

## PREFACE

ATLE GRØNN AND ANNA PAZELSKAYA

*Oslo, Moscow*

In this issue of *Oslo Studies in Language* we present 12 contributions from the conference “The Russian Verb” at the Norwegian University Centre in St. Petersburg in May 2010. The conference was organized by the RuN project at the University of Oslo, and the present publication marks the end of the RuN project.

The collection covers a variety of topics related to the Russian verb, starting with a joint contribution by Barbara Partee and her Russian colleagues on verb semantics in genitive alternations. The interaction of lexical verb semantics and grammar is also central in the next articles by Letuchiy and Zorikhina Nilsson.

The two contributions in Russian – by Pozharitskaya and Sagitova – are related to grammaticalization, dialectology and historical linguistics.

The last seven papers are more directly concerned with the evergreen issue of Russian aspect, which must obviously be expected to be the main topic of a conference devoted to the Russian verb. The works on aspect presented here vary greatly both in the theoretical positions of the authors and in the range of phenomena discussed.

The contributions include computational and corpus-based approaches by Borik/Janssen, von Waldenfels and Kuznetsova/Makarova, psycholinguistic/experimental work on prefixes in Batiukova et al. and a purely semantic perspective on prefixes in Kagan’s work. Pazelskaya analyses the aspectual structure in nominalizations (following related work by Tatevosov), and the collection ends with an article coauthored by Grønn and von Stechow.

The publication of this issue of *Oslo Studies in Language* is closely related to a thematic issue of the journal *Scando-Slavica* (57:2, 2011). Its editor, Jens Nørgård Sørensen, proposed the publication of a thematic issue from our conference, and for practical reasons it was decided to include the contributions from the invited speakers. Three of these speakers, Partee (et al.), Kagan and von Stechow/Grønn also contribute to the present volume of OSLa.

The articles in *Scando-Slavica* (57:2, 2011) are:

- Barbara H. Partee, Vladimir Borschev, Elena Paducheva, Yakov Testelet, and Igor Yanovich: *The Role of Verb Semantics in Genitive Alternations in Russian*
- Olga Kagan: *The Scale Hypothesis and the Prefixes ‘pere-’ and ‘nedo-’*
- Hans Robert Mehlig: *General Questions and Verbal Aspect in Russian*

- Laura A. Janda and Olga Lyashevskaya: *Aspectual Pairs in the Russian National Corpus*
- Sergei Tatevosov: *Severing Perfectivity from the Verb*
- Atle Grønn and Arnim von Stechow: *Future vs. Present in Russian and English Adjunct Clauses*
- Tore Nettet and Julia Kuznetsova: *Stability and Complexity: Russian Suffix Shift over Time*
- Vladimir Plungyan: *Tipologičeskie aspekty slavjanskoj aspektologii (nekotorye dopolnenija k teme)*

For reasons of space, the following two articles will appear in *Scando-Slavica* 58:1, 2012:

- Stephen M. Dickey: *The Development of the Imperfective General-Factual in Russian*
- Viktor Xrakovsky: *Hierarchy and Interaction of Russian Verb Categories (Aspect, Tense, Mood)*

We are very pleased with the high scholarly level of the 22 published contributions from our St. Petersburg conference on the Russian Verb. We thank all the participants in the conference, our authors and reviewers for their interest in the Russian Verb.

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