

1 **The Locative Alternation and the Russian ‘empty’
2 prefixes: A case study of the verb *gruzit*’ ‘load’***
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10 **Abstract**

11 We present an empirical study to address critical aspects of two theoretical
12 issues, namely the “Locative Alternation” and Russian aspectual “empty”
13 prefixes. Our data, extracted from the Russian National Corpus, represent
14 the behavior of the Russian verb *gruzit*’ ‘load’, which participates in the
15 Locative Alternation in both its unprefixed (*gruzit*) and prefixed forms
16 (*nagruzit*, *zagruzit* and *pogruzit*). According to Russian linguistic tradition,
17 the prefixes *na-*, *za-* and *po-* forming the prefixed counterparts of the
18 verb *gruzit*’ ‘load’ are considered semantically “empty”, bearing only the
19 aspectual feature “perfective”. The data on the Locative Alternation was
20 analyzed using a logistic regression model in order to probe for a significant
21 relationship between prefixes and grammatical constructions. Our
22 analysis shows that the four verbs behave differently in terms of the locative
23 constructions they participate in (the Theme-Object construction as in
24 *load the hay onto the truck* and the Goal-Object construction as in *load
25 the truck with hay*). While the unprefixed imperfective *gruzit*’ favors the
26 Theme-Object construction, the addition of a prefix radically changes this
27 distribution, and each prefix does it in a different way: *nagruzit*’ strongly
28 favors the Goal-Object construction, *pogruzit*’ uses the Theme-Object
29 construction in a nearly exclusive manner, whereas *zagruzit*’ creates a
30 near-balance between the two constructions. Our findings support the
31 hypothesis that the Locative Alternation involves both the meaning of the
32 verb and the meaning of its constructions. The three prefixed verbs exhibit
33 statistically significant differences in their behavior, which is at variance
34 with the idea that the prefixes are semantically empty.
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1. Introduction

The present study addresses two theoretical issues, both of which are controversial in the scholarly literature. The first issue is the “Locative Alternation” (*John loaded the hay onto the truck* vs. *John loaded the truck with hay*), where an unresolved debate questions whether the most important factor is a) the meaning of the verb, b) the meaning of the construction, or c) the interaction of both the verb and its construction. Russian provides an excellent testing ground for this issue since we can observe the influence of subtle semantic modifications wrought by prefixes on constructions with overt case marking. The second issue is whether semantically “empty” linguistic units exist. Our data represent the behavior of the Russian verb *gruzit’* ‘load’, which participates in the Locative Alternation in both its unprefixed and prefixed forms. This verb has three purportedly “empty” prefixes according to traditional definitions, since *nagruzit’*, *zagruzit’* and *pogruzit’* are all listed as the perfective “partners” of the unprefixed imperfective *gruzit’*, and all four verbs come under a single definitional entry (Ožegov and Švedova 2001). Analysis of our data extracted from the Russian National Corpus (www.ruscorpora.ru, henceforth RNC, the source of all examples herein) details the interaction of the verb and construction meanings, supporting hypothesis c) above. Furthermore, since the three prefixed verbs show a significant difference in their distribution of constructions, our data does not support the idea that the prefixes are semantically empty. The rationale is that if the prefixes were semantically empty, they would have to be equivalent, which is not the case. We demonstrate that a verb is not a monolithic unit, since passive participles behave differently from other verb forms. The same “split” applies to the Locative Alternation constructions, which are not uniform and can be represented by their full (see examples 3–5 below) and reduced versions (examples 6–7 below), showing different behavior in terms of reduction. In addition, we find an interesting relationship between the prefixes and the use of prepositions.

Section 2 gives a brief overview of the two theoretical issues, namely the Locative Alternation in 2.1 and the so-called “empty” prefixes in 2.2, situating their relevance to Russian *gruzit’* ‘load’ in 2.3. Our objectives include probing the relationship between the unprefixed base verb and its three prefixed perfectives and the role of participles and prepositions in *gruzit’* ‘load’ constructions. Our empirical study presented in Section 3 uses the constructional profile, defined in 3.1 to structure the database, which is described in 3.2. In Section 4, the analysis confronts the objec-

1 tives with the data, presenting our statistical model in 4.1, addressing
2 the relationship between base and prefixed verbs in 4.2, the behavior of
3 passive participles in 4.3, reduced constructions in 4.4, and prepositions
4 in 4.5. Conclusions are offered in Section 5.0.

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7 2. Theoretical issues

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9 Both the Locative Alternation and the role of prefixes in the Russian
10 aspectual system have produced a vast scholarly literature that we cannot
11 do justice to in this article. Our aim is to survey the highlights of both
12 issues, picking out the points most relevant to our analysis. This entails
13 compressing much of the detail, though this carries some risk of over-
14 simplification.

15

16 2.1. The Locative Alternation

17 The Locative Alternation has been famous in the scholarly literature on
18 English ever since Fillmore (1968: 47) studied examples like these:

19 (1) Theme-Object: *John loaded the hay onto the truck*

20 vs.

21 (2) Goal-Object: *John loaded the truck with hay.*

22 This phenomenon is observed in many European languages (English,
23 German, Spanish), where a given verb can occur in two alternative con-
24 structions, both of which deliver (approximately) the same information.
25 The Locative Alternation has attracted much attention since it touches
26 upon "the fundamental question of why a single verb appears in more
27 than one syntactic frame" (Iwata 2005: 356).

28 The Locative Alternation has been plagued by terminological diversity.
29 Particularly problematic is the issue of what to call the two constructions,
30 since nearly every author offers a different solution. We choose to follow
31 Brinkmann (1997) and Nichols (2008) in terming the constructions Theme-
32 Object and Goal-Object as above. This pair of terms makes no theoretical
33 assumptions and is relatively transparent. The *hay* item is the theme and
34 the *truck* item is the goal, and "object" refers to the direct object, which
35 is consistently coded with the Accusative case in both constructions in
36 Russian.

37 Most of the scholarly work on the Locative Alternation can be grouped
38 according to the approach as:

- 1 – *Syntactic/lexical* (Rappaport and Levin 1988, 2005, 2008; Pinker 1989,
 2 Levin 1993, Brinkmann 1997; Dowty 2000; Mateu 2001);
 3 – *Frame* (Fillmore 1968, 1977, 2008; Boas 2003, 2006); or
 4 – *Constructional* (Goldberg 1995, 2006; Michaelis and Ruppenhofer 2000,
 5 2001; Iwata 2005, 2008).

6
 7 In a broad sense, all three approaches can be understood as addressing the
 8 question of what motivates the Locative Alternation: is it the verb, the
 9 construction, or both?

10 The syntactic/lexical approach focuses on the meaning of the verb as
 11 the crucial factor. The syntactic options are viewed as an epiphenomenon
 12 of the intrinsic properties of the verb, which can be either “content-oriented”
 13 or “container-oriented” (Pinker 1989: 125–127). The option of alternation
 14 is listed in the lexicon and follows from linking rules. The goal is thus to
 15 determine which sense is basic for each given verb. This approach runs into
 16 a variety of problems, among them the claim of derivational direction/
 17 complexity (due to the fact that the Goal-Object construction is necessarily
 18 more complex in a tree-diagram) and the related claim that one of the
 19 verb senses is more basic than the other (see Boas 2006 for an overview
 20 and counterexamples). We agree that the meaning of the verb is impor-
 21 tant, but it does not give discrete results. The syntactic/lexical approach
 22 can classify verbs as alternating or non-alternating, but does not account
 23 for distributional differences among alternating verbs. We find that alter-
 24 nating verbs can alternate differently, preferring either the Theme-Object
 25 or the Goal-Object construction to various extents.

26 The frame approach takes the syntactic construction rather than the verb
 27 as the point of departure. Boas (2006: 135) describes this as a “splitting”
 28 approach, where words are defined according to the semantic frames they
 29 evoke, and a verb like *load* is split into two lexical units, each of which
 30 evokes a distinct frame (the Theme-Object or the Goal-Object construc-
 31 tion). Whereas the frame approach highlights the differences between the
 32 constructions, it is less effective for investigating why a single verb alter-
 33 nates between constructions.

34 The Russian data additionally present subtle semantic differencies among
 35 *gruzit'* and its three perfectives. All four verbs are glossed as ‘load’ (Ožegov
 36 and Švedova 2001). To some extent, Russian dictionaries regard the pre-
 37 fixed forms under consideration as lexically distinct. All major dictionaries
 38 single out two basic “senses” of the unprefixed verb *gruzit'* ‘load’ 1) ‘fill
 39 something with freight’ and 2) ‘place the load somewhere’. Both Ožegov
 40 and Švedova (2001) and Evgen'eva (1999) attribute the first meaning to
 the verb *nagruzit'*, prefixed in *na-*, and the second meaning to the verb

pogruzit' prefixed in *po-*. However, there is no agreement in their judgment of the verb *zagruzit'*: whereas Ožegov and Švedova (2001) group it together with *nagruzit'* as bearing the first meaning, Evgen'eva (1999) does not treat this verb as an aspectual “partner” of the unprefixed verb *gruzit'* at all. In Evgen'eva (1999), *zagruzit'* receives a separate dictionary entry, which in theory contains meanings that characterize this verb as different from other ‘load’ verbs. However, the first meaning that we find on this list is ‘fill something with freight’ and the authors do not provide any comments on whether it differs from the meaning of *gruzit'* and *nagruzit'* that is glossed similarly.

The major problem with traditional lexicographic approach is that dictionaries assume that the distinctions between the ‘load’ verbs are unilateral: ideally, each meaning of the unprefixed verb should correspond to only one of the prefixed verbs. As we see, this is definitely not the case with *nagruzit'* and *zagruzit'*, which, in fact, overlap not only in the basic meaning ‘fill something with freight’ but also in the special meaning ‘load with work’ (Evgen'eva 1999). Furthermore, different dictionaries provide different data: in Ušakov (2009: 704) and Efremova (2006: 772), we find that *pogruzit'* can also be attributed to meaning 1), namely ‘fill something with freight’.

Summing up the lexicographic description of the Russian ‘load’ verbs, we find two kinds of problems. On the one hand, they do not distinguish between constructions and “lexical meanings” (treating both as “lexical meanings”). On the other hand, they usually assign different meanings of the unprefixed verb (defined intuitively) to different prefixed “partners”, which in reality is not always the case. A corpus study can provide a more solid ground for distinguishing among the ‘load’ verbs, showing which factors and in which proportion describe their behavior.

Thus, in the present article, we take the corpus data as the point of departure and focus mainly on formal factors and how they are associated with verbal semantics. It appears that the prefixes amplify different portions of the meaning of the base verb and this affects the Locative Alternation. Because we observe this tight interplay between lexical meaning and construction frequency, we choose the constructional approach. We follow Goldberg (1995, 2006) in investigating the dynamics between the Russian ‘load’ verbs and the Theme-Object vs. Goal-Object constructions. This approach has two added advantages for our analysis. First, the construction approach allows us to examine the interaction between the Locative Alternation constructions and another construction, namely the passive construction. Second, it allows us to zoom in on variation within the Theme-Object construction, targeting the interaction of prefixes and prep-

1 ositions. Before continuing with this line of argumentation, we need to
 2 review the traditional idea of “empty” prefixes in Russian linguistics.

3

4 2.2. Russian “empty” prefixes

5 The category of aspect is consistently expressed by Russian verbs, which
 6 can have two values: imperfective or perfective. Janda (2007) demon-
 7 strates that it is useful to distinguish among four types of perfective verbs
 8 in Russian, two of which are pertinent to this article, namely Natural
 9 Perfectives, which serve as the aspectual correlates of imperfective verbs
 10 with the same lexical meaning, and Specialized Perfectives that behave as
 11 separate lexical items. This distinction can be illustrated with the verb that
 12 this study focuses on: *gruzit'* ‘load’. *Gruzit'* – *nagruzit'*, *gruzit'* – *zagruzit'*
 13 and *gruzit'* – *pogruzit'* form aspectual pairs, where the first member is an
 14 imperfective base verb, and the second is its prefixed Natural Perfective
 15 (Ožegov and Švedova 2001). Specialized Perfectives like *peregruzit'* ‘over-
 16 load; transport by ship’ and *dogruzit'* ‘finish loading’ involve prefixes that
 17 bring new, additional meaning to the imperfective. By contrast, the Natural
 18 Perfectives give an impression that their prefix bears no meaning and thus
 19 can be treated as “empty”.

20 Specialized perfectives can form their own aspectual correlates by means
 21 of the suffixes *-yva-/iva-*, *-va-* and *-a-* (*peregruzit'* – *peregružat'* ‘overload;
 22 transport by ship’). Thus, Russian has two major types of aspectual pairs:
 23 1) unprefixed imperfective verbs and their Natural perfectives, and 2) Spe-
 24 cialized perfectives and their suffixal imperfective counterparts. However,
 25 this system is further complicated by the fact that many Natural Perfec-
 26 tives can also form suffixal imperfectives, which is also true for the verbs
 27 under consideration: *nagruzit'* – *nagružat'*, *zagruzit'* – *zagružat'*, *pogruzit'* –
 28 *pogružat'*. Functionally, there is no one-to-one correspondence between
 29 primary imperfectives like *gruzit'* and secondary imperfectives like *nagružat'*.
 30 The relation between the two types of imperfectives is a separate and
 31 complex issue in Russian linguistics and depends on many factors.¹

32

33 1. Secondary imperfectives favor habitual and iterative contexts more than pri-
 34 mary imperfectives (see Veyrenc 1980: 166–169; Apresjan 1995: 112–113); in
 35 general, secondary imperfectives are more strongly associated with praesens
 36 historicum (Petruxina 2000: 99) and are more often used in metaphorical con-
 37 texts (Veyrenc 1980: 177). Secondary imperfectives reflect not only the inter-
 38 action of the verbal stem and the perfectivizing prefix, but also involve one
 39 more factor, i.e. the imperfectivizing suffix. In this work we are mostly inter-
 40 ested in “empty” prefixes, which leaves secondary imperfectives outside the
 scope of this study.

The idea of “empty” prefixes, also known as “purely aspectual” (“čistovidovyje”), has a long tradition in Russian linguistics (Šaxmatov 1952; Avilova 1959, 1976; Tixonov 1964, 1998; Forsyth 1970; Vinogradov 1972; Švedova 1980; Čertkova 1996; Zaliznjak and Šmelev 2000; Mironova 2004). The list of “pure aspectual” pairs varies in grammars and dictionaries, but, according to the “Exploring Emptiness” database (description of the database is available in Janda and Nesson forthcoming), there are up to two thousand such pairs used in contemporary Russian. The inventory of “empty” prefixes ranges from sixteen (Švedova et al. 1980) to nineteen items (Krongauz 1998). A noticeable fact about “empty” prefixes is that all these units also form Specialized Perfectives. Usually each base verb chooses one “empty” prefix, but many verbs can occur with two or three prefixes (as in case of *gruzit'*); the maximum appears to be six prefixes (see the description of *mazat'* ‘smear’ in section 2.3).

Some scholars have objected to the concept of “empty” prefixes, claiming that the prefix always retains its meaning (Vey 1952, van Schooneveld 1958, Isačenko 1960, Timberlake 2004: 410–411). Most traditional descriptions of Russian grammar do not mention the fact that some imperfectives form Natural Perfectives with more than one prefix. Those that do note that Natural Perfectives with various prefixes can be slightly differentiated in lexical meaning (Švedova 1980: 588, Čertkova 1996, Glovinskaja 1982), but do not give further information. We join the camp of opponents of the “meaningless” approach and seek to provide new corpus-based evidence that the prefix of a Natural Perfective has semantic content, and, being compatible with the semantics of the base verb, it enhances or focuses certain portions of the latter.

Janda and Nesson (forthcoming) offer two sets of arguments against the “emptiness” of the prefixes. First we see an uneven distribution of prefixes within the class of Natural Perfectives. If the meanings of the prefixes were really empty, we could expect an arbitrary statistical distribution of verbs to prefixes, which is not the case. Second, there is a remarkable isomorphism between the semantic network of Specialized Perfectives that involve “non-empty” uses of a prefix and the semantic network of Natural Perfectives that use the same prefix in an “empty” mode. This suggests that prefixes always remain connected to their meanings, which overlap with the meanings of the verbs in the Natural Perfectives. The present article provides new evidence against the “empty” prefixes. We demonstrate that the choice of prefix for Natural Perfectives in case of *gruzit'* (*na-* vs. *za-* vs. *po-*) influences the constructional profile of the verb as it is attested in corpus data.

1 2.3. Interaction of Locative Alternation and prefixes in Russian

2 The Locative Alternation is represented by two constructions: Theme-
 3 Object and Goal-Object. As noted above, the two constructions differ in
 4 which of the participants is marked as the direct object: the theme (i.e.
 5 elements like *hay*), or the goal (i.e. elements like *truck*). In both construc-
 6 tions the direct object is consistently coded in Russian with the Accusative
 7 case, while the other participant can be expressed via different forms.

8 The Theme-Object construction encodes the goal via a prepositional
 9 phrase (usually with prepositions *v* ‘into’ and *na* ‘onto’) with a noun in
 10 the Accusative case,² as illustrated in examples (3) and (4).

- 11 (3) *Potom s pomošč'ju avtokrana predpolagalos' gruzit' brevna na baržu.*

12 [Then with help-INST crane-GEN was-supposed load-INF
 13 logs-ACC on barge-ACC.]

14 ‘Then, with the help of the crane, we were supposed to load the logs
 15 onto the barge.’

- 16 (4) *Gruzi vse v mašinu i vezi sjuda.*

17 [Load-IMP everything-ACC into car-ACC and bring-IMP here.]

18 ‘Load everything into the car and bring [it] over here.’

19 In the Goal-Object construction the other participant is coded by the
 20 Instrumental case without a preposition:

- 21 (5) *On sodrogalsja, slušaja o tom, kak gruzili vagony detskimi trupami.*

22 [He shuddered hearing about how they loaded wagons-ACC
 23 childrens'-INST corpses-INST]

24 ‘He shuddered hearing about how they loaded wagons
 25 with childrens' corpses.’

26 The use of prefixes in Russian presents a challenge for research on the
 27 Locative Alternation in that it introduces a more complicated system of
 28 alternating verbs. Considering the interaction between prefixes and loca-
 29 tive constructions, three groups of alternating verbs can be singled out:

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 2. Alternatively adverbs like *kuda* ‘in which direction’ can appear in this slot of
 41 the Theme-Object construction, in which case the goal is not explicitly named.

- 1 (a) verbs that can alternate in both unprefixed and prefixed forms (verbs
 2 like *gruzit'* 'load');
- 3 (b) verbs that do not alternate when unprefixed but are used in both con-
 4 structions with certain prefixes (verbs like *lit'* 'pour', and *sypat'* 'strew,
 5 scatter');
- 6 (c) verbs that do not alternate in unprefixed forms and can be used either
 7 in Theme-Object or Goal-Object construction depending on the prefix
 8 (verbs like *stavit'* 'put, place').

9 The last group is not in our focus since it includes Specialized Perfectives,
 10 which are semantically distinct from the imperfective base verb.
 11 Hence in this case there is no Locative Alternation as such. For instance,
 12 the unprefixed verb *stavit'* 'put, place', as well as its Natural Perfective with
 13 *po-* (*postavit'*), are used in Theme-Object construction while its Specialized
 14 Perfectives with *za-* and *ob-* choose the Goal-Object construction (*zastavit'*
 15 'line something with something'; *obstavit'* 'furnish').

16 In group (b) we find Locative Alternation only with a prefix (usually
 17 *za-*): cf. the verb *lit'* 'pour', which is used only in the Theme-Object con-
 18 struction, and its Specialized Perfective *zalit'* 'fill', which shows the Locative
 19 Alternation (*zalit'* *benzin*-ACC *v bak*-ACC 'pour gasoline into the tank';
 20 *zalit'* *bak*-ACC *benzinom*-INST 'fill the tank with gasoline'). It appears
 21 that in this case the properties of the prefix are more at stake than the
 22 properties of the verbal roots. As well as in group (c), the prefixed verbs
 23 of this group are Specialized perfectives and thus go beyond the scope of
 24 this article. (For a more detailed consideration of this group see Sokolova
 25 and Lewandowski forthcoming.)

26 Our main interest is in the first group of verbs, which alternate in both
 27 unprefixed and prefixed forms. This group is limited in Russian to two sets
 28 of verbs: *gruzit'* 'load' and *mazat'* 'smear' and their Natural Perfectives.
 29 The verb *gruzit'* has three perfective counterparts, with the prefixes *na-*,
 30 *za-*, *po-*, all of which can alternate. The verb *mazat'* 'smear' has six Natural
 31 Perfectives, with the prefixes *na-*, *za-*, *po-*, *vy-*, *iz-*, *pro-*, of which only
 32 *namazat'* alternates (with a strong preference for the Goal-Object construc-
 33 tion).³ Thus, *gruzit'* 'load' is the only base verb with more or less even dis-

35 3. It appears that in the case of *mazat'* 'smear' the properties of the verbal root
 36 are more at stake than the properties of the prefixes since the verbal root itself
 37 already contains some information about the theme as a substance (note the
 38 null-suffixed deverbal noun *maz'* 'grease'; cf. verbs with incorporated partici-
 39 pants like *saxarit'* 'sugar' derived from *saxar* 'sugar' and *musorit'* 'litter' derived
 40 from *musor* 'litter', see Jackendoff 1990; Padučeva 2008: 233–234).

1 tribution for the Theme-Object and the Goal-Object constructions, where
2 the Natural Perfectives *nagruzit'*, *zagruzit'* and *pogruzit'* can also alternate.
3 Hence it is the behavior of these verbs that we analyze in this article.

4

5 **3. Data and methodology**

7 Our empirical study examines the constructional profiles of the Russian
8 'load' verbs as evidenced by data from the Russian National Corpus. We
9 first define the term "constructional profile" and then describe how our
10 data was extracted and coded.

11

12 **3.1. Constructional profiles**

13 Constructional profiles have proven to be an effective method for investigating
14 the synonymy of words, as Janda and Solovyev (2009: 367) demonstrate in their study of Russian words for 'happiness' and 'sadness', where
15 they define the constructional profile of a word as "the frequency distribution
16 of the constructions that a word appears in". This frequency distribution
17 is based on corpus data.

18 The constructional profile methodology has grown directly out of the cognitive linguistics tradition, more specifically construction grammar,
19 and has close relatives both within that tradition and beyond it. In keeping with construction grammar, constructional profiling recognizes the construction as the relevant unit of linguistic analysis (Goldberg 1995, 2006)
20 and presumes that speakers are sensitive to the frequency of words in constructions (Goldberg 2006: 46, 62). Both Geeraerts (1988) and Divjak and Gries (Divjak 2006, Divjak and Gries 2006 and Gries and Divjak 2009)
21 have used corpus data to investigate synonymy, using a wide range of factors (collocational, morphosyntactic, syntactic, and semantic) in order
22 to establish behavioral profiles of verbs. Constructional profiles utilize only the complementation patterning aspect of behavioral profiles, specifically
23 targeting the range of constructions a word appears in. Since the constructional profile methodology takes the word as the point of departure, it is in
24 a sense the inverse of the collostructional methodology (Stefanowitsch and Gries 2003, 2005), which takes the construction as the point of the departure and asks what words occur in the construction. Beyond the immediate
25 family of methodologies within cognitive linguistics, constructional profiles
26 are also related to techniques such as syntactic bootstrapping (Gleitman and Gillette 1995, Lidz et al. 2001) and the use of syntactic range information
27 (Atkins et al. 2003).

1 To a certain extent, our study is parallel to Colleman and Bernolet (this
2 volume). Accepting the claim that the difference between two abstract con-
3 structions grants their occurrence with different kinds of verbs, Colleman
4 and Bernolet show that such a split in distribution should be evident not
5 only at the level of *ranges* of verbs that can fill the argument roles of the
6 constructions but also at the level of relative *frequency* with which this
7 occurs. This means that different verbs, as well as different meanings of
8 the same verb, can show different relative frequency distribution across
9 the two constructions.

10

11 3.2. Database

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13 According to two dictionaries (Evgen'eva 1999 and Ožegov and Švedova
14 2001) and a list (Cubberly 1982), the Natural Perfectives of *gruzit'* 'load'
15 include the three prefixed verbs *nagruzit'*, *zagruzit'* and *pogruzit'*. For the
16 purpose of this study, we constructed a database based on the Modern
17 subcorpus (1950–2009) of the RNC, which contains 98 million words.
18 We extracted examples from this subcorpus for each of the four verbs
19 (the base verb and its Natural Perfectives).⁴ The same procedure was per-
20 formed for all verb forms and in addition passive participles received a
separate mark.

21

22 Passive participles represent an interaction between the Locative Alter-
23 nation constructions and the passive construction, and this interaction has
24 a significant impact on the distribution of the Locative Alteration con-
25 structions. The Locative Alteration involves two objects, Theme and
26 Goal, both of which can be in focus. The passive construction restricts the
27 focus to just one participant. Where non-passive forms show a preference
28 for one construction over the other, this preference is further exaggerated
29 in the presence of passive forms (see Section 4.2). Thus, for the purpose of
30 this study we have treated passive participles as a separate factor. This
31 yields 895 non-passive forms and 1025 passive forms, for a grand total of
32 1920 examples. Table 1 shows the frequencies of these examples broken
down according to verbs.

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39 4. To exclude the author as one more relevant factor, the database was cleaned
40 so that there is only one example for each verb from any single author.

1 Table 1. Raw frequencies for the forms of the verb *gruzit'* ‘load’ and its Natural
 2 Perfectives

3 All non-passive forms	4 raw frequency	Passive participles	raw frequency
5 <i>gruzit'</i>	286	<i>gružen</i>	107
6 <i>nagruzit'</i>	147	<i>nagružen</i>	221
7 <i>zagruzit'</i>	208	<i>zagružen</i>	248
8 <i>pogruzit'</i>	254	<i>pogružen</i>	449

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 11
 12 The examples thus accumulated were manually coded for the Locative
 13 Alternation constructions as Theme-Object vs. Goal-Object. The break-
 14 down and analysis of these data are presented in 4.2 for the non-passive
 15 forms and in 4.3 for the passive forms.

16 In addition to analyzing the interaction between prefixes and construc-
 17 tions within non-passive and passive forms of the four ‘load’ verbs, we are
 18 also taking into account the subtype of the construction, namely whether
 19 the construction is represented by its “full” or “reduced” version. In full
 20 constructions, both participants (Theme and Goal) are overtly expressed,
 21 while in “reduced” constructions, one of the participants is missing.
 22 “Reduction” here refers to the omission of one of the arguments, which is
 23 not profiled as a direct object. For the Theme-Object construction this is
 24 the case when the Goal is omitted, whereas the Goal-Object construction
 25 leaves out the Theme. In most cases with an omitted Theme or Goal argu-
 26 ment, the missing participant is perceived from the context, as in examples
 27 (6) and (7) given below:

- 28
 29 (6) *No uže v bližajšee vremja ožidaetsja podxod sudov obščim tonnažem*
 30 *780 tys. tonn. Tol'ko zagruzit' ugol' budet problematično, poskol'ku*
 31 *iz-za moroza on prevratilsja v glyby.*

32 [But already in nearest time is-expected arrival of vessels (Goal that
 33 is omitted in the following sentence) with total tonnage 780 thousand
 34 tonnes. Just load coal-ACC will-be problematic, since due-to frost-
 35 GEN it-NOM turned-into into blocks-ACC.]

36 ‘But already very soon we expect the arrival of vessels with total
 37 tonnage of 780 thousand tons. Just getting the coal loaded will be
 38 problematic since due to the cold it has turned into blocks.’

- 1 (7) *Nikolaj ... očen' skoro upravilsja s pokupkami, nagruzil podvody i,*
2 *poka mužiki kormili lošadej, otpravilsja slonjat'sja po rjadam.*
3 [Nikolaj ... was very soon done with purchases (Theme that is
4 omitted in the following phrase), loaded wagon-ACC and while men
5 were feeding horses he went slouching about rows]
6 'Nikolaj ... was very soon done with the purchases, loaded the
7 wagon and while the men were feeding the horses he went slouching
8 about the rows.'

9
10 Example (6) illustrates a Theme-Object construction with a missing Goal
11 (the vessels that are mentioned in the previous sentence, where the coal
12 will be loaded), and example (7) illustrates a Goal-Object construction
13 with a missing Theme (the purchases that the wagon is loaded with).⁵
14 Reduced constructions are analyzed in section 4.4.

15 In the remainder of this article we aggregate data from the full con-
16 structions (that name both the theme and the goal) and the reduced con-
17 structions.

18 The reduced constructions frequently involve metaphorical expressions,
19 as in examples (8) and (9), which are parallel to (6) and (7) in structure.
20 Metaphorical uses are a separate and complex issue, and for this reason
21 we do not focus on them in the present article.

- 22 (8) *Ja begom kinulsja domoj i, ne razdevajas', vključil kompjuter, zagruzil*
23 *elektronnuju kartu goroda.*
24 [I-NOM run-INST threw-self home and, not having-undressed,
25 turned-on computer-ACC, loaded electronic map-ACC town-GEN.]
26 'I raced home and turned on my computer without even taking my
27 coat off and downloaded the electronic map of the town.'
- 28 (9) *On čto-to vdrug zagruzilsja i rešil zagruzit' svoego predannogo*
29 *slušatelja.*
30 [He-NOM somehow suddenly loaded-REFL and decided to-load
31 his-ACC devoted-ACC listener-ACC]
32 'For some reason he suddenly got confused and decided to confuse
33 his devoted listener.'

34
35
36
37 5. There were five examples where both the theme and goal were missing, and
38 since in such examples it is not always possible to determine which construc-
39 tion is present, these examples were eliminated from further analysis and do
40 not figure in our database. All five examples involved the unprefixed *gruzit'*
'load'.

1 Example (8) involves the frame of computer use, where the computer is
2 the CONTAINER, and electronic data are the metaphorical CONTENTS that
3 are loaded into the computer. In example (9), human beings serve as the
4 metaphorical CONTAINERS for information that represents metaphorical
5 CONTENTS. The relationship between metaphorical uses and the reduced
6 constructions is mainly significant for the verb *zagruzit'*, which is further
7 described in Sokolova (forthcoming).

8

9

10 4. Analysis of the Locative Alternation

11

12 This study contributes to the ongoing linguistic discussion of what moti-
13 vates the Locative Alternation by investigating the interaction between
14 the prefixes and the grammatical constructions. First, we look at the rela-
15 tionship between the unprefixed base verb (*gruzit'* ‘load’) and its prefixed
16 perfective counterparts (*nagruzit'*, *zagruzit'*, *pogruzit'*) to see what the
17 prefixes contribute to the properties of the verbal root. Furthermore, we
18 address an issue which so far has not received proper attention in scholarly
19 works on the Locative Alternation, i.e. the situation with passive participles
20 which change the focus of the locative construction by placing one of
21 the participants (the agent) off-stage. We show that the distribution of the
22 passive participles between the two constructions represents an interaction
23 between the Locative Alternation constructions and the passive construc-
24 tion. Another issue in focus are reduced constructions, where one of the
25 participants is missing. We show that the two constructions behave differ-
26 ently in terms of reduction. Finally, we zoom in on variation within the
27 Theme-Object construction, revealing the interaction of prefixes and
28 prepositions. The data show that the prefix *na-* targets the preposition *na*
29 ‘onto’ while other prefixes favor the preposition *v* ‘into’.

30

31 4.1. Binary regression model

32

33 The data on the Locative Alternation was analyzed using a logistic regres-
34 sion model in order to probe for a significant relationship between prefixes
35 and grammatical constructions. All calculations were carried out using the
36 “R” software package (<http://cran.at.r-project.org>), *glm*, *lrm* and *anova*
37 functions (this strategy is modeled after Baayen 2008, Gries 2009⁶).

38

39 6. The authors are indebted to an anonymous reviewer for suggesting the use of
40 this method with our data.

Our hypothesis that underlies the model is that three factors, namely 1) prefixes, 2) the number of participants in a frame and 3) the finite/participle form of a verb (as well as their interaction) contribute to the choice of either the Theme-Object or the Goal-Object construction. Thus, there are three independent nominal variables in the model:

- 1) VERB, having four levels: “Ø” (“zero” for *gruzit'*), “na” (for *nagruzit'*), “za” (for *zaruzit'*) and “po” (for *pogruzit'*);
- 2) REDUCED, having two levels: “yes” (for the reduced constructions, where one of the participants is missing) and “no”;
- 3) PARTICIPLE, also having two levels: “yes” and “no”.

One dependent nominal variable CONSTRUCTION has two levels: “theme” and “goal”. The null hypothesis, H_0 , suggests that the frequencies of the Theme-Object or the Goal-Object constructions are independent of the VERB, REDUCED, PARTICIPLE variables and their pairwise interactions.

The minimal adequate model retains all the independent variables as main effects, plus the interaction between VERB and PARTICIPLE. As shown below, the unprefixed verb *gruzit'* and its Natural perfective *pogruzit'* favor the Theme-Object construction, while *nagruzit'* and *zagruzit'* prefer the Goal-Object construction. The statistical test also detected that passive participles contribute to the choice of the construction. Finally, reduced frames favor the Goal-Object construction while full frames are used mainly in the Theme-Object construction.

Logistic regression shows that there is a highly significant correlation between the factors mentioned above and the choice of construction: LL-ratio χ^2 (the difference between the two deviance values, with and without predictors) is 1738.47, Nagelkerke's R^2 (correlational strength) is 0.796, C value (the coefficient of concordance which according to Gries (2009) should ideally be .8 or higher) is 0.964, Somer's D_{xy} (rank correlation between predicted and observed responses) is 0.928, $df = 8$, overall p is 0. The optimal model has high classificatory power: 88.5% constructions are predicted correctly.

The odds ratio, 95%-CI and p for the significant predictors VERB, REDUCED, PARTICIPLE, and VERB:PARTICIPLE are shown in Table 2:

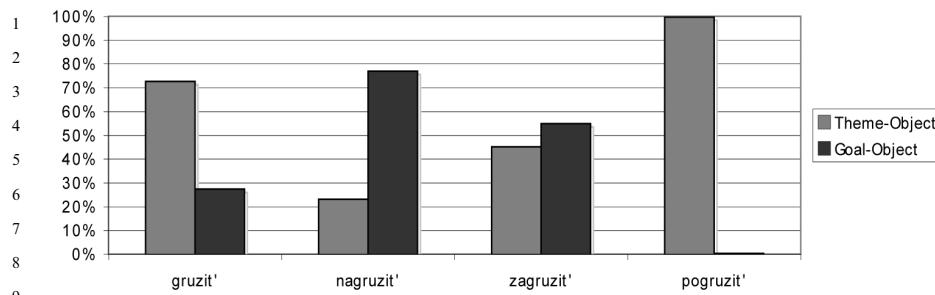
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40

1 Table 2. Statistical significance of the independent variables and their interactions

Variable	Odds ratio	95%-Confidence Interval	p-value	
VERBna	0.097	5.928746e-02	1.549363e-01	<2e-16 ***
VERBpo	79.888	1.744470e+01	1.416632e+03	1.49e-05 ***
VERBza	0.289	1.951300e-01	4.245384e-01	3.68e-10 ***
REDUCEDyes	0.411	2.907612e-01	5.773928e-01	3.67e-07 ***
PARTICIPLEyes	0.003	1.450705e-04	1.203072e-02	4.66e-09 ***
VERB na:PARTICIPLEyes	5.881	2.244183e-01	1.541567e+02	0.219043 ns
VERB po:PARTICIPLEyes	289.170	9.203405e+00	9.763774e+03	0.000373 ***
VERB za:PARTICIPLEyes	24.057	4.314377e+00	4.521877e+02	0.003034 **

13
14 In the next few sections we discuss each factor in more detail.15
16 4.2. The verb *gruzit'* 'load' and its Natural Perfectives17
18 Table 3 shows the distribution of the non-passive forms of *gruzit'* 'load'
19 and its Natural Perfectives across the two constructions of the Locative
20 Alternation. Figure 1 presents the same distribution graphically in terms
21 of relative frequency.
2223 According to our model, the variable VERB has a strong effect ($\chi^2 =$
24 341.52, $p < 2.2e-1$). On Figure 1, we see clear differences among the four
25 'load' verbs. The base imperfective *gruzit'* strongly prefers the Theme-
26 Object construction. The *na-* prefixed perfective is nearly the mirror image,
27 preferring the Goal-Object construction. This preference of *nagruzit'* for28
29 Table 3. Locative Alternation among non-passive forms of *gruzit'* 'load' and its
30 Natural Perfectives
31

	Theme-Object constructions		Goal-Object constructions		Total
	raw frequency	relative frequency	raw frequency	relative frequency	
<i>gruzit'</i>	208	72.73%	78	27.27%	286
<i>nagruzit'</i>	34	23.13%	113	76.87%	147
<i>zagruzit'</i>	94	45.19%	114	54.81%	208
<i>pogruzit'</i>	253	99.61%	1	0.39%	254



10 *Figure 1.* Locative Alternation among non-passive forms of *gruzit'* 'load' and its
11 Natural Perfectives

12
13 focusing on the goal may have to do with the SURFACE meaning of *na-*,
14 which corresponds to the meaning of the corresponding preposition *na*
15 'onto' (which this verb also shows a strong predilection for, see section
16 4.3). *Zagruzit'* shows an almost even distribution across the two construc-
17 tions, whereas *pogruzit'* is almost exclusively restricted to the Theme-
18 Object construction, suggesting a focus on the Theme that is loaded rather
19 than the place where the load ends up⁷.

20 Given that the perfective verb *pogruzit'* shows the same focus (i.e. on
21 the Theme) as the unprefixed verb *gruzit'*, *pogruzit'* might seem to be the
22 most natural perfective counterpart of *gruzit'*. However, the fact that the
23 Goal-Object construction constitutes 27% of the total number of uses of
24 *gruzit'* prevents us from making such conclusions. *Pogruzit'* is a natural
25 perfective counterpart of *gruzit'* but only for the Theme-Object con-
26 struction. Moreover, *gruzit'* and *pogruzit'* behave differently in terms of
27 grammatical forms and reduction (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

28 This finding is striking given that all three perfectives are traditionally
29 considered to bear semantically "empty" prefixes. If the three prefixes were
30 indeed empty, we would expect no effect, or at the very least, an identical
31 effect across the three perfectives, i.e. a random distribution. Here, instead,
32

33
34 7. *Zagruzit'* is the only verb that shows an almost even distribution across the
35 two constructions. A more elaborate analysis of the examples indicates that
36 this could be due to the number of additional metaphorical uses that this
37 verb acquires in the Goal-Object construction. Of the three prefixed counter-
38 parts to the verb *gruzit'* 'load', *zagruzit'* is more often used metaphorically:
39 *zagruzit'* is characterized by 39% of metaphorical uses, while *nagruzit'* and
40 *pogruzit'* have 25% and 11% respectively (see Sokolova and Lewandowski
2010, Sokolova forthcoming).

we find that the three prefixed verbs behave very differently both from the unprefixed imperfective and from each other. We take this as strong evidence against the traditional “empty” prefix hypothesis, since a zero should have no effect, and we cannot countenance three “different” zeroes. As we see below in 4.3, the trends that are evident in the prefixed non-passive forms are even more pronounced in the passive forms.

4.3. Passive participles

Passive participles are used in passive constructions, and here we see an interaction between the two Locative Alternation constructions and the passive construction, as illustrated in examples (8) and (9). The Theme-Object construction has the Theme as the grammatical subject (10), whereas the Goal-Object construction has the Goal as the grammatical subject (11). Whichever item is the grammatical subject is thus strongly profiled, and the agent can be omitted altogether, as we see in both examples.

- (10) *K dvum časam vše vešči byli vyneseny na ulicu i pogruženy v avtomobil’.*

[Toward two hours-DAT all things-NOM were carried onto street-ACC and loaded into automobile-ACC.]

‘Towards two o’clock all the things were carried out into the street and loaded into the automobile.’

- (11) *Pervyj tanker byl zagružen v prisutstvii prezidentov Putina i Nazarbaeva.*

[First tanker-NOM was loaded in presence-LOC presidents Putin and Nazarbaev-GEN.]

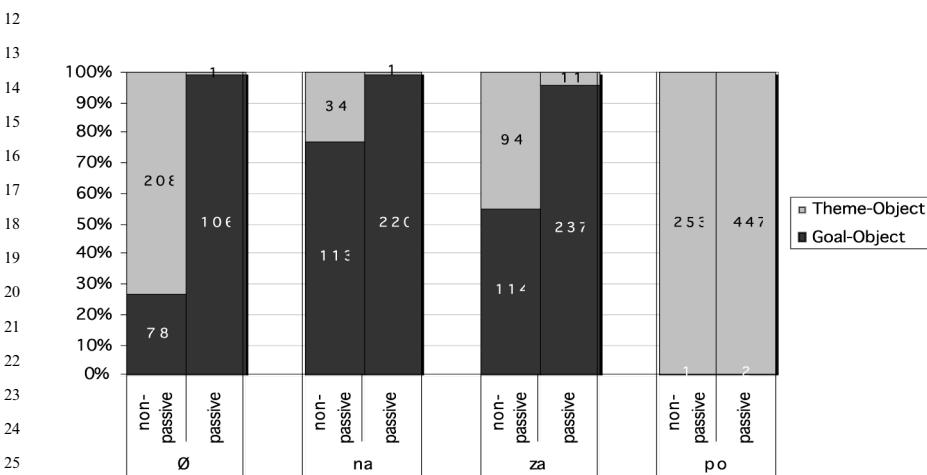
‘The first tanker was loaded in the presence of presidents Putin and Nazarbaev.’

Table 4 provides the Locative Alternation data for the passive participles of the ‘load’ verbs. Figure 2 visually presents the same data together with the relative frequencies of non-passive forms for comparison.

Whereas *pogružen* retains its nearly exclusive preference for the Theme-Object construction, all other passive participles have a nearly exclusive preference for the Goal-Object construction. If we look at Figure 2, it may appear that the participles *gružen*, *nagružen*, *zagružen* behave virtually identically. However, they take different objects for the Theme and the Goal and also show different metaphorical representations. For instance, if we compare the metaphorical use of the participles *gružen*, *nagružen*,

1 Table 4. Locative Alternation among passive forms of *gruzit'* 'load' and its
 2 Natural Perfectives

	Theme-Object constructions		Goal-Object constructions		Total
	raw frequency	relative frequency	raw frequency	relative frequency	
<i>gružen</i>	1	0.93%	106	99.07%	107
<i>nagrūžen</i>	1	0.45%	220	99.55%	221
<i>zagružen</i>	11	4.44%	237	95.56%	248
<i>pogrūžen</i>	447	99.55%	2	0.45%	449



27 Figure 2. Locative Alternation among non-passive and passive forms of *gruzit'*
 28 'load' and its Natural Perfectives

31 *zagružen* we find that *gružen* is hardly ever used metaphorically (2 examples
 32 out of 107, about 2%), for *nagrūžen* metaphorical contexts constitute about
 33 22% (48 out of 221 total), while *zagružen* is characterized by almost 80%
 34 metaphorical contexts (176 out of 248).

35 Not only do participles with different prefixes show different distribution
 36 of metaphorical expressions but also the Theme and the Goal in
 37 those expressions are represented differently. One of the most frequent
 38 Theme + Goal combinations for *zagružen* is WORK + HUMAN, where the
 39 human being serves as a metaphorical CONTAINER for work that represents
 40 metaphorical CONTENTS (example (12)):

¹ (12) *Vsju nedelju Ilja byl zagružen delami*

² [All week Ilja-NOM was loaded works-INS]

³ ‘The whole week Ilja was overloaded with work’

⁴

⁵ Such contexts exclude the use of *nagružen* (no such examples were attested
⁶ in the corpus). On the other hand, only the participle *nagružen* can refer to
⁷ WORDS as a metaphorical CONTAINER and MEANING as their metaphorical
⁸ CONTENTS (example 13).

⁹

¹⁰ (13) *V russkom jazyke nekotorye slova nagruženy negativnym smyslom*

¹¹ [In Russian language some words-NOM are loaded negative
¹² meaning-INS]

¹³ ‘In Russian some words are loaded with negative meaning’

¹⁴

¹⁵ The PARTICIPLE variable demonstrates a significant effect ($\chi^2 = 217.58$,
¹⁶ $p < 2.2\text{e-}1$) and at least part of the interaction between VERB and PARTICIPLE
¹⁷ (for prefixes *po-* and *za-*) is significant as well ($\chi^2 = 21.5$, $p = 8.284\text{e-}05$,
¹⁸ see also Table 2). Our analysis shows that the overall distribution of
¹⁹ various constructions within each verb is also dependent on the distribution
²⁰ of grammatical forms within this verb. The frequency of the grammatical
²¹ form (in our case of the passive participles) is dependent on the verb (for
²² more details see Janda and Lyashevskaya forthcoming). Some of our
²³ verbs show a higher relative frequency of passive participles: for instance,
²⁴ the proportion of non-passive forms to passive forms for the unprefixed
²⁵ verb *gruzit'* is almost 3:1 (286 vs. 107 examples); the verbs *nagruzit'* and
²⁶ *zagruzit'* show an almost even distribution of non-passive and passive
²⁷ forms (1:1.5 and 1:1.2 respectively), while the proportion of the same forms
²⁸ for the verb *pogruzit'* is 1:2 (254 vs. 449 examples).

²⁹

³⁰ As can be seen from Figure 2, passive participles have the effect of
³¹ increasing the relative frequency of the construction that is associated
³² with a given verb. For instance, the distribution of the Theme-Object and
³³ Goal-Object constructions with non-passive forms of the verb *nagruzit'* is
³⁴ 23% vs. 77%. For passive forms, the same proportion is 0.5% to 99.5%,
³⁵ significantly increasing the number of examples with the Goal-Object con-
³⁶ struction. The same effect is attested for the verb *zagruzit'*: the non-passive
³⁷ and passive forms are characterized by a relatively even distribution between
³⁸ the constructions (45% of the Theme-Object constructions vs. 55% of the
³⁹ Goal-Object constructions), while 4.4% passive forms take the Theme-
⁴⁰ Object constructions and 95.6% take the Goal-Object constructions.

1 Since passive forms contribute significantly to the overall distribution
2 of the two constructions, the interaction between VERB and PARTICIPLE
3 becomes significant for *pogruzit'* ($p = 0.000373$) and *zagruzit'* ($p =$
4 0.003034). As a main effect, PARTICIPLE overestimates the probability of
5 the Goal-Object construction because the two other verbs, *gruzit'* and
6 *nagruzit'*, have only one case of the Theme-Object construction with
7 passive forms each. The inclusion of the interaction between VERB and
8 PARTICIPLE more accurately represents this effect in the model.

9 Thus the passive participles boost the frequency of the construction
10 that is more frequent for non-passive forms. The only exception is the
11 unprefixed verb *gruzit'*, where passive participles change the preference
12 for the construction from the Theme-Object to the Goal-Object. This
13 distribution is the result of general tendencies within the Russian gram-
14 matical system, where passive participles are usually formed exclusively
15 from perfective verbs. In those cases where imperfective verbs are charac-
16 terized by a high frequency of passive participles, they basically perform
17 the function of adjectives: cf. *kopčenyj* 'smoked' as in *kopčenaja ryba*
18 'smoked fish', *solenyj* 'salted' (*solenye ogurcy* 'pickles', literally 'salted
19 cucumbers'), *žarenyj* 'fried' (*žarenoe mjaso* 'fried meat'). Passive forms of
20 the verb *gruzit'* constitute only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the data and in the majority of cases
21 characterize the state of the Goal, as in example (14):

- 22 (14) *My vozvraščal's'. Navstreču dvigalis' tjaželo gružennye mašiny.*

23 [We were-going-back. Towards were-moving heavily loaded
24 cars-NOM]

25 'We were going back. Heavily loaded cars were moving towards us'

27 In example (14), the participle basically loses its connection with the load-
28 ing event and mainly refers to the state of the cars, i.e. being heavy.

29 Thus, the distribution of constructions appears to depend on grammatical
30 forms. Furthermore, as we illustrate in the following section, constructions
31 are sensitive to reduction.

33 4.4. Reduced constructions

35 "Reduced constructions" overtly express the participant profiled as the
36 direct object, while omitting the other participant. The tables below provide
37 the frequencies for the reduced structures with non-passive (Table 5) and
38 passive forms (Table 6) of the verb *gruzit'* 'load' and its Natural Perfectives.
39 The same data is made more explicit in Figures 3 and 4.

Table 5. The distribution of reduced structures with non-passive forms of the verb *gruzit'* 'load' and its Natural Perfectives

All non-passive forms	Full constructions						Reduced constructions					
	Theme-Object construction			Goal-Object construction			Theme-Object construction			Goal-Object construction		
	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.
<i>gruzit'</i>	137	81%	32	19%	169	71	61%	46	39%			117
<i>nagruzit'</i>	27	28%	70	72%	97	7	14%	43	86%			50
<i>zagruzit'</i>	64	51%	62	49%	126	30	37%	52	63%			82
<i>pogruzit'</i> ⁸	207	100%	0	0%	207	46	98%	1	2%			47

Table 6. The distribution of reduced structures with passive forms of the verb *gruzit'* 'load' and its Natural Perfectives

Passive forms	Full constructions						Reduced constructions					
	Theme-Object construction			Goal-Object construction			Theme-Object construction			Goal-Object construction		
	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.	raw fr.	relative fr.
<i>gruzen</i>	1	1%	90	99%	91	0	0%	16	100%			16
<i>nagruzen</i>	1	0.7%	134	99.3%	135	0	0%	86	100%			86
<i>zagruzen</i>	6	6%	95	94%	101	5	3.4%	142	96.6%			147
<i>pogruzen</i>	427	100%	0	0%	427	20	91%	2	9%			22

8. The diagram does not include the verb *pogruzit'* since it is almost never attested in the Goal-Object construction and the interaction between reduction and the construction does not seem to be relevant.

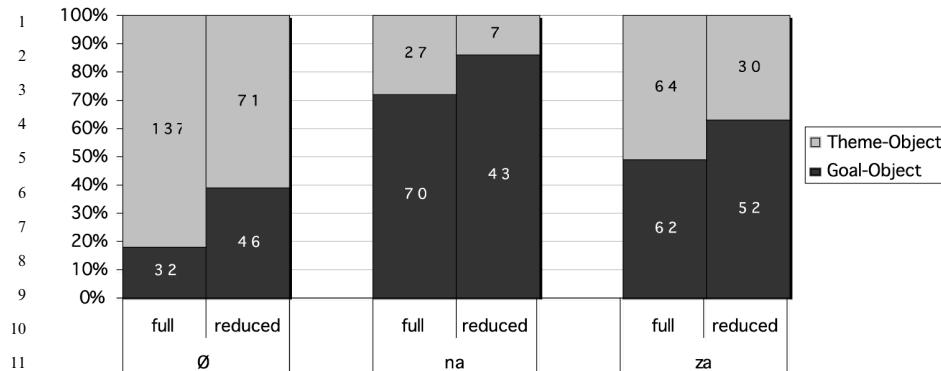


Figure 3. The distribution of reduced structures with non-passive forms of the verb *gruzit'* 'load' and its Natural Perfectives

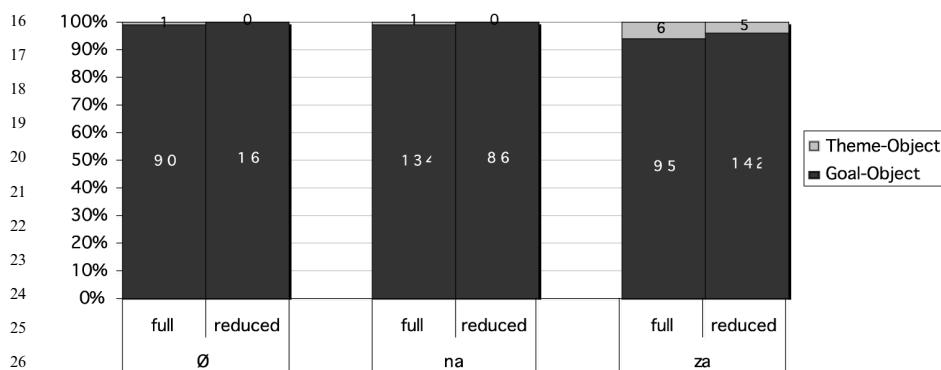


Figure 4. The distribution of reduced structures with passive forms of the verb *gruzit'* 'load' and its Natural Perfectives

The REDUCED variable has a significant correlation with the choice of the construction ($\chi^2 = 26.8$, $p = 2.257e-07$). As can be seen from Figure 3, the Goal-Object construction shows a higher frequency with reduced constructions: about 20% higher for *gruzit'* and *nagruzit'* and 14% higher for *zagruzit'*. This proportion illustrates that the two constructions behave differently in terms of reduction. Furthermore, the only contexts where the verb *pogruzit'* is attested in the Goal-Object construction are reduced structures, as illustrated by example (15)):

- 1 (15) ... *mašinu uže pogruzili* ... značit ona ... s instrumentom/ da?
 2 [Car-ACC already they-loaded ... so it-NOM ... with tools-INS/
 3 yes?]
 4 ‘The car has already been loaded ... So, the tools are already there,
 5 right?’
 6

7 The car, represented as a direct object, is the Goal in the construction
 8 since the following context specifies that the car contains the tools, which
 9 are the Theme.

10 One more important difference between the Theme-Object and the
 11 Goal-Object constructions in terms of their relation to reduction is that
 12 the quality of reduced structures in the two constructions appears to be
 13 different. In examples (6) and (7), the missing component is mentioned in
 14 the previous context and thus can be treated as an instance of ellipsis.
 15 Such cases are attested for both the Theme-Object and the Goal-Object
 16 construction. Yet, the Goal-Object construction is also characterized by
 17 cases where reduction interacts with metaphor. The major metaphorical
 18 extensions involve a “person” (Goal), who serves as the metaphorical
 19 CONTAINER, and “information” or “work” (Theme), which represents
 20 metaphorical CONTENTS, as shown in example (9) above and examples
 21 (16)–(17) below:

- 22 (16) *A ty, Volodin, nas togda nagruzil pro vnutrennego prokurora.*
 23 [And you-NOM, Volodin-NOM, us-ACC then loaded about
 24 internal prosecutor-ACC.]
 25 ‘And you, Volodin, completely confused us then concerning the
 26 internal prosecutor.’
 27 (17) *Koroče, on nagruzil artistov tak, čto v itoge my snjali xoroše kino.*
 28 [In-short, he-NOM loaded artists-ACC so, that in end we shot
 29 good-ACC film-ACC]
 30 ‘In short, he stressed the artists so much that we ended up shooting
 31 a good film.’

32 In example (16), a human being (the listener) serves as the metaphorical
 33 CONTAINER for information that represents metaphorical CONTENTS. Anal-
 34 ogously, in (17), the human beings (the artists) are loaded with work. Such
 35 contexts should be distinguished from cases of ellipsis since the omission
 36 of the second participant is highly conventionalized. In Fillmore’s termi-
 37 nology, sentences like (16) and (17) can be treated as “definite null instan-
 38 tiations” of the Theme, when a participant is consistently omitted and is
 39 40

not mentioned in the preceding context, but is known to the speaker and the hearer (Fillmore 2008).

The Theme-Object constructions can also involve both metaphor and reduction, but such structures are less frequent than the Goal-Object construction and the missing component is usually present in the previous context (see example (8)):

- (8) *Ja begom kinulsja domoj i, ne razdevajas', vključil kompjuter* (the Goal that is further omitted), *zagruzil elektronnuju kartu goroda.*

[I-NOM run-INST threw-self home and, not having-undressed, turned-on computer-ACC, loaded electronic map-ACC town-GEN.]

‘I raced home and turned on my computer without even taking my coat off and downloaded the electronic map of the town.’

In addition to the three correlations discussed above (between the construction and such factors as the verb, the grammatical form and reduction), our data also shows a correlation between the prefix and prepositions. This correlation can be attested only in the full version of the Theme-Object construction, for which reason we did not include it into our regression model. The next subsection examines the role of prepositions in more detail.

4.5. Prepositions

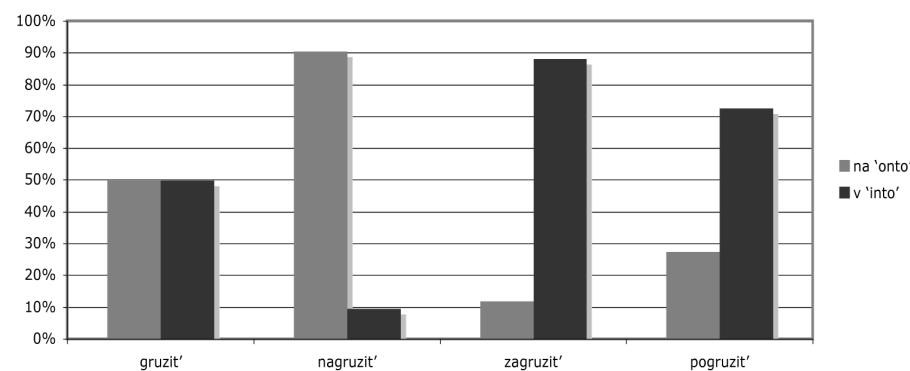
As discussed above, the non-passive forms of *nagruzit'* strongly prefer the Goal-Object construction, and there might be a connection here between the SURFACE meaning of the prefix *na-* and its etymological cousin, the preposition *na* ‘onto’. The focus on surfaces suggests a focus on locations (goals) as opposed to goods (themes) that are loaded on them. Because prepositions are used only in the Theme-Object construction, all data in this subsection pertains only to that construction.

Table 7 shows the distribution of prepositions that occur in the Theme-Object construction. The right-most column in Table 7, marked “no preposition”, aggregates a variety of types of data, since the path of the Theme can alternatively be marked by various adverbs or omitted altogether. Figure 5 presents the same data in terms of percentages (ignoring the uses without a preposition) graphically.

In order to probe for a significant relationship between prefixes and prepositions, the data in Table 7 was analyzed using χ^2 -test, excluding the “no preposition” column, which is heterogeneous and thus not strictly comparable to the data in the other two columns. A χ^2 -test comparing the

1 Table 7. Prepositions used with non-passive forms of 'load' verbs to mark the goal
 2 in the Theme-Object construction

	preposition <i>na</i> 'onto'	preposition <i>v</i> 'into'	no preposition
<i>gruzit'</i>	67	67	66
<i>nagruzit'</i>	19	2	3
<i>zagruzit'</i>	7	52	35
<i>pogruzit'</i>	54	143	55



22 Figure 5. Prepositions used with non-passive forms of 'load' verbs to mark the
 23 goal in the Theme-Object construction

25 distribution of frequencies yields a value of 59.8343 ($df = 3, p = 6.377e-13$), suggesting an association between the choice of the prefix and the
 26 choice of the preposition. To measure the effect size of the χ^2 values,
 27 Cramer's V was used, where 0.1 is a small size, 0.3 is a moderate size,
 28 and 0.5 is a large size (Cohen 1998: 215–271; King and Minium 2008:
 29 327–330). In our case, the effect size measured by Cramer's V is 0.38,
 30 thus registering between a moderate and a large effect.

31 The imperfective base verb *gruzit'* 'load' has no preference with regard
 32 to the prepositions *na* 'onto' and *v* 'into'. *Nagruzit'* attracts the preposition
 33 *na* 'onto', while both *zagruzit'* and *pogruzit'* follow the opposite trend,
 34 attracting the preposition *v* 'into'. It appears that the choice of the prepo-
 35 sition in the Theme-Object construction depends on whether the goal is
 36 understood as a SURFACE (*na* 'onto') or as a CONTAINER (*v* 'into'). The
 37 association of the *na-* prefixed verb with the preposition *na* makes sense,

1 since the preposition and the prefix have inherited a meaning that refers to
2 a SURFACE, cf. the verb *nadet'* 'put on (clothing)' and the phrase *na stol*
3 'onto the table'. This connection is palpable also in examples like (17):

- 4 (17) *Na teležku nagruzili celuju goru jaščikov, čemodanov i meškov.*

5 [Onto cart-ACC loaded whole mountain-ACC boxes, suitcases and
6 bags-GEN.]

7 'They] loaded a whole mountain of boxes, suitcases and bags
8 onto the cart.'

- 9
10 *Zagruzit'* and *pogruzit'*, on the other hand, strongly prefer the preposi-
11 tion *v* 'into', where the goal is conceptualized as a CONTAINER, as in (18)
12 and (19).⁹

- 13 (18) *Krome togo, v mašinu zagruzili ogromnyj rjukzak s paraplanom, paru*
14 *kanistr, vešči, instrument i koe-kakuju meloč'.*

15 [Beside that-GEN, into car-ACC loaded huge backpack-ACC
16 with paraglider-INST, pair-ACC canister-GEN, things-ACC,
17 instrument-ACC and various trifles-ACC.]

18 'In addition [they] loaded a huge backpack with a paraglider,
19 a couple of canisters, things, an instrument and various trifles into
20 the car.'

- 21 (19) *Pogruziv s pomošćju šofera v mašinu svoi vešči, Tamara vsju dorogu*
22 *do goroda prodremala.*

23 [Having-loaded with help-INST driver-GEN into car-ACC own
24 things-ACC, Tamara-NOM whole way-ACC to town-GEN slept.]

25 'Having loaded her things into the car with the driver's help,
26 Tamara slept all the way to town.'

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33 9. In the case of *zagruzit'*, this preference may be due to a parallelism between
34 the preposition *v* 'into' and the preposition *za* 'beyond', both of which can
35 refer to crossing the boundary of a container. In the case of *pogruzit'*, the
36 preference for *v* 'into' may be explained by the presence of some examples
37 that continue the original meaning of this verb as 'sink, plunge', from which
38 the 'load' meaning is historically derived via metonymy (since barges sink
39 when loaded, cf. Nichols 2008). These are, however, speculative remarks that
40 will need further study.

1 5. Conclusions

2
3 The constructional profiles of the four Russian ‘load’ verbs, *gruzit*’, *nagruzit*’,
4 *zagruzit*’, and *pogruzit*’ are distinct: logistic regression shows that there is
5 a highly significant correlation between the verb and the choice of the
6 construction. This finding supports the theoretical hypothesis that the
7 meanings of words and constructions interact, as suggested by the con-
8 structional approach to the Locative Alternation. The syntactic/lexical-
9 semantic approach cannot account for the observed variation among
10 verbs, since it can only recognize verbs as having the alternation or lack-
11 ing it. The frame approach would constrain us to treating each of the
12 ‘load’ verbs as a pair of homonyms, and again we would lose sight of the
13 differences in variation.

14 The unprefixed imperfective *gruzit*’ favors the Theme-Object construc-
15 tion. The addition of a prefix radically changes this distribution, each in
16 a different way: *nagruzit*’ strongly favors the Goal-Object construction,
17 *zagruzit*’ creates a near-balance between the two constructions, whereas
18 *pogruzit*’ uses the Theme-Object construction in a nearly exclusive manner.
19 This finding contradicts the traditional assumption that the prefixes *na-*,
20 *za-*, and *po-* function as semantic zeroes in forming perfective partner
21 verbs from *gruzit*’. If the prefixes were zeroes, they should follow a
22 random distribution (since they all perfectivize the verb).

23 The observation of three distinct effects indicates that the prefixes are
24 not devoid of meaning. There is, however, a way to reconcile this finding
25 with the traditional understanding of “purely aspectual” prefixes if we
26 recognize the effect of the prefixes as semantic overlap rather than merely
27 addition. Because the meanings of the prefixes and the verb overlap, there
28 is an illusion of emptiness (cf. Janda and Nesson forthcoming). Our data
29 show that even these overlaps result in dramatic differences in the con-
30 structional profiles of the resulting perfectives.

31 Furthermore, there appears to be an interaction between the two
32 Locative Alternation constructions and the passive construction. The past
33 passive participles largely suppress the Locative Alternation, using the
34 Goal-Object construction, except in the case of *pogruzit*’, where the nearly
35 exclusive preference for the Theme-Object construction remains. A possi-
36 ble explanation of this distribution is that passive participles boost the
37 frequency of the main construction associated with the verb (Goal-Object
38 for *nagruzit*’ and *zagruzit*’, and Theme-Object for *pogruzit*’), perhaps due
39 to the focus of attention on the patient. The unprefixed verb *gruzit*’, where

1 passive participles change the preference from the Theme-Object to the
2 Goal-Object construction, appears to be an exception caused by the
3 general tendencies within the Russian grammatical system. In Russian,
4 passive participles are formed primarily from perfective verbs. When
5 formed from imperfective verbs, participles usually perform the function
6 of adjectives, which in the case of *gruzit'* characterize the state of the Goal.
7 This finding requires further investigation on a larger number of verbs.

8 Both Theme-Object and Goal-Object constructions can be represented
9 via reduced versions, where the former omits the Goal and the latter omits
10 the Theme. Our model also shows that there is a correlation between
11 the construction and its full or reduced version: reduced frames favor the
12 Goal-Object construction, while full frames are used mainly in the Theme-
13 Object construction. The interaction between the Goal-Object construc-
14 tion and reduction is supported by two observations: on the one hand,
15 the Goal-Object construction shows a higher frequency with reduced con-
16 structions for the verbs *gruzit'*, *nagruzit'* and *zagruzit'*; on the other hand,
17 reduced structures are the only contexts where the verb *pogruzit'* is
18 attested in the Goal-Object construction. One more important difference
19 between the Theme-Object and the Goal-Object constructions in terms of
20 their relation to reduction is that the quality of reduced structures in the
21 two constructions appears to be different: in the case of the Theme-Object
22 construction, we mostly deal with ellipsis, where the missing component is
23 mentioned in the previous context, while the Goal-Object construction is
24 also characterized by conventionalized reduced contexts, where reduction
25 interacts with metaphor. The major metaphorical extensions here involve
26 a "person" (Goal), who serves as the metaphorical CONTAINER, and "infor-
27 mation" or "duties" (Theme), which represent metaphorical CONTENTS.
28 This topic merits further research.

29 Within the Theme-Object construction, we find an interesting distribu-
30 tion of prepositions. Whereas the unprefixed imperfective *gruzit'* shows a
31 three-way split among use of the preposition *na* 'onto', *v* 'into' and no
32 preposition, the prefixed perfectives have strong preferences. The prefix
33 *na-* in *nagruzit'* prefers its etymological cousin *na* 'onto', but both *za-* and
34 *po-* prefer *v* 'into'. It may be that *nagruzit'* is primarily used with goals
35 that are understood as surfaces, whereas *zagruzit'* and *pogruzit'* tend to
36 select for goals that are understood as containers. However, there is
37 considerable variation here and this topic can also be taken up in future
38 work.

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