

<i>syntax/pragmatics interface</i>	33
Čopa Miljana, <i>Standard according to whom? Speaker-Based Perceptions of Serbian Language Varieties</i>	35
Czaplicki Bartłomiej, <i>Construction-specific phonology: Similarity avoidance in Polish double diminutives</i>	36
Dreer Igor, <i>A Sign-Oriented Analysis of Semantic Integrality in the Belarusian Imperfective Future</i>	38
Duryagin Pavel, Menukhova Anna, Gassino Irene, <i>Palatalized and palatal consonants in Italian–Russian bilingual schoolchildren’s perception</i>	39
Eterović Ivana, <i>Reconstructing Prestige Patterns in Early Modern Croatia: Multilingualism in the Editions of the Glagolitic Printing House in Senj (1494-1508)</i>	41
Frasson Alberto, <i>Just a Phi Apart: The Syntax of Polish Adverbial and Adjectival Participles</i>	43
Garcia Sanchis Francisco, <i>Simplifying Syntax: The Shift from Participles to Converbs in Russian with Greek Parallels</i>	45
Goczyła Ferreira Alicja, Piotrowska-Wojaczyk Agnieszka, <i>Lexical variation in the Polish language in Brazil based on the printed and spoken texts from the 20th and 21st centuries</i>	48
Grabovac Anna, <i>A parametric difference in coordination: Case in BCMS and Polish</i>	50
Guelfreikh Polina, Cabassi Nicoletta, Kuznetsova Ksenia, <i>Heritage vs. Foreign Language Learning: A Comparative Study Based on TORFL Results</i>	52
Horsch Jakob, Janda Laura A., <i>Modelling the system of a grammar: A roadmap towards a Slovak Construct-i-con</i>	54
Hoyt Alexander D., <i>The Multilingual Landscape of 1870s Istria as Reflected in Slavic Letters and Newspapers</i>	56
Ivanová Martina, <i>3P Placement of Clitics and Topicalization in Slovak</i>	57
Jelovšek Alenka, <i>The complexities of multilingualism in 16th-century Slovenian lands: Language use in the writings of Jurij Juričič</i>	59
Jung Hakyung, Cho Jacee, Gault Lidia, <i>L1-English and L1-Korean speakers’ conceptualization of directionality of motion in L2-Russian</i>	61
Kagan Olga, <i>Size Adjectives and Clusters: The Russian Adjective melkij</i>	63
Kalnychenko Oleksandr, Kalnychenko Nataliia, <i>Translating Ukrainian Cultural Elements and Idioms in Nikolai Gogol’s ‘Ukrainian’ Tales into Ukrainian</i>	65

Palatalized and palatal consonants in Italian–Russian bilingual schoolchildren’s perception

Pavel Duryagin (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), Anna Menukhova (Independent Researcher), Irene Gassino (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

Within the growing body of research on segmental phonological spaces in simultaneous bilinguals, heritage speakers, and other populations of young language users raised in bilingual environments, studies focusing on Slavic languages remain sporadic (Brehmer, 2021). Nevertheless, Slavic consonantal systems offer an intriguing perspective on the organization of bilingual phonologies, due to the presence of numerous velarization/palatalization contrasts and the rich combinatorics of consonantal clusters.

A recent analysis of orthographic errors committed by college-age heritage learners of Russian with dominant English (Kisselev, Dubinina, & Paquette, 2024) highlights the difficulties they encounter, notably in spelling positional variations of <j> and in marking palatalization. However, the exact nature of these spelling difficulties has yet to be investigated experimentally. It remains unclear whether these challenges arise solely from heritage speakers’ limited experience with rules of Cyrillic orthography, or whether they reflect perceptual outcomes rooted in phonological representations that deviate from those developed by L1 speakers (Lukyanchenko & Gor, 2011).

In this study, we report the first perception data collected from schoolchildren aged 6–12 years who acquired Russian from one or both parents at birth and currently have Italian as their dominant societal language (attended primary schools in Northern Italy). Participants completed an ABX discrimination task involving pairs of 40 stimuli (trisyllabic nonce words presented as “names” of imaginary animals), 16 of which were specifically designed to test children’s ability to distinguish between velarized and palatalized consonants (schematically, *ma* vs. *m^ʲa*), as well as clusters featuring a prevocalic voiced palatal consonant (*m^ʲja*). The experimental design also included variations in consonants, vowels, and stimulus presentation order as within-subject independent variables.

A logistic regression analysis of the initial sample (13 females and 6 males, mean age 8.8) shows that heritage speakers of Russian performed above chance level in discriminating velarized vs. palatalized contrasts (e.g., *ma* vs. *m^ʲa*). However, they struggled with the *m^ʲa/m^ʲja* contrasts, exhibiting success rates comparable to those previously attested for intermediate L2 learners (Duryagin & Geromel, 2021). Notably, the data is indicative of an interaction between the following vowel and the presence of a “yod”: discrimination success rates for *mu* vs. *m^ʲu* were higher, whereas performance on *m^ʲu* vs. *m^ʲju* was lower (in both cases, compared to the analogous syllables with the vowel *a*).

Additional data collection is underway to further test the findings observed in the current sample. However, our preliminary results suggest that, despite the apparently target-like production of consonant clusters with palatals among Russian heritage speakers, their perception may lag behind production.

References

- Brehmer, B. (2021). Slavic heritage languages around the globe. In S. Montrul & M. Polinsky (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of heritage languages and linguistics* (pp. 13–44). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108766340.003>
- Duryagin, P., & Geromel, M. (2021). Vospriyatie klasterov s palatal’nym soglasnym ital’jancami, izučajuščimi russkij kak inostrannyj: rol’ kategorij rodnogo jazyka. *Moscow University Bulletin. Series 9. Philology*, 6, 115–127.

- Kisselev, O., Dubinina, I., & Paquette, G. (2024). A corpus-based study on orthographic errors of Russian heritage learners and their implications for linguistic research and language teaching. *Languages*, 9(4), 126. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages9040126>
- Lukyanchenko, A., & Gor, K. (2011). Perceptual correlates of phonological representations in heritage speakers and L2 learners. In N. Danis, K. Mesh, & H. Sung (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 35th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development* (pp. 414–426).