

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Russian: A Linguistic Introduction

This book provides an accessible introduction to the linguistic structure of Russian in all its aspects, including its history, dialects and sociolinguistics, as well as the central issues of phonology, morphology, syntax and word formation/lexicology. It particularly emphasises the special linguistic features of Russian which are not shared with English and other non-Slavonic languages. For intermediate/advanced students of Russian, this will help to reinforce their understanding of how all levels of Russian function. Students and scholars of linguistics will find it a useful starting point for comparative work involving the structure of Russian and the Slavonic languages, or issues such as standardisation, multilingualism and the fate of former colonial languages. Each chapter begins with an introduction to the basic theoretical concepts of the area covered, presenting the linguistic facts and relationships in an easily accessible form. It will also serve as a learning aid to Cyrillic, with all examples transliterated.

PAUL CUBBERLEY is Senior Research Fellow in Russian in the School of Languages, University of Melbourne, and Former Senior Lecturer in Russian at the University. His publications include *Handbook of Russian Affixes* (1994), *The Suprasegmental Features in Slavonic Phonetic Typology* (1980) and articles in journals including *Scottish Slavonic Review*, *Russkii iazyk za rubezhom*, *Wiener Slawistischer Almanach*, *Russian Language Journal*, *Australian Slavonic and East European Studies* and *New Zealand Slavonic Journal*.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Russian: A Linguistic Introduction

Paul Cubberley



Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521791915

© Cambridge University Press 2002

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2002

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-79191-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-79641-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Dedicated to the many cohorts of students who have led
me to whatever degree of intelligibility and coherence is
now resident in this description . . .
and to my ever-patient wife, never critical of the time
I gave to them or it.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of maps</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>List of abbreviations and symbols</i>	xiii
<i>Note on transliteration</i>	xvi
Introduction	1
1 The Russian language in the world	1
2 Russia	3
3 Russian	3
4 Russian within linguistics	6
5 Readership	8
6 Structure and aims	9
1 History of the language	12
1 Historical background	12
2 Linguistic features	16
2.1 Slavonic as an Indo-European dialect	17
2.2 Developments within Proto-Slavonic	18
2.3 Early East Slavonic developments, leading to Old Russian	32
2.4 Developments from Old Russian to Modern Russian (post-tenth century)	39
3 Development of the standard language	43
3.1 Periodisation	43
3.2 Old Russian and Old Church Slavonic	44
3.3 Normativising in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries	47
4 Writing (graphics)	48
4.1 The historical background	48
4.2 Orthographic principles	51
2 Phonology	53
1 The 'phoneme' and related terminology	53
2 Description	55
2.1 Traditional (articulatory)	55
2.2 Distinctive feature description	57
	vii

viii	Contents	
	3 The phonology of Modern Russian	59
	3.1 Historical orientation	59
	3.2 The phonemes of Modern Russian	62
	3.3 Distributional limitations (phonotactics)	73
	3.4 The subsystems of foreign words and abbreviations	83
	3.5 Morphophonology	86
	3.6 Sentence intonation	89
	3.7 Style in phonology	92
	4 Graphics	95
	4.1 Cyrillic and its transcription and transliteration	95
	4.2 Correlation of graphics and phonemes	95
	4.3 Orthographic principles	98
	4.4 How 'phonetic' is the system?	98
	4.5 Major steps in the history of the graphic system	99
	3 Morphology	102
	1 Introduction	102
	1.1 The 'morpheme' and related terminology	102
	1.2 Russian morphemes	105
	2 The morphology of Modern Russian	108
	2.1 Nominal	108
	2.2 Verbal	146
	2.3 Other categories	169
	4 Syntax	176
	1 Introduction: basic concepts and approaches	176
	1.1 The sentence	176
	1.2 Sentence structure and analysis	177
	2 Nominal phrases	178
	3 The simple sentence	181
	3.1 Features of the main types of simple sentence	183
	3.2 The parts of the sentence	185
	3.3 Incomplete/elliptical sentences	222
	3.4 Word order	225
	4 The complex sentence	226
	4.1 Complex-coordinate (compound)	228
	4.2 Complex-subordinate (complex)	233
	5 Reported/indirect speech	252
	5.1 Direct speech and punctuation	252
	5.2 Reported speech	252
	5 Word-formation and lexicology	255
	1 Introduction	255
	1.1 Terminology, basic concepts	255
	1.2 Stem	256
	1.3 Analysis and the role of etymology	257
	2 Sources of words and methods of word-formation	257
	2.1 External sources	257
	2.2 Internal sources	261

Contents	ix
3 Morphophonology in word-formation	274
3.1 Vowels	274
3.2 Consonants	276
3.3 Stress	278
4 Affixes	278
4.1 Prefixes	279
4.2 Suffixes	287
5 Lexicology (and phraseology)	306
5.1 Words	306
5.2 Phrases	309
6 Dialects	313
1 Introduction	313
2 Historical orientation	314
3 Linguistic features	316
3.1 Phonology	316
3.2 Morphology	324
3.3 Syntax	328
7 Sociolinguistics	332
1 Introduction	332
2 Historical perspectives on standard versus non-standard usage	332
2.1 Russian Church Slavonic	333
2.2 Foreign	333
2.3 'Low' style	334
2.4 Orthography	334
2.5 The 'Academy'	335
3 Variation	335
3.1 Varieties, registers	335
3.2 Current developments (Contemporary Standard Russian)	336
3.3 Phonological	337
3.4 Morphological	342
3.5 Word-formational	349
4 Contact/interference	350
4.1 Soviet period	350
4.2 Post-Soviet period	351
4.3 Diaspora	352
4.4 Diglossia	352
4.5 Bilingualism	352
5 Pragmatics	354
5.1 Speech etiquette	354
<i>Bibliography</i>	363
I <i>Further reading by chapter</i>	363
II <i>References</i>	367
<i>Index</i>	373

Maps

1	Russian Federation	<i>page</i> 2
2	European Russia	4
3	Modern Slavonic languages	7
4	Russian dialects	315

Tables

1	Early Proto-Slavonic phonological system	<i>page</i> 19
2	Quantity > Quality	21
3	Late Proto-Slavonic phonological system	31
4	Old Russian phonological system	37
5	The Old Cyrillic alphabet	50
6	Russian consonant phonemes (articulatory)	63
7	Russian consonant phonemes (distinctive features)	64
8	Russian vowel phonemes	69
9	The (Russian) Cyrillic alphabet and its transliteration/transcription	96
10	Model stress pattern (AB)	123
11	Personal pronoun declension	126
12	Interrogative pronouns	127
13	3rd person pronoun	128
14	Normal adjectival declension	130
15	<i>J</i> -mutation of consonants	137
16	Collective numerals	145
17	Present ~ Infinitive/Past stems	148
18	Aspectual sets	153
19	Infinitive form and class	154
20	Present/Future tense	155
21	Present irregular	156
22	Past tense	156
23	Imperative	159
24	Conditional/Subjunctive	159
25	Adjectival participles	163
26	Adverbial participles	164
27	Stress patterns in Present	167
28	Stress patterns in Past	168

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-79191-5 - Russian: A Linguistic Introduction
Paul Cubberley
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to my former colleagues and continuing supporters Roly Sussex and Robert Lagerberg for their comments on various aspects of this work as it took shape, and to Kate Brett who set it in motion and cared for it as it gestated. The final content is of course my sole responsibility.

Abbreviations and symbols

- Case and number quoted together are reduced to initial capitals, e.g. NP = Nominative Plural; accompanying gender is indicated by a lower-case initial, e.g. NPn = Nominative Plural Neuter.
- Person and number quoted together are reduced to lower-case letters following the number, e.g. 3pp = 3rd Person Plural.

Abl	Ablative Case
Acc	Accusative Case
Act	Active voice
Adj	Adjective
Adv	Adverb
Amer Eng	American English
Anim	Animate
Aor	Aorist Tense (Old Russian)
Bg	Bulgarian
Br	Belarusian
Brit Eng	British English
BS	Balto-Slavonic
B(V)	Back (Vowel)
C	Consonant
coll.	colloquial
Cond	Conditional Mood
Conj	Conjunction
CR	Central Russian (dialect)
Cr	Croatian
CSR	Contemporary Standard Russian
Cz	Czech
Dat	Dative Case
Du	Dual
Eng	English
Fem	Feminine
Fr	French

xiv	List of abbreviations and symbols
FSU	Former Soviet Union
Fut	Future Tense
F(V)	Front (Vowel)
IE	Indo-European
Imp	Imperfect Tense (Old Russian)
Ital	Italian
Gen	Genitive Case
Germ	German
Gk	Greek
Imper	Imperative Mood
Impf	Imperfective Aspect
Inan	Inanimate
Inf	Infinitive
Instr	Instrumental Case
Intr	Intransitive
Lat	Latin
lit.	literally (word-for-word translation)
Lith	Lithuanian
Loc	Locative Case
Mac	Macedonian
Masc	Masculine
N	Nasal
Neut	Neuter
Nom	Nominative Case
NP	Noun phrase
NR	Northern Russian (dialect)
Obj	Object
OCS	Old Church Slavonic
OCz	Old Czech
OEng	Old English
OP	Old Polish
OR	Old Russian
Part	Participle
Pass	Passive Voice
Perf	Perfect Tense (Old Russian)
Pers	Person
Pf	Perfective Aspect
Plup	Pluperfect Tense (Old Russian)
Plur	Plural
Pol	Polish
PPA	Past Participle Active
PPP	Past Participle Passive

List of abbreviations and symbols

xv

Prep	Prepositional Case
Pres	Present Tense
PresPP	Present Participle Passive
Pron	Pronoun
PS	Proto-Slavonic
RCS	Russian Church Slavonic
Refl	Reflexive Voice
RF	Russian Federation
Rus	Russian
SC	Serbian/Croatian (or former Serbo-Croatian)
Serb	Serbian
Sing	Singular
Sk	Slovak
Sn	Slovenian
Son	Sonorant
Sorb	Sorbian
SR	Southern Russian (dialect)
Subj	Subject
Subjve	Subjunctive Mood
Sup	Supine
Trans	Transitive
Ukr	Ukrainian
V	Vowel
Vb	Verb
VP	Verb phrase

Symbols

[]	phonetic transcription, using IPA
//	phonemic transcription, using ISO
{ }	morphemic transcription, using ISO

These formal symbols are used only where essential; for most purposes, italics are used for transliterated or transcribed forms, as well as for all linguistic examples; English glosses are given within quote marks.

Stress position is marked by a prime (') following the stressed vowel on the transcribed form only (not on the Cyrillic); since this is the principle for Russian words, it is retained for all other situations, including IPA (though this is not the normal IPA procedure).

For transcription and transliteration of Russian Cyrillic, see chapter 2, table 9; for IPA transcription system, see website: www2.gla.ac.uk/IPA/ipachart.html.

Note on transliteration

Details of the transliteration and transcription of Russian Cyrillic will be offered in chapter 2 (section 4.1, table 9). For the purposes of the introductory chapters, where names and words will necessarily appear in transliteration, we mention here the main features which might appear confusing through their use of unfamiliar symbols.

- (1) Russian consonants appear in two varieties, most commonly referred to as hard/soft or \pm Palatalised (or \pm Sharp); the soft or palatalised variants are indicated in syllable-final positions variously by a following acute accent, apostrophe or prime; we will use the acute. Thus *rus'* is to be understood as ending in a soft [sʲ].
- (2) The palatal consonants, like English *sh* or *ch*, are represented by a diacritic borrowed from the Czech alphabet (where it is called a 'hook') placed over the underlying sound, e.g. *š, ž, č*, for Eng *sh, zh, ch*.
- (3) The symbol *j* represents the palatal fricative or glide (the *jot* or *jod* sound), that is the strong *y* of Eng *yes*.
- (4) The symbol *x* represents the voiceless velar fricative, usually written *kh* in Eng.
- (5) The symbol *c* represents the affricate usually written *ts* in Eng.
- (6) Vowels do not present any difficulties, but note that *y* always represents roughly the first vowel in Eng *cynic, sin*.
- (7) Stress position is indicated by a prime (') written *after* the stressed vowel.