

## Aspect and Argument Structure in SENĆOŦEN: Resultive and Imperfective in Complementary Distribution

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The SENĆOŦEN (Saanich, North Straits Salish) *resultive* appears to be a complex structure consisting of a verb base, *imperfective* morphology, and a *stative* (or resultive) prefix.

qəs	qés-əł	s-qés-əł
fall.in.water	fall.in.water-IMP	ST-fall.in.water-IMP
'It fell in the water.'	'falling in the water.'	'He's in the water.'

However, very few minimal pairs of resultive (with stative [s-]) and imperfective (without stative [s-]) have been documented. Attempts at minimal pairs like the above have generally resulted in ungrammatical forms. The apparent scarcity of minimal pairs may result from a near complementary distribution of imperfective and resultive. It is proposed here that resultives only occur in unaccusative constructions, while imperfectives only occur in unergative and transitive constructions. This talk explores the relationship between SENĆOŦEN aspect and argument structure. Because both are determined by verbal semantics and, at least partially, expressed by verbal morphology, the SENĆOŦEN examples also allow an exploration into the effect of meaning on form.