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Title: Importance of Russian Corpora in Control of L2 Acquisition: Russian Indefinite Pronouns

Abstract:

The **Russian Learner Corpus** <http://www.web-corpora.net/RLC/> and the **Russian National Corpus** <http://www.ruscorpora.ru/en/index.html> are useful resources in (1) predicting the level of difficulty of particular phenomena of Russian for L2 learners, and (2) designing exercises facilitating the learning process.

Familiarity with Russian indefinite pronouns (the four sets marked by prefixes or suffixes *-to*, *-nibud'*, *-libo*, and *koe-*) requires the ability to correctly choose a needed pronoun depending on several factors: (i) familiarity of the object to the speaker / addressee, or existence of the object; (ii) information about the quantitative characteristics of a (plural) object (the whole group / a part of the group); (iii) information about the situation as a whole provided by such grammatical “indicators” as tense, mood, markers of plurality, etc.; and (iv) register (formal / informal) of the speech. Combining these factors turns the choice of the pronoun (intuitive for native speakers) into quite a complex algorithm for L2 learners.

Different textbooks of Russian as a foreign language pay similar attention to the different sets of pronouns, but the result of the learning process is asymmetric; some types of pronouns are learned better, and some are barely learned at all (Eremina).

In the paper, we will (1) use the Russian Learner Corpus to evaluate how Russian indefinites are acquired by L2 learners; (2) use the materials of the Russian National Corpus to test students with Intermediate and Advanced level of Russian to evaluate the nature of the difficulties in differentiating between the sets of pronouns; and (3) develop exercises based on the materials from the Russian National Corpus that help students to acquire the full system of Russian indefinite pronouns.

References:

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