ABSTRACT: The main goal of the investigation that is presented in this article is to establish the temporal and aspectual properties of these four types of textual sequences: narrative, descriptive, explicative and argumentative (cf. Adam (1992)).

Our analysis takes into account Vendler’s (1967) classification of situation types and the theoretical framework of Kamp and Reyle’s (1993) Discourse Representation Theory. The relevant factors that are under scrutiny in our analysis are situation types, verbal tenses, time adverbials, connectives with temporal value, and discourse relations.

Among the conclusions of this investigation, we argue that narrative and descriptive sequences show important differences in terms of temporal and aspectual properties. Narrative sequences typically include events, and the temporal relation of precedence is clearly dominant. Descriptive sequences typically include stative situations, and the temporal relation of overlapping is dominant. Both explicative and argumentative sequences share these properties: they may include either events or states, and either the temporal relations of precedence or overlapping may be dominant.