CLEAR
Cognitive Linguistics:
Empirical Approaches to Russian

UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ

Overview

1. People
2. Cognitive Linguistics
3. External Funding
4. Linguistic Profiling
5. Database & Websites
6. Previous experience with pedagogical material
7. **Russian Oahpa**

1. People (collaborators with Giellatkno in boldface)

Laura A. Janda (co-leader)

Tore Nesset (co-leader)

Olga Lyashevskaya – Higher School of Economics, Moscow (PostDoc 2008-2011)

Svetlana Sokolova (PhD > Associate Professor)

Julia Kuznetsova (PhD > Researcher)

Anastasia Makarova (PhD)

Anna Endresen (PhD)

Hanne Eckhoff (Researcher)

Robert Reynolds (PhD)

Aleksandrs Berdicevskis (Associate Professor/Lecturer)

Rebecka Lindberg

Francis Tyers (PostDoc)

2. Cognitive linguistics

Minimal Assumption: language can be accounted for in terms of general cognitive strategies

- no autonomous language faculty
- no strict division between grammar and lexicon
- no a priori universals

Usage-Based: generalizations emerge from language data

- no strict division between langue and parole
- no underlying forms

Meaning is Central: holds for all language phenomena

- no semantically empty forms
- differences in behavior are motivated (but not specifically predicted) by differences in meaning

3. External Funding (major items)

Norwegian Research Council:

2013-2015: "Birds & Beasts: Shaping Events in Old Russian"

2011-2014: "Neat theories, messy realities: How to apply absolute definitions to gradient phenomena"

2007-2011: "Exploring Emptiness: Russian Verbal Morphology and Cognitive Linguistics"

Other:

2011-2012: Centre for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for the project "Time is Space: Unconscious Models and Conscious Acts"

4. Linguistic profiles

Focused subsets of behavioral profiles (Firth 1957, Harris 1970, Hanks 1996, Geeraerts et al. 1999, Speelman et al. 2003, Divjak & Gries 2006, Gries & Divjak 2009)

Grammatical profiling: relationship between frequency distribution of forms and linguistic categories

Semantic profiling: relationship between meanings (semantic tags) and forms

Constructional profiling: relationship between frequency distribution of grammatical constructions and meaning

Radial category profiling: differences in the frequency distribution of uses across two or more near-synonyms

Collostructional profiling: relationship between a construction and the words that fill its slots

5. Databases and code

Exploring Emptiness database of Russian verbs with so-called "empty" prefixes

   http://emptyprefixes.uit.no/index.php

Book and data and code: *Why Russian aspectual prefixes aren't empty*
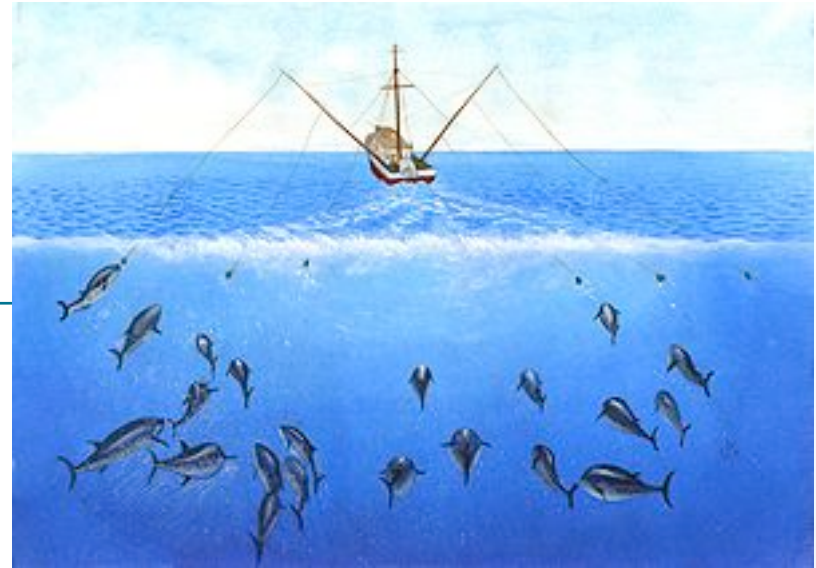
   http://emptyprefixes.uit.no/methodology_eng.htm

Many other websites with data and code to accompany CLEAR publications

TROLLing initiative....

TROLLing

Tromsø Repository of Language and Linguistics

- International archive of data and code
- All items open-source, open access
- Searchable metadata
- Verify results, see how to implement various statistical models
- Housed at UiT library
- Connected to CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, a networked federation of European data repositories)

6. Experience with pedagogical material

- *The Case Book for Russian* with audio and interactive exercises on CD-ROM and on internet (2002) http://languages.uchicago.edu/casebooks/russian/mainmenu.html

- *The Case Book for Czech* with audio and interactive exercises on CD-ROM and on internet (2006) http://languages.uchicago.edu/casebooks/czech/mainmenu.html

- *Aspect in Russian Media Module* with animations, audio, and interactive exercises on internet (2006) http://ansatte.uit.no/laura.janda/aspect/ainr/

- Fronter exercises at UiT

- *Russisk studentens beste venn* + forthc. books/materials

7. Russian Oahpa

PhD (Robert Reynolds) and PostDoc (Francis Tyers) funded by UiT

Develop parallel resources for analyzing, disambiguating, etc. and teaching materials

Both pedagogical and linguistic research aims