



**One experiment – different languages:
a challenge for the transfer of experimental
designs between Slavic languages**



Our Aim

- Crosslinguistic differences
- one language has a special property that is missing in the languages to compare with
- two (or more) languages have the same property but different parameter values



Cross-linguistic research – examples from the research literature

- () R Ja uže odnaždy **čital**_{IPV} Krepost'.
- () E I **was** already **reading**_{PROG} The Fortress once.
- () E ?? I **have** already **read** The Fortress once.
- () E ? I **have** already **read** *at least some of* The Fortress once.

Daniel Altshuler (2010)

Question: RUSS IMP = ENGL PROG??



Cross-linguistic research – examples from the research literature

- () R K nam **priezžal_{IPV}** otec, no vskore uexal.
- () E Father **came** to see us, but he went away again soon.
- () E Father **had come** to see us, but he went away again soon.

- () R K nam **priexal_{PV}** otec, no vskore uexal.
- () E Father **had come** to see us, but he went away again soon.
- () E Father **came** to see us, but he went away again soon.

Daniel Altshuler (2010)



Cross-linguistic research – examples from the research literature

- () R On ničego ne **delal**_{IPV}, tol'ko **ležal**_{IPV} i **kuril**_{IPV}.
- () E He **wasn't doing** anything, just lying (around) and smoking.
- () E He **didn't do** anything, only lay (around) and smoke.

Barbara Sonnenhauser (2008)



Cross-linguistic research – examples from the research literature

- () R Ivan **el**_{IPV} xleb.
- () E Ivan ate bread.

- () R Ivan **s'el**_{IPV} xleb.
- () E Ivan ate the bread.

- () P On **jadt**_{IPV} kaszę.
- () E He ate_{PV} porridge.

- () P On **zjadt**_{PV} kaszę.
- () E He ate the porridge.



Cross-linguistic experimental research – examples from the research literature

- () R Liš' tol'ko **načinal**_{IPV} zvenet'_{IPV} telefon, Varenuxa **bral**_{IPV} trubku [...].
- () P Skoro tylko telefon **zaczynał**_{IPV} dzwonić_{IPV}, Warionucha **podnosił**_{IPV} słuchawkę [...].
- () Č Sotva **zazvonil**_{PV} telefon, Varenucha **zvedl**_{PV} sluchátko [...].

Adrian Barentsen (2008)



Requirements

- comparability
- analogousness



Own cross-linguistic research on verbal aspect

1. Non-slavic versus slavic language

The Processing of Aspect – a Crosslinguistic Eye-tracking Study (Bott & Gattnar)

☞ no grammaticalized aspect versus grammaticalized aspect

2. verbal aspect in iterative context – inner-slavic and cross-linguistic & verbal aspect in performative sentences – inner-slavic and cross-linguistic

☞ differences in the use of grammaticalized aspect forms



Own cross-linguistic research on verbal aspect

The cross-linguistic Processing of Aspect – An Eyetracking Study on the Time Course of aspectual Interpretation in Russian and German (Bott & Gattnar)

☞ Researchers question: Does the grammatical system of a language form the way how the semantic interpretation proceeds during comprehension?

☞ non grammaticalized aspect versus grammaticalized aspect



The Processing of Aspect – a Crosslinguistic Eye-tracking Study (Bott & Gattnar 2014)

Ganze drei Stunden gewann der Ringer das Turnier, obwohl es viele Konkurrenten gab.

For three hours the wrestler won the championship, although there were many competitors.

* Celyx tri časa vyigrala turnir znamenitaja i opytnaja boksërša i zriteli radovalis’.

For three hours won championship famous and experienced female boxer and attendance was happy.



The Processing of Aspect – a Crosslinguistic Eye-tracking Study (Bott & Gattnar 2014)

Der Ringer gewann das Turnier **ganze drei Stunden**, obwohl es viele Konkurrenten gab.

The wrestler won the championship **for three hours**, although there were many competitors.

* Znamenitaja i opytnaja boksërša vyigrala turnir **celyx tri časa** i zriteli radovalis’.

Famous and experienced female boxer won championship **for three hours** and attendance was happy.



The Processing of Aspect – a Crosslinguistic Eye-tracking Study (Bott & Gattnar 2014)

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* Celych tri časa **znamenitaja i opytnaja boksërša** vyigrala turnir i zriteli radovalis’.

For three hours **famous and experienced female boxer** won championship and attendance was happy.



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DurAdv V O S

For three hours won championship famous and experienced female boxer and attendance was happy.



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The verbal aspect in iterative context – inner-slavic

- () R Ivan neskol'ko raz / dva raza sdelal Irine predloženie, a eto bylo očen' romantično.
- () Č Miroslav několikrát / dvakrát požádal Lenku o ruku a bylo to velmi romantické.
- () P Marek kilka razy / dwa razy poprosił Irenę o rękę i było bardzo romantycznie.

Ivan made (asked for the hand of) Irina several times / twice a marriage proposal and that was very romantic.



The verbal aspect in performative sentences – inner-slavic and cross-linguistical

- () R Blгодарим / ? Поблагодарим всех присутствующих за внимание, концерт закончен.
- () R Koncert zakončen, tak čto blagodarim / ? poblagodarim vsech prisutstvujuščix za vnimanie.
- () Č Děkujeme / ? Poděkujeme všem přítomným za pozornost, koncert končí.
- () Č Koncert končí, proto děkujeme / ? poděkujeme všem přítomným za pozornost.
- () E I thank the audience for the attention, the concert is finished.
- () E The concert is finished so I thank the audience for the attention.



different methods call for different approaches:

few problems:

- ❖ sentence recognition task
- ❖ elicitation task
- ❖ sentence completion task
- ❖ comprehension task
- ❖ forced choice experiment
- ❖ sentence picture matching task

a lot of problems:

- ❖ self paced reading
- ❖ eye tracking



Solutions for discussion

- Do not work with sentence items!
- Make restrictions as less as possible!
- Compare the data of different experiments with the same research question without any agreement of the experimental design (Yap et al. 2006, 2009)!
- Investigate differences and not similarities and formulate your hypothesis comparing the diversity!



Literature

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Thank You.

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