Shifters, Verbal Categories, and the Russian Verb

I. M(essage) and C(ode) are vehicles of communication; both may be *utilized* and *referred to*. Four duplex types: 1) circularity M/M and C/C 2) overlapping M/C. C/M.

   1.2. M/M reported speech, a message about a message. quoted and quasi-quoted, oblique discourse. Bulgarian has a device marking events known only from the testimony of others. Kwakuitl and Hopi. Quotative postfix -ani.

   1.3 C/C proper names. The name means anyone to whom the name is assigned. *Pup, mongrel, dog* have significant meaning, but *Fido* has no property of Fidoness. Indefinite pronoun *what's his name, how-do-ye-call- it*.

   1.4 M/C. Autonymous mode of speech. *,Pup'is a monosyllable*. Metaspeech.

   1.5 C/M. Shifters (Jespersen). Reference to the message. Deixis. Peirce: symbols are conventional, indices (pointing) are in existential relationship to the objec t, icons reproduce some of the simple qualities of the referent. Shifters are indexical symbols. *Ego, ich, ja, I* = the person uttering the word. Every shifter has its own general meaning. Bertrand Russell: they never apply to more than one thing at a time. All syncategoremic terms: *but* expresses an adversative relationship but not the notion of contrariety.

A complex category. Pronouns are late in the child. Child who knows his own name may not easily become used to *alienable* terms. „don't call yourself I, only I am I." Or he may use *I* so stubbornly that he cannot pronounce his own name — it has only a vocative function. Samoyede: name is taboo for its carrier.

.1.6 Jim told me „flicks" means „movies". M/M, C/C, M/C, C/M (pronoun and past tense).

Cf. Abbott and Costello routine „Who's on First".

2. Verbal categories. Narrated event $E^{n,}$, speech event, E^s, participant in narrated event P^n, Participant of speech event P^s.

Designators: one narrated item, either event E^n or its participants P^n only. Connectors: characterize it with respect to another. E^n E^n or P^n P^n „

Designators focus on either quantity or quality of the item. Qualifiers and quantifiers.

If reference to the speech event or its participants: **shifters**. …/ E^s or … P^s

2.2 P^n Gender, number. Gender qualifies, number quantifies.

2.21 P^n/ P^s Person, a shifter.

2.3 E^n Status and Aspect. Status defines logical quality of event, affirmative, presumptive, negative, interrogative. English *do*. Aspect as in Slavic. Non-shifter.

2.31 E^n / E^s Tense. Narrated event ~ the speech event. Past tense (marked) = precedes speech event. Shifter.

2.4 $P^n E^n$ Voice. Relation between narr. event and its participants without relation to speech event.

2.41 $P^n E^n$ / P^s Mood. Narr. event and its participants with reference to the speech event. Subjunctive, optative, imperative, conjunctive.

2.42 $E^n E^n$ Taxis. Narrated event ~ another narr. event. Cf. Russian gerunds (*having entered the room, he began to speak…*)

2.51 $E^n E^{ns}$ /E^s Evidential — takes into account narrated event, speech event, and a *narrated speech event* , E^{ns} namely the source of information about the narrated event. Hearsay evidence, dream, guess. Bulgarian has two forms, direct narration where $E^{ns} = E^s$ ~ indirect narration, where they are not equivalent. *zaminala* ,it is claimed to have sailed' vs. *zamina* ,I bear witness; it sailed' .

see scheme p. 47.

Shifters: person,mood, tense, evidential. Mood and tense are connectors.

Nonshifters: gender, number, voice (connector), status, aspect, taxis (connector).

3. Russian verb.

Markedness. Can mean ,statement of A' vs. ,no statement of A' or, equipollent, ,statement of A' vs. ,statement of non-A'. He discusses categories in the order marked, then unmarked.

3.3 Person. personal (m) signals $P^n = P^s$ vs. impersonal. Within person, 1st person (m) vs. 2nd person (= any imaginable person, narrowly, the addressee). Within 2nd, inclusive vs. exclusive. *otdoxnem, otdoxni.*

3.21 Gender. Subjective (m) vs. neuter. Within subjective: feminine (m) = P^n is not male. vs. masculine (no specification). Number: plural (m) (plurality of P^n) vs. singular.

3.4 Tense. Past (m).

3.31 Status. Syntactical not morphological. Pojdet-li? Ne ja eto sdelal.

Aspect. Perf(ective) (m) vs. Imperf(ective). Absolute boundary reached, change of state, new state of affairs. Past Perf is not iterative unless it is a summing up: *on ponagovoril o reformax* ,he did a quantity of talking about reforms'. Perf past signals temporal antecedence of E^n and its completion or reaching of new state before E^s. Perf present does not say whether the narr. event precedes speech event, or in its narrowed meaning intimates it does not, hence points to future.

Within Imperf, determinate,signaling integrity and unbrokenness of E^n vs. indeterminate.

p. 49 on Imperf — this discussion is unduly complicated. Forget about this here. Remember only that the Perf future *budu* is used, as with other phasals, like *stanu*, with Imperf infinitives only and expresses future.

3.4 Mood. *Žil by na vole, ne znal by pečali* or *žit'by emu na vole, ne znat'by pečali.* ‚if he lived in freedom he would know no sorrow if he could live… *žit'emu na vole!* ‚may he live in freedom!'

Injunctive signals E^n imposed upon the P. Hortative (addressee himself participates) (m) vs. imperative. Perf and determinate use univerbal forms, the others, periphrasis.

 Addresser: *napišu-ka, budu-ka pisat',* addressee: *napiši-ka, piši-ka,* addresser and addressee: *napišem-ka, budem-ka pisat',* attenuated appeal: *davaj-ka pisat,* addresser and addressees: *napišemte-ka, budemte-ka pisat',* attenuated: *davajte-ka pisat'* . The –ka here adds a coaxing note and belongs today to older speech; it may simply be dropped.

The imperative has the same paradigm, without ka and without the exclusive 1st sg.

The declarative form of the injunctive has no grammatical markings and may be used for any person or number. In a conditional clause it is counterfactual. *Pobegi on, emu ne sdobrovat'* ‚if he had run it would have turned out badly'. In independent clauses this can mean an action imposed on the P, or a surprise for the narrator: *vse otdyxajut, a on begi* ‚everyone is resting and he has to run'. *Vse otdyxajut, a on, ni s togo, ni s sego, pobegi* or, Imperf, *a on davaj bežat'* ‚everyone is resting and he suddenly starts off running'.

The counterfactual use is very productive. Make up some examples: *pročitaj ja vse knigi, mne bylo by ploxo* ‚if I had read all the books I would feel bad'.

3.41 Voice. Reflexive (m) restricts participation in the E^N. It excludes direct object. *Sonja myla posudu, Sonja mylas', posuda mylas'* ‚Sonja washed the dishes, Sonja washed up, the dishes were being washed'. Nom subject is only allowed P. Reflexivization may exclude the subject as Nom, but it may reappear as dative: *ja tjaželo dyšu* ‚I breathe heavily' vs. *mne tjaželo dyšitsja* ‚I am having trouble breathing'. Semantic restriction: *zvonju* ‚I ring'vs. *zvonjus'* ‚I ring at the door'. Note that reflexive can be used for passive in Imperf only: *kniga pisalas'vo vremja vojny* ‚the book was written during the war'.

3.51 Taxis. These are the gerunds in Russian. Imperf: *čitaja Vasmera* ‚while reading Vasmer', *Jakobson zapisyval idei* ‚J. noted his ideas. Perf: *pročitav knigi, on zadumalsja* ‚having read the book through, he fell into thought'. Don't worry so much about the Perf present gerund. In Jakobson's speech, the Perf past with –ši indicates a causal connection: *snjavši pal'to, ja počuvstvoval xolod* ‚taking off my coat I felt a chill'.

3.6 Infinitive carries minimal information in Russian. No person, number, gender, tense, or taxis. It has only voice and aspect (all verbal categories express these).

Restrictions:

gender and marked number are mutually exclusive. (No gender in pl.)

person and gender are mutually exclusive. (*ja čitala* is fem, no grammatical person, vs. *ja čitaju*)

person implies number (*ja, ty, on* are sg, *my, vy, oni* are pl)

person and marked tense are mutually exclusive (past tense marks number and gender only)

4.1 «Any Russian inflected form comprehends a stem and a desinence.»

/ví+rv-a—l-a-s/. Prefix, stem, suffix, past tense morpheme, gender, reflexive postfix. The initial suffix, eg. the past tense l, or the nonterminal vowel, always has another suffix coming.

Final suffix, eg. l-a, or rv,—o-m.   There may be a **postfix** added to a final suffix, e.g. reflexive particle.

If there is only one suffix it is both initial and final, e.g. rv—u. C and V desinences.

Person, gender and number use **final** desinences. In 3rd person, the final suffix expresses third, the initial expresses number, vs. 1st and 2nd.

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 This is the only exception to the use of final suffixes by designators of P^{n}.

Cf. ja my , ty, vy, but on ona oni.

Tense: V for pres, C for past. Inf. has a C desinence ending in zero alternating with a V. Aspects are signaled by modifications in the stem (suffix or prefix) and by periphrastic means. D vs. ND open full stem v. closed or unsuffixed vs. suffixed. **бежать бегать лететь летать нести носить.**

Iterative has ivaj or vaj. Add a prefix to iterative or determinate pair, then it turns into P vs. I opposition.

Perf is often prefixed or Imperf has a closed stem. написать писать, выписать выписывать, решить решать, отрЕзать отрезать. If both are open, ну signals Perf.

See maximal accumulation in повидаемтесь-ка. (= видеться)

po-v'idáj—#-i-m-t'i-s-ka ,hey, come on, let's all of us see each other' (!! not a usual locution, I believe)

P designators make use of the final desinential suffixes.

E designators deal with parts before the final suffix. Shifters (tense) work with initial suffixes, while non-shifters (e.g. aspect) go back to the stem. Connectors widely use posterior units. Voice and taxis deal with postfixes, while shifters (mood) tend to reduce desinence to zero and use autonomous annexes and particles.