The English language is the language of West Germanic tribes. The history of the English language traditionally is divided into three main periods: Old English, Middle English and New English. While the language was developing it was influenced by many other languages, such as: German, French, Latin and others.

In this article there are given information about the diachronic study of English Perfect Aspects of the Old English period from the point of the historical linguistics.

“The historical development of any language is a continuous uninterrupted process. English language has a long and eventful history. During the sixteen hundred years of its history the English language has been undergoing constant change and it is changing still. It is customary to divide the history of the English language into three main periods: Old English, Middle English, New English” [1.85].

Old English language was one of the Old Germanic dialects, and it had all the common grammatical characteristics of the Germanic branch. Such parts of speech as the noun, the pronoun, the adjective and the verb existed in OE period but they appeared in Early OE.

It is obvious that the verb is one of the important and the most complicated part of speech. In OE period the verb had few grammatical categories, such as person, number, mood, voice, aspect and tense. But the problem is that not all of these categories had grammatical form.

One of such problematic category, which had only the meaning without form, is aspect. There are many definitions of aspect, one of them is that “aspects are different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation” [2,3].

According to the history there are different opinions of appearing English verb aspect. T.A. Rastorgueva says “that aspect was appeared in Old English period and it was expressed with the help of prefix ze- or without it. Also there were other ways of
expressing aspective meaning such as using verb phrases *habban, bēon, warðan*” [3.111].

The second aspect which we analyzed is the Perfect aspect. Perfect form denotes an action occurring in the any period prior to any time and correlated with this moment [4.117].

There were a lot of authors, who were interested in developing of perfect aspect. They had different opinions. Some of them think that perfect appeared in the XI century, others concern it in XII-XIV century.

At the end of Old English period there were several ways of expressing perfect meaning. But only in the Middle English period they developed and were used as an aspect form.

Verbs like *bēon* and *habban* were used with other verbs and expressed in the meaning of Perfect aspect. In Old English period the Perfect aspect was expressed by the regular: contrast of verbs which can be used with prefix ze- or without it. The authors such as T.A. Rastorgueva say that “the verbs which had such prefix expressed finished action and had a perfective meaning while the same verbs without the prefix indicated a non-perfective meaning e. g. OE: *feohtan – zefeohtan, lician – zelician.*

Hāfde sē zoda cempan zecorene (Beowulf). Also there were other ways of expressing perfective meaning such as using verb phrases *habban* (NE have), *bēon -* (NE be), *weorðan* (NE become) plus Past or Present Participle. The verb *bēon* and *habban* with the form of Participle II expressed the state of action in present tense, perfect aspect” [3.111,269].

Perfect aspect in Old English period: “*Hē hæfde pā stafas āwritene* ”. The translation of it in new English: “He has written those letters” [5.214]. In Old English period: Hie *hæfdon* heora lufsang ȝesunȝene- The translation of it in new English: *They have sung their price song.* In Old English period: *We habbap nū ȝæzper forlæten ȝe pone wēlan ȝe pone wisdom.* The translation of it in new English: Now we have neglected with wealth and wisdom [5.213]. From these examples we can see that in Old English period verb phrases such as *habbap, hæfdon, hæfde* with
participle II expressed finished actions. And these combinations were closed to the analytical forms.

But from the point of B.A. Ilish’s view, he denied the idea of existing perfect aspect in Old English language. He says that “the prefix ze- was just the way of differentiating verb forms. The verbs with the prefix expressed finished action, otherwise verbs without it had unfinished meaning. And he said that it was not the way of expressing of perfect aspect because there were some verbs which without changing had finished or unfinished meaning. For example the verb seah (NE saw) and the form zesean (NE have seen) or verb ‘cuman’ had the meaning (NE come and have come)”. Realizing the ideas of different scholars we decided to accept the idea of existing perfect forms in OE language, and it was made with the help of ze- and using verbs  

\[\text{habban, bēon, weordan}\]

and the verbs which didn’t change, but had different meanings we concern them as the other way of making perfect form.

At the end of our work we came to such conclusion, that in diachrony many linguists paid their attention to the ways of expressing aspect and moreover, the problem of the aspect form was not raised. The main reason of the ignoring of the ways of expressing aspect was, that in Germanic languages aspect was studied from the point of the meaning of the verbs, and the grammatical ways of expressing aspect were forgotten.

**REFERENCES:**