**Criteria for progressivity / progressive markers from Ebert (2000)**

Data for the example collection and grammaticality judgements are based on the Progressive Questionnaire (PROGQ).

1. Postural verb construction (POS):
   1. “sit” + to + INF (Frisian, Dutch)
   2. “sit” + and + V (Scandinavian)

Other possible verbs are *stand*, *lie*, *hang*, *go*(*around*). *Go* in POS construction always indicates undirected motion.

1. Prepositional constructions (PREP):
   1. be + in/at + the + INF (Dutch, Frisian, German)
   2. be + at + to + INF (Danish)
   3. be+ to + INF (Icelandic)
   4. construction IIb: *bi*, *bei* (*at*, *near*) restricted to agentive verbs (Frisian, German)
2. ‘hold’-constructions (HOLD):
   1. hold on/in (Swedish, Norwegian, Yiddish)

* Languages have either PREP or HOLD, but not both.
* PREP and POS constructions are used for typical progressive contexts (e.g. answer to “What is X doing right now?”) and in the incidental schema (*Als John kam, war Anna noch am Lesen*.).
* No progressive construction was used with stative verbs, and temporary states cannot be expressed by the progressive.
* Progressives do not combine with adverbs that specify a limited duration. In some languages POS can be used in combination with adverbs that specify a limited duration.

**Transitive verbs and incorporation**

* North Frisian and Standard German PREP and POS do not combine with a direct object; this seems to be a more syntactic than semantic restriction
* The Rhinelandic progressive uses *am* + INF frequently and can combine with a direct object.
* Instead of using a direct object in progressive construction, incorporation is the strategy of North Frisian, Standard German, Frysk and Dutch. Incorporation is used for typical activities.
* Direct object can be transformed into a prepositional phrase, e.g. German *Sie schreibt an ihrer Doktorarbeit*.
* Some locative phrases together with direct objects can be incorporated (*Sie ist am (\*die) Kohlen-in-den-Keller-tragen*.) and are quasi-lexicalized.

**Tense, voice and modal verbs**

* there are almost no restrictions for the combination of progressives with tenses; future marker in Icelandic cannot combine with progressive
* present progressive forms are used for future reference
* in Dutch and Frisian POS is more natural for present perfect
* past perfect with progressive is somewhat odd, except for Icelandic
* the combination of a modal and PREP yields epistemic readings in Swedish, Dutch and North Frisian
* *be*-passives and imperatives do not combine with progressive, except for Icelandic

**Different types of verbs**

* stative verbs do not occur in progressives; accomplishments (telic) and activities (atelic) occur free with progressives
* Progressive seems to be obligatory in some cases (*Sie waren am Verhungern, sie hatten seit Wochen nichts Rechtes gegessen*.)
* Combination of progressive and a punctual verb (*Ich war am Einschlafen, als das Telefon klingelte*.) or momentaneous motion verb (*Sie ist gerade am Rausgehen*.) refers to a short pretransformational phase or has the meaning of *almost*; POS is impossible here
* Direct motion verbs are impossible
* Phasal verbs are impossible in Dutch, Standard German, North Frisian and Frysk
* Progressive + *start* or *finish* has an imminential reading
* POS is preferred over PREP with non-agentive verbs
* ‘busy’-construction is used only with agentive verbs (\**Er ist dabei zu schlafen* / \**beim Schlafen*.) [Note that students in class judged the examples as grammatical.]

**Motion progressive and locomotive**

* informants rejected the existence of this type of construction, but gave Danish examples that illustrated motion progressive (see p. 616). It is said to have a negative connotation, also in Dutch
* motion verbs do not necessarily have negative interpretations, e.g. in Danish and Dutch
* the particle *around* seems to have a negative connotation (*Er läuft herum und gibt an*.)
* no clear evidence is found for a clear distinction of a) a motion progressive and POS; b) motion progressive and locomotive ‘go around’
* motion progressive can be included in the POS construction (‘going around’ as a type of body position)

**PREP vs. POS constructions**

* agentive verbs combine with both PREP/HOLD and POS
* POS is always possible if the activity is carried out
* Choice between PREP and POS constructions seems partly to be based on personal preferences
* PREP mostly does not combine with non-agentive verbs
* PREP/HOLD does not combine with the verb *dream*
* The role of telicity is not yet clear: PREP is sometimes preferred with telic verbs
* POS always implies some noticeable duration (Ebert 1989), therefore momentaneous verbs are impossible
* Goal-directedness or importance of activity: the choice between POS and PREP seems to be related to these two factors in Frisian

**Temporal conditions**

* POS sometimes occurs with adverbs that indicate a temporal limit (usually impossible with progressive)
* PREP is impossible with adverbs that indicate a temporal limit; exceptions are Dutch and Rhinelandic (*Anne war zwei Stunden alleine am Spielen*.)
* PREP constructions often imply a focusing perspective (some event is in progress at a certain moment); POS does not have this perspective
* Vague adverbials like *while* and *during* are bad with PREP, except for Swedish HOLD
* Both POS and PREP seem to be compatible with habitual interpretations

**Grammaticization and stylistic variation**

* locative expressions and postural verbs are most frequent sources for progressive markers
* PREP constructions are all desemanticized
* Rhinelandic progressive forms, especially the felicity of the direct object, seem to spread
* Meaning of POS auxiliaries, e.g. in North Frisian, Dutch and Fering-Öömrang, is bleached
* Postural verbs are generally not interchangeable, except for the emotive use ( *Walk/ lie / sit not no whine*).
* In most Germanic languages progressive marking is not obligatory; in Rhinelandic it is quasi-obligatory
* In general, POS is more frequent in written context than in spoken language

**Other forms of progressive**

* Standard German *beim* and *im* seem to be more restrictive than *am*: *beim* combines only with agentive verbs, *im* is used only in idiomatic expressions [note that students in class had different opinions on the examples]
* *Beim* can have locative meaning
* Absentive constructions: often with prepositional phrase and a derived noun
* German *tun* is often found in the Rhinelandic region and is not restricted to agentive verbs; it also appears in habitual expressions and is thus not a clear progressive marker
* *Gerade*: not a progressive marker (*Ich will gerade Tee kochen / habe gerade Tee gekocht*)

**Reference**

Ebert, Karen H. (2000). Progressive markers in Germanic languages. In: Dahl, Östen (eds). *Tense and aspect in the languages of Europe*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.