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Le costruzioni con verbo supporto in russo: il caso di DELAT'

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SUMMARY

Russian Support Verb Constructions with *DELAT*.

This paper deals with Support Verb Constructions (SVC) in Russian that are formed by the verb *delat* 'to make' and its nominal object (V+Nobj).

The study has been carried out on the *Russian Web Corpus* (gathered by Serge Sharoff, University of Leeds), which is available as a pre-loaded corpus within The Sketch Engine corpus query system (<http://the.sketchengine.co.uk>). About 150 types of SVC with a token frequency ≥ 10 resulted from the query. The types have been classified into lexical-semantic patterns, on the basis of Nsubj and Nobj semantic features and the Support verb lexical-semantic meaning. Subsequently, the patterns have been grouped into the well-known actional classes of *accomplishments*, *achievements*, *semelfactives*, *activities* and *states* (Vendler 1967, Comrie 1976). The overall classification shows that most SVCs go hand in hand with the features of telicity (as regards verbs) and of concreteness and referentiality (as regards Nobj), whereas less SVCs can be found into the activity and states verb classes. Moreover, the presence of a high number of SVCs in the corpus may be considered as a further evidence of the typological shift towards the analytic type that contemporary Russian is apparently undergoing (see e.g. the simplification of noun declension, the expansion of invariable words and the increasing number of bi-aspectual verbs).

How Transcription May Influence Analysis: the Case of Silences

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SUMMARY

Silence as a human interactional phenomenon has rarely been studied in the scientific community. notable exceptions are the works included in Tannen and Saville-Troike (1985), which study silence from a sociolinguistic and ethnographic perspective; and the seminal work by Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson (1974), where silence is a phenomenon occurring between turns at talk, and may thus signal a problematic interaction if the silence is deemed too long. Thus, on the one side, silence is a universal feature of human conversation, on the other, it has different meanings in different cultures.

The present paper aims to show that the way analysts transcribe silence influences the ensuing analysis of the data. Generally silences are transcribed either with dots between parentheses, distinguishing only between a short or a long pause; or by milliseconds in parentheses. neither of the two notations says much about what that silence is doing in that particular moment and in that particular interactional environment. in particular, when dealing with long silences – 8 to 9 seconds – the general assumption is that silence may signal a trouble-source in the preceding turn in the conversation.

Drawing from a corpus of real videorecorded data of institutional interactions (lawyer-client counseling) it will be shown that, at least in these sorts of interactions,

participants are engaged in other courses of action which are simultaneous to the 'main' one, that is the verbal interaction. long silences are 'occupied' by the manipulation of objects and documents that are at the center of the attention focus (Goodwin 2007), even though not accessible to everybody (as, for example, in Mondada, 2006a, 2006b, 2006c, 2007): one document is accessible to the lawyer only, who can turn pages, write on them and read aloud or to himself, or scan through it; the client on the other hand, is engaged in retrieving a text message, which will be taken as one of the evidences for applying for divorce. The transcription process is, thus, an account of the theory subsumed (Ochs, 1979): transcripts will take into account all the action, taking place during the interaction, which is significant to the participants. Drawing from seminal works by Goodwin (1980, 1981) and following developments by Mondada (2006a, 2006b, 2006c, 2007), a transcription notation has been devised which accounts for the notation of concomitant courses of action which are either simultaneous to talk or to silence.

Il riferimento indefinito in latino

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SUMMARY

This paper aims to classify latin indefinite pronouns that can be traced back to the indo-European root **kwe-/*kwi-*. The analysis is basically based on the classification proposed by Haspelmath (1997). From a typological point of view, latin has any kinds of indefinite pronouns (derived, compound, doubling, generic words). This richness of forms implies a reassessment of Haspelmath's (1997: 254) implicational map. More in particular, the gap of the absence of *quis* and *quispiam* in the map is filled. Moreover, other important functions of *quidam* and *quisquam* are recognized on the basis of the data. Haspelmath's (1997) model is also expanded taking into account Orlandini's (1981) study, which considers some further important features, such as pragmatic ones. Modal values of different indefinite pronouns are especially examined.