

The CLARUS project
Constructional Landscape of
Russian Syntax:
Modeling native speakers' knowledge for
second language learners

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Major focus

- The CLARUS project focuses on the syntactic level of Russian grammar and takes a constructionist usage-based approach to syntax.
- This project seeks to strengthen the research profile of the CLEAR group by developing its two essential electronic resources,
 - the current version of the Russian Construction and
 - the Oahpa! learning platform.

Structure and main objectives

Component 1: empirical contribution

- **build and calibrate** the Russian Constructicon, an open-access electronic resource that offers a database of Russian constructions.

Component 2: theoretical contribution

- **explore** the collected data on Russian constructions, first of all **from the perspective of aspect**.

Component 3: pedagogical contribution

- **create** new research-based **pedagogical materials** for learners of elementary and intermediate Russian.

Research questions / Case studies

1. What contextual cues for perfective and imperfective aspect can be found via the study of constructions?
2. How do syntactic constructions correlate with submeanings of aspectual prefixes?
3. How can we describe the main aspectual meanings of perfective and imperfective aspects in terms of specific constructions?

Major working hypotheses

- ① It is possible to access native speakers' knowledge of language through the study of corpora and explicate it in the pedagogical resources for second language learners.
- ② It is possible to model the entire Russian language via collection of constructions and description of their properties.

Possible activities within this project (to discuss)

- PhD course “Aspect across languages and linguistics schools” (Fall 2019)
- Workshop on aspect that begins after the PhD course
- Reading group (ppt & discussion every 2nd week, 8 meetings) – Semester 1, possibly each semester

Progress plan for semester 1

Empirical component

Analyse and calibrate the existing version of the Russian Constructicon; harmonize the existing classification system; define the principles of work

Pedagogical component

Assess the current state of the Oahpa! learning platform, identify the strategies, start working on new pedagogical materials

Goal: submit 2 articles

Theoretical component

Case study 1:
Data collection, analysis,
writing up an article

Additional activities

Organisation of a PhD course
Reading group