

[Semantic and discourse properties of colloquial Russian construction of the form "X-to X, a..." in Issue 3](#)

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The subject of this paper is a colloquial Russian construction of the form X-to X, a... where X can be practically any kind of phrase (NP, VP, PP, etc.). For example: Priexat' - to ja ne priedu, a napisat' (-to) napišu... Thus, my goal here is to provide a semantic and pragmatic analysis of the X-to X, a construction within the so-called QUD – “Question Under Discussion” – framework of discourse (Ginzburg 1996, van Kuppevelt 1995, 1996, Büring 2000, etc.) and relate it to research on: “verum focus” constructions (Vallduví 1998, etc.), set-evoking/ “kontrastive” particles like –to (McCoy 2001, etc.), contrastive discourse markers like the Russian a and the English but (Umbach 2001, etc). The data come from a variety of colloquial Russian texts, including the CHILDES database (MacWhinney 2000: Protassova’s corpus) and certain literary works whose authors imitate colloquial style in their character’s speech: Vasilij Šukšin and I. Grekova. I propose to analyze the semantic/pragmatic meaning of the X-to X, a construction as re-directing the hearer’s attention from one sub-question (viewed by the speaker as uninformative/non-relevant) to another one (viewed by the speaker as informative/ relevant).