

Title: Confessional Strategies and Facework in Russian Women's Discourse Online
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While advice has been described as a face-threatening act (Brown and Levinson 1987), advice solicitation and advice-giving serve an important sociability function for Russian speakers; "Russians perceive advice as cooperative, socially positive speech act" (Belyaeva 1996: 21). Advice is a staple of Russian women's online discourse. One of the oldest Russian-language websites, *eva.ru*, places a special emphasis on peer advice available through its forums; participants seek and receive advice on issues related to family life (such as pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, childrearing, relationships with spouses and relatives). But while advice-giving is the expected response to advice-solicitation, it is not the only option available to participants; communal co-complaint is one widespread response option when advice on offensive or problematic behavior by a third party is being solicited. In this strategy, forum posters respond with complaints of similar behavior, often using impersonal constructions, or a subject ellipsis construction (e.g. 'мне сказали...; ') to refer to an offensive third party. Participants affiliate with each other through their negative attitude towards depersonalized offenders, thus boosting positive face and creating a sense of community.

- Belyaeva, Yelena. 1996. Advice and Soviet: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Speech Acts. In Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society. General session and parasession on the role of learnability in grammatical theory., edited by J. M. Johnson, M. L. Juge and J. L. Moxley. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Linguistics Society.
- Brown, Penelope, and Stephen C. Levinson. 1987. Politeness: some universals in language usage, Studies in interactional sociolinguistics, 4. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire]; New York: Cambridge University Press.

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