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Russian Case Endings

A. Consider the following data from Russian and develop a starting set of phrase structure rules for the language. You may assume that Russian is head-initial.

- (1) Женщина бежит к мужчине
Zhenshchina bezhit k muzhchine
woman running to man
'The woman is running to the man.'
- (2) Лев съест бабочку
Lev s"yest babochku
Lion will eat butterfly
'The lion will eat the butterfly.'
- (3) Грустные утки быстро уплывают от голодных крокодилов.
Grustnyye utki bystro uplyvayut ot golodnykh krokodilov.
Sad ducks quickly swim from hungry crocodiles.
'Sad ducks swim quickly away from hungry crocodiles.'

B. Now that you have a better understanding of Russian grammar consider the following data focusing primarily on the tense and aspect reflected in each verb form. The base form of the verb 'to cook' is 'готовить' (gotovit') and 'to read' is 'читать' (chitat').

- (4) Я готовлю курицу
Ya gotovlyu kuritsu
I cook chicken
'I am cooking chicken.'
- (5) Я готовил(а)¹ курицу
Ya gotovila kuritsu
I cooked chicken
'I was cooking chicken.'
- (6) Я приготовлю курицу
Ya prigotovlyu kuritsu
I will cook chicken
'I will cook chicken.'
- (7) Я приготовил(а) курицу
Ya prigotovil(a) kuritsu
I cooked chicken
'I cooked chicken.'

(8) Я буду готовить курицу
ya budu gotovit' kuritsu
I will cook chicken
'I will be cooking chicken.'

(9) Я читаю книгу
Ya chitayu knigu
I read book
I read² a book

(10) Я читал(а) книгу
Ya chital(a) knigu
I was read book
'I was reading the book.'

(11) Я прочитаю книгу
Ya prochitayu knigu
I will read book
'I will read the book.'

(12) Я прочитал(а) книгу
Ya prochital(a) knigu
I read book
'I read³ the book'

(13) Я буду читать книгу
Ya budu chitat' knigu
I will read book
'I will be reading the book.'

From this data hypothesize how these case ends are added to Russian grammar via syntax trees. Look for patterns in verb forms, label the phi-features within the Russian sentences as best as possible, and think of how they are passed down to the final word said.

¹The parentheses are used to show masculine and feminine. Endings with (a) are feminine. This is not important for your assignment but something to be aware of.

²This form of 'read' is pronounced as /rɪ:d/, the present tense of read

³This form of 'read' is pronounced as /ɪəd/, the past tense of read

C. Now that you have incorporated phi features into your grammar, adjust them to include the following data if they are not already.

(14) Бабушка готовит курицу.
Babushka gotovit kuritsu.
Grandma cooking chicken
'Grandma is cooking chicken.'

(15) Бабушка готовила курицу.
Babushka gotovila kuritsu.
Grandma cooked chicken.
'Grandma was cooking chicken.'

(16) Бабушка приготовит курицу.
Babushka prigotovit kuritsu.
Grandma will cook chicken
'Grandma will cook chicken.'

(17) Бабушка приготовила курицу.
Babushka prigotovila kuritsu.
Grandma cooked chicken
'Grandma cooked chicken.'

(18) Бабушка приготовит курицу.
Babushka prigotovit kuritsu.
Grandma will cook chicken
'Grandma will cook chicken.'

(19) Бабушка будет готовить курицу.
Babushka budet gotovit' kuritsu.
Grandma will cook chicken
'Grandma will be cooking chicken.'

D. Optional data: When you think you have a working thesis for the data above, look at the examples below. Make sure that your grammar can account for them. If it cannot, change it so that they are accounted for. Hint: this section of data shows the relationship between negation, tense and aspect in Russian.

(14) Я не читал книгу.
Ya ne chital knigu.
I not read book
'I did not read the book.'

(15) Я не прочитал книгу.
Ya ne prochital knigu.
I not finish read book
'I did not finish reading the book.'

(16) Я не буду читать книгу.
Ya ne budu chitat' knigu.
I not will read book
'I will not be reading the book.'

(17) Я не прочитаю книгу.
Ya ne pročitayu knigu.
I not will read book
'I will not read the book.'