

On the locality of negative concord in Russian: An experimental study

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Annotation

The paper examines locality conditions on licensing Russian “negative” (*ni-*) pronouns in negative concord configurations. Drawing on experimental data we show that *ni*-pronouns can be licensed by the matrix negation in both subject and object control infinitives. We further argue that long-distance licensing occurs through expansion of the licensing domain to the inclusion of argumental infinitive clauses, and not through raising of *ni*-pronouns to the matrix clause.

Plan of the talk:

1. Negative concord and its properties in Russian
2. Theoretical approaches to NC
3. NC in control infinitives: an experiment
4. Analysis
5. Conclusions

1. NC and its properties in Russian

1.1. Russian *ni*-pronouns as strict negative concord items (NCI)

(summary: Garzonio 2019)

— licensed by the clausemate sentential negation expressed by the preverbal clitic particle *ne* ‘not’

(1) Karaev *(ne) rasskazal nikomu o svoem
 Karaev.NOM NEG tell.PST.SG.M nobody.DAT about his.PREP
 slučajno sdelannom otkrytii.
 accidentally made.PREP discovery.PREP

‘Karaev did not tell anybody about his accidental discovery.’ [RNC]

(2) Ne dumaj, čto tebja nikto *(ne) ljubit.
 NEG think.IMP COMP you.ACC nobody.NOM NEG love.PRS.3SG

‘Do not think that nobody loves you.’ [RNC]

NB: negative preverbal clitic is obligatory with preverbal NCIs; hence strict NC.

Russian *ni*-pronouns as negative concord items (NCI)

— scope of sentential negation indicated by the preverbal negative particle includes the subject (2) but cannot be extended to the superordinate clause (3)

(3) Petrov pytalsja **ne** otvlekat'sja ot dorogi.
 Petrov.NOM try.PST.SG.M **NEG** get_distracted.INF from road.GEN

‘Petrov tried to remain focused on the road (lit. tried to not get distracted from the road).’

* ‘Petrov did not try to get distracted from the road.’

NB: We abstract away from substandard cases discussed by Kholodilova 2015 and Letuchiy 2017 where NCIs are licensed by a lower constituent negation in adjectival SCs and under functional restructuring, and then undergo A-movement.

(4) **Nikto** okazalsja **ne** gotov.
 nobody.NOM appear.PST.SG.M **NEG** ready.SHORT.M.SG

‘Nobody turned out to be ready.’

Russian *ni*-pronouns as negative concord items (NCI)

— clauses containing *ni*-pronouns are never interpreted as involving double negation

(5) Tol'ko, požalujsta, poka **ne** govori **nikomu** **ničego!**
 only please yet **NEG** tell.IMP **nobody.DAT** **nothing.GEN**

‘But please do not tell anybody anything yet!’ [RNC]

*‘But please do not tell nobody nothing!’

NB: Fitzgibbons (2008) points out that *ni*-pronouns functioning as predicates or complements of P can be licensed outside the scope of negation (Кто был никем, тот станет всем). Not surprisingly, under negation such contexts are ambiguous: both NC and double negation interpretations are available.

(6) Vanja **ne** sčital Iru **nikem.** [Fitzgibbons 2008]
 Vanja **NEG** consider.PST.SG.M Ira.ACC **nobody.INSTR**

DN: ‘Vanja did not consider Ira a nobody.’ (he considered her a worthy person)

NC: ‘Vanja did not consider Ira anybody.’ (i.e. had no opinion of her)

Importantly, neither non-licensed *ni*-pronouns nor DN interpretation are licit in argumental positions.

1.2. Locality of NC

The clausemate constraint on *ni*-pronouns licensing is lifted in infinitival complements (Gerasimova 2015, Kornakova et al. 2016)

(7) a. My **nikogo** **ne** xotim učit' i **nikem** **ne** xotim
 we **nobody.ACC** **NEG** want.PRS.1PL lecture.INF and **nobody.INSTRNEG** want.PRS.1PL
 byt' poučaemy.

be.INF lectured.PART.SHORT.PL

‘We don’t want to lecture anybody and we don’t want to be lectured by anybody.’ [RNC]

b. Kolduny **ne** veljat rabotnikam **ničego** est'
 sorcerers.NOM **NEG** order.PRS.3PL workers.DAT **nothing.ACC** eat.INF

vo vremja lovli.

during fishing.GEN

‘Sorcerers do not allow workers to eat anything while pearl fishing.’ [RNC]

Locality of NC

NC across the finite clause boundary is ungrammatical (pilot study):

(8) a. * Direktor **ne** treboval, čtoby ego sekretarša zvonila
 director.NOM **NEG** order.PST.SG.M COMP his secretary.NOM call.SUBJ.SG.F

nikomu posle sobraniya aktsionerov.
nobody.DAT after meeting.GEN shareholder.GEN.PL

Int. 'The director didn't order that his secretary call anyone after the shareholders' meeting.'

b. * Andrei **ne** bespokoil'sya, čto ego brat ustupal
 Andrei.NOM **NEG** worry.PST.SG.M COMP his brother.NOM give_up.PST.SG.M

nikomu v printsipial'nyx voprosax.
nobody.DAT in principal.PREP.PL question.PREP.PL

Int. 'Andrei didn't worry that his brother was deferring to anybody on principal matters.'

Locality of NC: Neg-raising?

Neg(ative) raising: a derivational or interpretational reconstruction of semantic negation in the embedded clause (Horn 1978, 1992; Collins and Postal 2012)

(9) I don't think he'll come.

(i) (unlikely) surface scope of negation: 'It is not the case that I think that he'll come.'

(ii) (likely) reconstructed/narrow scope of negation: 'I think that it is not that case that he'll come.'

NPIs requiring local licenser are licit in clauses embedded under Neg-raising predicates

(10)a. Calvin did **not** believe that Mona would move in **until** June.

b. *Calvin did **not** claim that Mona would move in **until** June.

(11)a. Kolduny **ne** veljat rabotnikam **ničego** est'
 sorcerers.NOM **NEG** order.PRS.3PL workers.DAT **nothing.ACC** eat.INF

vo vremja lovli.

during fishing.GEN

'Sorcerers do not allow workers to eat anything while pearl fishing.' [RNC]

b. **Nikto** **ne** velit rabotnikam **ničego** est'.

nobody.NOM **NEG** order.PRS.3SG workers.DAT **nothing.ACC** eat.INF

'Nobody requires that the workers to eat anything.'

Locality of NC: infinitive's type

A rough classification of infinitives

— subject and adjunct infinitives

opaque domains due to CED, NCIs not licensed

— analytical future construction

aspectual (IPF) and voice (ACT) restrictions, only higher NEG

— aspectual construction

aspectual (IPF) and voice (ACT) restrictions, only higher NEG

FUNCTIONAL RESTRUCTURING

— modal construction

less restricted than aspectual; depends on the type of modality

RAISING / CONTROL / FUNCTIONAL RESTRUCTURING

— control infinitives:

— subject control (=same-subject infinitival clauses)

— object control (=different-subject infinitival clauses)

Locality of NC: infinitive's type

Differences between subject and object control infinitives:

Comrie 1974, Nichols 1981, Franks 1995, Babby 1998, Landau 2008, Bailyn 2001, 2012, Madariaga 2006, 2007, Lyutikova 2010, Gerasimova 2015, Grashchenkov 2018,...

Table 1. Properties of subject and object control infinitives

	clause-mate	subject control infinitives	object control infinitives	finite embedding (<i>čtoby</i> / <i>čto</i> clauses)
short-form adjectives and participles in primary predicates	+	+	–	(n/a)
agreeing NOM adjectives in secondary predicates	+	+	–	(n/a)
agreeing NOM floating quantifiers (<i>sam</i> 'himself', <i>odin</i> 'alone', <i>ves</i> 'all')	+	+	–	–
pronominal clitic climbing to the matrix clause	+	+	–	–

Locality of NC: infinitive's type

Differences between subject and object control infinitives

Lyutikova 2010, 2021; Gerasimova & Lyutikova (submitted)

Size restructuring in subject control infinitives

— Object control infinitives are full-fledged CPs

(12) CP » ΣP_A » TP » vP » VP

— Subject control infinitives are truncated structures lacking A-bar domain but hosting a ΣP — projection hosting clitics and scrambled constituents (Wurmbrand 2014)

— Spec, ΣP is an A-position

(13) CP » ΣP_A » TP » vP » VP

Consequently:

— Object control infinitives are opaque for A-dependencies and only allow A-bar movement through CP (*wh*, LD-SCR)

— Subject control infinitives are transparent for A and A-bar dependencies (Case, ϕ , CC, *wh*, LD-SCR)

1.3. Positions of NCIs

2 positions:

— base position

— preverbal position

Proforms and phrasal categories

(14) **Ničego** **ne** znaju, kakie takie dollary,
 nothing.GEN NEG know.PRS.1SG which.PL.NOM such.PL.NOM dollars.NOM
 i **ne** videla ja **nikakix** **dollarov...**
 and NEG see.PST.SG.F I.NOM no.PL.GEN dollars.GEN

‘I don’t know anything, which dollars (do you mean), I didn’t see any dollars...’ [RNC]

(15) **Kakoj** **bumažnik**, **nikakogo** **bumažnika** **ne** vižu!
 which wallet, no.GEN wallet.GEN NEG see.PRS.1SG

‘Which wallet, I don’t see any wallet!’ [RNC]

(16) **Tjotka** **večerom** **smotrela** **televizor**,
 aunt.NOM evening.INSTR watch.PST.SG.M TV.ACC
 no **ne** videla i **ne** slyšala **ničego**.
 but NEG see.PST.SG.F and NEG hear.PST.SG.F nothing.GEN

‘The aunt watched TV in the evening, but didn’t see or hear anything.’ [RNC]

Positions of NCIs in control infinitives

3 positions:

— base position

(17) Ja ne xoču pečalit' Vas ničem.
 I.NOM NEG want.PRS.1SG sadden.INF you.ACC nothing.INSTR

‘I don’t want to be a cause of your sadness.’

— preverbal position: before infinitive

(18) Ty ne xočeš' ničego dobavit' k skazannomu?
 you.NOM NEG want.PRS.2SG nothing.GEN add.INF to said.LONG.N.SG.DAT

‘You don’t want to add anything to this, do you?’ [RNC]

— preverbal position: before matrix verb

(19) Značit, vy ničem ne xotite pomoč' partii.
 thus you.NOM nothing.INSTR NEG want.PRS.2PL help.INF party.DAT

‘Thus, you don't want to help the party in anything.’ [RNC]

Positions of NCIs in control infinitives

Proforms and phrasal categories:

- proforms tend to be located in preverbal positions
- phrasal categories tend to stay in the base position

Pilot study, RNC search

Table 2. Positions of NCIs in subject control configurations; the matrix verb *xotet* ‘want’

Position of NCI	Example	Proforms, hits	Phrasal categories, hits
base	NEG+want+INF+nobody/no X	68	164
before INF	NEG+want+nobody/no X+INF	217	5
before matrix verb	nobody/no X+NEG+want+INF	209	17

2. Formal approaches to NC and their predictions

Licensing of NCIs in control infinitives

Questions

- What type of syntactic process is NCI licensing? is it a separate type of syntactic interaction? can it be subsumed under an independently motivated type of interaction?
- Which locality requirements does the NC exhibit? do they pattern with locality of other syntactic processes?

Positions of NCIs in control infinitives

Questions

- base vs. derived positions (before infinitive and before matrix verb) or base-generation in all the three positions?
- if movement, does it result from the NC or is it independent from NC?
- does the position of the NCI affect acceptability?

Formal approaches to NC and their predictions

Various accounts of NC identify it with other types of syntactic processes:

— binding approach (Progovac 1994): *ni*-pronouns as local NPIs which require a local antecedent (negative Infl, truth-conditional operator in C)

(20) a. Milan *(ne) vidi ni(t)ko-ga.
 Milan NEG sees no-one-ACC

‘Milan cannot see anyone.’

b. *Milan ne tvrdi [da Marija poznaje ni(t)ko-ga].
 Milan NEG claims that Mary knows no-one-ACC

Int.: ‘Milan doesn’t claim that Mary knows anyone.’ [Progovac 1994]

→ Local negative Infl absent in both subject and object control infinitives, hence NCIs cannot be licensed *in situ* in **either** subject or object control infinitives

	subject control infinitives	object control infinitives
NCI licensing by matrix negation	—	—

Formal approaches to NC and their predictions

— operator movement approach (Zanuttini 1991, Haegeman and Zanuttini 1991, Haegeman 1995): strict NCIs as negative quantifiers which have to undergo overt or covert movement to the scope (A-bar) position)

(21)a. Je **ne** demande que tu dises **rien**.
 I **NEG** ask that you say.subj **nothing**
 ‘I don’t ask that you say anything’.

b. *Je **ne** demande que **personne** dise cela.
 I **NEG** ask that **no one** say.subj that
 Int.: ‘I don’t ask that anybody say that’. [Perlmutter 1971: 99]

→ wh-movement licit across the infinitive’s boundary (Lyutikova 2009, 2010), hence NCIs can be licensed in **both** subject and object control infinitives

	subject control infinitives	object control infinitives
NCI licensing by matrix negation	+	+

Formal approaches to NC and their predictions

— agreement approach (Zeijlstra 2004, Haegeman&Lohndal 2010): NCIs are indefinites bearing a [uNEG] feature which requires a c-commanding [iNEG] element.

- (22) a. **Non** ha telefonato **nessuno**.
 NEG has called **nobody**
 ‘Nobody called.’

[_{NegP} non_[iNEG] [_{TP} ha telefonato [_{VP} nessuno_[uNEG] ...]]]

- b. *Gianni **non** ha detto che ha telefonato a **nessuno**.
 Gianni **NEG** has said that has called to **nobody**
 Intended: ‘John didn’t say that he called anybody.’

[_{NegP} non_[iNEG] [_{TP} ha detto [_{CP} **che** [_{TP} ha telefonato [_{VP} a nessuno_[uNEG] ...]]]]]

→ if only C blocks agreement for [NEG] feature, NCIs can be licensed in subject, but not in object control infinitives

	subject control infinitives	object control infinitives
NCI licensing by matrix negation	+	—

Positions of NCIs in control infinitives

Movement of the *ni*-pronoun:

— triggered by the NC (operator movement approach)

(23) a. NEG-phrase in argument position, no NC, double negation interpretation

da [AGRP Valere_j [NEGP **nie** [TP t_j **niemand** ~~kent~~] ~~en-kent~~] (en)-kent]
 that Valere **not** **nobody** V+T **NEG-V+T** NEG-know+AGR
 ‘that Valere doesn't know nobody’, i.e. Valere knows someone

b. NEG-phrase in scope position, NC

da [AGRP Valere_j [NEGP **niemandnie** [TP t_j t_i ~~kent~~] ~~en-kent~~] (en)-kent]
 that Valere **nobody not** V+T **NEG-V+T** NEG-know+AGR
 ‘that Valere doesn't know anyone’ [West Flemish; Haegeman 1995, adapted]

— independent from NC (binding approach, agreement approach)

(24) a. ***Mary_i** thinks Bill likes these pictures of **herself_i**.

b. **Mary_i** wonders [which pictures of **herself_i**]_j Bill likes best t_j.

→ movement of the *ni*-pronoun to the matrix clause may increase acceptability, though for different reasons

3. NC in control infinitives: an experiment

Materials

2x3 factorial design:

INFINITIVE TYPE (subject control/object control)
NI-PRONOUN POSITION (base/before infinitive/before matrix)

Basic structure of stimuli

subject + NEG + matrix verb + (matrix object) + infinitive + continuation (DO or PP)



BEFORE
MATRIX



BEFORE
INFINITIVE



BASE

Task

rating task, acceptability judgments on a 7-point Likert scale

128 respondents (78 females; mean age 34, min 15, max 73, SD 14)

3. NC IN CONTROL INFINITIVES: AN EXPERIMENT

Results

Repeated measures ANOVA on both raw and z-score transformed data:

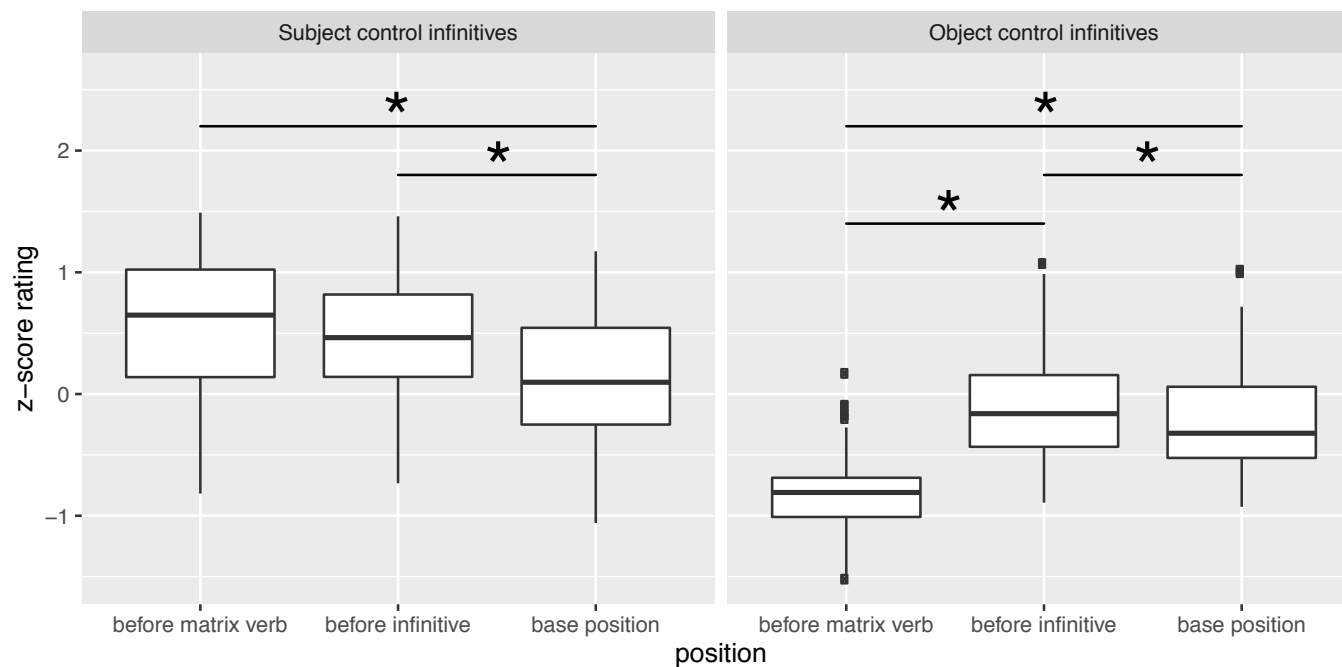
INFINITIVE TYPE ($df = 1, F = 737.46, p \ll 0.05$)

NI-PRONOUN POSITION ($df = 2, F = 44.84, p \ll 0.05$)

interaction between these two factors ($df = 2, F = 113.44, p \ll 0.05$)

Post-hoc pairwise comparisons (Tukey's post-hoc test)

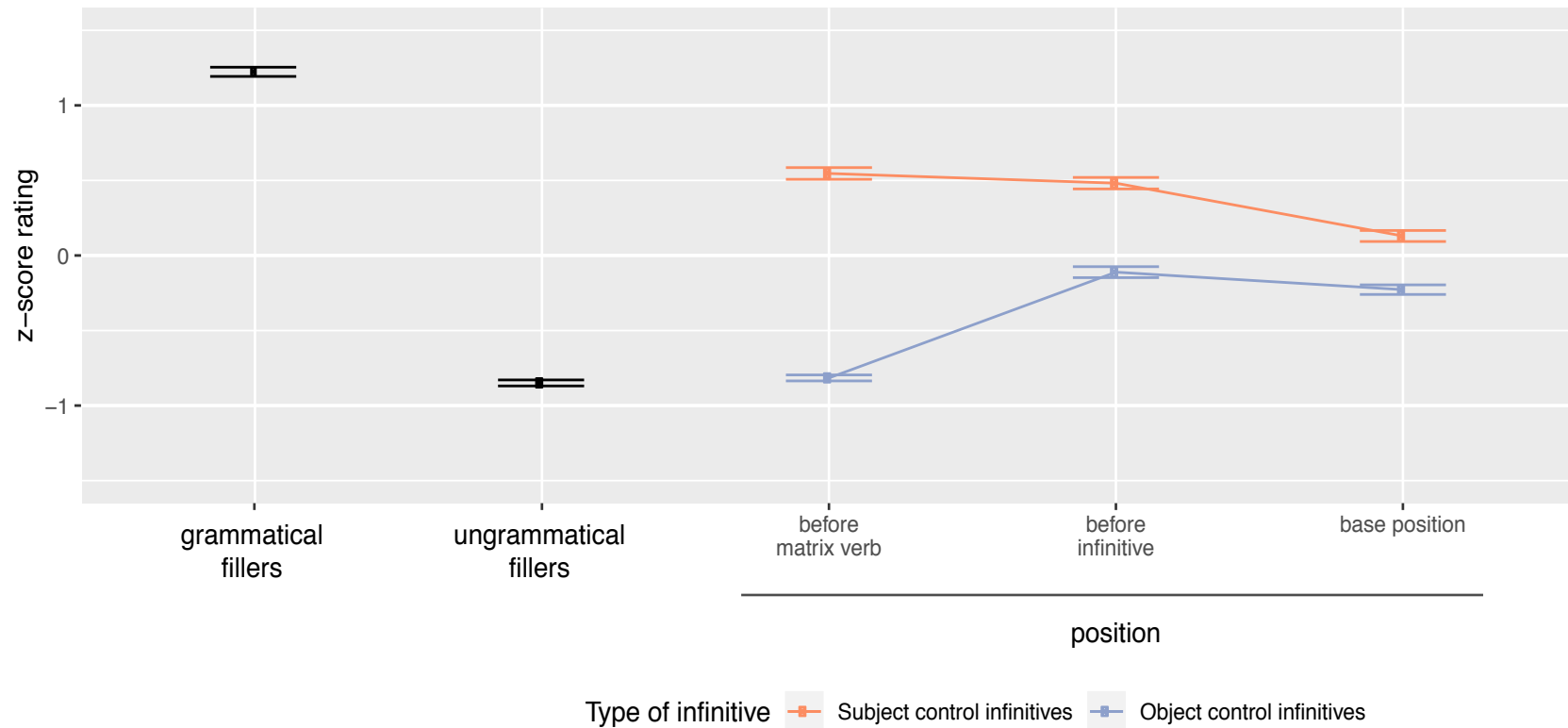
Figure 1. Acceptability ratings (z-score) for *ni*-pronouns.
All significant differences marked with * between the relevant boxes



3. NC IN CONTROL INFINITIVES: AN EXPERIMENT

Results

Figure 2. Interaction plot of acceptability ratings (z-score) for target and filler items. Error bars indicate standard error.



3. NC IN CONTROL INFINITIVES: AN EXPERIMENT

Results

Three factors impacting on the acceptability of *ni*-pronouns in control infinitives:

(i) **locality of NC (subject vs object control)**

(ii) preverbal/postverbal position of the pronoun

(iii) movement to the matrix clause.

NCI licensing by matrix negation	subject control infinitives	object control infinitives
binding approach	—	—
operator movement approach	+	+
agreement approach	+	—
experimental data	+	+ /—

- Subject control infinitives are more transparent than object control infinitives, but object control infinitives still allow NC (three-way distinction).
- No movement of *ni*-pronouns to the higher licensing domain is required for licensing.

None of the approaches is able to derive the picture provided by the experimental scores.

Results

Three factors impacting on the acceptability of *ni*-pronouns in control infinitives:

- (i) locality of NC (subject vs object control)
- (ii) preverbal/postverbal position of the pronoun**
- (iii) movement to the matrix clause.

- *ni*-pronouns before infinitive are significantly more acceptable than in base position.
- the general contrast between pronouns and nominal phrases positioning in Russian.

- (25) position of the object pronoun
preverbal > postverbal

Kholodilova (2013):

- pronouns in Russian are generally located closer to the beginning of the sentence
- clear preference for preposition of negative pronouns with respect to the verb
- the proportion of preposing vs. postposing of pronominal arguments in infinitives coincides with the proportion in indicatives

3. NC IN CONTROL INFINITIVES: AN EXPERIMENT

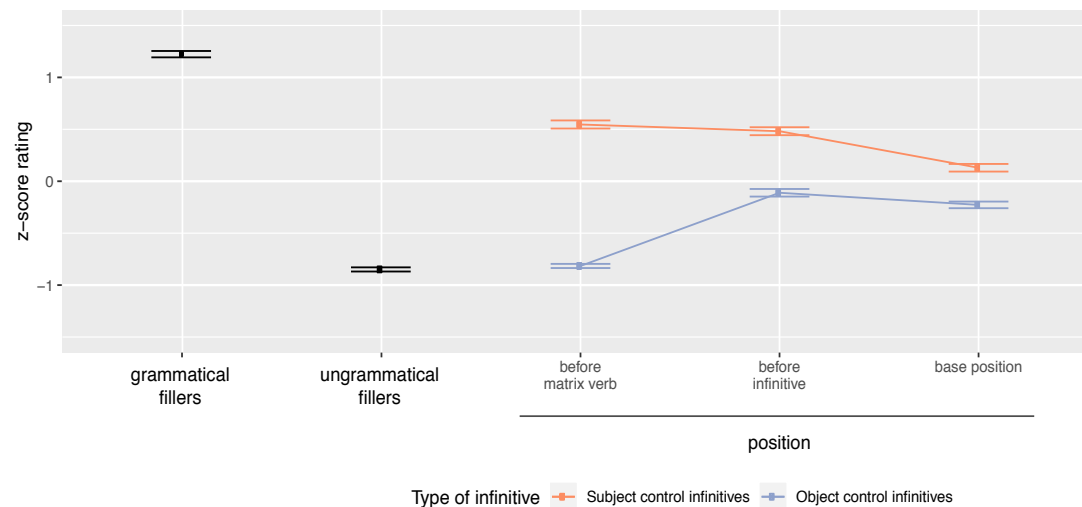
Results

Three factors impacting on the acceptability of *ni*-pronouns in control infinitives:

- (i) locality of NC (subject vs object control)
- (ii) preverbal/postverbal position of the pronoun
- (iii) movement to the matrix clause.**

— acceptable in subject control infinitives and ungrammatical in object control infinitives

- (26) movement of *ni*-pronouns to the matrix clause
subject control infinitives >> object control infinitives

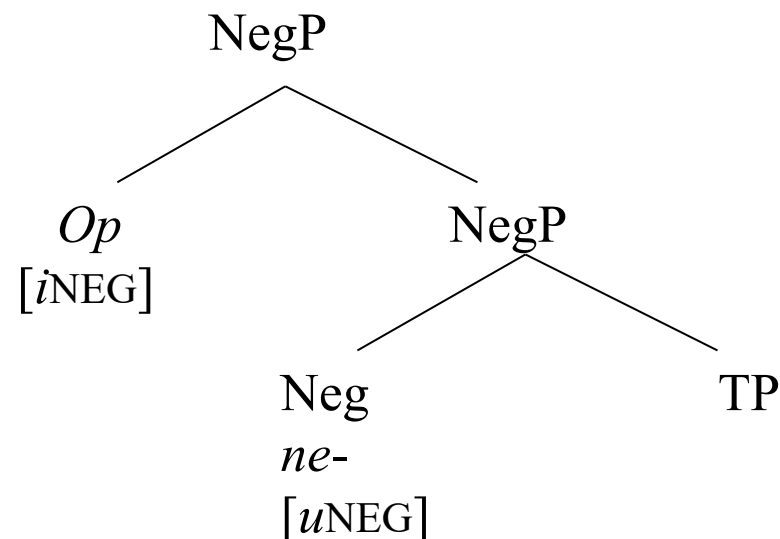


4. Analysis

General idea: the agreement approach to NC with a slight adjustment of feature structure and locality restrictions

- NC is an instance of syntactic agreement (Zeijlstra 2004)
- Multiple agree in the form of feature sharing (Pesetsky, Torrego 2001, 2004, 2007)
- NCIs bear valued uninterpretable polarity feature [*u*NEG]
- NCIs need to agree with an interpretable variant of this feature on the polarity operator of the clause (← Radical Interpretability)
- sentential negation is instantiated by NegP of the following structure

(27)



Ni-licensing in object control infinitives:

- the CP layer is opaque for feature sharing; long-distance licensing of *ni*-pronouns in the infinitival clause from the matrix clause is banned.
- object control C can have a polarity feature [*u*NEG] feature (cf. negative complementizers in Celtic languages (McCloskey 1996, McQuillan 2016), Latin *ne* (Allen & Greenough 2013), Basque *enik* (Laka 1990)).
- C[*u*NEG] enables NC across the CP boundary, being the last resort for saving the derivation with unlicensed NCIs inside CP
- C[*u*NEG] comes with processing costs \Rightarrow reduced acceptability scores

(29) a. *Op*_[*i*NEG] Lektor ne_vynuždal_[*u*NEG] assistenta [_{CP} C rekomendovat' **nikomu**_[*u*NEG]
 lecturer.NOM NEG-force assistant.ACC recommend nobody.DAT

b. *Op*_[*i*NEG] Lektor ne_vynuždal_[*u*NEG] assistenta [_{CP} C_[*u*NEG] rekomendovat' **nikomu**_[*u*NEG]
 lecturer.NOM NEG-force assistant.ACC recommend nobody.DAT
 ... novyj učebnik]
 new.ACC textbook.ACC

‘The lecturer did not force his assistant to recommend to anyone the new textbook.’

Derived positions of *ni*- pronouns:

- Wurmbrand's (2014) Σ P – position for preverbal pronouns
(position for climbing argumental clitics and short-scrambled constituents)
- A-movement analysis of the pronouns' dislocation to Σ P

Movement of *ni*-pronouns in the preverbal position is unlike *wh*-movement in that it does not license the parasitic gap in the adjunct clause:

- (30) a. Ja (ne) uznal Valju, horoš'en'ko razgljadev *?(ego).
 I.NOM NEG recognize Valya.ACC properly looked.GERUND through he.ACC
 'I have(n't) recognized Valya after looking at him properly.'
- b. Kogo ty uznal, horoš'en'ko razgljadev?
 who.ACC you recognized properly looked.PART through
 'Whom have you recognized after looking at him properly?'
- c. *Ja nikogo ne uznal, horoš'en'ko razgljadev.
 I.NOM nobody.ACC NEG recognize properly looked.PART through
 Int. 'I haven't recognized anyone_i after looking at him_i properly'.

Derived positions of *ni*- pronouns:

- Wurmbrand's (2014) Σ P – position for preverbal pronouns
(position for climbing argumental clitics and short-scrambled constituents)
- A-movement analysis of the pronouns' dislocation to Σ P

- The position before infinitive corresponds to the embedded Σ P, available in both subject and object control infinitives.
- Movement to the local Σ P is preferred for pronouns.

Subject control infinitives:

- the non-finite TP does not constrain A-movement
- ⇒ no difference between the two derived positions

Object control infinitives:

- movement to the matrix Σ P would cross the CP boundary (opaque for A-movement)
- ⇒ low acceptability scores

5. Conclusion

Negative concord in Russian:

- NC as agreement in the form of feature sharing
- the [u NEG] feature of the *ni*-pronoun
- the [i NEG] feature of the polarity operator in the matrix clause

Locality conditions on negative concord:

- subject control T is transparent for feature sharing
- object control C can have [u NEG] feature but it comes with processing cost

Movement of *ni*- pronouns to derived positions does not depend on negative concord:

A-movement to matrix Σ P

Subject control:

- no impact of movement on acceptability
- TP does not constrain A-movement

Object control:

- movement leads to unacceptability
- CP-boundary is opaque for A-movement

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Appendix. Description of the experiment

Materials

Lexicalization:

Matrix verbs

6 non-Neg-raising subject control verbs (*probovat'* ‘try’, *riskovat'* ‘risk’ ...)

6 non-Neg-raising object control verbs governing ACC (*prosit'* ‘ask’, *zastavlyat'* ‘force’ ...)

Infinitives

12 verbs that govern DAT, which means that in case of object control, matrix verb and infinitive assign different cases

NCI

nikto ‘nobody’

4 tokens per condition; $6 \times 4 = 24$ target sentences

Fillers (1:1)

span the range of acceptability

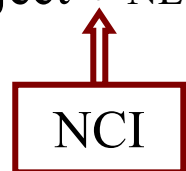
— grammatical fillers: *-libo* pronouns instead of *ni*-pronouns + negation

— ungrammatical fillers: *ni*-pronouns, no negative particle

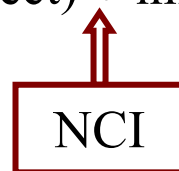
Materials

Basic structure of stimuli

subject + NEG + matrix verb + (matrix object) + infinitive + continuation (DO or PP)



BEFORE
MATRIX



BEFORE
INFINITIVE



BASE

Examples

(31) a. subject control, base position (a)

Konsul'tant ne proboval pomogat' nikomu v razvitii biznes-proekta.
adviser.NOM NEG try.PST.SG.M help.INF nobody.DAT in developing business project

b. subject control, before infinitive (b)

Konsul'tant ne proboval nikomu pomogat' v razvitii biznes-proekta.
adviser.NOM NEG try.PST.SG.M nobody.DAT help.INF in developing business project

c. subject control, before matrix verb (c)

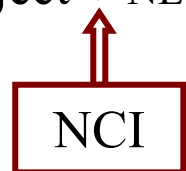
Konsul'tant nikomu ne proboval pomogat' v razvitii biznes-proekta.
adviser.NOM nobody.DAT NEG try.PST.SG.M help.INF in developing business project

'The adviser wasn't trying to help anybody with business project development.'

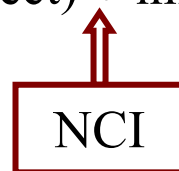
Materials

Basic structure of stimuli

subject + NEG + matrix verb + (matrix object) + infinitive + continuation (DO or PP)



BEFORE
MATRIX



BEFORE
INFINITIVE



BASE

Examples

(32) a. object control, base position (a)

Alina	ne	uprašivala	Nikitu	kljast'sja	nikomu	v večnoj ljubvi.
Alina.NOM	NEG	implore.PST.SG.F	Nikita.ACC	swear.INF	nobody.DAT	in undying love

b. object control, before infinitive (b)

Alina	ne	uprašivala	Nikitu	nikomu	kljast'sja	v večnoj ljubvi.
Alina.NOM	NEG	implore.PST.SG.F	Nikita.ACC	nobody.DAT	swear.INF	in undying love

c. object control, before matrix verb (c)

Alina	nikomu	ne	uprašivala	Nikitu	kljast'sja	v večnoj ljubvi.
Alina.NOM	nobody.DAT	NEG	implore.PST.SG.F	Nikita.ACC	swear.INF	in undying love

‘Aline wasn’t imploring Nikita to claim his undying love to anyone.’