**Title: Comparing Russian Native and Heritage Speakers’ Writing: Analysis of Syntax.**

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In this presentation I will report the results of a larger study that analyzed academic writing of heritage students of Russian enrolled in language courses in American universities and native speakers of Russian. The research data came from the essay contest administered by American Councils for International Education (ACTR) and from essays written by native speakers, collected separately. The combination of HSs and native speakers’ essays resulted in a corpus of 118 texts and approximately 34,000

words.

I will analyze and compare the syntactic complexity, fluency and accuracy in written production by heritage and native speakers. Two variables were used to compare fluency in the two groups: number of words per clause and number of words per T-unit. Syntactic complexity was measured by calculating mean number of T-units, mean number of all clauses and mean number of dependent clauses in each essay. I will also report the results of additional analysis of types of conjunctions as well as participles and verbal adverbs used. I will then discuss syntactic accuracy, namely, writers’ omissions and insertions and most common errors in word order.