

Title: The Application of Speech Act Theory in the Russian Language Classroom  
Author: Meghan Murphy –Lee, United States Military Academy at West Point

Speech Act Theory is a topic which has interested Slavic linguistics for the last twenty years. To that end, researchers have analyzed the structure of Russian requests and cultural issues related to speech acts such as requests in Russian (Belyaeva 1987, 1990) (Ermakova 1990) (Mills, 1991, 1992) (Owens 2002). These articles address in various degrees the cross-cultural nature of speech acts and how Russian speech acts differ from those in other languages. One aspect of the research on speech acts that has not been thoroughly explored is its pedagogical application. In my presentation I will focus on the speech act of requests, discussing how an instructor of Russian might apply aspects of the linguistic research in such a way as to help students acquire both the linguistic form and the culturally appropriate use of this speech act.

- Belyaeva E. I. (1990). The politeness principle in interrogative speech acts. *Иностранные языки в школе*, 1990, 57, 1, Jan-Feb, 57(1), 43-47.
- . (1987). The communicative situation and the speech act of request in the English language. *Иностранные языки в школе*, 1987, 54, 1, Jan-Feb, 54(1), 6-9.
- Ermakova, O. P. (1990). Request as a speech act in the Russian language. the semantics of a request. *Potsdamer Forschungen der padagogischen Hochschule "Karl Liebknecht" Potsdam, Reihe A*, 1990, 106, 106, 21-42.
- Mills, M. (1993). On Russian and English pragmalinguistic requestive strategies. *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, 1993, 1, 1, winter-spring, 1(1), 92-115.
- . (1992). "Conventionalized Politeness in Russian Requests: A Pragmatic View of Indirectness." *Russian Linguistics* 16,1: 65–78.
- Owen, J. S. (2002). *Interlanguage pragmatics in Russian: A study of the effects of study abroad and proficiency levels on request strategies*. Dissertation Abstracts International, A: The Humanities and Social Sciences, 62 (12), 4145-A-4146-A.