

# Interactions of Aspect and Negation in Russian and Polish: Evidence from the Visual World Paradigm

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### RUSSIAN ASPECT

Perfective

pro-čítát'

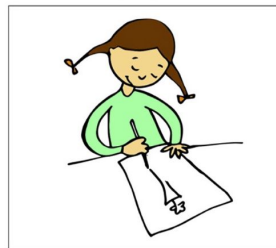
PFV-read

Imperfective

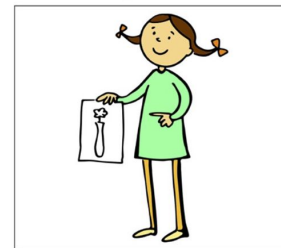
čítát'

read.IPFV

Ongoing Event



Completed Event



images from Minor et al. (2023)

### INTERACTIONS OF ASPECT AND NEGATION IN RUSSIAN

(1) Ivan ne **chital** etu knigu  
Ivan NEG read.IPFV.PST this book.ACC  
'Ivan didn't read (any of) this book'

(2) Ivan ne **pro-chital** etu knigu  
Ivan NEG PFV-read.PST this book.ACC  
'Ivan didn't read this book'

↪ Ivan read some of this book

(Zinova & Filip 2014a,b)

# METHODS

## PARTICIPANTS

Current: 6 heritage Russian speakers and 3 native Russian speakers

Ongoing: still collecting data from native Russian speakers and native Polish speakers

## DESIGN

2x2 design: aspect (PFV, IPFV), negation (negated, affirmative)

20 verbs (all telic accomplishments)

4 experimental lists

1:1 ratio with fillers

**Novel task: a visual Likert scale. Presents images representing stages of a full event structure**

## SAMPLE VISUAL STIMULI



Figure 1. *Malchik (ne) (po)stroil vysokuyu bashn'u* ('The boy was (not) building/built a tall tower')

## PROCEDURE

Participants heard audio stimuli of a target sentence. Then, they were asked to click on the picture that fit the target sentence best.

## PREDICTIONS

**For Russian and Polish, negated PFV should induce fixations to a processual image, while negated IPFV should induce fixations to an image where no portion of an event has occurred.**

# RESULTS: CLICKS & REACTION TIME

## NATIVE SPEAKERS

	No event	Initiation	Ongoing event	Completed event	Median RT
AFF IPFV		5	10		4425 ms
AFF PFV				15	3418 ms
NEG IPFV	14			1	4438 ms
NEG PFV	15				4366 ms

## HERITAGE SPEAKERS

	No event	Initiation	Ongoing event	Completed event	Median RT
AFF IPFV		7	16	7	5110 ms
AFF PFV			1	29	3492 ms
NEG IPFV	26		2	2	4307 ms
NEG PFV	29	1			4398 ms

## DISCUSSION

- Click data suggests that participants preferred an image of “no event” (no portion of the event had occurred) in both cases
  - pragmatic implicature not apparent for perfective under negation (at least for out of the blue sentences in the current visual set up)
  - pragmatic implicature subject to variation (Dionne & Coppock 2022) but no apparent variation here
  - eye-movement data may suggest differences between the imperfective and perfective aspect under negation
- Negation led to longer RTs in PFV, but not IPFV
  - potential interaction of aspect and negation as measured by RTs
  - could be a by-product of the task with separate images for the initiation and process stages (Ramchand, 2008)
- “Result” interpretation for IPFV in heritage speakers but not in native speakers
  - English Simple Past is ambiguous with respect to process/result contrast (Minor et al., 2023)

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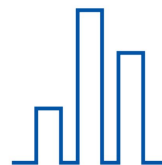
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