

Russian-Estonian bidirectional transfer

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Modern Russian-Estonian language contact can be characterized as ‘multiple’ because, on the one hand, Estonians have some competence in Russian and, on the other hand, Russians have started using the Estonian language extensively. A number of related quantitative and qualitative studies have been carried out to describe the outcomes of this language contact situation, such as Ehala (1994) on Russian influence on Estonian, and Zabrodskaia (2009) on Estonian influence on Russian; the latter refers to the emergence of a new language variety called Estonian Russian.

The main focus of the paper is on the transfer of Russian morphosyntactic patterns into Estonian usage and Estonian morphosyntactic patterns into Russian usage. The subjects are speakers of Russian and Estonian attending Estonian secondary schools. The goal of the paper is to specify the potential contact-induced morphosyntactic innovations in bilinguals’ use and the sociolinguistic factors affecting their diffusion to the usage of monolingual users.

References

- Ehala, Martin 1994. Russian influence and the change in progress in the Estonian adpositional system. – *Linguistica Uralica*, 39 (2), 177–193.
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