

Telicity and the Imperfect Subjunctive in Latin: A Corpus-Based Study

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Structure of the talk

Introduction: The unique nature of Latin corpora

Telicity in Latin

Subjunctives in Latin

Corpus Patterns and Observations

Closer look

Conclusion and Further Research





Introduction:

the unique nature of Latin corpora

Archaic Latin

- **Latin corpora ≠ modern corpora**

- Not large, balanced, or representative

- Shaped by education, ideology, and manuscript tradition

- **Earliest texts (6th–3rd c. BCE):**

- Fragmentary, non-native productions

- First literary texts were „school exercises“ by Greeks

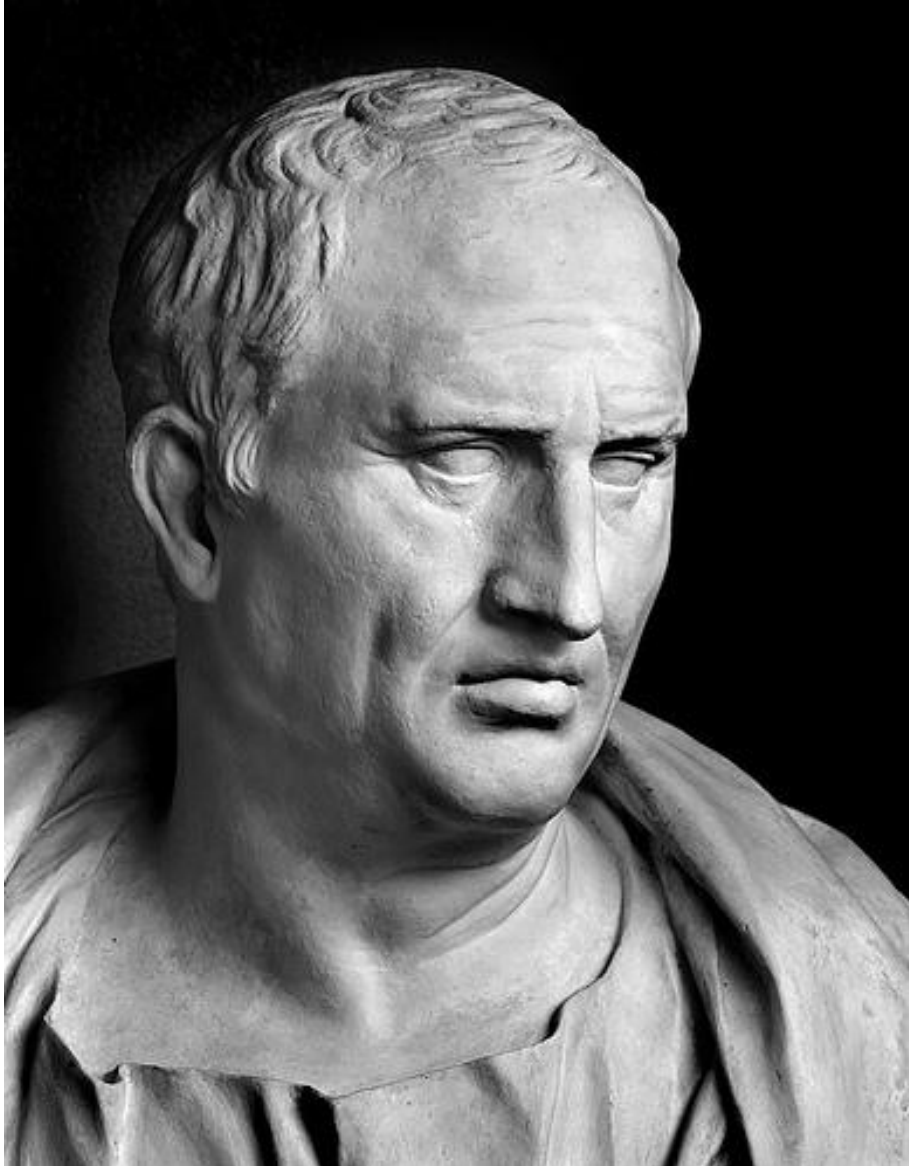
- **Plautus and Comedy:**

- Stage Latin, not colloquial

- Stylized, register-shifting, exaggerated

ECOMATITAVENDIALMAMAD
DAM





Classical Latin

- **Cicero's legacy:**

- Literary norm of high-register, complex prose
- Syntax divorced from everyday speech

- **Later writers from provinces**


- Seneca from Hispania

- **Selective survival through medieval transmission:**

- Scribes preserved what fit moral/educational norms
- Large parts of Latin lost



Corpus is **literary**,
incomplete, selective



```
graph TD; A[Corpus is literary, incomplete, selective] --> B[Corpus frequencies are distorted]; B --> C[Many forms missing by accident, not rarity]; C --> D[Interpretation must account for gaps]; D --> E[Research implications];
```

Corpus **frequencies** are
distorted

Many forms missing by
accident, not **rarity**

Interpretation must
account for **gaps**

**Research
implications**



Corpus Selection (click here)

Lemma : EXHAVRIO

Subordination Code : <None>

Category	Subcategory	Case	Degree
<input type="radio"/> (No Category)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (all conj.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (No Case)	<input type="radio"/> (No Degree)
<input type="radio"/> Noun	<input type="radio"/> 1st conj.	<input type="radio"/> Nominative	<input type="radio"/> Positive
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Verb	<input type="radio"/> 2nd conj.	<input type="radio"/> Vocative	<input type="radio"/> Comparative
<input type="radio"/> Adjective	<input type="radio"/> 3rd conj.	<input type="radio"/> Accusative	<input type="radio"/> Superlative
<input type="radio"/> Numeral	<input type="radio"/> 4th conj.	<input type="radio"/> Genitive	
<input type="radio"/> Personal Pronoun	<input type="radio"/> 4th bis conj.	<input type="radio"/> Dative	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (No Voice)
<input type="radio"/> Possessive Pronoun	<input type="radio"/> Anomalous	<input type="radio"/> Ablative	<input type="radio"/> Active
<input type="radio"/> Reflexive Pronoun		<input type="radio"/> Locative	<input type="radio"/> Passive
<input type="radio"/> Possessive Reflexive Pronoun		<input type="radio"/> Indeclinable	<input type="radio"/> Deponent
<input type="radio"/> Demonstrative Pronoun			<input type="radio"/> Semi-deponent
<input type="radio"/> Relative Pronoun			
<input type="radio"/> Interrogative Pronoun			
<input type="radio"/>			



Author		Work	Reference	Form	
CAESAR	Commentarii Belli Gallici	-us fui/fuerim/fuisse	1,2,1	exirent	View Context
CAESAR	Commentarii Belli Gallici	-us fueram/fuissem	1,33,4	exirent	View Context
CICERO	De domo sua	-us fuero/-urus fuisse	51,2	exirem	View Context
CICERO	De domo sua		51,5	exirem	View Context
CICERO	In C. Verrem actio prima		39,6	exirent	View Context
HORATIUS	Sermones		1,2,31	exiret	View Context
HORATIUS	Sermones		1,6,103	exirem	View Context
HORATIUS	Sermones		2,7,12	exiret	View Context
LUCRETIUS	De Rerum Natura		6,1217	exiret	View Context
OVIDIUS	Fasti		3,43	exiret	View Context
PETRONIUS	Satiricon		54,4	exiret	View Context
PLINIUS	Epistulae		1,22,8	exiret	View Context
PLINIUS	Epistulae		5,1,7	exirent	View Context
SENECA	Ad Helviam Matrem De Consolatione		19,7	exiret	View Context
SENECA	Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales		9,18	exiret	View Context
SENECA	Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales		72,4	exiret	View Context
SENECA	Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales		108,3	exiremus	View Context
SENECA	Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales		120,7	exiret	View Context
SENECA	Ad Marciam De Consolatione		9,5	exiret	View Context
TACITUS	Annales		4,16,2	exiret	View Context
TACITUS	Annales		6,49,2	exiret	View Context
VERGILIUS	Eclogae		1,33	exiret	View Context



Telicity in Latin:

summary of my previous research

Latin tense – mood system

Tenses:

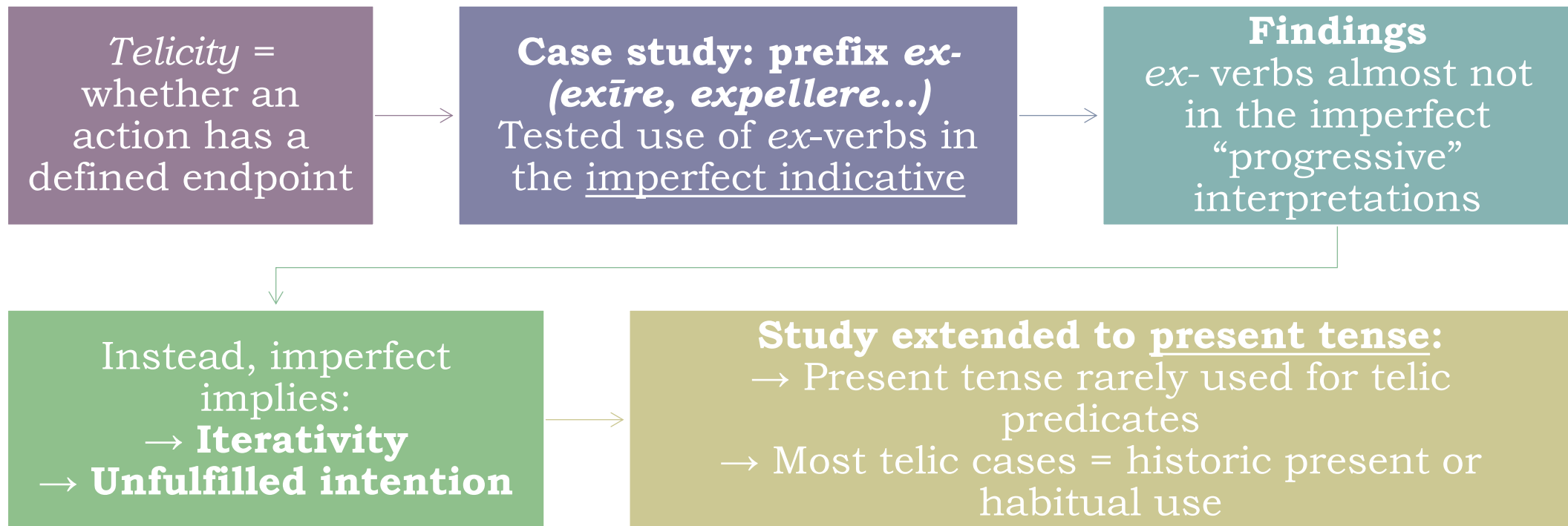
- present, imperfect, future (from the „infectum stem“)
- = *laudat*, *laudābat*, *laudābit*
- perfect, pluperfect, future perfect (from the „perfectum stem“)
- = *laudāvit*, *laudāverat*, *laudāverit*
- NB: perfect = “he has built” and “he built”

Moods

- indicative
- subjunctive



Telicity (my previous research)



Telicity (my previous research)

- perfect:

Cic. *Phil.* 14,27

*Qui re audita e castris duas legiones **eduxit** ...*

Who, upon hearing the matter, **led** two legions out of the camp....

- imperfect (iterativity):

Liv. 28,14,3

*Hoc idem per dies aliquot factum. Prior semper Poenus copias castris **educebat**...*

This same thing was done for several days. The Carthaginian always **led** his troops out of the camp first...





Subjunctives in Latin



Latin subjunctives

Independent subjunctives (expressing modality:

- present: potentiality in the present
- imperfect: irreality in the present, potentiality in the past (limited)
- perfect: potentiality in the present
- pluperfect: irreality in the past

Consecutio temporum (sequence of tenses in subordinate clauses)

event in the main clause	simultaneity	anterioriy
non-past	subj. present	subj. perfect
past	subj. imperfect	subj. pluperfect





Work with the corpus

Corpus

- **LASLA** (from Plautus to Plinius, roughly 2nd century BC – 2nd century AD)
- selection of 14 verbs with the prefix *ex-* and 13 verbs of atelic nature (states or activities)



GROUP 1	subjunctives				participles			GROUP 2	subjunctives				participles	
	pres.	impf.	perf.	plsqpf.	present	perfect			pres.	impf.	perf.	plsqpf.	present	perfect
<i>educere</i>	7	7	3	2	1	36								
<i>effodere</i>	3	2	1	0	0	15		<i>habitare</i>	7	5	2	1	6	6
<i>elicere</i>	1	10	0	0	1	0		<i>vivere</i>	109	60	27	17	34	4
<i>eligere</i>	19	4	5	0	6	33		<i>amare</i>	111	16	7	2	27	26
<i>evocare</i>	7	3	0	1	1	21		<i>scire</i>	276	116	4	8	20	0
<i>eripere</i>	22	32	11	10	2	91		<i>currere</i>	21	2	2	0	39	0
<i>evolare</i>	3	0	2	0	0	0		<i>ambulare</i>	8	5	1	1	7	0
<i>exaurire</i>	2	2	3	4	0	33		<i>volare</i>	7	5	1	0	53	0
<i>exornare</i>	4	0	0	1	0	10		<i>dormire</i>	11	2	0	1	25	0
<i>explere</i>	5	4	3	5	2	14		<i>bibere</i>	47	9	3	4	5	0
<i>extraho</i>	8	2	0	3	2	9		<i>cenare</i>	16	5	1	2	9	6
<i>exeo</i>	39	22	8	18	16	0		<i>clamare</i>	16	12	0	2	20	2
<i>effugio</i>	13	7	7	2	0	0		<i>laudare</i>	57	18	9	2	20	50
<i>eicio</i>	2	4	2	2	0	51		<i>cano</i>	20	16	0	2	27	0
sum	135	99	45	48	31	313		sum	706	271	57	42	292	94
% of all subj.	41,28%	30,28%	13,76%	14,68%				% of all subj.	65,61%	25,19%	5,30%	3,90%		

	pres.	impf.	perf.	plsqpf.
<i>educere</i>	7	7	3	2
<i>effodere</i>	3	2	1	0
<i>elicere</i>	1	10	0	0
<i>eligere</i>	19	4	5	0
<i>evocare</i>	7	3	0	1
<i>eripere</i>	22	32	11	10
<i>evolare</i>	3	0	2	0
<i>exhaurire</i>	2	2	3	4
<i>exornare</i>	4	0	0	1
<i>explere</i>	5	4	3	5
<i>extraho</i>	8	2	0	3
<i>exeo</i>	39	22	8	18
<i>effugio</i>	13	7	7	2
<i>eicio</i>	2	4	2	2
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	pres.	impf.	perf.	plsqpf.
<i>habitare</i>	7	5	2	1
<i>vivere</i>	109	60	27	17
<i>amare</i>	111	16	7	2
<i>scire</i>	276	116	4	8
<i>currere</i>	21	2	2	0
<i>ambulare</i>	8	5	1	1
<i>volare</i>	7	5	1	0
<i>dormire</i>	11	2	0	1
<i>bibere</i>	47	9	3	4
<i>cenare</i>	16	5	1	2
<i>clamare</i>	16	12	0	2
<i>laudare</i>	57	18	9	2
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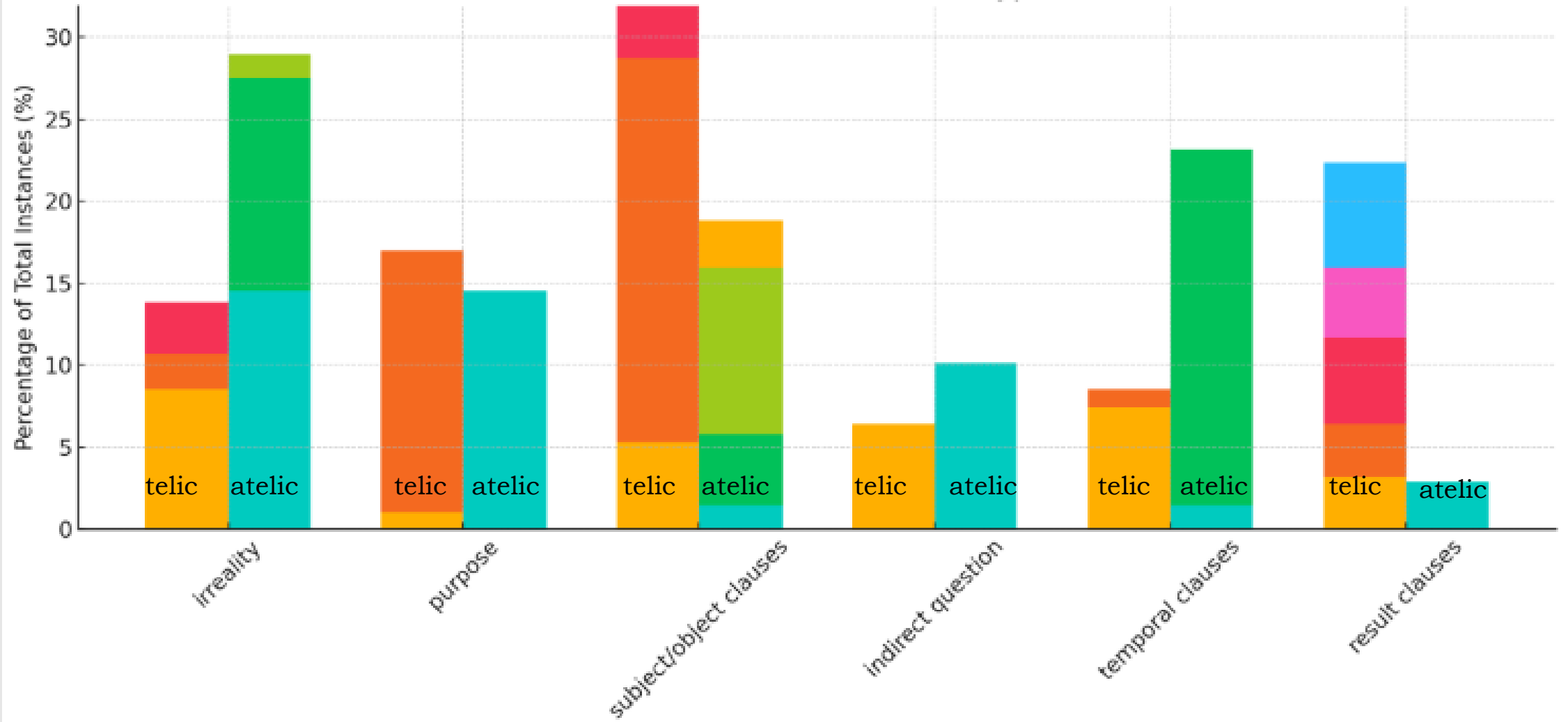
	pres.	impf.	perf.	plsqpf.
<i>educere</i>	7	7	3	2
<i>effodere</i>	3	2	1	0
<i>elicere</i>	1	10	0	0
<i>eligere</i>	19	4	5	0
<i>evocare</i>	7	3	0	1
<i>eripere</i>	22	32	11	10
<i>evolare</i>	3	0	2	0
<i>exhaurire</i>	2	2	3	4
<i>exornare</i>	4	0	0	1
<i>explere</i>	5	4	3	5
<i>extraho</i>	8	2	0	3
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<i>currere</i>	21	2	2	0
<i>ambulare</i>	8	5	1	1
<i>volare</i>	7	5	1	0
<i>dormire</i>	11	2	0	1
<i>bibere</i>	47	9	3	4
<i>cenare</i>	16	5	1	2
<i>clamare</i>	16	12	0	2
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<i>eligere</i>	19	4	5	0
<i>evocare</i>	7	3	0	1
<i>eripere</i>	22	32	11	10
<i>evolare</i>	3	0	2	0
<i>exhaurire</i>	2	2	3	4
<i>exornare</i>	4	0	0	1
<i>explere</i>	5	4	3	5
<i>extraho</i>	8	2	0	3
<i>exeo</i>	39	22	8	18
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<i>currere</i>	21	2	2	0
<i>ambulare</i>	8	5	1	1
<i>volare</i>	7	5	1	0
<i>dormire</i>	11	2	0	1
<i>bibere</i>	47	9	3	4
<i>cenare</i>	16	5	1	2
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Telic vs. Atelic Verbs Clause Types



Irreality (main, conditional, comparison)

GROUP 1			GROUP 2		
the form	type of clause	detailed	the form	type of clause	detailed
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>canerem</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>canerem</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperet</i>	main	irreality	<i>caneret</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>caneret</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>canerem</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>biberes</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>biberent</i>	main	irreality
<i>eriperes</i>	main	irreality	<i>volaret</i>	main	irreality
<i>effugeret</i>	conditional	irreality	<i>amarem</i>	main	irreality
<i>exiret</i>	conditional	irreality	<i>clamares</i>	main	irreality
<i>eicerem</i>	conditional	irreality	<i>ambularem</i>	conditional	irreality
<i>eliceret</i>	conditional/purpose		<i>clamaret</i>	conditional	irreality
<i>eligeret</i>	comparison	irreality	<i>biberet</i>	conditional	irreality
<i>eriperet</i>	comparison	irreality	<i>amarem</i>	conditional	irreality
			<i>amarem</i>	conditional	irreality
			<i>amaret</i>	conditional	irreality
			<i>amares</i>	conditional	irreality
			<i>clamaret</i>	conditional	irreality
			<i>clamaret</i>	conditional	irreality
			<i>amaret</i>	comparison	irreality



Irreality (main, conditional, comparison)

Use of **imperfect subjunctive** is standard
→ Expresses potentiality, counterfactuality, or wishes

Occurs in both telic and atelic groups

No special interaction with telicity
→ Clause function is **modal**, not aspectual



Irreality (main, conditional, comparison)

SENECA, Ad Polybium De Consolatione - 2,3

Pecuniam eriperes. ... Eriperes illi amicos.

You would take away his money. (He was never dependent on it.) You would take away his friends. (He is so lovable that he could easily replace those.)

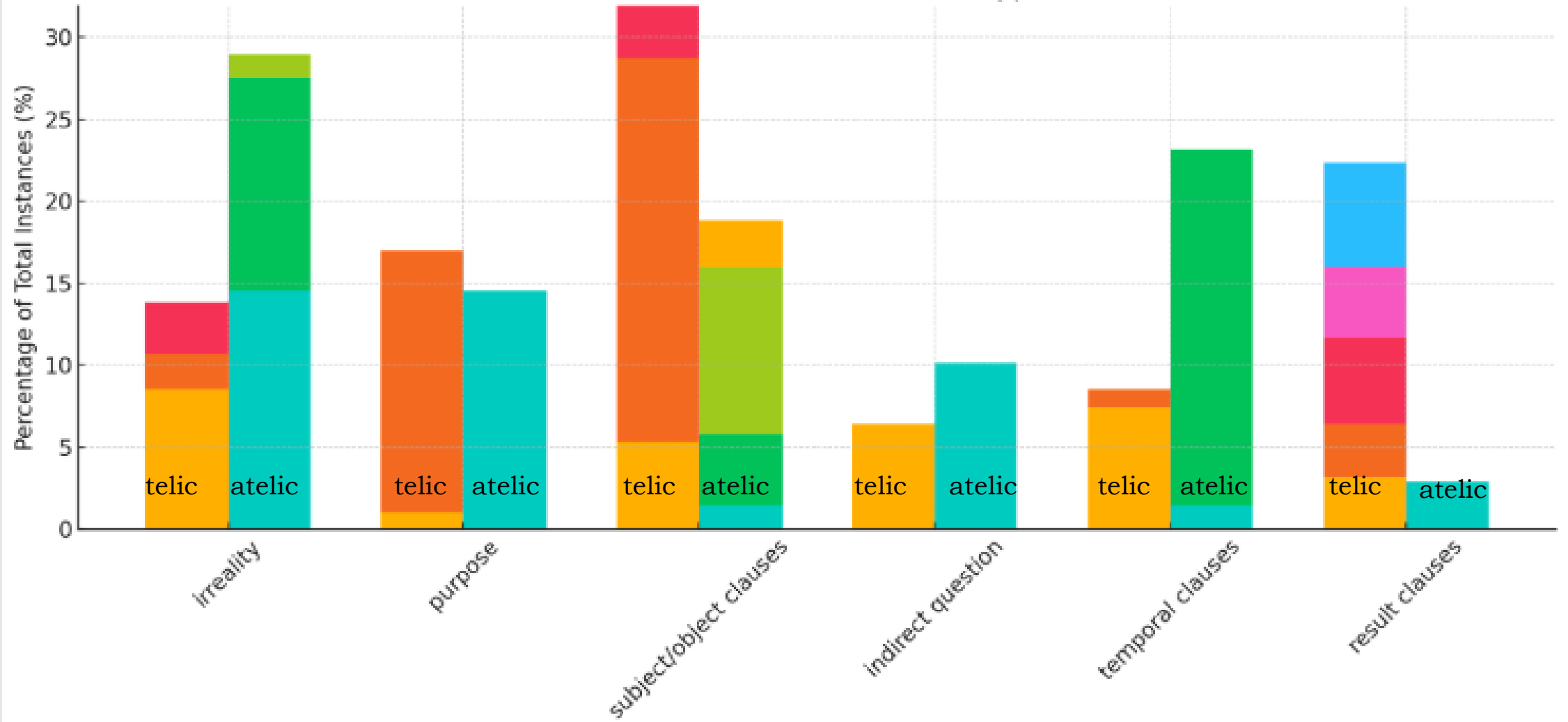
PLAUTUS, Bacchides - 818

Hunc si ullus deus amaret...

If any god loved him...



Telic vs. Atelic Verbs Clause Types



Purpose clauses

GROUP 1				GROUP 2	
the form	type of clause	detailed		the form	type of clause
<i>exiret</i>	purpose	iteration		<i>caneret</i>	purpose
<i>exirem</i>	purpose	iteration		<i>canerem</i>	purpose
<i>effoderent</i>	purpose	iteration		<i>ambularemus</i>	purpose
<i>elicerent</i>	purpose			<i>foderet</i>	purpose
<i>effugerent</i>	purpose			<i>dormirem</i>	purpose
<i>eliceret</i>	purpose			<i>biberem</i>	purpose
<i>eliceret</i>	purpose			<i>biberet</i>	purpose
<i>eriperet</i>	purpose			<i>biberes</i>	purpose
<i>eligeret</i>	purpose			<i>cenares</i>	purpose
<i>eriperet</i>	purpose			<i>habitaret</i>	purpose
<i>eriperet</i>	purpose				
<i>eriperet</i>	purpose				
<i>eriperem</i>	purpose				
<i>eliceret</i>	purpose				
<i>exiret</i>	purpose				



Common in both telic and atelic verbs

Atelic verbs:

- Enables or maintains ongoing activity or state
- Focus on ability, not endpoint

Telic verbs:

- Emphasize **goal-directed, completed actions**
- Occasionally used **iteratively**

Purpose clauses



Purpose clauses

LUCRETIUS, De Rerum Natura - 6,1217

alituum genus atque ferarum procul absiliebat ut acrem exiret odorem

The birds and beasts sprang aside to escape the stench.

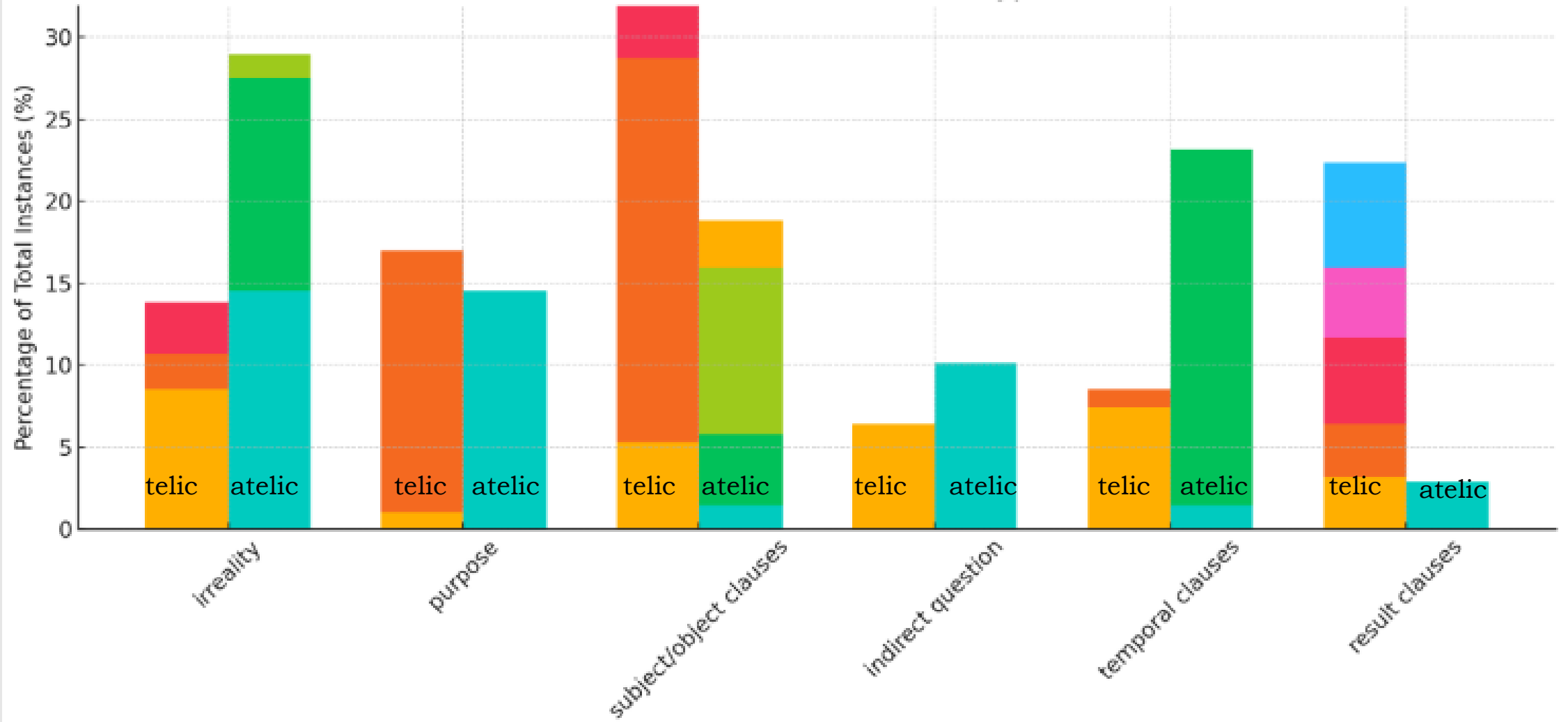
OVIDIUS, Remedia Amoris – 499

Saepe ego ne biberem uolui dormire uideri ...

Often I wanted to appear to be asleep so that I wouldn't drink (have to drink)..."



Telic vs. Atelic Verbs Clause Types



Clausal subjects/ complements

GROUP 1		
the form	type of clause	detailed
<i>exiret</i>	subject/object	fear
<i>eriperet</i>	subject/object	fear
<i>exiret</i>	subject/object	fear
<i>extraheret</i>	subject/object	fear
<i>exirent</i>	subject/object	fear
<i>eiceret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>educerent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>educeret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>excederet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>educerent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperes</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>effugeret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>excederet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>educeret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>exirem</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>educerem</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>exirent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>excederet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperes</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eriperemus</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>exirent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>eliceret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>exirem</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>effugerent</i>	subject/object	
<i>eicerem</i>	subject/object	
<i>exiret</i>	subject/object	

GROUP 2		
the form	type of clause	detailed
<i>amaret</i>	subject/object	irreality
<i>biberet</i>	subject/object	preventive
<i>clamarem</i>	subject/object	preventive
<i>amaret</i>	subject/object	preventive
<i>dormiret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>biberet</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>habitaret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>amaret</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>amarent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>amarent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>amarent</i>	subject/object	volition
<i>cenarem</i>	subject/object	
<i>amarem</i>	subject/object	



Introduced by verbs of **desire, command, avoidance, fear**

Atelic verbs:

→ Express wish for a continuous or open-ended state

Telic verbs:

→ Express wish/command to complete a bounded action
→ Often behave like intentional goal expressions

Clausal subjects/complements



Clausal subjects/clausal complements

SENECA, De Vita Beata – 2,3

*omnem **operam dedi** ut me multitudini
educerem*

I tried my best to get out of the crowd

SENECA, Epistulae Morales – 120,7

sollicitus ... ut saluus exiret

concerned that he would get out alive

SENECA, De Ira - 3,14,1

monebat ut parcius biberet

he **warned** him to drink less

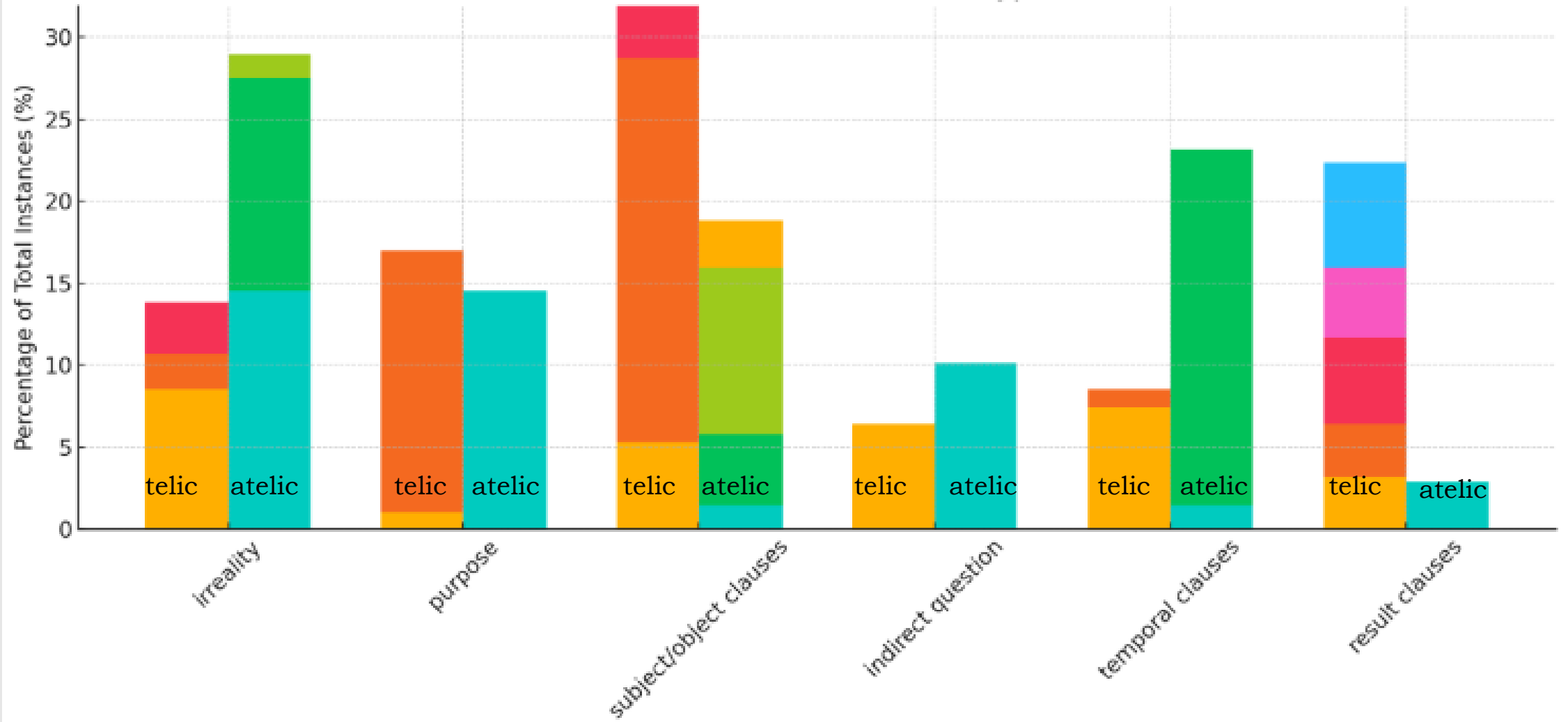
CURTIUS, Historiae Alexandri Magni - 6,10,34

deterreere eum uoluit quominus
medicamentum biberet

he wanted to **prevent** him from drinking the
medicine



Telic vs. Atelic Verbs Clause Types



Indirect questions

GROUP 1				GROUP 2	
the form	type of clause	note		the form	type of clause
<i>exiret</i>	indirect question	could		<i>ambularem</i>	indirect question
<i>effoderet</i>	indirect question	could		<i>ambularem</i>	indirect question
<i>effugerent</i>	indirect question	could		<i>biberent</i>	indirect question
<i>educeres</i>	indirect question	plan		<i>cenaret</i>	indirect question
<i>educeret</i>	indirect question	deliberation		<i>volarent</i>	indirect question
<i>eligeres</i>	indirect question	should		<i>amaret</i>	indirect question
				<i>amares</i>	indirect question



Atelic verbs:

- Fit well with imperfect subjunctive = simultaneity with main clause
- Denote ongoing events

Telic verbs:

- Rare in this context
- Imply intention or deliberation
- Not real-time events, but mental planning

Indirect questions



Indirect questions

CICERO, In Catilinam – 1,9

delegisti ... quos tecum educeres

you **chose** ... whom you would take with you

SENECA, Epistulae Morales – 110,9

quaereret quid ex illa mali effoderet

he was asking what harm he could get from her.

PLINIUS, Panegyricus – 86,1

quantum amares eum desiderio **expertus es**

how much you loved him, **you have found out** through longing

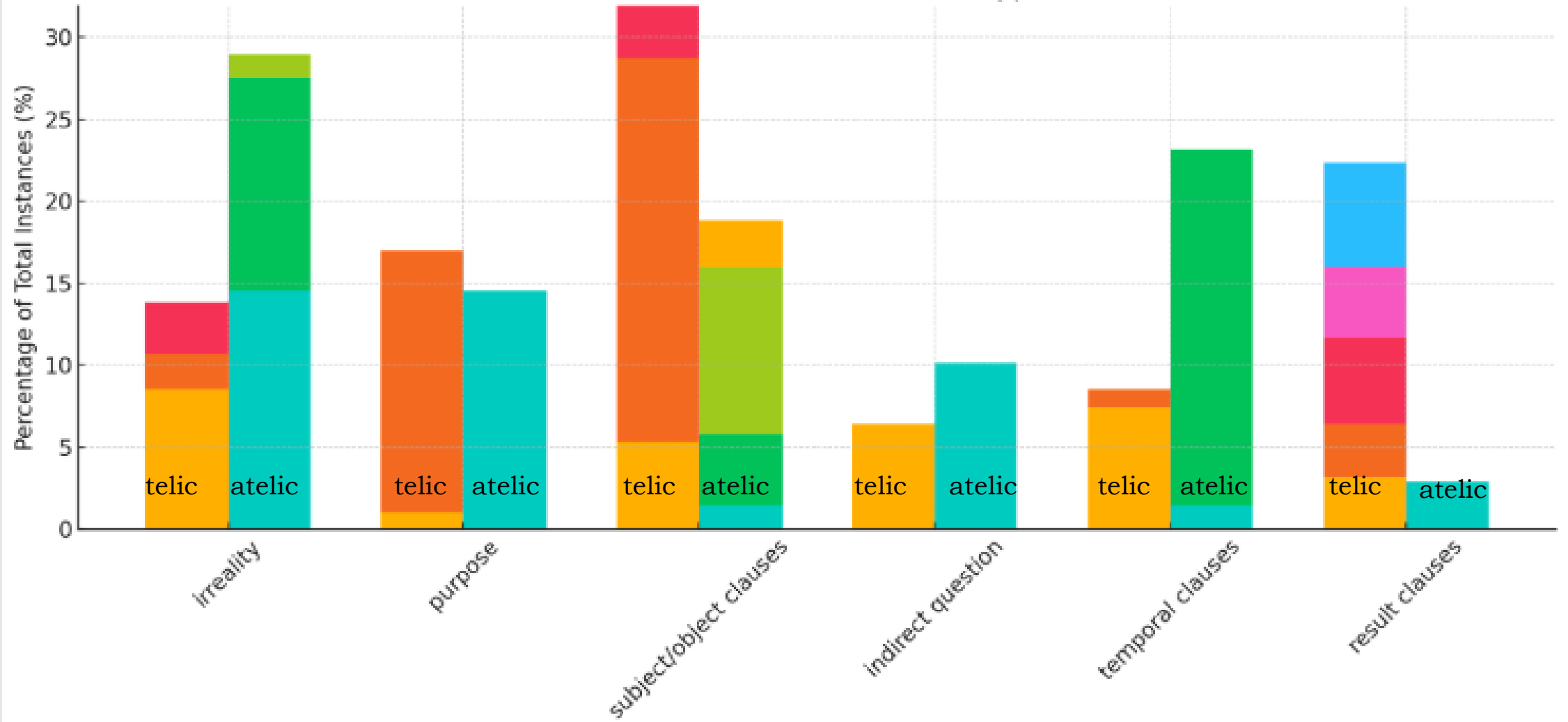
PETRONIUS, Satyricon – 62,11

Melissa mea **mirari** coepit quod tam sero ambularem

my Melissa began to **wonder** why I was coming so late



Telic vs. Atelic Verbs Clause Types



Temporal clauses

GROUP 1				GROUP 2		
the form	type of clause	note	detail	the form	type of clause	detailed
<i>eriperet</i>	temporal	cum historicum	iteration	<i>volarent</i>	temporal	antequam
<i>evocaremus</i>	temporal	cum historicum	iteration	<i>caneret</i>	temporal	cum
<i>exiret</i>	temporal	cum historicum	iteration	<i>traheret</i>	temporal	cum
<i>eicerent</i>	temporal	cum historicum	plan	<i>canerem</i>	temporal	cum
<i>exiret</i>	temporal	cum historicum	was leaving	<i>caneret</i>	temporal	cum
<i>exiret</i>	temporal	cum historicum	was leaving	<i>canerem</i>	temporal	cum
<i>eriperet</i>	temporal	cum historicum	intention	<i>curreret</i>	temporal	cum
<i>exiret</i>	temporal	until		<i>ambularet</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>foderet</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>cenaret</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>clamaret</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>clamarent</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>clamaret</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>clamaret</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>clamaret</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>clamarem</i>	temporal	cum
				<i>caneret</i>	temporal	dum
				<i>caneret</i>	temporal	quotiens



Temporal clauses (*cum historicum*)

SENECA, Epistulae Morales – 108,3

*Haec nobis praecipere Attalum memini
cum ... primi ueniremus et nouissimi exiremus...*

I remember Attalus instructing us in these things when we used to arrive the first and to leave the last...

CICERO, Pro Milone – 9

*Pudicitiam cum eriperet militi tribunus
militaris*

When the military tribune was trying to take
the soldier's chastity by force

OVIDIUS, Ars amatoria – 2,493

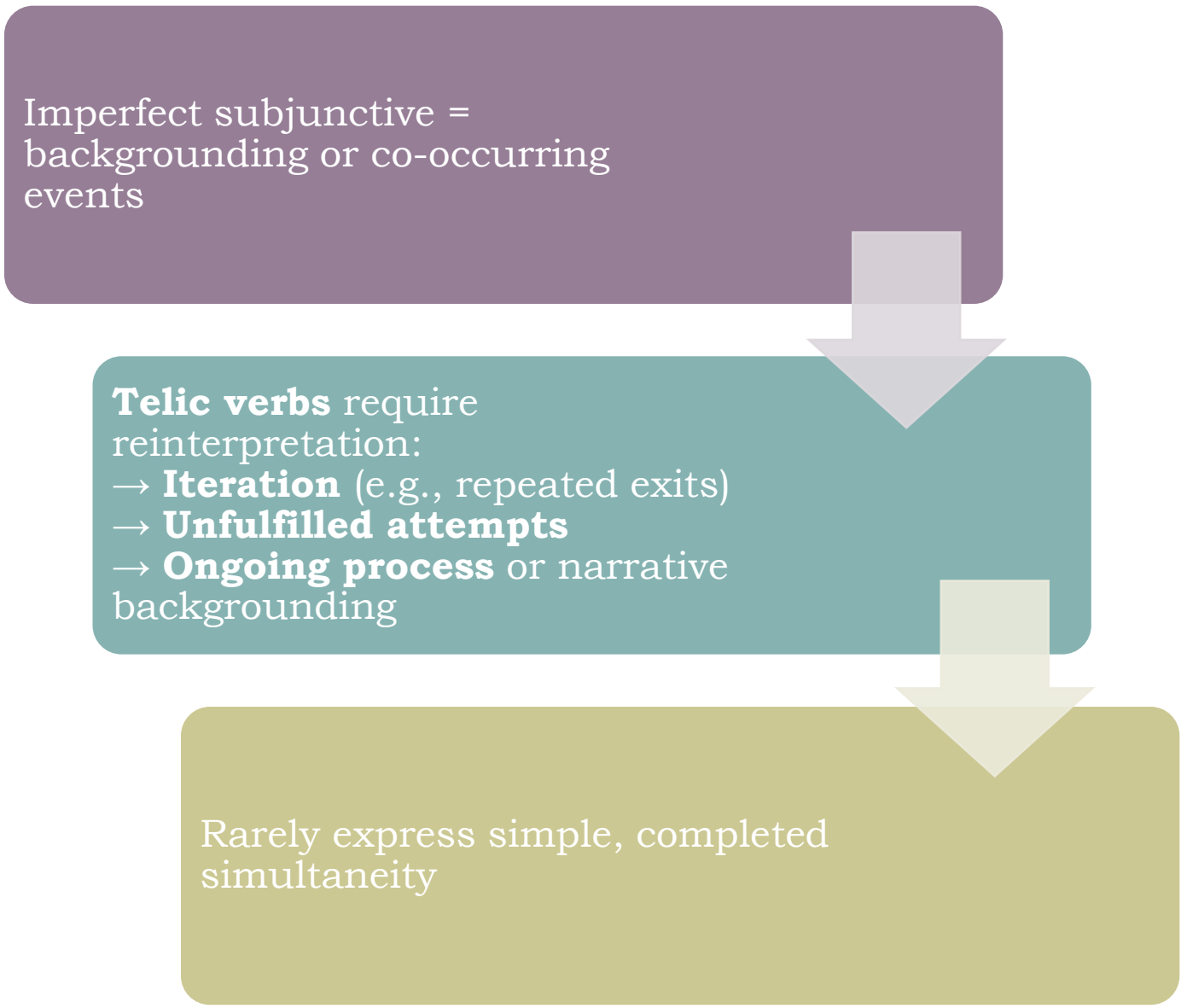
*haec ego cum canerem subito
while I was singing this, suddenly...*

CICERO, Pro Marco Tullio – 19

*cum ambularet in agro, animaduertit...
while he was walking in the field, he noticed...*



Imperfect subjunctive =
backgrounding or co-occurring
events



```
graph TD; A[Imperfect subjunctive = backgrounding or co-occurring events] --> B[Telic verbs require reinterpretation: Iteration, Unfulfilled attempts, Ongoing process]; B --> C[Rarely express simple, completed simultaneity]
```

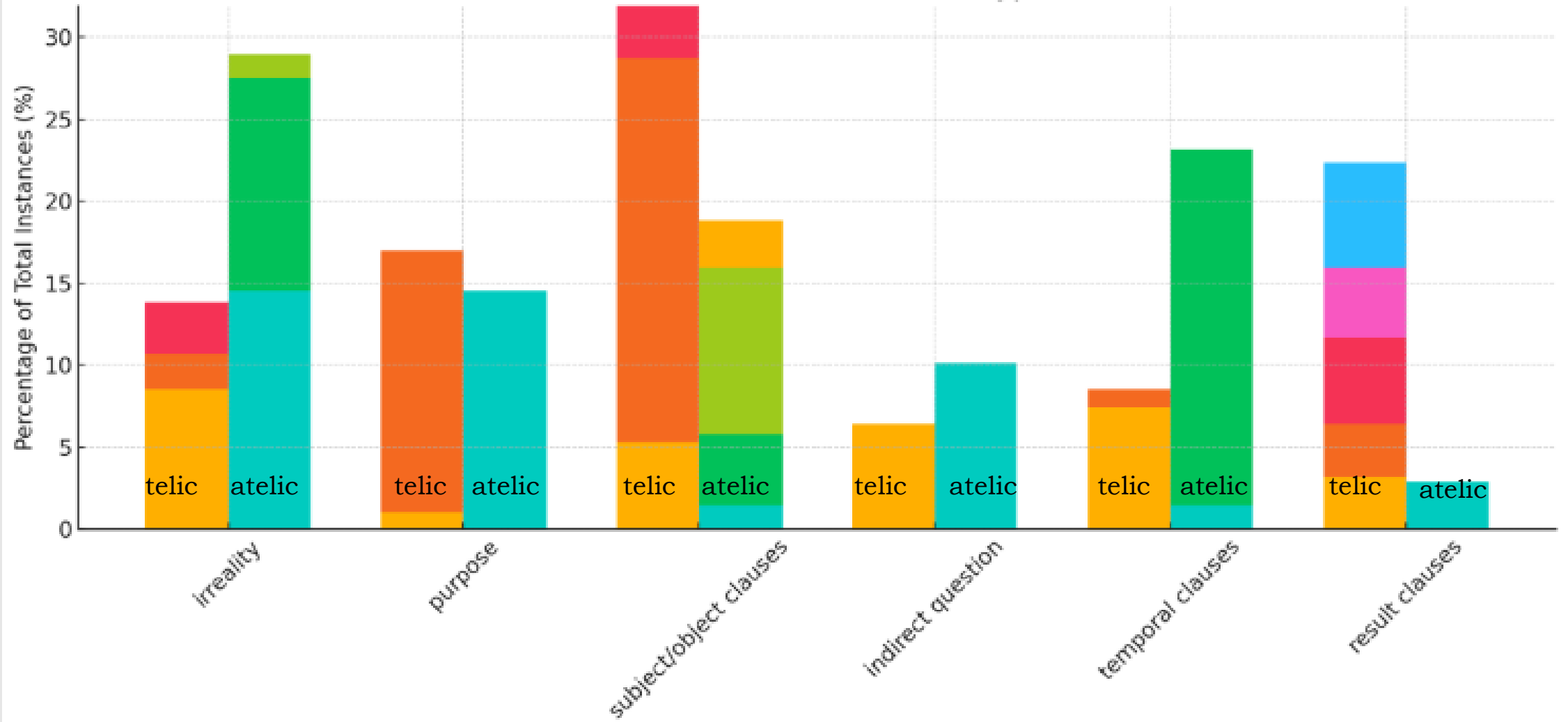
Telic verbs require
reinterpretation:
→ **Iteration** (e.g., repeated exits)
→ **Unfulfilled attempts**
→ **Ongoing process** or narrative
backgrounding

Rarely express simple, completed
simultaneity

**Temporal
clauses
(*cum
historicum*)**



Telic vs. Atelic Verbs Clause Types

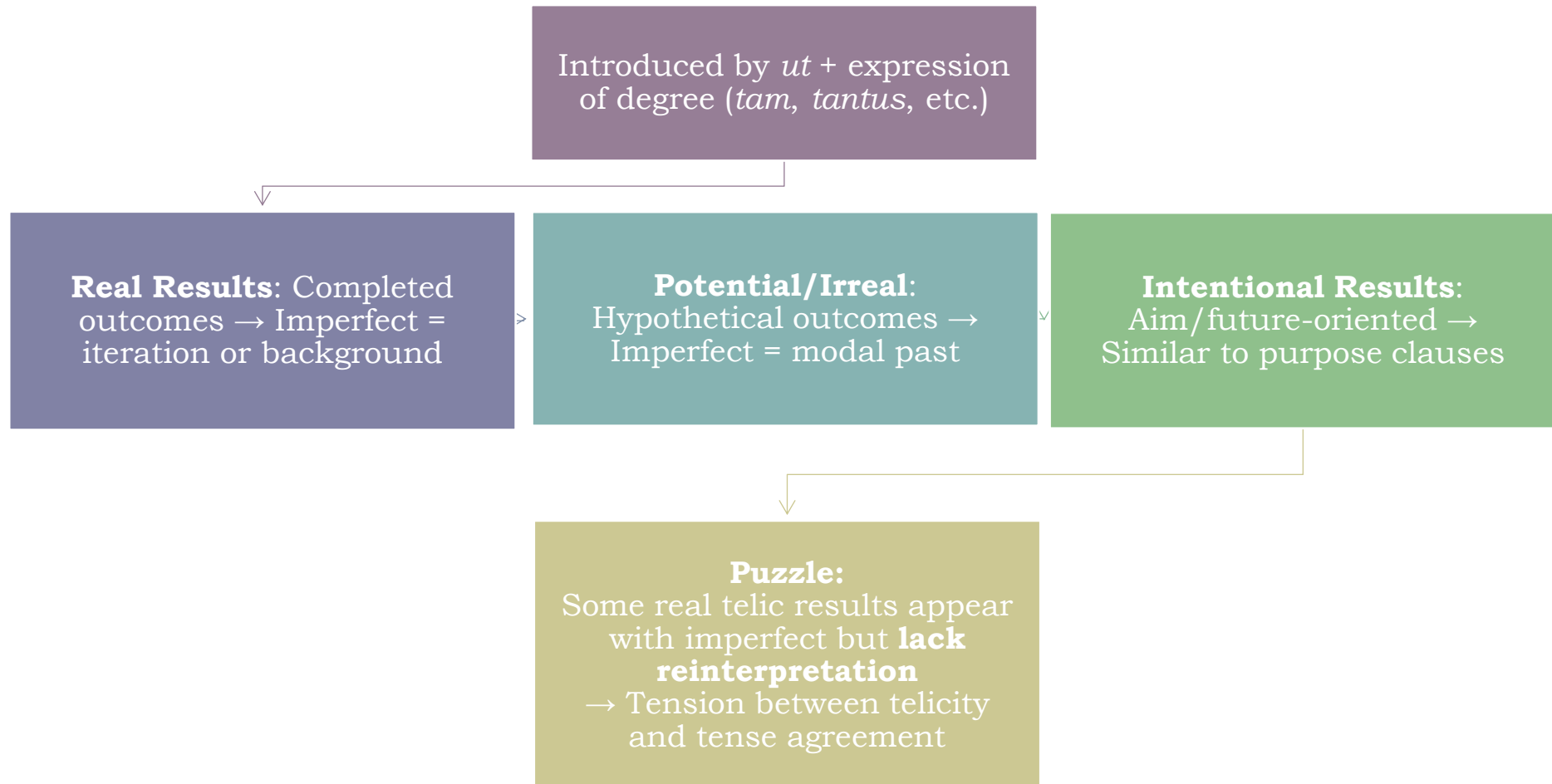


Result (consecutive) clauses

GROUP 1				GROUP 2		
the form	type of clause	note	detail	the form	type of clause	detailed
<i>eriperet</i>	result	?		<i>canerent</i>	result	real
<i>eliceret</i>	result	fore ut		<i>curreret</i>	result	real
<i>eriperem</i>	result	intention				
<i>expleret</i>	result	intention				
<i>eligeremus</i>	result	intention				
<i>expleret</i>	result	irreality				
<i>exiret</i>	result	irreality				
<i>exhauriret</i>	result	irreality				
<i>exiret</i>	result	iteration				
<i>exhauriret</i>	result	iteration				
<i>evocaret</i>	result	iteration				
<i>exirent</i>	result	iteration				
<i>evocaret</i>	result	iteration				
<i>eriperet</i>	result	potential (past)				
<i>expleret</i>	result	purpose				
<i>effugerent</i>	result	real	effugerunt			
<i>effugeret</i>	result	real	effugit			
<i>eriperem</i>	result	real	eripui			
<i>eriperet</i>	result	real	eripuisti			
<i>eriperet</i>	result	real	eripuit			
<i>expleret</i>	result	real	explebat			



Result clauses



Result clauses

- **real result (atelic verb):**

HORATIUS, Sermones – 2,3,142

*lethargo **grandi** est oppressus ut heres iam circum loculos et clavis laetus ouansque curreret*

He was overcome by **(such) a deep** lethargy, so that the heir was already running around the chests and keys, joyful and triumphant.

→ *Heres currebat ...*



Result clauses – telic verbs

- **intention:**

CICERO, In Verrem – 2,2,138

***ita** potestatem gererent ut illam lacunam rei familiaris explerent*

they exercised power in **such** a way that they might fill that gap in the family estate

- **irreality:**

CICERO, De haruspicum responso – 59

*Quam denique **tam** immanem Charybdim poetae fingendo exprimere potuerunt quae tantos exhauriret gurgites...*

They were able to depict **such** a gigantic Charybdis that she could swallow such enormous whirlpools...



Result clauses - telic verbs

- **real results:**

CAESAR, Bellum Hispaniense – 6,4

*concidunt **sic** ut uix in ea caede pauci effugerent*

they fell with **such** force that in that slaughter scarcely a few escaped

→ *Pauci **effugerunt** (perfect!)*

CATO, Orationum fragmenta – 2,10

Numquam ego praedam... inter pauculos amicos meos diuisi ut illis eriperem qui cepissent.

Never did I divide the spoils among a few of my friends in **such** a way as to take them away from those who had captured them.

→ *illis **eripui**, qui ceperant (perfect!)*

CICERO, In Verrem – 2,1

..hunc dolorem cineri eius ... inussisti ut liberis eius bona patria uoluntate patris iure legibus tradita eriperes

you branded **this** grief upon his ashes that you took away from his children the estate—handed down by their father's will, by right, and by the laws

→ *liberis **eripuisti** (perfect!)*



Conclusion

The imperfect subjunctive, especially with telic verbs, is not just a mechanical outcome of sequence rules—it participates in shaping meaning in subtle, discourse-sensitive ways.

In particular, result clauses offer a window into how formal grammatical structures accommodate deep semantic tensions—and how Latin authors used these tools not just mechanically, but creatively. Exploring this further could illuminate broader principles of aspectual interpretation in Latin.



THANK YOU

