Leonard Babby has long worked on hybrid or multilayered categories in languages. Participles are prominent among these: verbs deep down, but adjectives outwardly. It is a commonplace that Contemporary Standard Russian owes its participle system to Church Slavonic. The past passive -н(н)- and -т- are inherited, but present active -ш- is Slavonic (otherwise it would be -с-), and present passive -м- and past active -(в)ш- are productive only due to Slavonic influence.

This paper treats a parallel case: central Slovene had lost its present active participle in -оc/-оc- and past active in -вš- by the time modern standard Slovene was codified in the early 1800s, but later in that century, under the influence of Old Church Slavonic and/or of Eastern (“Protestant” standard) Slovene, these forms became productive again. We look at how the participle was fitted into the existing structure of noun phrases.

This also raises a problem for the study of language standardization. Standardizers most typically express their norms as “thou shalt not”: e.g. in English “ain’t is not a word, so don’t use it.” How did they put across to an audience of Slovenians or Russians the opposite sort of norm: “It's OK to use participles freely, even if you're not used to doing it”?