

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Russian's ICONic constructICON

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A multi-year, multinational project

University of Norway



Cognitive Linguistics: Empirical Approaches to Russian

Direktoratet for høyere utdanning og kompetanse



HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ



Team behind this project

Laura A. Janda (UiT The Arctic University of Norway): Background research, Concept, Design, Data mining, Editing of content, Dissemination of findings and results

<u>Tore Nesset</u> (UiT The Arctic University of Norway): Background research, Concept, Design, Editing of content, Dissemination of findings and results

<u>Ekaterina Rakhilina</u> (National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Vinogradov Institute of Russian Language at Russian Academy of Sciences): Background research, Concept, Design, Content, Data mining, Semantic annotation, Editing, Dissemination of findings and results

Olga Lyashevskaya (National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Vinogradov Institute of Russian Language at Russian Academy of Sciences): Concept, Design, Data mining, UD analysis, Syntactic annotation, Dissemination of findings and results

<u>Francis M. Tyers</u> (Indiana University; earlier affiliated with UiT The Arctic University of Norway and National Research University Higher School of Economics): Concept, Design, UD for Russian

<u>Radovan Bast</u> (UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Department of information technology): New user interface, design and programming

Marianne Lund: Translation of definitions to Norwegian

Valentina Zhukova (National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow): Content, Design, Data mining, Semantic and syntactic annotation, Dissemination of findings and results

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Anna Endresen (UiT The Arctic University of Norway): Content, Design, Data mining, Editing, Semantic and syntactic annotation, Usage labels, Dissemination of findings and results, Coordination of teamwork

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Marianne Lund: Translation of definitions Valentina Zhukova (National Research Un mining, Semantic and syntactic annotatic Daria Mordashova (Lomonosov Moscow Content, Design, Data mining, Semantic a Anna Endresen (UiT The Arctic University of



annotation, Usage labels, Dissemination of findings and results, Coordination of teamwork

Overview: the Russian Constructicon

- •Why and How We Built It
- Semantic Classification
- •A Tour



Overview: the Russian Constructicon

- •Why and How We Built It
- Semantic Classification
- •A Tour

Main Point:

We take seriously Fillmore's (2008) claim that a language is a structured inventory of constructions, a construction

Why and How We Built It

Why build a constructicon?

- For linguists
 - to achieve improved description of languages
 - to extend theory of construction grammar
 - to facilitate cross-linguistic typological comparison
- For L2 learners
 - to achieve greater language proficiency
 - to motivate use of specific wordforms
 - to fill in gaps in current language resources and pedagogy

For Linguists: Theoretical premises



For Learners: Filling in the gaps

- Dictionaries, grammars, and textbooks focus primarily on lexemes, lexicalized idioms, inflectional paradigms, and grammatical patterns
- Multi-word expressions with open slots are less reliably represented in standard resources



Examples of Russian constructions

- morphemes
 - -t' = INF
- lexemes tancevat' 'dance'
- multi-word idioms where all slots are fixed tancevat' of Adama 'start from the very beginning'
- multi-word expressions with open slots VP pod NP-Acc Ona tancevala pod muzyku 'She danced to the music'
- larger discourse units



Our project focuses mainly on this type of construction

How we built our constructicon



Practical considerations

- How exactly to turn a list of collected items into a structured inventory?
- This is a practical challenge that all existing constructicons face.



- Other constructicons are closely connected to a FrameNet resource and focus on verb argument constructions.
- FrameNet has been suggested as an alternative (Fillmore and Atkins 1992; Fillmore et al. 2012).
- In other constructicons, constructions are classified semantically according frames they envoke (Ohara 2014, 2018; Boas et al. 2016; Torrent et al. 2014, Lee-Goldman & Petruck 2018).

Why frame semantics is not enough



- Frame semantics focuses on Predicate Argument constructions, which constitute only 8% (184 items) of our database
- Our Constructicon includes a larger variety of conventionalized formmeaning pairings that can be understood as an early stage in the process of grammaticalization, in which quasigramatical meanings are distributed across constructions and their (partially bleached) anchor words
- Classification rests on various classifications of Universal grammatical inventory discussed in a wide range of typological studies (cf. Bybee et al 1994, Melchuk 1993-2000).

Bottom up approach

- Our aim
 - \circ to analyze constructions on their own terms, allowing patterns to emerge from the data, not imposing other models
- Methodology
 - We annotated individual constructions by assigning semantic tags that capture relevant aspects of their meaning
 - \odot The annotation of constructions was carried out by a panel of three native speakers
 - \odot The taggers worked together as a team over a long period of time
 - \odot Reaching a consensus about annotation of each construction

Semantic Classification

Semantic types of constructions grouped into classes and subclasses

1. Qualia				
1.1. Situation structure	1.2. Major roles	1.4. Logical relations	1.6. Sets and elements	A visualization of EE
 Timeline + Taxis + Actionality + Pluractionality + Phase of action + Result + Actuality 	 Addressee + Instrument Possession Comitative Caritive Non-standard subject + 	 Cause Purpose Consequence Condition Concession + 	 Additive Inclusive Exceptive Exclusive Subset Options Quantification + 	semantic types of constructions groupped into subclasses and
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1. Semantic class Qualia

1. Qualia				
1.1. Situation structure	1.2. Major roles	1.4. Logical relations	1.6. Sets and elements	
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constructions
 that describe the
 properties of the
 given objective
 physical world,
 external to the
 speaker

2. Semantic class Modality and its neighborhood

1. Qualia			
1.1. Situation structure	1.2. Major roles	1.4. Logical relations	1.6. Sets and elements
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3. Semantic class Subjectivity

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4. Semantic class Discourse

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constructions
 that function at
 the discourse level:

- structure the text
- organize the communication
- refer to a broader context than a single sentence

5. Semantic class Parameters

1. Qualia				
1.1. Situation structure	1.2. Major roles	1.4. Logical relations	1.6. Sets and elements	
 Timeline + Taxis + Actionality + Pluractionality + Phase of action + Result + Actuality 	 Addressee + Instrument Possession Comitative Caritive Non-standard subject + 	 Cause Purpose Consequence Condition Concession + 	 Additive Inclusive Exceptive Exclusive Subset Options Quantification + 	
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- imply a scale that serves as a point of reference for a property or a situation characterized by a construction can apply to and
- "build over" other meanings



Classification of constructions

- Families
 - a family is a relatively homogeneous group of approx. 2-9 constructions that share some semantic, syntactic, and/or structural properties
 - the constructions in a family share various subsets of these properties
 - semantic and syntactic tags facilitate identification of families
 - annotation by a panel of three native speakers
- Clusters
 - a cluster is a group of families that are linked through semantic and/or syntactic similarities in a prototypical vs. peripheral distribution, usually corresponding to semantic subtypes in annotation
- Networks
 - a network is a group of clusters that share a general semantic tag

NEXT: Modality and its neighborhood, zooming in on two clusters of Prohibitive constructions

Class of constructions: Modality and its neighborhood

- 301 constructions
- Can be modelled as a radial category central "core" modal meanings and their neighborhood
- Includes 10 semantic types (visualized as boxes)
- Arrows indicate subtypes of semantic types
- Numbers in () type frequency of each type in terms of individual constructions
- Solid lines connections between types within this class
- Dashed lines overlaps with other classes (indicated by dotted blue lines)









A Tour



https://constructicon.github.io/russian/

The Russian Constructicon

- Over 2200 constructions
- Arguably the largest openly available construction resource for any language
- User-friendly for linguists, teachers, learners
- Searchable according to semantics, anchor words, syntax
- Open-source, publicly archived data
- Designed to be portable to other languages, reproducible







DEFINITION (Russian) Конструкция используется, когда говорящий побуждает собеседника прекратить выполнять [некоторое действие]_{Action}. Говорящий оценивает это действие отрицательно, так как оно причиняет ему дискомфорт или кажется слишком длительным. Конструкция подразумевает отсутствие между говорящим и собеседником социальной иерархии и произносится в дружеском тоне.

DEFINITION (English) The construction is used when the speaker prompts the interlocutor to stop performing [some action]_{Action}. The speaker evaluates this action negatively, as it causes them discomfort or seems too long. The construction implies the absence of social hierarchy between the speaker and the interlocutor and is pronounced in a friendly tone.

DEFINITION (Norwegian) Konstruksjonen anvendes når taleren anmoder samtalepartneren om å slutte å utføre [en handling]_{Action}. Taleren har et negativt syn på handlingen fordi den volder ubehag eller synes å vare for lenge. Konstruksjonen forutsetter fravær av rangsforskjeller mellom taleren og samtalepartneren og fremføres i en vennskapelig tone.

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RUSSIAN ISTRUCTICON

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 - 4. Explanation of terms
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 - 4.2. Morphological terms
 - 4.3. Syntactic terms
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 - 4.3.3. Syntactic structure of anchor
 - 4.3.4. Part of speech of anchor
 - 4.4. Semantic terms
 - 4.4.1. Semantic types
 - 4.4.2. Semantic roles

Full descriptions of all features of the site are available on the Instructions page

For example, one can explore the Semantic Types



Overview

In Advanced Search, you can search for constructions with a specific meaning, for example constructions that express comparison, evaluation, temporal

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 ✓ ✓<td> Semantic types / Семантические типы конструкций Обзор </td><td></td>	 Semantic types / Семантические типы конструкций Обзор 	
0	 1. Семантический класс КВАЛИА (QUALIA) 1.1. Подкласс Структура ситуации (Situation Structure) 1.2. Подкласс Основные роли участников ситуации (Major Roles) 1.3. Подкласс Модификаторы ситуации (Situation Modifiers) 	
	 1.4. Подкласс Логические отношения (Logical Relations) 1.5. Подкласс Характеристики (Properties) 	
\triangleright	 1.6. Подкласс Операции с множествами и их элементами (Sets and Elements) 1.7. Подкласо Водиции и (Модатица) 	
\bigcirc	 1.7. Подкласс Величины (мауписие) 2. Семантический класс МОДАЛЬНОСТЬ И СМЕЖНЫЕ КАТЕГОРИИ (MODALITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD) 2.1. Подкласс Центральные модальные значения (Core Modal Meanings) 	
(2.2. Подкласс Смежные с модальностью категории (Neighborhood of Core Modal Meanings) 3. Семантический класс ВЫРАЖЕНИЕ СУБЪЕКТИВНОСТИ (SUBJECTIVITY) 	
(j)	 4. Семантический класс ДИСКУРС (DISCOURSE) 	
	 4.1. Подкласс Маркеры организации дискурса (Discourse Organization) 	
Ç	 4.2. Подкласс Клаузальные конструкции с дискурсивной функцией (Discourse Clauses) 5. Семантический класс ПАРАМЕТРЫ (PARAMETERS) Список литературы 	
	Semantic types / Семантические типы конструкций	

Обзор

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На странице Продвинутый поиск (Advanced Search) можно искать конструкции, которые выражают определенное значение: например,

поволоно плоихо помоново полино и по Плалбино типы ополоний каталью магит онлочать каналалонными мы позободам "ломонтицалими

