It is well known that Backwards Pronominalization (BP), in which a coreferent pronoun precedes its antecedent (in bold), is more restricted in Russian (1) than in English (2). The descriptive purpose of this paper is to determine the exact conditions under which Russian BP is (3) and is not (1) allowed, and to show that existing descriptions of BP (Kazanina & Philips 2006, Avrutin & Reuland 2004) cannot be the whole story. The primary theoretical goal of the paper is to provide a unified explanation for the violations in (1) as a kind of Principle B violation. The remarkable parallels between the embedding effects of 4) and equivalent embedding effects with Principle B fall out under this approach.

However, Principle B typically involves a local binding domain and c-command. (1a) has a local domain but no obvious c-command relation. We propose that Russian R-expressions such as Ivan raise to a local A-position at LF, causing the violation in (1a). (1b) shows c-command but no local domain. For these cases, we argue for a process of sharing of temporal features (Pesetsky & Torrego 2004), which extends the binding domain to the main clause. This does not happen in (3) because of the temporal independence of the two clauses in (3a) and the non-simultaneity in (3b). The embeddings in (4) involve a more local domain, further supporting our account. We show how grammatical role exceptions in (5) also fall out: non-Nominatives have no agree relation with T (5a) and obliques can’t bind in Russian (5b).

(1) a. *Egoi, mama lju bit Ivani.
   His motherNOM loves IvanACC
   “His mother loves Ivan;”

   b. *Poka oni, rabotal professori, spal.
      while he workedIMP professor sleptIMP
      “While he was working, the professor slept”

(2) a. Hisi, mother loves Johni.
   b. While heIMP, was working, the professor slept

(3) a. Kogda oni, polnostju razvalil stranu, prezidenti, ušel
      when heIMP completely destroyedPERF country president went
      “When/as soon as he, completely destroyed the country, the president, left”

   b. Poka oni, razvalival stranu, prezidenti, mnogo pil
      while heIMP was destroyingIMP country president much drankIMP
      “While heIMP was destroying the country, the president, drank a lot”

(4) a. Rasskaz, [kotoryi ona, pročitala], rasstroil devočku,
      story which she readPERF upsetPERF girl
      “The story which she read upset the girl,”

      while hisGEN students workedIMP professor sleptIMP
      “While his students worked, the professor was sleeping”

(5) a. Poka Maša čitala emu, gazetu, Ivan, dremal.
      While Maša readIMP himDAT newspaper Ivan drowsedIMP
      “While Maša read him, a newspaper Ivan, was drowsing”

   b. Poka ona, xoroso učilas, Mašeji, vse byli dovol'ny
      While she well studiedIMP MašaINSTR all were content
      “While she studied well, everyone was happy with Maša”


