



UiT Norgesk arktiske universitet

CLEAR

Cognitive Linguistics: Empirical Approaches to Russian

Tromsø Constructicon Lab

<https://site.uit.no/clear/conlab/>

ChatGPT on Russian constructions: Insights or hallucinations?

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The the 20th conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association
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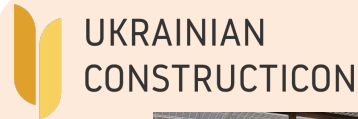
Kansas University (Lawrence, Kansas, USA)



Tromsø Constructicon Lab (ConLab): projects



2016 – present



2023



The Persian
Constructicon
2024



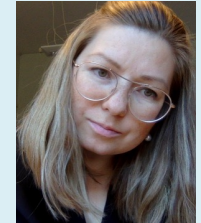
The Hill Mari
Constructicon
2022



The Norwegian
Constructicon

NOR


KON



2023 – present

In this talk we will focus on cxns collected in RusCon

The Russian Constructicon: current state

**RUSSIAN**
CONSTRUCTICON

BrowseAdvanced searchDaily doseStatisticsInstructionsAbout

Search in names and illustrations

не говоря о

Results

3. (а) как же NP-Nom? | А как же мама?

4. (а) при чём здесь/тут Cop NP-Nom? | При чём здесь наши от

5. (а) Noun-Nom/кто (же) (PronPers-3.Acc) знает, CI | Кто его зна

6. (а/так) что насчёт XP? | Что насчёт пятницы? Какие у тебя пл

7. NP-Nom Cop похожий-Short на NP-Acc (NP-Ins/по NP-Dat) | Ва

8. (вот) то-то и оно́, что CI/XP | То-то и оно, что от меня ничего н

9. (всё) никак не VP-Ipfv | Задача всё никак не решалась.

10. (единственное) (Прер) что (не) VP, так это (не) XP/CI | Чего д

11. (как) по мне, (так) CI | Как по мне, это ещё не беда.

12. (не/самое) время Cop VP-Inf | Самое время вершить большие дела.

Number of matching constructions: 4001

Currently two interfaces (UiT and HSE) exist, but they are sourced from a single database that contains **4001 cxns**

2277 + newly added 1724 cxns

We work with UiT's version:
<https://constructicon.github.io/russian/>

ChatGPT >>> ChatUiT

ChatUiT is "an AI-driven chatbot"

- powered by **GPT-4o model**
- developed by AI-team at UiT
- launched on Oct 2, 2023
- free and recommended for UiT's students and employees
- <https://chat.uit.no/>
- CRUCIALLY FOR OUR PURPOSES: "an AI-driven chatbot where you have control over your own data. What you enter **will not be shared with others or be used to train the model.**"

ChatUiT does not have access to the content of RusCon.
We can use it to test its "knowledge" of constructions

Alltid beredt med ChatUiT

Nå er ChatUiT klar på våre nettsider for å hjelpe til med studier og arbeid. Tjenesten er gratis og sikker med tanke på personvern.



LANCERT 2. OKTOBER: Samtaleroboten ChatUiT ble tilgjengelig på uit.no for

Methodology

generalized representation

short
recognizable
illustration

- Human knowledge of a construction is **multifaceted and comprehensive**.
- How can we fully examine constructional “knowledge” of LLMs?
- Our approach: “**deep testing**”
- As opposed to examining only the interpretation of a single illustration,...
- ...we examined **output on a variety of prompts**, both in English and Russian, with a focus on

- 1) semantic interpretation of 3-5 contexts,
- 2) contextual appropriateness, and
- 3) syntactic flexibility of constructions.

524
NAME

(это Cop) Noun-Nom как ~Noun-Nom *Хлеб как хлеб.*

GLOSSES:

(это Cop) Noun-Nom как ~Noun-Nom

(this COP) Noun-NOM as ~Noun-NOM

DEFINITION (English)

This construction indicates that a certain [participant]**Participant** or [object]**Theme** is perceived as a [typical representative]**Standard** of its class and does not possess any special properties uncharacteristic of members of that class.

EXAMPLES

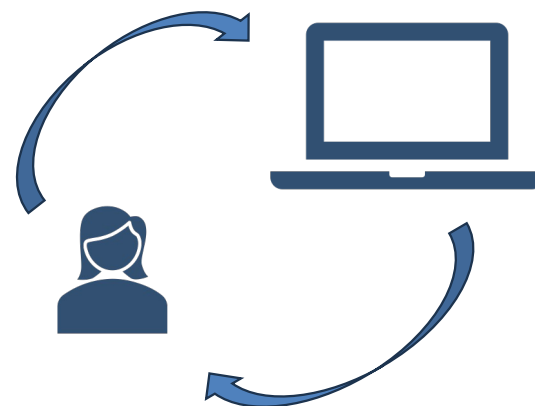
1. [Вода]**Theme** как [вода]**Standard**, холодная.
2. Ну что ж, с виду [дом]**Theme** как [дом]**Standard** — шесть этажей.
3. [Кошка]**Participant** как [кошка]**Standard**: мышей ловит, молоко лакает.
4. [Собака]**Participant** как [собака]**Standard**, большая только.
5. [Машина]**Theme** как [машина]**Standard** — с четырьмя колесами и двигателем.

CEFR LEVEL: B1

☐ Show additional information

Can ChatGPT/ChatUiT correctly ...?

- identify constructions in example sentences?
- identify a correct definition?
- write a definition?
- suggest common fillers?
- identify register (informal, formal)?
- generate example sentences?
- assign semantic tags according to RusCon semantic annotation?
- assign language proficiency level (CEFR)?
- find corresponding constructions in other languages (RUS-NOR-ENG)?



Yes,
but it is never perfect

1. ChatUiT can correctly identify constructions in example sentences

I am working on Russian grammatical constructions. Constructions are...

Use the following Abbreviations and symbols...

Here are five sentences that contain a common construction. Can you identify this construction and write it in a notation format that I have shown you?

RusCon: **NP-Dat Cop pora VP-Inf** - *Mne pora idti v školu.*

'I need [for-me it's-time] to go to school.'

ChatUiT: **NP.Dat pora VP.Inf**

Works best for cxns with lexical anchors
Occasional errors with morphological categories

RusCon: **VP-Inf(-to) ~VP, a/no CI** - *Sprosit' sprošu, no on možet ne znat'.*

'I will ask [lit. to-ask I-will-ask], but there is no guarantee that he knows.'

ChatUiT: **Verb-Inf (to) Verb-Pst, a/no CI**

No reduplication

Error in tense assignment

2. ChatUiT can identify a correct definition

I will now provide three definitions for this construction explaining its meaning. Please pick the most appropriate definition for this construction.

- a. **Actual definition**
- b. Definition of a cxn with the same combination of semantic tags
- c. Definition of a cxn with partially overlapping tags



28.01.25 11:38



The most appropriate definition for the "вон как VP" construction is:

- 2. Конструкция используется для того, чтобы обратить внимание слушающего на внешние хорошо заметные проявления некоторого [действия.] Action Slot VP заполняется глаголами обоих видов.

This definition accurately captures the essence of the construction, which is to draw attention to the noticeable manifestations of an action or state, and it correctly notes that the verb phrase slot can be filled with verbs of both aspects.

ChatUiT picks the correct definition even out of definitions of semantically close constructions!

3. ChatUiT can write definitions



NP-Dat Cop pora VP-Inf - *Mne pora idti v školu.*

'I need [for-me it's-time] to go to school.'

English Definition:

The "NP.Dat nopa VP.Inf" construction is used to express the necessity or strong suggestion that [a participant]**Participant** (in the dative case) should perform [an action]**Action** (in the infinitive). The construction emphasizes that it is time to carry out the specified action.

ChatUiT provides meaningful and well written definitions in both English and Russian including properly assigned semantic roles for the open slots.

3.1. Even for complex discourse "Echo" cxns (meaning is contextually determined and co-created in discourse)

Skažeš' tože – XP

– *On takoj xorošij!*
'He is so good!'

– *Skažeš' tože – "xorošij"!*

'[lit. you will say also] you call this "good"! No way!

Here, ChatUiT can rely the lexical anchor as a cue

Person said in Russian: – Он такой хороший!

And a conversation partner responded: – Скажешь тоже – "хороший"!

What does this mean?

Provide a short definition of the meaning of this construction, start with the words This construction denotes. Use the words speaker and conversation partner if you need.



21.02.25 09:33

Certainly! Here is the definition:

This construction denotes the speaker's skepticism or disagreement with the conversation partner's positive assessment or statement, often implying disbelief or irony by repeating a key word from the original statement in a dismissive or sarcastic tone.

ChatUiT can successfully process implicit modal and evaluative meanings that unfold in human interaction.

3.2. Even for reduplicative constructions

(cxns with lexical repetitions - a structural anchor and no lexical anchor!)

CONSTRUCTION id:491


NP-Dat Noun-Nom Cop не (в) ~Noun (без NP-Gen) - Девочкам радость не в радость.

GLOSSES:


NP-Dat Noun-Nom Cop не (в) ~Noun (без NP-Gen)

NP-DAT Noun-Nom COP NEG (in) ~Noun (without NP-GEN)

Here, ChatUiT can write a definition relying only on the structure despite the lack of a lexical cue

21.02.25 09:13

Provide a short definition of the meaning of this construction that we see in the examples we discussed, including Праздник не в праздник. Девочкам радость не в радость. Отдых не в отдых. Start with the words: This construction indicates that ... And use the words speaker and conversation partner

21.02.25 09:13

This construction indicates that the speaker is expressing a sense of dissatisfaction or disconnection, where something that is typically positive or fulfilling is not perceived as such. It highlights a mismatch between expectation and reality, conveying to the conversation partner that the usual joy, satisfaction, or meaning is absent in the given context.

4. ChatUiT can suggest common fillers

Skažeš' tože – XP

– *On takoj xorošij!*
'He is so good!'

– *Skažeš' tože – "xorošij"*
'[lit. you will say also] you ...'

14.02.25 12:36

In the construction "Скажешь тоже – [word]!", the word following "Скажешь тоже" is typically an adjective or a noun that was used in the preceding statement to describe someone or something positively. This construction is used to express skepticism or disagreement with the positive assessment. Here are some common types of words that might be used:

- 1. Adjectives Describing Personality or Character:**
 - хороший (good)
 - умный (smart)
 - добрый (kind)
 - честный (honest)
- 2. Adjectives Describing Quality or Performance:**
 - отличный (excellent)
 - лучший (best)
 - идеальный (perfect)
 - успешный (successful)
- 3. Adjectives Describing Appearance or Attributes:**
 - красивый (beautiful)
 - сильный (strong)
 - талантливый (talented)
- 4. Nouns Describing Roles or Achievements:**
 - герой (hero)
 - мастер (master)
 - профессионал (professional)

What words are most often used in this construction after the words *Скажешь тоже*?

ChatUiT:
Typically, an adjective or a noun
Here are some common types of words that might be used ...

These words are often repeated from the initial statement to highlight the speaker's skepticism. The use of quotation marks around the word further emphasizes the skepticism.

5. ChatUiT can correctly identify register

How can you describe register of this construction Скажешь тоже – [word]! ? Can I use it in formal official situations at work?



14.02.25 12:39



The construction "Скажешь тоже – [word]!" is informal and conversational in nature. It is often used in casual conversations among friends or acquaintances to express skepticism, disbelief, or mild sarcasm. This phrase relies on tone and context to convey its meaning, which makes it less suitable for formal or official situations.

In a professional or formal setting, using such a construction might be considered too casual or even disrespectful, as it can imply a dismissive or sarcastic attitude. In formal situations, it's generally better to express disagreement or skepticism in a more polite and structured manner. For example, instead of using "Скажешь тоже – [word]!", you might say:

- "Я не совсем согласен с этим утверждением." (I don't quite agree with that statement.)
- "Мне кажется, это преувеличение." (It seems to me that this is an exaggeration.)

These alternatives maintain a respectful tone while still conveying disagreement or doubt.

ChatUiT can perform surprisingly well on
semantic interpretation



How well can it generate proper instances
of cxns?

6. Ch

BAD NEWS: the generated examples match the structural pattern but are very unnatural.

GOOD NEWS: Unnatural examples can trigger additional analysis of restrictions on fillers and contexts that we (might) have overlooked.

CONSTRUCT

NP-Dat Noun-Nom Cop не (в) ~Noun (без NP-Gen) - Девочкам ра

GLOSSES:

NP-Dat Noun-Nom Cop не (в) ~Noun (без NP-Ge

NP-DAT Noun-Nom COP NEG (in) ~Noun (without NP-GE

Can you provide
several examples of
this construction?

Mistakes made by ChatUiT are
similar to those of L2-learners of
Russian

reality regarding enjoyment or benefit.

Here's a breakdown of the meaning for each example:

1. Маль

• Т

2. Студ

• Т

3. Кошк

• Т

4. Ребён

• Т

5. Соба

• Т

6. Учени

• Т

7. Птиц

• Т

8. Рыбам вода не в воду.

• The water is not suitable or comfortable to the fish.

These sentences convey a sense of disappointment or lack of fulfillment in what is typically expected to be a positive experience.



something which is
repetition of the noun

bring joy to the girls
ween expectation and

Moving from the interpretations of
individual constructions
to managing a whole system of annotation

7. ChatUiT can correct

Here is the semantic classification that we use to describe constructions. Each construction can have multiple tags.

1. Qualia			
1.1. Situation structure	1.2. Major roles	1.4. Logical relations	1.6. Sets and elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline + • Taxis + • Actionality + • Pluractionality + • Phase of action + • Result + • Actuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressee + • Instrument • Possession • Comitative • Caritive • Non-standard subject + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause • Purpose • Consequence • Condition • Concession + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additive • Inclusive • Exceptive • Exclusive • Subset • Options • Quantification +
1.3. Situation modifiers		1.5. Properties	1.7. Magnitude
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial expressions + • Temporal expressions + • Manner 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salient property + • Temporary characteristics + • Comparison + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-existence + • Measure + • Calculation +
2. Modality and its neighborhood		3. Subjectivity	4. Discourse
2.1. Core modal meanings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment + • Attitude + • Polarity value + • Source of opinion + • Mirative 	4.1. Discourse organization	5. Parameters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of intensity + • Degree of accuracy +
2.2. Neighborhood		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourse structure + • Intersubjectivity • Objectivity • Source of information 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volition • Causation + • Prohibition + • Threat • Request • Apprehension + • Curse 		4.2. Discourse clauses	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaction to the previous discourse + • Routine + 	

(eto Cop) Noun-Nom kak ~Noun-Nom – X

'[lit. bread like bread] This bread is just normal.'



- Salient property
 - Paragon

cover major semantics



- Assessment
 - Assessment in relations

cover semantic nuances



- Polarity value
 - Both Negative and

offered:

- Comparison
 - Equality



ChatUiT usually captures the semantic core

- ChatUiT can correctly identify **the core semantic tag** and suggest semantic tags that are less central for a given cxn.
- But it **tends to miss** some additional, **non-core semantic tags** included in our annotation for the same cxn.



GOOD NEWS: Our semantic annotation is learnable for ChatUiT and works well on unseen data (contra other studies on automatic semantic annotation like Imamovic et al. 2024).

ChatUiT sometimes erroneously offers semantic tags that do not match a given construction

VP iz pokolenija v pokolenie

*Iz **pokolenija v pokolenie** u nas peredaetsja tradicija nazyvav' pervenca Andreem.*

'From generation to generation, we pass down the tradition of naming the firstborn Andrei.'

- ✓ • Temporal expression
 - Time period
 - • Manner
 - Salient property
 - • Temporal characteristics
- offered:
 - Cause

8. ChatUiT can assign proficiency level (CEFR) & meaningful motivation

Can you identify a language proficiency level that this construction belongs to?

The screenshot shows a chat window with a dark background. At the top left is an Android icon. The timestamp '21.02.25 06:36' is in the center. The message text reads: 'Assigning a language proficiency level to specific constructions can be somewhat subjective, but generally, the construction "Скажешь тоже – [word]!" would likely be understood and used by learners at an **upper-intermediate (B2)** level or higher. Here's why:'. Below this is a bullet point: '• **Cultural Nuance:** Understanding the tone and context in which this construction is used requires some familiarity with cultural nuances and informal speech patterns, which are typically developed at more advanced stages of language learning.' To the right of the chat window, two blue starburst shapes contain the text 'ChatUiT: B2' and 'RusCon: C2'. Below the chat window, there are two teal-colored text boxes. The first box contains the text: 'ChatUiT successfully assigns CEFR levels and even provides meaningful motivation. These levels often do not match RusCon CEFR-level-annotation (which is a subjective task).' The second box contains the text: 'ChatUiT provides more meaningful CEFR assignment for intermediate to advanced levels.'

ChatUiT: B2

RusCon: C2

Assigning a language proficiency level to specific constructions can be somewhat subjective, but generally, the construction "Скажешь тоже – [word]!" would likely be understood and used by learners at an **upper-intermediate (B2)** level or higher. Here's why:

- **Cultural Nuance:** Understanding the tone and context in which this construction is used requires some familiarity with cultural nuances and informal speech patterns, which are typically developed at more advanced stages of language learning.

ChatUiT successfully assigns CEFR levels and even provides meaningful motivation. These levels often do not match RusCon CEFR-level-annotation (which is a subjective task).

ChatUiT provides more meaningful CEFR assignment for intermediate to advanced levels.

ChatUiT errors gave us a lot of a-ha insights.

8. Corresponding constructions across languages

- Focus on 57 discourse cxns included in the resource Construxercise!
- Russian cxns and corresponding cxns in English and Norwegian
- examined ChatUiT-generated translations
- ChatUiT misses some semantic nuances

Pljus ko vsemu, CI

Pljus ko vsemu, ja ljublju putešestvovat'.

[lit. plus to everything] In addition, I love to travel'



ChatUiT: The translation can be phrased as: “**On top of that**, I love to travel.”

It was cold and raining outside. **On top of that**, I forgot my umbrella at home.



The Russian cxn can introduce either negative or positive information.

Construction	Illustration
кроме того ...	<p>The ENG cxn On top of (all) that, CI is more restrictive: adds only negative argument</p>
In addition, ...	
Besides, ...	
к тому же ...	
не только но и ...	

Conclusions: “is SO GOOD, **but...**!”

For Russian data

ChatGPT can

- interpret **semantic nuances** of constructions, including rare, advanced, and highly language specific cxns
- identify an **abstract pattern** on the basis of several individual examples
- write **morphosyntactic representation** according to learned system of abbreviations and symbols
- provide **fillers**, sorted in groups
- explain **register nuances** and provide guidelines for using a construction in an appropriate social context
- can assign constructions to proper **levels of language proficiency**, with correct reference to specific levels in the CEFR system of levels

ChatUIT is definitely a useful tool for constructicographers and can be employed for a variety of tasks (writing definitions, verification of semantic and stylistic annotation, etc.)

Conclusions: BUT! ...

- Examples generated by ChatGPT are often **unnatural**.
- Mistakes made by ChatUiT are **similar to those of L2-learners** of Russian.
- ChatUiT makes it possible to **annotate newly added constructions semi-automatically**, but should be checked by human annotators.

We can never completely rely on the output of ChatUiT.
It has to be taken with caution, checked and sometimes corrected.

- Unnatural examples can help us **identify additional properties of constructions** that might be overlooked when analyzing only real corpus examples.
- It seems that “negative” data serves to **refine and detail** constructional definitions.

Thank you!

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extra slides

Target groups of cxns expected to be problematic for LLMs

Constructions
expressing
assessment

Semantically
distinct

Constructions
expressing threats

Pragmatically
distinct

Reduplicative
constructions

Syntactically
distinct > no
lexical anchor

Discourse
"Echo"
constructions

Syntactically
distinct > across
two speakers

BUT! in many cases it deviates from RusCon

Provide a CEFR level of this construction

ChatUiT:
B1

RusCon:
A1



28.01.25 12:26



The "NP.Dat nopa VP.Inf" construction is likely to be encountered at the **B1 (Intermediate)** level on the CEFR scale. Here's why:

- **Familiarity and Usage:** This construction is commonly used in everyday conversation to express that it is time for someone to do something, making it a practical and frequently encountered structure.
- **Complexity:** The construction involves basic grammatical structures such as the dative case and infinitive verbs, which are typically covered at the B1 level.
- **Functionality:** At the B1 level, learners are expected to handle a variety of routine tasks and express needs and obligations,

ChatUiT provides more meaningful CEFR assignment for intermediate to advanced levels.

Rarely: erroneous assignment of polarity value

večno VP

Ona **večno** opazdyvaet!

'She eternally arrives late'

Ona **večno** prixodit vovremja!

'She eternally arrives on time'


Can the sentence Она вечно приходит вовремя! be used with positive assessment?




23.02.25 21:31




While the construction "вечно V" typically carries a negative or ironic connotation, it is possible to use "Она вечно приходит вовремя!" with a positive assessment, but it would depend heavily on the context and the speaker's tone. If the speaker emphasizes the reliability and consistency of her punctuality in a genuinely appreciative manner, the sentence could be understood positively. However, because of the usual negative or sarcastic undertone associated with "вечно V," it might still be interpreted as ironic by some listeners. To clearly convey a positive assessment without ambiguity, using "Она всегда приходит вовремя" would be more straightforward.

23.02.25 21:27


Certainly! The construction "вечно V" in Russian is used to express the constancy or regularity of an action that the speaker perceives as habitual or annoying. The verb following "вечно" is typically in the present tense and describes an action that occurs with notable frequency. For example, "Она вечно опаздывает" translates to "She is always late," implying that she is consistently or regularly late, likely causing annoyance or frustration for the speaker.

23.02.25 21:29


Can this construction be used with positive polarity?

23.02.25 21:29

The construction "вечно V" in Russian is generally used with a negative connotation, often to express annoyance or frustration about a habitual action. It typically highlights actions that are perceived as undesirable or irritating. While it is grammatically possible to use "вечно V" with actions that are positive, it is less common and might sound unusual or sarcastic. For example, saying "Он вечно помогает" ("He is always helping") could be interpreted as genuine praise, but it might also come across as sarcastic, depending on the context and tone.

23.02.25 21:30

Can one say Она вечно приходит вовремя!

23.02.25 21:30

Grammatically, you can say "Она вечно приходит вовремя!" in Russian, but it would likely be interpreted as having a sarcastic or ironic tone, given the typical negative connotation of the construction "вечно V." In most contexts, this phrase would suggest that the speaker is surprised or perhaps even skeptical about her consistent punctuality. If the intention is to genuinely praise her for always being on time, it might be clearer to use a different construction, such as "Она всегда приходит вовремя."

Conclusions (3)

- ChatGPT can correctly manage semantic interpretation, fillers, register
- BUT! generation isolated examples somehow sound very unnatural and even bad to native speakers and you need to make multiple requests correcting your prompt to finally get "good" – appropriate examples of a construction.
- Frankly speaking – not just about expression opinion in Russian but specifically in a situation when your opinion contradicts the popular or mainstream opinion expressed by conversation partner
- Can be side effect of ChatUIT.
- Chto kasaetsa .. to ... Could not manage that the first slot names a domain
- One way _ it is very good when you feed it language data – it can provide good interpretation, capturing nuances and offer you a generalization and insight that you might not have had before
- But the other way is challenging for it – go from general ... to specific examples and generating natural language data and examples

Conclusions (2)

- ChatGPT can correctly manage semantic annotation of constructions
- our system of semantic annotation is both multi-layered and detailed (we allow several semantic tags for the same constructions, overlaps, multiple semantic motivations and links to multiple semantic groups and constructional families) it is still learnable! and applicable to new items in the database! (contra earlier studies, see for example Glynn et al. 2023)
- Can write definitions according to the proposed format and style
- Examples generated by ChatGPT should be taken with caution.
- Can be an intermediate stage for finding good examples of a construction – often corpora do not provide search possibilities for certain combinations of words and their forms, and have limited texts that feature colloquial discourse.

1. Explanation of tabs

1.1. Browse

1.2. Advanced Search

1.3. Daily Dose

1.4. Statistics

1.5. Instructions

1.6. About

2. Abbreviations and symbols

3. Explanation of conventions

4. Explanation of terms

4.1. Stylistic terms (Usage labels)

3. Explanation of conventions

Each slot and morphological specifications are verified by data from the Russian National Corpus, and supplemented by internet searches where data is sparse.

In representing the syntactic structure of constructions, we adopt the following strategies.

1. If a construction contains a noun phrase (NP) that can be used not only in the predicative function marked with the nominative case but also in other roles (e.g. object, instrument, etc.) encoded with oblique cases, we do not specify the case in the construction name: e.g. NP на нуле [lit. NP on zero], as in *Иммунитет на нуле* 'Immunity is at the zero level' vs. *Выписали пациента с иммунитетом на нуле* 'They released a patient with immunity at the zero level'.
2. If a construction contains a noun phrase (NP) that is only used in the predicative function, we indicate its form as the default NP-Nom (= a noun phrase with the head noun in the Nominative case), as it appears with the present tense copula: e.g. NP-Nom Cop NP-Nom VP-Inf (as in *Он мастер готовить* 'He is good at cooking [lit. expert cook]').
3. We assume that the Instrumental case marking of the predicative NP that may appear with the past and/or future tense copula is a general rule of Russian grammar and this is mentioned in the commentary field on each entry and illustrated in examples: e.g. *Он был мастером готовить* 'He was good at cooking [lit. expert cook]'.

7. ChatUiT can assign proficiency level (CEFR) & meaningful motivation

Can you identify a language proficiency level that this construction belongs to?

ChatUiT:
B1-B2

RusCon:
C1

14.02.25 12:56

The construction "Какое там [прилагательное/существительное]!" is relatively straightforward in terms of syntax and semantics, making it accessible to intermediate learners.

21.02.25 09:31

This construction denotes the speaker's skepticism or disbelief regarding a statement made by the conversation partner, often implying that the speaker finds the description exaggerated or inaccurate.

Semantic Complexity:

- **Idiomatic Nature:** While the phrase is idiomatic, its meaning is not overly abstract or difficult to grasp. It conveys a clear sense of contradiction or disbelief, which can be understood with some exposure to conversational Russian.
- **Contextual Use:** Understanding when and how to use this expression appropriately requires some cultural and contextual awareness, which is typically developed at an intermediate level.

Proficiency Level:

- **Intermediate (B1-B2):** Learners at this level are generally familiar with basic idiomatic expressions and can handle simple conversational nuances. They are also beginning to understand cultural contexts, making them well-suited to grasp and use this construction effectively.

Overall, while the construction is idiomatic, its simplicity and frequency in everyday conversation make it accessible to intermediate learners who are expanding their ability to express nuanced emotions and reactions in Russian.

notation is learnable for
et al. 2024).

Chat-GPT examples

- We never planned to provide generated examples in RusCon. Our strategy was to provide authentic language data.
- Generated examples can be based on real data, and can inform us about possible additional types of uses that were not taken into account earlier
- Unnatural examples can trigger additional analysis in order to identify restrictions on fillers and contexts that we overlooked.
- We analyzed corpus examples to formulate constructional meaning. But it seems that "negative" data (what is not correct) serves us to refine and detail our constructional definitions.

Additional examples were all found in the Google search engine in fiction texts. Even though they sounded very marginal, they inform us about additional types of uses that were not taken into account earlier.