

**Two ways of “undoing” the linking process:
Impersonal constructions in Russian and beyond**

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Since its inception, RRG has developed a linking theory with significant crosslinguistic coverage (Foley and Van Valin 1984; Van Valin and LaPolla 1997; Van Valin 2005). In this light, it rather comes as a surprise that impersonal constructions [ICs] haven't received much attention outside the area of Romance languages (e.g. Bentley 2004, 2006; González Vergara 2009). ICs receive a variety of interpretations, ranging from those with a not fully referential subject to those with no overt subject (Siewierska 2008). This syntactic classification of ICs is in contrast to the functional one in terms of agent defocusing (Divjak and Janda 2008; Malchukov and Ogawa 2011). Against this backdrop, I will propose an RRG account of two types of ICs with no overt PSA in Russian and will argue that these Russian ICs are derived from what I term “anti-linking,” an operation that partially or fully undoes the two-stage linking operation at work in the interface between lexical semantics and syntax and contributes to an increase in the degree of event-orientation of the whole clause. I will show that this proposal allows us to provide a unified account of ICs and personal constructions in terms of case assignment and agreement. Finally, I will discuss a few lines of further investigation including how the above account is extended to ICs in Icelandic and some other languages.

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