

Processing reduced word forms in spontaneous Russian: looking for new methods

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Context is shown to be crucial for the recognition of strongly reduced word forms in spontaneous speech (Ernestus et al. 2002; Riekhakaynen 2010). However, new methods (including online tasks) are required in order to describe how exactly and when the context does influence the recognition of reduced word forms in casual speech. Such a research has been recently conducted on Dutch (Brouwer 2010). The combination of offline and online tasks (cloze tests and eye-tracking method) allows assuming that reduced word forms benefit more from wider discourse context that can be strongly or weakly supportive and that listeners are sensitive to fine phonetic cues in strongly reduced forms.

In the presentation, we are going to discuss whether the methods described in (Brouwer 2010) are applicable to spontaneous Russian speech. We are primarily going to introduce our results received in the offline tasks (dictation task and cloze tests) showing that many strongly reduced word forms can be recognized even in limited and weakly supportive semantic contexts (presumably, due to the greater grammatical superfluity of Russian compared to Dutch). The advantages and disadvantages of the visual word paradigm for the description of reduced word forms recognition will be discussed.

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