

Case choice in placement verbs in Russian in Issue 5

Alina Israeli

This chapter will examine the “competition” between the accusative case and the locative case or instrumental case of the landmark in utterances involving the following verbs in dynamic situations: *stat* 'p-intr, *vstat* 'p-intr, *postavit* 'p-tr ‘stand’; *leč* 'p-intr, ‘lie down’, *klast* 'i-tr, *položit* 'p-tr, *uložit* 'p-tr, ‘lay’; *sadit* 'sjai-intr, *sest* 'p-intr, *usest* 'sjap-intr, *posadit* 'p-tr ‘sit’; *vešat* 'i-tr, *povesit* 'p-tr, *vešat* 'sjai-intr, *povesit* 'sjap-intr ‘hang’; *prjatat* 'sjai-intr, *sprjatat* 'sjap-intr, *prjatat* 'i-tr, *sprjatat* 'p-tr ‘hide’; *sobirat* 'sjai-intr, *sobrat* 'sjap-intr ‘gather’.

The locative or the accusative may be used with the prepositions *v* ‘in’ and *na* ‘on’ and the instrumental or the accusative with the prepositions *za* ‘behind’ and *pod* ‘under’. The prepositions *pered* ‘in front of’ and *nad* ‘over’ do not exhibit such variation, always governing the instrumental case. The traditional distinction in case assignment in Russian hinges on whether or not the statement describes the location of an object (locative or instrumental case with these prepositions) or, using Langacker’s 1987 terminology, the motion of a trajector toward a landmark, (accusative case with the same set of prepositions.):

This chapter will examine the circumstances where there may be accusative vs. locative or instrumental of the landmark in utterances indicating positioning or placement in the area associated with the landmark.