When it comes to the representation of events, several subtle factors have been shown to influence their temporal properties and interpretations, including not only tense and grammatical aspect, but also the internal constitution of the event itself—whether it has a duration and whether it has a natural endpoint—the event's aktionsart. Focusing on the natural endpoint, or telicity, of an event, important research has established that both the verb's semantics and particular properties of its arguments are used to determine whether the event is telic or atelic. In particular, the verb and its internal argument appear to share a privileged role in compositionally determining telicity. Given these observations, studies on the processing of events can inform theories concerned with how sentence interpretation proceeds online. I review the literature and present several studies examining three questions on how verb and argument information is recognized and used by the parser to construct an event interpretation.

1. What is the domain over which the parser interprets telicity?
2. What factors guide the parser in telicity interpretations online?
3. Does the parser immediately commit to a telicity interpretation?

Answers to these questions help to establish the principles used by the parser to assign event interpretations to sentences and to make interpretative commitments more generally while furthering our understanding of the relationship between the grammar and the parser and how the grammar guides interpretative decisions online.