

Differential Object Marking in contact-influenced Russian Speech

Evidence from the Corpus of
Contact-influenced Russian Speech
of Russian Far East and Northern
Siberia

Natalya Stoyanova

Russian Language Institute, RAS

Moscow

1. Corpus of Contact-influenced Russian Speech of Russian Far East and Northern Siberia

- Within the large project “Dynamics of language contact in the circumpolar region” (by O. Khanina).
- Ca. 20 hours:
 - spontaneous oral texts in contact-influenced Russian.
 - transcription in standard orthography;
 - manual annotation of contact-influenced peculiarities;
 - from speakers of Samoyedic and Tungusic languages: Nenets, Enets, Nganasan, Nanai, Ulch, ...
- Our team:
 - I. Khomchenkova, P. Pleshak, N. Stoynova.
- On the platform “Tsakorpus” (by T. Arkhangelskiy).
- Studies in morphosyntactic interference on the data.

2. Case-study: differential object marking in Nanai Russian

- Nominatives in DO-position:

(1a) Рыба сдаем/

(1b) Медвежья голова знаешь/ как делать

(1c) Приезжаю/ - папка привезла медведь\

- Together with standard uses of Accusative:

(2) То плохую рыбу\ принесла — чо\ там, собакам\ буду варить

3. DOM cross-linguistically

- Factors relevant for DOM in languages of the world (cf. Bossong 1985; Aissen 2003; Malchukov & de Swart 2009; Witzlack-Makarevich & Seržant 2017):
 - inherent DO-properties: human/non-human, animacy;
 - referential DO-properties: definiteness, specificity;
 - information structure;
 - predicate properties: TAM, polarity, finiteness;
- Functional motivations (cf. e.g. Malchukov 2008):
 - to signal semantic features of DO (signaling)?
 - to disambiguate between DO and Subj (differentiating)?
 - + ***for bilinguals: to reconcile L1 and L2 systems?***

4. Parallels to Nanai Russian DOM

- In Nanai:
 - cf. Avrorin 1948: 223–233; Oskolskaya, Stoynova 2017;
 - Nom (unmarked) ~Acc as free variants.
- In Russian dialects:
 - cf. Markova 1989; Ronjko 2017;
 - Nom's – mostly in infinitival constructions.
- In other contact-influenced varieties:
 - cf. e.g. Daniel et al. 2010: 81 on Daghestanian Russian.

5. Hypotheses on DOM in Nanai Russian

- A. Direct pattern-borrowing from Nanai?
 - B. Under-acquisition / reinterpretation of the Standard Russian system?
 - C. Dialectal substrate?
-
- Factors that regulate the choice between Nom and Acc in DO-positions.

6. Problems to discuss

- A great variation across speakers.
- One speaker \Leftrightarrow One system.
- A reason to analyze the data on each speaker separately.
- Dealing with extremely small amounts of corpus data.