Title: Impersonal Infinitives

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Russian impersonal verbs (I-V) are subjectless, i.e., their argument structures (AS) have no external theta role or categorical head N. This raises a number of theoretical issues. We will be concerned here with the following two empirical facts: (i) infinitives of I-Vs are well-formed only when they merge with auxiliary verbs (see (1)); (ii) the Vaux itself becomes impersonal when it merges with I-V. I argue that all infinitive complements of Vaux are *bare* *infitives* (cf. English *He must (\*to) go*), and that this has the following explanation: (i) Vaux merges with the lexical verbs in AS, not in syntax; (ii) Vaux *inherits* the lexical verb’s external argument no matter what it is: if a verb has no external argument in AS (i.e**.,** {-^-}1), the Vaux it merges with inherits {-^-}1 and is projected to syntax as a subjectless Vaux. If a verb has an external argument, i.e., {i^N}1 (i = agent theta role), Vaux inherits {i^N}1 and projects to syntax as a Vaux with a subject NPi (see (2) and (3)). Given this analysis, my talk’s major goal is to define *inheritance* in formal terms and to explain how the lexical verb is *infinitivized* when it merges with Vaux. (*perestat’* is a phasal Vaux ; *dolžen* ‘must’ is an adjectival Vaux; *nameren* ‘intend’ is a lexical adjective with an external argument; *zastavljat’* is an object control verb, not a Vaux in Russian).

(1) a. Egoacc tošnilo. ‘He felt nauseated’

b. Ego perestalo tošni-t’. ‘He ceased feeling nauseated’

(2) a. On nameren pročitat’ stat’ju.

‘He intends to-read the-article.’

b. \*Stat’ja namerena byt’ pročitana im.

‘\*The-article intends to-be read by-him.’

(3) a. On dolžen pročitat’ stat’ju. ‘He must read the-article’

b. Stat’ja dolžna byt’ pročitana im. ‘The-article must be read by-him.’