**"Word Order Patterns in Oral Narratives of Russian Heritage Speakers"**

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In this paper, we examine word order patterns in oral narratives elicited from English-dominant heritage speakers of Russian (HSs). While being an SVO language, Russian exhibits significant word order flexibility in the reordering of the major clausal constituents under appropriate discourse conditions. Some existing analyses of scrambling in Russian (Bailyn 2001) propose a distinction between *inversion*, a syntactically-motivated movement, and *dislocation*, a reordering of constituents related to the encoding of information structure in discourse. Our study addresses the following questions: (i) In what ways, if any, do HSs differ from the monolingual speakers (NSs) in their use of word order patterns to encode discourse relations? (ii) Which specific word order patterns (inversion or dislocation) present particular challenges to HSs? Our data come from 12 adult HSs of Russian and 10 adult NSs.

With respect to (i), we find that Russian HSs differ significantly from NSs in their use of non-canonical word orders as evidenced by their overall underuse of non-default orders as well as in the infelicitous choices involving non-default orders. With respect to (ii), we find that HSs make more pragmatically inappropriate choices involving dislocation constructions than inversion constructions, suggesting that the former phenomenon presents greater difficulty. Our results suggest that HSs are at least aware of the pragmatic meaning of word order in creating narratives even though they make errors.

This study contributes to our understanding of how different levels of linguistic organization are represented in heritage languages.

Bibliography

Baylin, J. F. 2001. Inversion, dislocation and optionality in Russian. In Uwe Junghanns & Gerhilde Zybatow (eds) *Formale slavistik 3* University of Leipzig.