

“Pedagogical Applications of Research into Embodied Grammar”

Laura A. Janda
University of Tromsø

Overview

- What is the Role of Linguistics?
- Narrow Scope vs. Broad Scope agendas
- Three Examples of Theory and Application
 - Case meaning
 - Aspect meaning
 - Aspectual clusters of verbs
- Relevant Works in Theory and Application

What is the Role of Linguistics?

- Pure theory – science for science’s sake
- Application – science for other people too
 - creation of teaching materials, reference grammars, dictionaries
 - computer software: translation, language recognition, text interpretation
 - field work on languages, dialects
 - language planning/policy, intervention
- Cognitive linguistics
 - has a tradition of being accountable to other disciplines, so why not be accountable to society?
 - is transparent enough to be used in application

Narrow Scope vs. Broad Scope

Different audiences, different goals

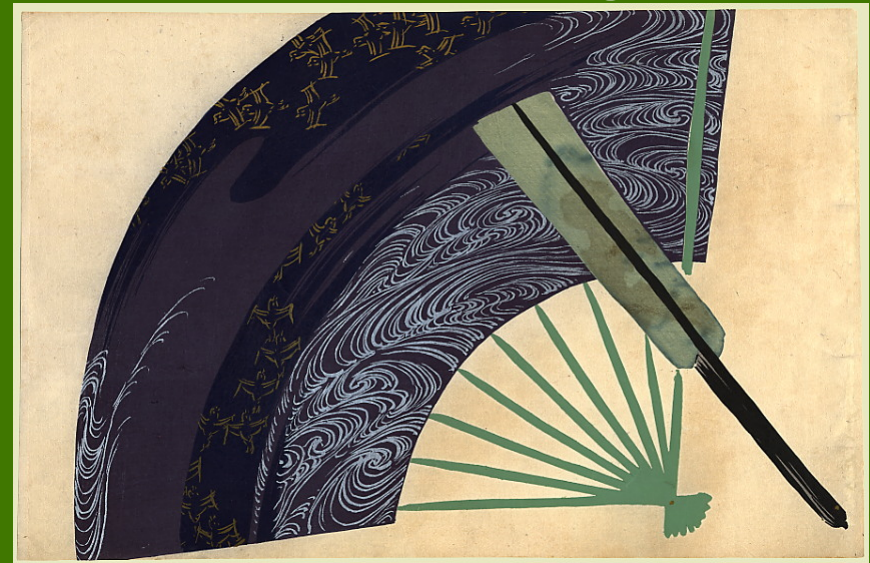
Narrow (theory-based)

- Scholarly publications
- Peer review
- Specific theoretical contributions

Broad (application-based)

- Pedagogical materials
- Complete coverage

**Both approaches
can contribute
to a research agenda**





**Linguistic
research**

**Pedagogical
materials**



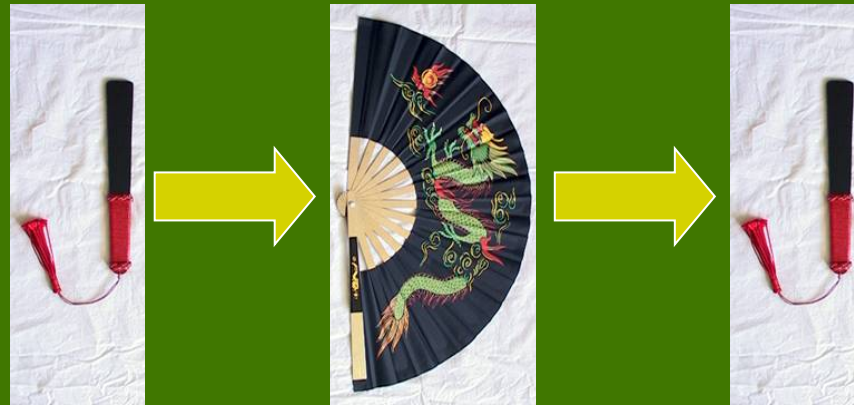
**Further
linguistic
research**



Applications inspired by theory and theory inspired by applications

Three Examples

- Case meaning
- Aspect meaning
- Aspectual clusters of verbs



In each instance, primary research served as the basis for pedagogical materials, and in turn, work on pedagogical materials led to further progress in research

Case Meaning

Main Ideas:

- Most Slavic languages obligatorily mark all NPs with one of six or seven cases: N, A, D, G, L, I, (V)
- Each case is **polysemous**, with meanings arranged in a **radial category**, which forms a **coherent whole**
- **Prototypical meanings** are based on embodied **physical** experience; **peripheral** meanings are extended via **metaphor** and **metonymy**

Case Meaning

An example:

- The Russian genitive case is used with prepositions meaning 'from' to indicate physical withdrawal and also with verbs meaning 'fear', 'be ashamed of' indicating emotional (metaphorical) withdrawal
- **Physical withdrawal:**
 - Doč' prišla iz školy*
 - [Daughter–N came from school–G]
 - 'My daughter has come from school'
- **Metaphorical withdrawal:**
 - Doč' bojalas'/stydilas' bednosti*
 - [Daughter–N feared/was ashamed poverty–G]
 - 'My daughter was afraid/ashamed of poverty'

Case Meaning

Individual studies of case meaning:



Pragmatic & semantic (1988)

Dative & Instrumental (1993)

Genitive (1999)

Accusative (2000)

Pedagogical/linguistic resources:



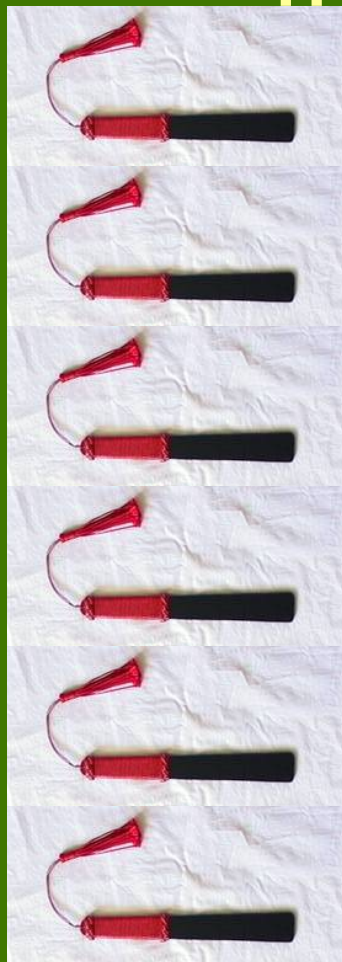
Case Book for Russian (2002)

Case Book for Czech (2006)

Reference grammar of Czech (2000)

DEMONSTRATIONS

Further case research inspired by applications



- Case government by nouns and adjectives
- Near-synonymy of different cases within Russian & across Slavic
- Comparison of time expressions across Czech, Polish, Russian
- MDS modeling of case across Slavic languages (Clancy 2006)
- Case as an element in construction grammar (with Solovyev)
- Use of case in attenuated agency (with Divjak)

Aspect Meaning

Main Ideas:

- Slavic Aspect contrasts
 - Perfective **vs.** Imperfective
- This contrast is metaphorically motivated by embodied physical experience with
 - discrete solid objects (Perfective) **vs.**
 - fluid substances (Imperfective)
- This contrast is relevant at the level of event structure, discourse, and pragmatics

Aspect Meaning

An example:



Discrete solid object:

Has shape/edges, is unique, two cannot occupy the same place

Perfective event:

Has clear beginning/end, is unique, expresses sequences

*Oleg **sel** v mašinu i poexal v restoran*

'Oleg **got into** the car and **drove** to the restaurant'

Fluid substance:

Has no shape/edges, is not unique, two can be mixed in the same place

Imperfective event:

No clear beginning/end, not unique, expresses simultaneity

*Oleg **nosil** galstuk i **ezdil** na sportivnoj mašine*

'Oleg **wore** a tie and **drove** a sportscar'

Aspect Meaning

Perfective vs. Imperfective:
Metaphorical model (2004)



Pedagogical/linguistic resources:
User-friendly model
for instructors (2003)



[Aspect in Russian Media Module](#)

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Further aspect metaphor research inspired by applications



- Differences in metaphorical extension across Slavic
- Conversion patterns and aspectual clusters
- Semantic motivations for aspectual clusters

Aspectual Clusters of Verbs

Main Ideas:

- Traditional “pair” model fails to account for aspectual relationships among verbs
- **Four** different types of **Perfective verbs** can be distinguished on the basis of both meaning (metaphorically motivated) and word-formation
 - **Natural Perfective, Specialized Perfective, Complex Act Perfective, Single Act Perfective**
- An **aspectual cluster** contains an Imperfective Activity verb plus 0–4 types of Perfective verbs
- An **implicational hierarchy** predicts the structures of existing clusters

Aspectual Clusters of Verbs

An example:

Activity

ščipat' 'pinch/pluck'

> (Natural/Specialized Perfective)

o(b)ščipat' 'pinch/pluck' / vyščipat' 'pluck out'

> Complex Act

poščipat' 'pinch/pluck a while'

> Single Act

ščipnut' 'pinch/pluck once'

Aspectual Clusters of Verbs

Aspectual clusters and their structures:



Study using linguistic database (2007)
all morphological types

Pedagogical/linguistic
resources:

Study using pedagogical
database

[hi-freq textbook verbs](#)

[Cluster Types for Russian Verbs](#)

Exploring Emptiness database

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Further verb clusters research inspired by applications



- Place of motion verbs in clusters model
- Place of biaspectual verbs in clusters model
- Differences in token vs. type frequency effects in verb clusters
- Conceptual overlap in so-called “empty prefixes”



Relevant Works:
primary research



Relevant Works:
applications



Relevant Works: research
inspired by applications



Relevant Works: primary research

- 1988. “Pragmatic vs. Semantic Uses of Case”, in *Chicago Linguistic Society 24-1: Papers from the Twenty-Fourth Regional Meeting*, ed. by Diane Brentari et al. Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 189–202.
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Relevant Works: applications

- 2000. *Czech* (= *Languages of the World/Materials* 125), coauthored with Charles E. Townsend. Munich/Newcastle: LINCOM EUROPA. [Online version](#)
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- 2008. “Beyond the pair: Aspectual clusters for learners of Russian”, coauthored with John J. Korba, *Slavic and East European Journal* 52:2, 254–270.
- [Aspect in Russian Media Module, Cluster Types for Russian Verbs](#)



Relevant Works: research inspired by applications

- 2002. “Cases in collision, cases in collusion: the semantic space of case in Czech and Russian”, in *Where One’s Tongue Rules Well: A Festschrift for Charles E. Townsend*, ed. by Laura A. Janda, Steven Franks, and Ronald Feldstein. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica, 43–61.
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Relevant Works: research inspired by applications

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- Clancy, Steven J. 2006. “The Topology of Slavic Case: Semantic Maps and Multidimensional Scaling“, in *Glossos 6*, at <http://seelrc.org/glossos/issues/7/>.
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- ...And many more forthcoming

The end

