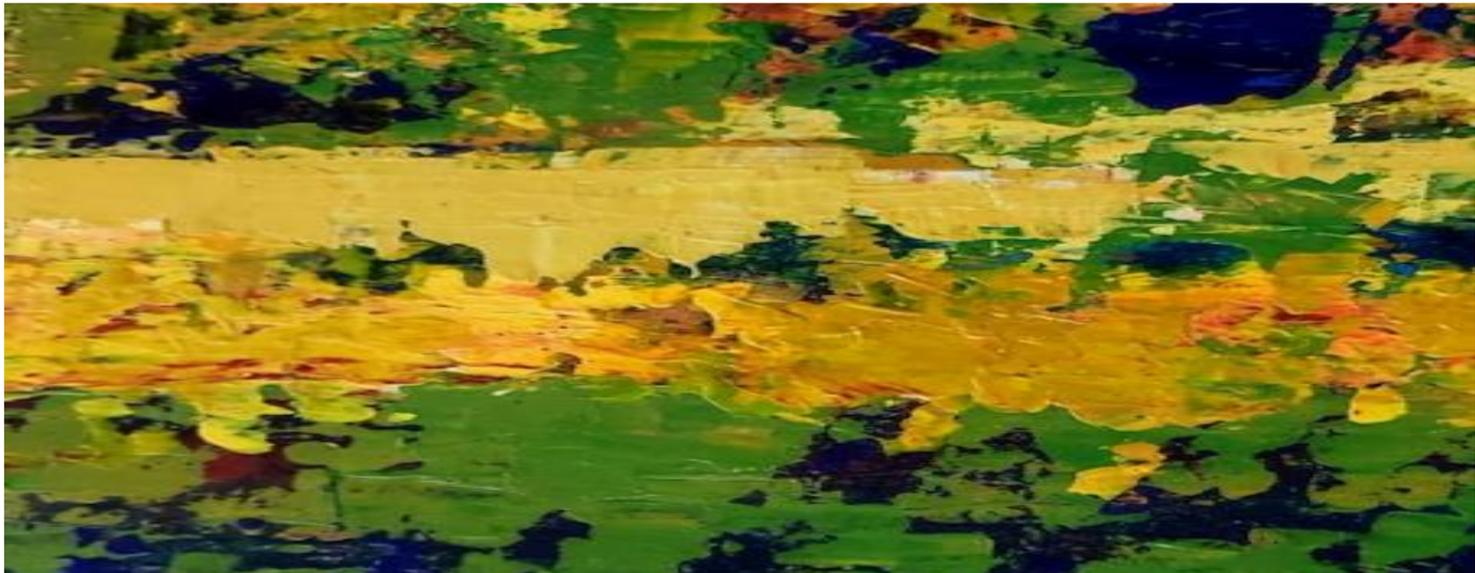




UNIVERSITÀ
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Dipartimento
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Original work by Andrea Artoni

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Online only at <https://univr.zoom.us/j/98820127058>

Slavic Linguistics Webinars

Thinking for speaking? Verbal aspect and event processing in Russian

Christina Clasmeier (University of Münster)

Jan Patrick Zeller (University of Oldenburg)

Many psycholinguistic studies have investigated the influence of grammatical verbal aspect on event processing (e.g., Ferretti et al. 2007; Golshaie & Incera 2021). The progressive aspect has been shown to be associated with a deeper "mental immer-sion" in the situation than the non-progressive aspect. As revealed in various types of experiments, the participants have, for example, a more detailed memory of the components associated with a situation (e.g. location or instruments) when it is described in the progressive aspect than in the non-progressive aspect. Most of these studies are concerned with English and, correspondingly, make use of the English aspectual distinction.

However, from a cross-linguistic perspective aspectual differences are far more di-verse (e.g., Comrie 1976: 25). In Slavic, the imperfective aspect can be used not only in progressive, but also in iterative, general-factual and other contexts. The question arises as to how the divergent shape of Slavic aspect affects event processing in na-tive speakers, and whether the effect of "mental immersion" would be associated with the Slavic imperfective aspect as well.

In our talk, we present the set-up of and results from a self-paced reading experiment with 50 native speakers of Russian. We will discuss possible explanations for the partly unexpected results and their implications for our future research project on this topic.

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