping value** (important to draw learners’ attention to)).
- Learners’ attention is redirected to *English past simple (preterit/Bulgarian aorist, present* illustrative paragraphs. Equivalences are explained through English past *overlapping basic value with values of Bulgarian deictic aorist and deictic historic present (close in meaning to the aorist)*.
- Understanding of explicitly presented and explicated equivalences is checked through achievement level adequate activities, such as opening of brackets, filling in gaps, multiple choice answers, matching parts of sentences, translation, etc., as below typical exercises, for example:
  1. Open the brackets: The company staff ..... (increase) over the last years.
  2. Chose the right option: He ..... (set up, has set up) the business during the expansion period in the 1950s.
  3. Match the parts of sentences: (a) Their liabilities increased (b) Their liabilities have increased (c) since the last recession (d) when the markets fell after the huge earthquake.
  4. Translate into Bulgarian: How long have you drawn up contracts for this firm?
  5. Translate into English: Проведохме наскоро интервю за назначаването на нов главен изпълнителен директор.

<sup>35</sup> English perfect/Bulgarian present/perfect passive examples have not been provided for illustration due to the already mentioned coincidence in terms of form between both Bulgarian passive periphrases (present and perfect). Thus, the awareness of Bulgarian present and perfect correspondences will obviously precondition the present/perfect passive equivalent understanding.



Teachers or lecturers provide as many awareness verifying examples, pertaining to each one of the above typical activities, as required by the specific teaching situation. Most interesting utterances are translated into Bulgarian to consolidate equivalences understanding. Interference errors are analyzed together with learners and corrected. Wrong examples are literally translated into Bulgarian and then, back into English avoiding interference. Students are asked checking-understanding questions. Additional explanation is provided if needed.

#### 4.1.4. Accurate representation and immediate creativity stages

Contrastive teaching at these last final stages aims at consolidating understanding of the English perfect meanings and use along with comprehension of its Bulgarian counterparts' values, as well as at appropriately implementing acquired knowledge in multiple communicative situations, in compliance with business ESP learners' needs. Interference level is expected to drop providing that previous stages have been properly carried out. Overall communicative competence is supposed to increase due to the better and more adequate use of the examined category in various contexts and in related language functions.

ESP business learners can be asked, at both stages, to work on additional exercises, to prepare their CVs, to speak or write about crucial events in their careers and lives, to describe experiences and achievements, to prepare a company profile and provide information as to its spheres of activity, structure, finances, management, hiring personnel policy, export, advertising strategies, etc., in terms of history and accomplishments. Learners' works are examined and *contrastively corrected*. At the accurate representation stage, mainly, students can be asked to *detect errors* in a text and *motivate corrections* through translating into Bulgarian and explaining English/Bulgarian *equivalences*. At immediate creativity ESP learners are expected to implement acquired knowledge adequately, with no hesitation and in a great variety of business communicative contexts.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The study considers the English perfect *contrastive teaching* approach, performed along with *comparative teaching*, with *business ESP learners*, whose *NL is Bulgarian*, in connection with *language awareness enhancement*. CT, carried out at five distinct stages, provides relevant understanding and knowledge in terms of form and semantics of the significant number of English perfect *equivalents in Bulgarian* and allows the students to differentiate between meanings and uses in typical general, and more specifically, business English situations. Learners' interference error numbers are supposed to decrease and almost disappear with high performance students due to the acquired understanding of the *partial form/value asymmetry* between examined categories in both languages; students are facilitated in building the competence of performing *value analysis* prior to endowing values with the right forms and, this way, of conveying ideas by means of correct utterances. The implementation of the English perfect CT approach to Bulgarian business ESP students is motivated through typical Bulgarian/English language transfer exemplifying utterances with proved interference, in compliance with the Corder interference detection algorithm, and in the light of the inner translation theory. *Negative, but also positive transfer* occurrence, is also corroborated through the study of most essential values of basic Bulgarian counterparts (Bulgarian present, perfect,

present/perfect passive and aorist), revealing instances of *form/meaning overlapping and discrepancy*, quite often responsible not only for interlingual, but also for intralingual transfer. In order to fight some cases of *intralingual*, and *thence*, *interlingual interference* the English perfect is also supposed to be compared with the preterit, both forms meanings being often confused. Likewise, Bulgarian aorist and present should be examined in terms of *value diversity*, both forms functioning not only as essential English perfect equivalents, but also as English preterit counterparts.

It must be finally stated that the better awareness the learners have, the higher their capacity of dealing adequately with various communicative situations becomes. CT approach proves to be, if properly conducted, a powerful tool, promoting general as well as SP (business and other types) communicative competence in English.

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