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## Syntactic and prosodic expression of information status by heritage speakers of Russian

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Phenomena at the interface between syntax and discourse are predicted to have an increased variability under language contact (Interface Hypothesis, Sorace & Serratrice, 2009). The current study addresses referent introduction by heritage speakers (HSs) of Russian in the US and monolingual speakers of Russian.

Standard Russian is an SVO language in neutral contexts, however, word order is discourse driven. In a typical or routine scenario, *given* referents precede *new* ones (Sirotinina, 2003). If *new* referents precede the *given* ones, such scenario will be viewed as creative. Although word order and information status (IS) in heritage Russian received a great deal of attention, the role of intonation remains unclear.

I will present the semi-spontaneous spoken and written data elicited according to the RUEG method (Wiese, 2020). 23 most frequent referents were annotated for their IS (RefLex scheme by Riester & Baumann 2017). Intonation was annotated applying a combined phonetic and auditory approach.

The results of the study show that both HSs and monolinguals produce *new* referents creatively, (example 1 by a HS, original writing is kept), but HSs do so more frequently than monolinguals across different word orders ( $W = 500, p = 0.003$ ) and in SVO utterances separately ( $W = 550, p = 0.03$ ).

- (1) mad'ček igral s mjačom i sabaka pobežala za mjačom  
boy played with ball and dog ran after ball  
'A boy was playing with a ball and a dog ran after the ball.'

(cf. Mal'čik igral s mjačom, i za mjačom pobežala sobaka)

O<sub>given</sub> S<sub>new</sub>

Next, the pitch accent type on the new creative subjects in SVO utterances was examined. It was found that both speaker groups mostly produced rising accents followed by H\* accents. These results can be taken as a sign of a new strategy of discourse reorganization by HSs in which prosody plays an important role.

**References:** Riester, A. & S. Baumann. (2017). The RefLex Scheme – Annotation Guidelines. *SinSpeC: Working Papers of the SFB 732 4*. • Sirotinina, I. (2003). *Porjadok slov v russkom jazyke [Word order in Russian]*. Moscow: Editorial, URSS. • Sorace A, Serratrice L. (2009). Internal and external interfaces in bilingual language development: Beyond structural overlap. *International Journal of Bilingualism*13,195–210. • Wiese, H. (2020). Language Situations: A method for capturing variation within speakers' repertoires. In Yoshiyuki Asahi (Ed.), *Methods in Dialectology XVI*. Frankfurt a. M.: Peter Lang.