

**Title:** Requests in Heritage Russian: A Case Study  
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This presentation will address the issue of morphosyntax-pragmatics interface in the language of advanced heritage speakers of Russian. The experimental findings will present a complex picture of overt and covert nonconvergence patterns that emerge at this interface. The paper will focus on the pragmatics of requests produced by advanced heritage speakers of Russian (HS), describing an area where internal grammatical developments together with transfer from the dominant language result in a novel association between form and meaning. The data come from 48 HS and 33 native speakers (NS) of Russian, and consist of their performances in open-ended roleplay situations. Using a modified version of the Cross-Cultural Speech Act Realization Project taxonomy (Blum-Kulka, et al., 1989), all requests were analyzed to identify the head act utterance, which was further analyzed to identify

- a) the type of illocutionary force used;
- b) the syntactic type of the utterance;
- c) the morphosyntactic politeness markers used; and
- d) the lexical politeness markers used.

Significant differences were observed in the use of morphosyntactic and lexical politeness markers between the two groups: HS lack the use of the subjunctive and negation. To compensate, these speakers overgeneralize and overuse lexical politeness markers. As a result, HS develop their own pragmatic norm for conventionalized indirect polite requests in Russian, which is divergent from the native speaker norm.

This research also has important implications for heritage language pedagogy: HS need explicit instruction even in the area of language use.

Blum-Kulka, S., J. House, and G. Kasper. 1989. *Cross-cultural Pragmatics: Requests and Apologies*. Ablex Publishing Corporation, Norwood, New Jersey.

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