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978-0-521-14500-8 - A Grammar of Aspect: Usage and Meaning in the Russian Verb

J. Forsyth

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EXTRA VOLUME

**A GRAMMAR OF ASPECT
USAGE AND MEANING IN
THE RUSSIAN VERB**

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J. FORSYTH

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University of Aberdeen



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PREFACE

This book is an attempt to kill three birds with one stone, since it aims to present a comprehensive description of the grammar of the Russian verb from the point of view of aspect; to present a large number of examples illustrating aspectual usage (these are taken almost exclusively from the language of the twentieth century, and cover a range from the strictly literary to colloquial speech); and to make a contribution to the theoretical study of aspect as a grammatical category in Russian. It deals only with Russian, making no excursions into the grammar of other Slavonic languages, and its approach is synchronic, with scarcely any reference to the historical development of Russian. Moreover, since aspect is essentially a matter of semantics, relatively little space is devoted to the morphology of the verb. Wherever possible, statements about usage have been supported by statistical evidence provided either by Shteinfel'dt's *Russian Word Count* or by my own analysis.

Apart from the general lines of approach to aspect as a privative opposition suggested by Professor R. Jakobson, this book does not adhere to any particular school of linguistic theory, but naturally it owes much to the important works on aspect published by such eminent scholars as Professor A. Mazon (starting with his still essential work of 1914), and, more recently, Professor Yu. S. Maslov of Leningrad University and Professor A. V. Isačenko of Prague.

I am grateful to Mr R. W. Hallett, Mr P. Henry, Mr V. E. J. Holtum, Mr J. O. Lewis, Mr D. Macaulay, Dr A. Pennington, Mr C. G. Schwencke, Mr G. R. Trengove and Mr J. M. Weir for their comments and criticisms of the chapters which they read, and to Professor D. Ward for his general encouragement and advice.

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J.F.

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