

## **Who's Perfect?**

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The Present Perfect has long been recognized as one of the most intricate categories in temporal semantics exhibiting considerable cross-linguistic variation despite expressing a broadly similar notion of anteriority. This talk examines the Present Perfect across three Indo-European languages (English, German, and Bangla) which exhibit significant cross-linguistic differences in the interpretation and distribution of the construction. Focusing on continuative & non-continuative readings, interaction with temporal adverbials, and the Lifetime Effect, it highlights three puzzles concerning the semantics of the Perfect. The talk reviews the proposal of Pancheva and von Stechow (2004), which attributes the English-German contrast, and investigates whether this account can predict solutions to these puzzles. Finally, it shows how the Bangla data reveal gaps in their proposal. The findings suggest that Bangla poses a challenge to existing semantic analyses of the Perfect and motivate the need for a more comprehensive cross-linguistic account.