

Reflexive Psych Verbs in Ukrainian and Russian

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Reflexive verbs are defined as a lexico-grammatical category of intransitive verbs with the reflexive postfix/clitic (e.g., *sia* in Ukrainian, *sia* in Russian, *się* in Polish). They alternate systematically with transitive verbs in Slavonic and Romance languages, including psychological verbs. The question that has become subject of debate in current literature is whether the reflexive alternation within the domain of psych verbs is an instance of the causative/inchoative alternation typical of change of state (COS) verbs. The OE/SE alternation is common for Greek and Romanian (Alexiadou and Iordachioaia 2014), Polish (Biały 2005; Rozwadowska and Bondaruk 2019), Spanish (Franco 1990; Shimoyoshi 2016), Hebrew (Reinhart 2001; Preminger 2008; Doron 2017), German (Engelberg 2018), Brazilian Portuguese (Cancado 2015; Petersen 2016) and Hungarian (Rakosi 2006; Jurth 2017). A&I (2014) claim that Romanian and Greek psych verbs regularly participate in the psych causative alternation. The aim of this paper is to check whether Ukrainian and Russian psych reflexive verbs are an instance of the causative/inchoative alternation, and whether there are any differences between different semantic subclasses of psych verbs in respect of the observed morpho-syntactic cooccurrence properties of these verbs with their satellites. We also explore the relation between the possible patterns and the aspectual perfective/imperfective contrast. We focus on such verbs as *cikavytysia/interesovatsia* 'to be interested', *zaxopliuvatysia/vosxiščatsia* 'to admire' or *oburiuvatysia/vozmuščatsia* 'to enrage'. Such verbs are usually regarded as SE inverse transposition of transitive OE verbs *cikavyty/interesovat*, *zaxopliuvaty/vosxiščat* or *oburiuvaty/vozmuščat*. In Ukrainian examples (1) and Russian (2), the instrumental DP can't be replaced with *čerez/iz-za* PP ('because of') as in 1(c) or 2(c) in contrast to (3c) and (4c), where the Instrumental case can be replaced with the respective PPs. Examples (1)-(2) suggest that the instrumental DP in psych verbs can't represent a CAUSE but a Target/Subject Matter (Pesetsky, 1995), in contrast to COS verbs, where the Instrumental case is not acceptable – instead a special Cause PP is required, as in Ukrainian (5b) and Russian (6b). In examples (3b) and (4b) we can omit the Instrumental DP. It seems that the psych verbs that allow the omission of Instrumental DP belong to the semantic subclass of the verbs of "displeasure and dissatisfaction" as identified by Kriuchkova (1979). These subclasses of psych verbs can be used without this PP. Thus we can draw the conclusion that the optionality of the PPs in reflexive psych alternation depends on the semantic subclass of a psych verb. We conclude that Ukrainian and Russian OE psych verbs do not participate in the psych causative alternation, similarly as claimed for Polish (Rozwadowska and Bondaruk 2019).

Selected references

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- (1) a. Uspixy don'ky zaxopliujut' bat'ka.
 successes-NOM daughter-GEN delight father-ACC
 'The daughter's successes delight the father.'
 b. Bat'ko zaxopliujet'sia *(uspixamy don'ky).
 father-NOM delights-IMPERF REFL (successes-INSTR) daughter-GEN
 'The father is delighted *(with the daughter's successes)
 c. Bat'ko zaxopliujet'sia (*čerez uspixy don'ky).
 father-NOM delights-IMPERF REFL because successes-GEN daughter-GEN
 'The father is delighted (*because of the daughter's successes) '
- (2) a. Xorošije ocenki dočeri vosxiščajut otca.
 Good marks-NOM daughter-GEN delight father-ACC
 'The daughter's good marks delight the father.'
 b. Otec vosxiščajetsia*(xoroshimi ocenkami dočeri).
 father-NOM delights-IMPERF REFL *(good marks-INSTR daughter-GEN)
 'The father is delighted *(with the daughter's good marks).
 c. Otec vosxiščajetsia (*iz-za xoroshikh ocenok dočeri).
 father-NOM delights-IMPERF REFL *(because of good marks-GEN) daughter-GEN
 'The father is delighted (*because of the daughter's good marks).
- (3) a. Pohanyi včynok syna oburyv bat'ka.
 bad deed-NOM son-GEN enraged father-ACC
 'The son's bad deed enraged the father.'
 b. Bat'ko oburyvsia *(pohanyv včynkom syna).
 father-NOM enraged-PERF REFL *(bad deed-INSTR son-GEN)
 'The father enraged *(with the son's bad deed).
 c. Bat'ko oburyvsia *(z pryvodu pohanoho včynku/čerez pohanyi včynok syna).
 father-NOM enraged-PERF REFL *(because of/ with bad deed-INSTR son-GEN)
 'The father enraged *(because of/with the son's bad deed).
- (4) a. Ploxoje poviedenije syna vozmutilo otca.
 bad behaviour-NOM son-GEN enraged father-ACC
 'The son's bad behaviour enraged the father.'
 b. Otec vozmutilsia *(ploxim poviedenijem syna).
 father-NOM outraged-PERF REFL *(bad behaviour-INSTR son-GEN)
 'The father enraged *(with the son's bad behaviour).
 c. Otec vozmutilsia *(po povodu/iz-za ploxoego poviedenija syna).
 father-NOM enraged-PERF REFL*(because of/with bad behaviour-INSTR son- GEN
 'The father enraged *(because of/with the son's bad behaviour).
- (5) a. Poryv vitru zlamav hilku.
 gust-NOM wind-GEN broke-PERF branch-ACC
 'The gust of wind broke the branch.'
 b. Hilka zlamalas' (*poryvom vitru)/(vid poryvu vitru/čerez poryv vitru).
 branch-NOM broke-PERF (*gust wind-INSTR/(with/because of gust wind-GEN)
 'The branch broke *(with the gust of wind)/(from the gust of wind/because of the gust of wind).'
- (6) a. Poryv vietra slomal vietku.
 gust-NOM wind-GEN broke-PERF branch-ACC
 'The gust of wind broke the branch.'
 b. Vietka slomalas' (*poryvom vietra)/(ot poryva vietra/iz-za poryva vietra).

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branch-NOM broke-PERF (*gust wind-INSTR/(with/because of gust wind-GEN)
‘The branch broke (*with the gust of wind)/(from the gust of wind/because of the gust
of wind).