

Title: Word Order and Negated Verbs: How Inverted Direct Objects Influence the Selection of Case in Russian

Author: Spencer Robinson, The Ohio State University

The underlying motivation for choosing genitive or accusative case when negated verbs are used has long been a topic of study. However, this paper examines whether word order plays a role in the genitive/accusative battle. Data from the Russian National Corpus was gathered in order to ascertain whether there are differences in the genitive-to-accusative ratio when direct objects occur before the predicate and when they are found after the predicate in the time periods from 1976-1989 and from 1990-2005. These time periods were selected because as Comrie, Stone, and Polinsky have indicated, the genitive of negation is currently being replaced by the accusative. This paper uses the hierarchies proposed by Timberlake to classify the underlying reasons for a selection of genitive or accusative and then looks at whether the results differ depending on word order and whether the case ratio changes between these two periods.

### Bibliography

Comrie, Bernard, Gerald Stone, and Maria Polinsky. 1996. *The Russian Language in the Twentieth Century*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Russian National Corpus. 24 July 2008 <<http://www.ruscorpora.ru/en/index.html>>.

Timberlake, Alan. 1975. "Hierarchies in the Genitive of Negation." *Slavic and East European Journal* 19.2: 123-138.