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Instructor Notes

This assignment is intended to follow Assignment 6 - The Last Auxiliary Assignment

Introduction

The class English grammar for Winter Quarter 25' following Assignment 6 looked like what is listed below. At this point students are familiar with tense and tense phrases.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TP} &\rightarrow \text{NP T}' \\ \text{T}' &\rightarrow \text{T VP} \\ \text{VP} &\rightarrow \text{V}' \\ \text{V}' &\rightarrow \{ \text{V}' \text{NP} \} \\ &\quad \{ \text{V}' \text{AP} \} \\ &\quad \{ \text{V}' \text{PP} \} \\ &\quad \{ \text{V}' \text{VP} \} \\ &\quad \{ \text{V} \} \\ \text{NP} &\rightarrow (\text{D}) \text{N}' \\ \text{N}' &\rightarrow \{ (\text{AP}) \text{N}' (\text{PP}) \} \\ &\quad \{ \text{N} \} \\ \text{PP} &\rightarrow \text{P NP} \\ \text{AP} &\rightarrow (\text{Deg}) \text{A} \end{aligned}$$

Other rules:

Coordination Rule: Any constituent type X may be coordinated with “and” using the following structure: $X \rightarrow X \text{ and } X$

Subject-Verb Agreement: The highest verb/aux must match the person and number features of the subject.

This assignment will deal with case endings regarding tense in the Russian language.

Part A

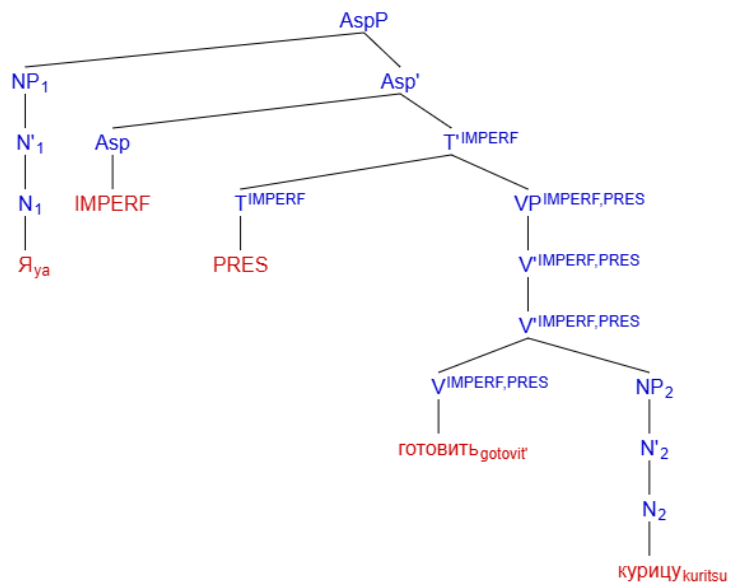
Part A asks the students to make a baseline set of phrase structure rules from 3 examples. These glossed examples have prepositions, and adjectives included in them. They should allow for students to understand the language is SVO and head-initial. From the basic understanding of syntax, students should come to the conclusion that their current phrase structure rules will be adequate for the Russian language, as English follows very similar rules.

Part B

Part B asks the students to analyze 2 sets of data in 1st person forms. This glossed data contains all the possible combinations of tense and aspect in Russian; present imperfective, past imperfective, future imperfective, past perfective, future perfective. The goal of this second portion is for students to discover the possible forms of tense and aspect in Russian and what they are. I believe at this point they should already know that English only contains modals, no future tense. Russian data will be helpful in demonstrating usage of a future tense in a language. From there, these students are then asked to update their grammar to account for the new data, which should include a rule for phi-features. Below is what

their grammar may look like when completed. It adds on the idea that aspect and tense are required before adding a verb and finds its respective ending.

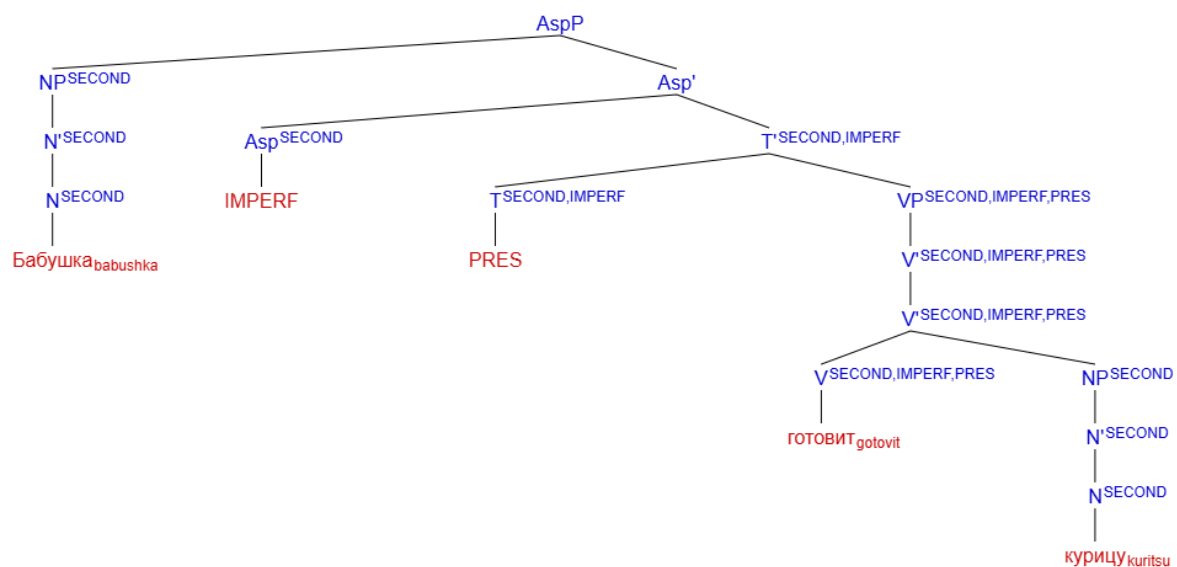
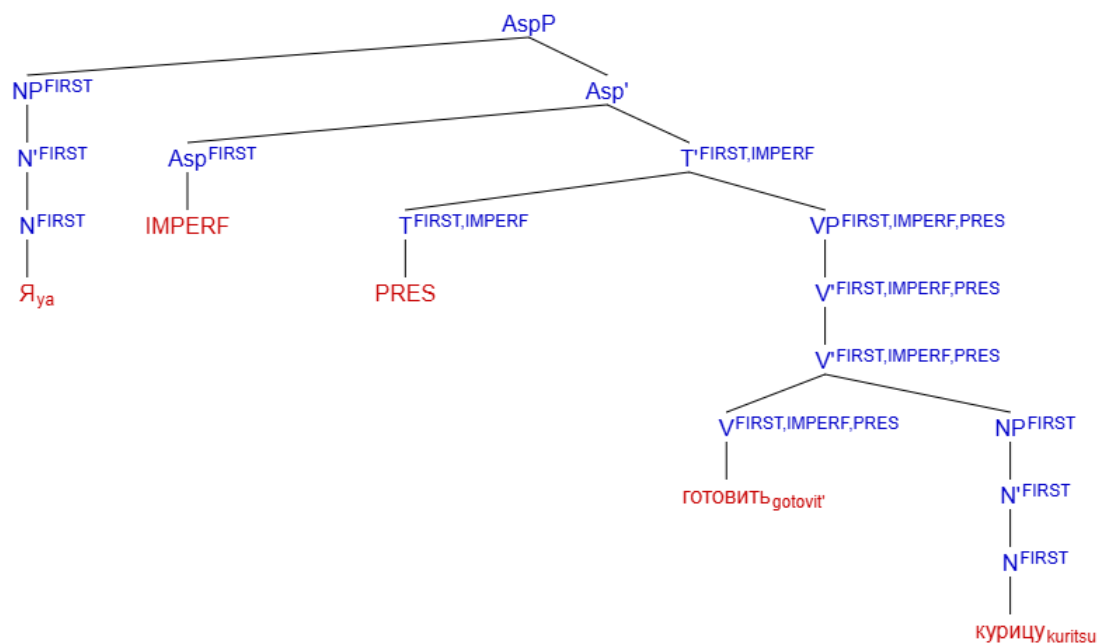
$\text{AspP} \rightarrow \text{NP Asp}'$
 $\text{Asp}' \rightarrow \text{Asp T}'$
 $\text{T}' \rightarrow \text{T VP}$
 $\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{V}'$
 $\text{V}' \rightarrow \{\text{V}' \text{NP}\}$
 $\quad \{\text{V}' \text{AP}\}$
 $\quad \{\text{V}' \text{PP}\}$
 $\quad \{\text{V}' \text{VP}\}$
 $\quad \{\text{V}' \text{V}\}$
 $\text{NP} \rightarrow (\text{D}) \text{N}'$
 $\text{N}' \rightarrow \{ (\text{AP}) \text{N}' (\text{PP}) \}$
 $\quad \{ \text{N} \}$
 $\text{PP} \rightarrow \text{P NP}$
 $\text{AP} \rightarrow (\text{Deg}) \text{A}$



Students should also hopefully come up with a rule that allows for the passing along of tense and aspect within verb forms.

Part C

Part C asks students to look at another set of data that now has 2nd person features. The endings on Russian verbs could change with this addition which should be updated in their grammar. Here is an updated tree demonstrating the additional rules that should be implemented.



Part D

Part D asks the students to look at an optional set of data. This data shows interaction of negation and the tense/aspect we have been analyzing. At this point negation is still a new concept which is why the data has been left optional, but if done the interaction between negation and tense/aspect are shown to be quite interesting. Students should discover that Russian uses double negation to form sentences, other than when in the future tense form. They should have a subcat other other rule for this case.