

The behaviour of Russian competing verbs: A computer-assisted approach

Galeev T., Shevlyakova A., Bochkarev V.
Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

Abstract

Copyright © 2020 for this paper by its authors. Use permitted under Creative Commons License Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0). The article studies morphological variability of Russian verbs. The distributional and quantitative analyses of these verbs were performed based on the extra-large diachronic corpus Google Books Ngram. The obtained frequency data were interpreted in terms of language norm and evolution. The accurate time of the norm change was identified for each pair of verbs. It was found that distribution of the competing verbs can both coincide and be markedly different. Four main trends in the frequency behaviour of the competing pairs of verbs were revealed. The analysis of the variability type and frequency of the variants showed that usage of a particular variant form is largely context dependent and is not determined only by a speaker's individual preferences. Each of the variant forms has its niche in the language. It was also revealed that the observed active return of unproductive forms of verbs to the Russian language indicates the general stability of the verb system of the Russian language and tendency to unification by productive type.

Keywords

Google Books, Language evolution, Linguistic norm, Russian verb, Variability

References

- [1] Elizarenkova, T.: O fakul'tativnosti i ee osobennostiakh v drevneindiiskom iazyke [About optionality and its features in the ancient Indian language]. In: *Vostochnoe iazykoznanie: fakul'tativnost'*. Moscow, Russia (1982).
- [2] Boduen de Kurtene, I.: *Izbrannye trudy po obshchemu iazykoznaniiu* [Selected works on general linguistics]. Saint-Petersburg, Russia (1912).
- [3] Bailey, C-J.: *Variation and linguistic theory*. Washington, DC, USA (1973).
- [4] Pintzuk, S.: Variationist approaches to syntactic variation. In Joseph, B., Janda, R. (eds.) *The handbook of historical linguistics*, 509-528. Blackwell, Malden/Oxford (2003).
- [5] Hamilton, W., Leskovec, J., Jurafsky D.: Diachronic Word Embeddings Reveal Statistical Laws of Semantic Change. In: *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 1489-1501 (2016).
- [6] Amato, R.: *Human collective behavior: language, cooperation and social conventions*. Universitat de Barcelona, Spain (2018).
- [7] Klaussner, C.: *Elements of Style Change*. University of Dublin, Ireland (2017).
- [8] Brand, J.: *The role of cognitive factors on the development of the vocabulary*. Lancaster University, United Kingdom (2018).

- [9] Nessel, T., Kuznetsova, J.: Stability and Complexity: Russian Suffix Shift over Time. *Scando-Slavica*, 57(2), 268-289 (2011).
- [10] Smirnitckii, A.: K voprosu o slove (problema tozhdestva slova) [To the question of the word (the problem of the word identity)]. *Trudy Instituta iazykoznanii AN SSSR*, 4, 3-9 (1954).
- [11] Vinogradov, V.: *Russkii iazyk. Grammaticheskoe uchenie o slove* [The Russian Language. Grammatical studies of the word]. Moscow, Russia, (1972).
- [12] Gaudina, L.: *Grammaticheskaja pravil'nost' russkoj rechi. Stilisticheskij slovar' variantov* [Grammatical correctness of Russian speech. Stylistic dictionary of variants]. Astrel', Moscow (2004).
- [13] Zakharov, V., Azarova, I.: Semantic Structure of Russian Prepositional Constructions. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 11697, 224-235 (2019).
- [14] Mukhamedshin, D., Suleymanov, D., Nevzorova, O.: Choosing the Right Storage Solution for the Corpus Management System. *Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies*, 146, 105-114 (2020).
- [15] Gracheva, O., Kopylova, P.: Konsonantnye cheredovaniia pri slovoizmenenii sovremennykh russkikh glagolov [Consonant alternations in the inflection of modern Russian verbs]. *Vestnik Volgogradskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta, Serii 2: iazykoznanie*, 5(29), 153-158 (2015).