

# From pluractionality to aspect

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Pluractional constructions, especially those formed using verbal reduplication, tend to develop into either progressive markers or habitual ones. These are opposing outcomes in the sense that progressive constructions canonically describe singular events in progress while habitual constructions do not. In this talk, I will bridge the gap between these two eventual diachronic outcomes.

First, I will show that the typology of pluractional constructions reveals an important intermediate step in the development from pluractional marker to aspectual marker. In particular, pluractional markers are commonly categorized as either *event-external* or *event-internal*. Using a neo-Davidsonian event semantics and the notion of cross-temporal identity, a formal tool originally proposed to capture the meaning of progressive aspect in Landman (2008), I will show how the particular properties of these different pluractional constructions leads to their eventual status as a progressive or habitual construction. Event-internal pluractional markers and progressive markers are constrained by cross-temporal identity similarly, while event-external pluractionals and habitual markers share different constraints.

Then I will provide a brief case study of an apparent change-in-progress in American Sign Language (ASL), and how the particularities of ASL introduce methodological complications for a general theory of this change. I present new data suggesting that verbal reduplication in ASL, once a pluractional marker, now finds use as a general imperfective marker. However, the iconic nature of ASL verbal predicates, seen most prominently in a certain class of accomplishment predicates (Wright 2014), introduces another possible pathway.