

The expression of motion in Russian.

Tatiana Iakovleva

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Russian | Manner-and-Path conflation | Vertical motion ↑ ↓ | Boundary-crossing motion

The expression of motion in Russian: intra-language variation

Tatiana Iakovleva

Main Argument

Variability in the expression of vertical (UP/DOWN) and horizontal (ACROSS) motion in Russian.

Signs of a split system and a parallel system of conflation in Russian

The study

- Subjects: 12 Russian adult L1 speakers
- Items: a series of cartoons showing:
 - different manners of motion (Hendriks & Hickmann 2011): climbing, running, swimming, crawling, biking, skating, sliding...
 - three Paths: upward motion ↑, downward motion ↓, boundary-crossing motion



Examples of stimuli, N=12 (Hendriks & Hickmann 2011)

Results

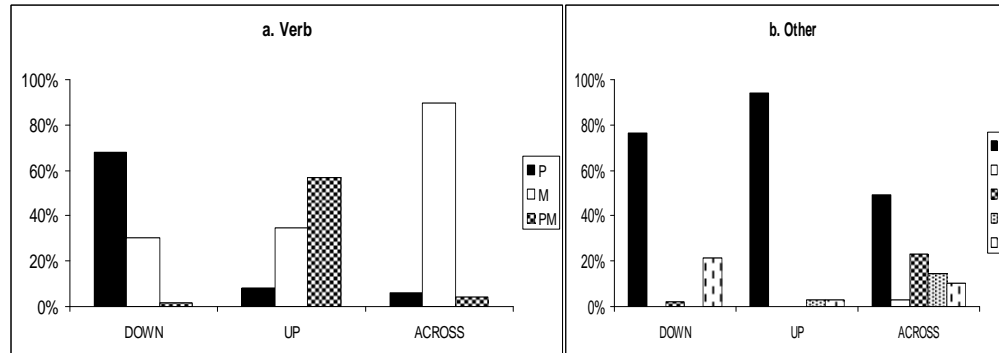


Table 1: Semantic information encoded in verbs(a) and other devices(b) P = Path, M = Manner, PM = Manner-and-Path conflation (hybrid verbs), L = Location, O – No information encoded

Neglected aspects of motion in Russian

- Choice of different constructions depending on the event type (SPLIT SYSTEM): :
 - hybrid verbs vs. Manner verbs (*zabratsia/zabirat'sia* vs. *za-lezt'* 'climb') with UP (PARALLEL system)
 - predominant verb-framed constructions with DOWN (*spustit'sia* 'descend')
 - satellite-framed constructions with ACROSS (<*pere*+Manner in the verb root>)
- Manner-and-Path (MP) in hybrid verb roots:
 - *zabrat'sia/zabirat'sia* 'climb[PF/IPF] (onto)'
 - *bezhat'* 'courir', *lezt'* 'climb' (simplex *unidirectional* verbs of motion)
- Simplex *multidirectional* verbs of motion: *katat'sia* (na kon'kax) 'skate', *begat'* 'run'

email: tatiakovleva@yahoo.fr

*This study was carried out at the SFL laboratory (Paris, Pouchet) (CNRS)