

Title: Long Distance Binding Possibilities of Russian Reflexives *Sebja* and *Svoj*
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The long-distance binding capability of Russian reflexives *sebja* and *svoj* is under debate. In order to discern the true nature of these anaphors, an experiment was conducted utilizing the adapted truth-value judgment task of White et al (1997). Subjects from Moscow, Russia, whose first and only language is Russian were tested. This experiment, which evaluated the effects of preferences and pragmatics on binding, suggests that two grammars exist and that language change may be underway in Russian where long-distance anaphors are concerned. The first grammar is attributed to subjects who bind the anaphors long distance but do not bind objects. The second grammar is attributed to subjects who do not bind the anaphors long distance, but do bind objects. The Russian language appears to be undergoing transition from the first to second grammar. The subjects examined could be grouped into subscribers to the first grammar, to the second grammar, or to a grammar that was transitioning from the first to the second grammar.

In an additional task, several sentences based on Timberlake (2004) and Swan (2006) were presented to the same subjects. Long-distance binding could be induced through introduction of a verb of power (Swan 2006), such as *velet'* or *prikazat'*, in combination with a long-distance antecedent deemed to have control over the local antecedent.

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