

Title: Russian Verbs of Motion: Challenges in Advanced L2 Acquisition  
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There are several reasons why Russian verbs of motion are difficult to master for English-speaking learners. While most of instruction in motion verbs deals with more basic uses and targets intermediate level learners, relatively little is known about difficulties experienced by highly proficient learners.

The present study reports the results of a series of three experiments testing perception and production of verbs of motion by highly proficient American learners of Russian. These experiments included an online Grammaticality Judgment Task of non-idiomatic use of verbs of motion, a sentence completion experiment with the missing sentence-final verb of motion and a restricted control experiment, in which subjects heard idiomatic expressions and only the first syllable of the verb of motion in sentence-final position, and were required to produce the missing part of the verb. The study addresses possible sources of difficulty in the use of verbs of motion and compares the performance of 'true' second language (L2) learners and heritage learners of Russian matched in proficiency, with native speakers of Russian.

The difficulties in acquiring verbs of motion will be discussed from the perspective of the manner and path theory, proposed by Talmy (1985), according to which world languages are divided into verb-framed and satellite-framed depending on how it encodes different aspects of the motion. Some other popular views from cognitive linguistics and Russian SLA will be considered.

A better understanding of these difficulties will inform pedagogical approaches and instructional materials for successful teaching and learning of this topic beyond the basics.

Talmy, Leonard. "Lexicalization patterns: Semantic structure in lexical forms." *Language Typology and Syntactic Description. Volume 3: Grammatical categories and the lexicon*. Ed. Timothy Shopen. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985. 36-149.