

# A model of TAM- semantics

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# OUTLINE

1. point of departure: **why** (another) model of TAM-semantics?
2. the **model**
3. its **benefits**
4. its **problems**
5. conclusion

## on the one hand

feature 'being claimed'  
figures prominently in  
T/A/M-research (Klein  
1994, Palmer 2001:3f,  
Pichler 2008, Bittner 2013,  
cf. also Klein 2009:340f)

– even involving T+A+M  
(Iatridou 2000)

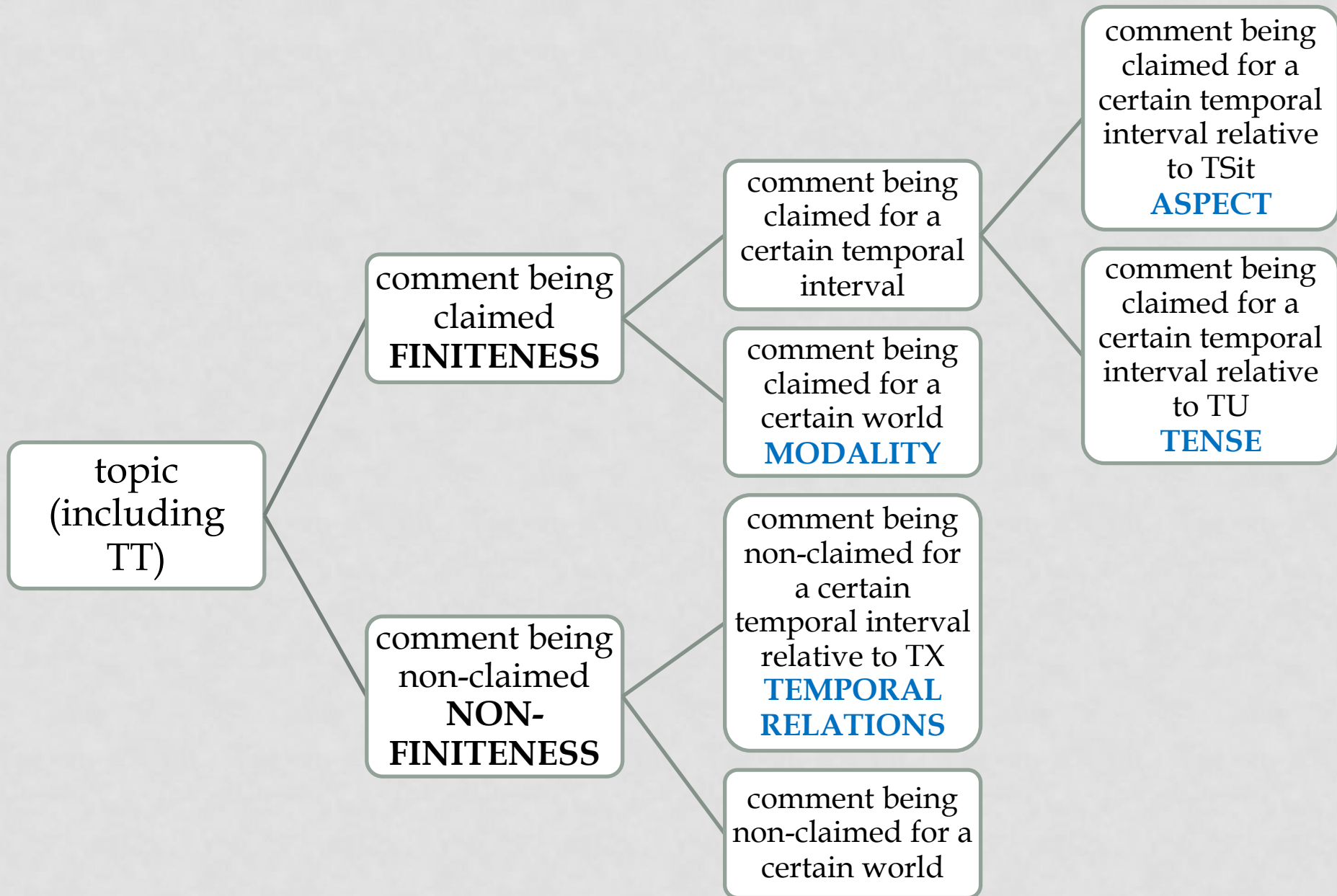
## on the other hand

feature 'being claimed'  
never used for explicitly  
**defining T+A+M**

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS  
CONCLUSION

**model**

see next slide



## **benefits...**

...concerning:

1. theoretical notions, esp. cross-linguistic applicability
2. empirical predictions

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS  
CONCLUSION

1. benefits concerning theoretical notions, esp. cross-linguistic applicability
  - a. definitions sufficiently **general** to be cross-linguistically applicable in a meaningful way (cf. Nikolaeva 2013, Molnár 2016)
  - b. semantic definitions sufficient to **exclude adverbial meanings**
  - c. also **excluded: dynamic and deontic modality** (yes, this is a benefit!)

WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS  
CONCLUSION

1. benefits concerning theoretical notions (cont.)
  - d. the **double nature of infinitives** (e.g. Malchukov 2004) is accounted for naturally
  - e. clear-cut definitional **contrast between temporal relations and aspect**



WHY | MODEL | BENEFITS | PROBLEMS  
CONCLUSION

2. (benefits concerning) empirical predictions
  - a. There are **no true neutral indicatives**.
  - b. Apparently **exotic categories** like conditional infinitives or infinitives of posteriority are envisaged.

## problems

1. What is "non-claimed"?
2. What about subordinated clauses, questions, requests...?
3. How does the model relate to (language-specific) morphology?
4. How does the model relate to (universal?) syntax?

## conclusion

- seemingly **peripheral feature ‘being claimed’** proved **useful** in modelling TAM-semantics
- confirms trend of **highlighting features of information structure**

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THANK YOU...

...for your attention!

