

Perceptual priming and syntactic choice in Russian language: multimodal study.

Pokhoday, M¹ & Myachykov, A.^{1,2}

1 Centre for Cognition and Decision making, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation.

2 Northumbria University, Newcastle, United Kingdom.

mpokhoday@hse.ru

Choosing between various syntactic possibilities during sentence production does not seem a complicated task. However, the number of possible structures can be numerous. Especially in languages with a free word order, like Russian. Which mechanisms underlie this decision making process is what we are trying to find out in our line of research.

It is well established (see recent review by Tomlin and Myachykov, 2015) that shifting attention towards one of the referents during visually mediated sentence production increases a probability of structuring the sentence in a way to reflect this shift. In English language it is a probability of choosing passive structure over active when patient is cued (Myachykov et.al, 2012; Pokhoday et al., (under review)), in Russian it is mentioning the cued referent first (Myachykov and Tomlin, 2008). Those studies however focused solely on manipulating visual attention of the participants. In our research, we want to expand those findings to other modalities. We use primes from visual, auditory and motor modalities.

On AMLaP 2018 we will report results of our most recent study. In that study, we looked at how manipulation of attention by visual, auditory and motor cues affects syntactic choice of Russian language speakers. We will report results of the three experiments conducted on the premises of Higher School of Economics, Moscow.

The study has been funded by the Russian Academic Excellence Project '5-100'.

Keywords: attention, priming, syntax.