

Simultaneous Readings of Past-Under-Past in Russian

This work explores simultaneous readings of past-under-past in Russian. It is well-established that the past tense in Russian, when embedded under a past-marked attitude verb, can receive a simultaneous reading (e.g., Altshuler 2008). However, the availability of such readings is more limited compared to English. Generally, three theoretical mechanisms have been proposed to explain the availability of simultaneous readings of past-under-past. The first mechanism involves an SOT rule (Ogihara 1989; Abusch 1997; Kusumoto 1999, among others); the second mechanism is the *de re* reading of the past tense (Abusch 1997; Heim 1994; Ogihara 1995; Sharvit 2018); and the third mechanism connects such readings with the lack of a relevant pragmatic competitor (Altshuler & Schwarzschild 2013).

I compare these three approaches with respect to their ability to account for the restrictions on simultaneous readings in Russian. I argue that in Russian, such readings can only be derived through a *de re* construal. Based on the cessation inference pattern, I demonstrate that the pragmatic competitor for this reading is the double access reading of the embedded present tense (also derived through a *de re* construal).