

ARE LONG PROPER NAMES CASE DEFICIENT IN RUSSIAN?

Russian names of man-made objects (Matushansky 2013) or long proper names (LPNs) are analyzed in [Testelefs 2013] as case deficient elements. According to the paper, LPNs can appear in direct cases and experience difficulties appearing in oblique cases (“most noticeably so when they are verbal arguments”¹). In addition to that it is stated that LPNs with the inner structure of PP and CP can take possessive pronouns as premodifiers, but presumably not adjectives. Corpus data, on the other hand, shows plenty of counterexamples for both of the statements above:

V+oblique (Genitive, - declension)

- (1) Ne xvatilo vidimo našim serial'sčikam “**Kak ja vstretil vašu mamu**”...
NEG sufficed apparently our TV-series-makers “How I met your-DAT mother-DAT”

‘Apparently, for our TV producers “How I met your mother” wasn’t enough...’

P+oblique (Locative, +declension)

- (2) ... v “**Po kom zvonit kolokole**” — slivajutsja toržestvo dolga i apofeoz
In “For whom the bell tolls” merge triumph duty-GEN and apotheosis
ljubvi.
love-GEN

‘In “For whom the bell tolls” triumph of duty and apotheosis of love merge’

Collocation with an adjective (also adjectival agreement with an absent sortal – *fil'm* ‘film’)

- (3) “Oblachno, vozmožny osadki v vide frikadelek”, vyšed-š-ij v 2009 godu...

Cloudy possible precipitation in form meatballs-GEN” come-out-PART.PST-SG.M in 2009

“Oblachno, vozmožny osadki v vide frikadelek”, that came out in 2009...’

Examples like (1 – 3) are not rare, comparing to the overall amount of examples with LNPs, although some speakers may not approve these sentences as grammatical.

The goal of this study is to explain the ability of LPNs (or particular words within LPNs) to express morphological case.

Analysis

In our study we argue that LPNs always occupy syntactic positions of NPs, therefore they seek a nominal head within themselves that would be able to take case and share number and gender features. An ideal candidate for a head is a noun or another word that has an ending similar to noun’s.

- (4) ...ryba dolzhna byt' kak u volka v **nu pogodj-ah**...
fish should be as by wolf from “Nu pogodi”-LOC

Although sentences as in (4) seem strictly colloquial and are not obligatorily approved by all the native speakers, they are broadly used in oral and written speech. In order to prove this statement and to provide the statistical data in our talk we are going to present the results of the corpus and experimental studies.

References

1. Matushansky, Ora. 2013. Sorts of proper names. Semantics and Philosophy in Europe 6. St. Petersburg, June 10-14, 2013.
2. Testeleys Y.G. (2013). Case Deficient Elements and the Direct Case Condition in Russian // *Язык и речевая деятельность. Петербургское лингвистическое общество. Том 9. 2006. СПб.: Филологический факультет СПбГУ. 126–143.*