

Chapter 20

A puzzle about adverbials in simultaneous readings of present and past-under-past in Russian

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The present and past tense can both get the simultaneous interpretation in complement clauses when they are embedded under the past tense in Russian. However, I observe that the adverbials that are allowed with present tense in such contexts (for example, *sejčas* ‘now’) are not allowed with the past tense and vice versa (for example, *togda* ‘then’ is not allowed with the present). I show that simply restricting the meaning of those adverbials does not help due to the fact that tenses can be interpreted *de re*. In *de re* construals, tenses are interpreted outside of the clause they originate in, so no meaning conflict between the tense and the adverbial in the embedded clause is predicted. I propose that when a tense is interpreted *de re*, an adverbial has to be interpreted *de re* together with it. I show that under this assumption the observed restriction follows in a direct way.

Keywords: present tense, past tense, past-under-past, present-under-past, *de re*, attitude reports, temporal adverbials

1 Introduction

1.1 Simultaneous readings of present-under-past and past-under-past in Russian

In this paper I will discuss simultaneous readings that the present tense and the past tense can receive in complement clauses embedded under the past tense in Russian. I will point out that there are some restrictions on adverbials that can occur in such clauses and I will attempt to explain those restrictions.



In Russian, the simultaneous reading of past tense in a complement clause embedded under past tense in a main clause is in principle available (Altshuler 2008). Usually, the simultaneous reading is not the most salient one. For example, the most salient reading of the sentence in (1), is the back shifted reading: according to Tanja, Putin was a president some time in the past with respect to 2016, the time when she pronounced the sentence.¹

- (1) V 2016 godu Tanja skazala, čto Putin byl prezidentom Rossii.
in 2016 year Tanja say.PAST that Putin be.PAST president.INST Russia.GEN
'In 2016 Tanja said that Putin was the president of Russia.'

The simultaneous reading of past-under-past in (1) can be enforced by some adverbials, such as *togda* 'then'.² In (2) *togda* anaphorically refers to 2016 and the interpretation where the event of saying and the state of being the president of Russia overlap in time becomes the most salient.

- (2) V 2016 godu Tanja skazala, čto togda Putin byl prezidentom
in 2016 year Tanja say.PAST that then Putin be.PAST president.INST
Rossii.
Russia.GEN
'In 2016 Tanja said that Putin was the president of Russia then.'

Like Hebrew (Ogihara & Sharvit 2012), Russian also has a relative present tense. For example (3), where the verb in the embedded clause has the present tense features and the verb in the main clause has the past tense features, expresses the idea that Tanja said that Putin was president at the time when she pronounced the words 'Putin is the president'.³

- (3) V 2016 godu Tanja skazala, čto Putin ∅ prezident Rossii.
in 2016 year Tanja say.PAST that Putin be.PRES president.NOM Russia.GEN
'In 2016 Tanja said that Putin was the president of Russia.'

1.2 The adverbial puzzle

Past-under-past and present-under-past in Russian both seem to be able to express the simultaneity of the time of the eventuality described by a complement

¹The Russian judgment reported in this paper are my own judgments confirmed with other native speakers of Russian.

²In this respect, Russian behaves like Hebrew, as it was reported in Ogihara & Sharvit (2012).

³Note that present tense copula (indicated by ∅ and glossed as be.PRES) is silent in Russian.

clause and the time when the embedded claim was made. However, even though *togda* really enforces the simultaneous reading of past-under-past as we saw in (2), it is completely unacceptable in a complement clause with the present tense embedded under the past tense; a relevant example is given in (4).⁴

- (4) # V 2016 godu Tanja skazala, što Putin togda ∅ prezident
 in 2016 year Tanja say.PAST that Putin then be.PRES president.NOM
 Rossii.
 Russia.GEN
 Intended: 'In 2016 Tanja said that Putin was the president of Russia
 then.'

If past-under-past and present-under-past can get the same interpretation, why is *then* possible in the embedded clause in the first case, but not in the second?

On the other hand, there are some adverbials, such as *sejčas* 'now', that are compatible with present-under-past in Russian (5), but not with past-under-past (6). Thus, the presence of *sejčas* in (6) makes it ill-formed, whereas without *sejčas* both sentences (5) and (6) can have the simultaneous reading.⁵

- (5) Kogda ja govorila s nej tri goda nazad, Tanja skazala, što ona
 when I talk.PAST with her three years ago Tanja say.PAST that she
 (sejčas) ∅ beremenna.
 now be.PRES pregnant
 'When I talked to her three years ago, Tanja told me that she was
 pregnant (at that time).'
- (6) Kogda ja govorila s nej tri goda nazad, Tanja skazala, što ona
 when I talk.PAST with her three years ago Tanja say.PAST that she
 byla (#sejčas) beremenna.
 be.PAST now pregnant
 (Intended:) 'When I talked to her three years ago, Tanja told me that she
 was pregnant (at that time).'

This is the adverbial puzzle that I will address in this paper. The fact that not all tenses are compatible with all adverbials has been previously noticed in the literature (for example, see the discussion in Hornstein 1990). What is special about the

⁴The symbol # is used, when the sentence or expression is ill-formed due to meaning.

⁵I do not translate (5) into English as 'When I talked to her 3 years ago, Tanja told me that she is pregnant now' because this English sentence does not have the relevant reading due to the fact that there is no relative present in English and *now* is indexical, unlike *sejčas* 'now'.

embedded contexts considered here is that past-under-past and present-under-past seem to be able to contribute the same meaning. Thus, it is not clear why there would be a meaning clash between an adverbial and the tense in one case but not in the other. Moreover, as I show in this paper, *togda* is an anaphoric element, and as such, it can pick different time intervals. There are many adverbial that denote a specific time interval and that are compatible with the present tense. However, there is something about the meaning of *togda* that makes it impossible for this element to pick the time intervals denoted by those adverbials. Another novel, to my knowledge, observation that I make in this paper is that the fact that *togda* and *sejčas* are distributed the way they are in the embedded contexts is not predicted by the existing theories of embedded tenses.

The discussion will go as follows. In §2 I will show that *togda* ‘then’ does not require past tense. Then I will provide the semantics of *togda* that accounts for the restriction on its use with present tense in Russian. I will suggest that *togda* carries a presupposition that the time intervals it picks are not equal to the evaluation time and will show how this presupposition accounts for the observed restrictions.

I will introduce my assumptions about the structure of the embedded clauses and the relative present in Russian and will show how the semantics of *togda* presented here correctly predicts the restrictions on its use in embedded contexts.

For the simultaneous reading of past-under-past I will adopt the classical *de re* approach (Abusch 1997; Heim 1994). I will show that the presupposition of *togda* that I am introducing is weak enough to make it compatible with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past.

In §3 I will show that the *de re* analysis of the simultaneous reading of past-under-past incorrectly predicts that Russian *sejčas* ‘now’ should be able to appear in such a context. Since under the *de re* analysis the tense moves out of the embedded clause and is interpreted separately from the adverbial, no meaning clash is predicted between the past tense and the present-oriented adverbial *sejčas*. I will propose that this problem can be solved if we adopt an assumption that a tense and an adverbial are interpreted together. Since, when past tense gets the simultaneous reading under past in believe/say contexts, it is interpreted outside of the embedded clause, the adverbial *sejčas* has to be interpreted outside of the embedded clause as well.

In §4 I will show that a similar problem arises in English *then* is predicted to be compatible with the *de re* interpretation of the present tense (which derives the so-called double access reading). §5 summarizes the findings.

2 Why *togda* is not compatible with the present tense

2.1 *Togda* is not compatible with the present tense in matrix and embedded contexts

Togda is an anaphoric element, in the sense that it makes a reference to a time interval that has been mentioned in the previous discourse. Thus in (7), it makes reference to the interval picked by *v prošlom godu* ‘last year’. In (8) it is anaphoric to the future time interval, the interval picked by *čerez tri goda* ‘in three years’.

- (7) V prošlom godu moj syn byl v pervom klasse. Togda on
 in last year my son be.PAST in first grade then he
 učilsja čitat’.
 learn.PAST.REFL read.INF
 ‘Last year my son was in the first grade. He was learning to read then.’
- (8) Čerez tri goda moj syn pojdet v pervji klass. Togda on
 in three years my son go.FUT in first grade then he
 naučitsja čitat’.
 learn.FUT.REFL read.INF
 ‘In three years my son will be in the first grade. He will learn to read then.’

However, example (9), where *togda* ‘then’ appears in a clause with present tense, is not acceptable. The reason for this must be that *togda* cannot pick the time interval denoted by *v étom godu* ‘this year’.

- (9) V étom godu moj syn ∅ vo vtorom klasse. On izučaet
 in this year my son be.PRES in second grade he study.PRES
 matematiku (#togda).
 math then
 (Intended:) ‘This year my son is in the second grade. He studies math
 (this year).’

There is some general principle that restricts the use of adverbials with the present tense both in English and in Russian. For example, the sentence in (10) does not mean that I am running now and it is 5am now.⁶ It is felicitous only on the planned future interpretation.⁷

⁶See Kamp & Reyle (1993) for a pragmatic explanation for this fact.

⁷As an anonymous reviewer points out, those sentences can be used felicitously with the present tense interpretation in some contexts. For example, (10) can be used if the previous discourse was ‘No one believed that I will start running, but here I am, running at 5am’.

- (10) # Ja begu v pjat' utra.
I run.PRES in five morning
Intended: 'I am running now and it is 5am.'

- (11) # Putin ∅ president v 2018 godu.
Putin be.PRES president in 2018 year
Intended: 'Putin is president now and it is 2018.'

I would like to leave this more general problem out of the scope of the discussion here. In order to do so, I will compare *togda* with those adverbials that are completely compatible with the present tense.

One example of such adverbial is 'this year', as shown in (9). The question I will be focusing on is why in sentences like (9) *togda* cannot pick the same time interval as the one denoted by 'this year' and be compatible with the present tense given that it can easily pick the interval denoted by 'last year' in (7) and 'in three years' in (8).

We can see from the well-formedness of (12), where 'this year' occurs in the embedded clause (with the embedded present tense) and is anaphoric to '2016' of the main clause, that *v ètom godu* 'this year' in Russian can pick a year that is current with respect to the local evaluation time (Tanja's 'now' at the time when she said those words).

- (12) V 2016 godu Tanja skazala mne, što v ètom godu ee syn ležit v
in 2016 year Tanja say.PAST me that in this year her son lie.PRES in
bol'nice.
hospital
'In 2016 Tanja told me that that year her son was in the hospital.'

In (13) *v ètom godu* 'this year' occurs in the main clause and the sentence without *togda* has the simultaneous reading. The presence of *togda* makes this sentence ill-formed. Since *v ètom godu* 'this year' is perfectly compatible with the present tense (embedded, as in (12) and unembedded, as in (14)), the badness of *togda* in (13) must be due to the fact that it somehow cannot refer to this interval.

- (13) Ja govorila s Tanej v ètom godu I ona skazala mne, što ee syn
I talk.PAST with Tanja in this year and she say.PAST me that her son
(#*togda*) vse ešče ležit v bol'nice.
then all still lie.PRES in hospital
(Intended:) 'I talked with Tanja this year and she told me that her son was still in the hospital (then).'

- (14) Tanin syn v ètom godu vse ešče ležit v bol'nice.
 Tanja's son in this year all still lie.PRES in hospital
 'Tanja's son is still in hospital this year.'

In principle, *togda* can pick an interval that is inside the interval denoted by 'this year' as it is shown in (15), where it occurs with the past tense embedded under past. In (15) *togda* anaphorically refers to the time when Tanja pronounced the words.

- (15) Ja govorila s Tanej v ètom godu i ona skazala mne, što ee syn
 I talk.PAST with Tanja in this year and she say.PAST me that her son
 togda vse ešče ležal v bol'nice.
 then all still lie.PAST in hospital
 'I talked to Tanja this year and she told me that her son was still in the
 hospital then.'

The question I will address here is why *togda* cannot denote a time interval that is compatible with present tense.

2.2 *Togda* does not require past tense

I will start this discussion by ruling out the simple idea that Russian *togda* requires past tense in the same clause to be licensed. One implementation of such an idea would be that *togda* has to agree with past tense and the agreement relation can only be established locally.

In Russian, there are several adverbials that have a meaning similar to *togda* and can occur in subordinate clauses with past tense embedded under past. They are listed in (16). The fact that all of them are good with past-under-past is shown in (17).

- (16) v to vremja / v tot moment / na tot moment
 in that time in that moment on that moment
 'at that time' / 'at that moment' / 'by that moment'
- (17) Ja govorila s Tanej v ètom godu i ona skazala mne, što ee syn
 I talk.PAST with Tanja in this year and she say.PAST me that her son
 {v to vremja / v tot moment / na tot moment} ležal v bol'nice.
 in that time in that moment on that moment lie.PAST in hospital
 'I talked to Tanja this year and she told me that her son was in the
 hospital {at that time / at that moment / by that moment}.'

All of them are infelicitous with present tense embedded under past, as it is shown in (18).

- (18) #Ja govorila s Tanej v ètom godu i ona skazala mne, što ee
I talk.PAST with Tanja in this year and she say.PAST me that her
syn {v to vremena / v tot moment / na tot moment} ležit v
son in that time in that moment on that moment lie.PRES in
bol'nice.
hospital
Intended: 'I talked to Tanja this year and she told me that her son was in
the hospital {at that time / at that moment / by that moment}.'

A strong argument against the hypothesis that all of those elements have to be licensed by past tense comes from the fact that all of them are in fact compatible with future tense in the same clause. One example where *togda* occurred in a matrix clause with a future tense was given in (8). In (19) I show that all of the adverbials given in (16) are compatible with an embedded future. The antecedent for *togda* or *na tot moment* 'at that moment' in (19) is given in a previous sentence and the resulting sentence is well-formed.

- (19) My obsuždali 2019 god. Tanja skazala, što {na tot moment / v tot
we discuss.PAST 2019 year Tanja say.PAST that on that moment in that
moment / togda} Medvedev budet prezidentom.
moment then Medvedev be.FUT president.INST
'We discussed 2019. Tanja said that {by that moment / at that moment /
then} Medvedev would be the president.'

We can conclude that it is not the case that *togda* (as well as other anaphoric elements that are compatible with past-under-past and incompatible with present-under-past) needs to be licensed by the past tense in the same clause.

2.3 The semantics of *togda*

I suggest that *togda* has the semantics given in (20). *Togda* carries an index that is mapped to a contextually given time interval (an interval *togda* is anaphoric to). It denotes a function of type $\langle i, t \rangle$: a function that takes a time interval and returns truth if that interval surrounds the contextually given time (translating this into the set-talk: it denotes a set of time intervals that surround the contextually given interval). The key part of this semantics is the presupposition that *togda* carries:

the time intervals it picks cannot be equal to the evaluation time with respect to which *togda* is interpreted.

$$(20) \quad \llbracket \text{togda}_5 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' : t' \neq t . g(5) \subseteq t'$$

A stronger presupposition that would also prevent *togda* from picking the time interval denoted by ‘this year’ would be that the time interval it picks does not overlap with the evaluation time. However, this would incorrectly predict that *togda* is incompatible with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past.

Let us consider what happens if we try to make *togda* to be anaphoric to the time interval denoted by ‘this year’. The index 5 is mapped to the year long interval surrounding the evaluation time.

$$(21) \quad g(5) = \text{the year of } t$$

Given those assumptions, the resulting meaning of *togda* with the index 5 is given in (22).

$$(22) \quad \llbracket \text{togda}_5 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' : t' \neq t . \text{the year of } t \subseteq t'$$

If we put together the semantics of *togda* given in (22) and present tense in a matrix context we will get a contradiction.

I will demonstrate this on the example of the second sentence of (9) that is given here separately as (23). The LF for it is given in (24).

$$(23) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{On izučaet} \quad \text{matematiku (\#togda)} \\ \text{He study.PRES math} \quad \quad \text{then} \\ \text{(Intended:) 'He studies math (now).'} \end{array}$$

$$(24) \quad \llbracket \text{IP} \llbracket \text{I PRES}_4 \rrbracket \llbracket \text{vP}' \llbracket \text{AdvP togda}_5 \rrbracket \llbracket \text{vP he}_7 \llbracket \text{VP studies math} \rrbracket \rrbracket \rrbracket$$

I will assume that VPs like ‘studies math’ denote functions of type $\langle e, \langle i, t \rangle \rangle$. Thus, the vP gets the denotation of type $\langle i, t \rangle$. Let’s assume that the assignment function g maps the index 7 to John.

$$(25) \quad \llbracket \text{vP}_{(24)} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' . \text{John studies math at } t'$$

Since temporal adverbials like *togda* also denote functions of type $\langle i, t \rangle$ (predicates of times), they can combine with vPs via predicate modification. The result of this is given in (26).

$$(26) \quad \llbracket \text{vP}'_{(24)} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' : t' \neq t . \text{the year of } t \subseteq t' \ \& \ \text{John studies math at } t'$$

I will adopt the pronominal semantics for tenses (Partee 1973). Tenses carry indices, thus, like other pronouns, they get their denotation via the assignment function g . The semantics for present tense that I will assume is given in (27). It simply denotes a specific time interval and presupposes that this time interval is equal to the evaluation time.

- (27) $\llbracket \text{PRES}_4 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = g(4)$
 $\llbracket \text{PRES}_4 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}$ is only defined if $g(4) = t$

The predicate of times in (26) combines with the present tense via function-argument application. The predicted denotation for (24) is given in (28). *Togda* carries a presupposition that the time intervals it selects are not equal to the evaluation time. Present tense carries a presupposition that the time interval it denotes is equal to the evaluation time. What follows from this is that when *togda* and the present tense combine there will be a contradiction. This accounts for the infelicity of *togda* with present tense in matrix contexts.

- (28) $\llbracket \text{IP}_{(24)} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \top$ iff John studies math at $g(4)$ and the year of $t \subseteq g(4)$
 $\llbracket \text{IP}_{(24)} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}$ is defined only if $g(4) = t$ and $g(4) \neq t$

Note that nothing prevents *togda* from picking a time interval within the current year as long as it is in the past or future with respect to the evaluation time. This is a good prediction because we still want to account for the well-formedness of (15).

The contradiction is predicted to arise when *togda* is used in embedded clauses with the present tense as well.

In languages where present-under-past can get the simultaneous reading, it is standardly interpreted as a relative present: a tense that denotes a local evaluation time (Ogihara 1989; von Stechow 1995; Ogihara & Sharvit 2012).

The denotation for the relative present is given in (29): essentially it has the same denotation as the regular present in Russian.

- (29) $\llbracket \text{PRES-REL}_1 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = g(1)$
 $\llbracket \text{PRES-REL}_1 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}$ is only defined if $g(1) = t$

I will make the following assumptions about the structure and the interpretation of embedded clauses in belief reports. Intensional verbs are quantifiers over world–time pairs. The intensional verb ‘say’ combines with its complement clause via a version of the rule of Intensional Functional Application (Heim & Kratzer 1998). An intension of an expression XP is computed as shown in (30).

(30) $\lambda w' \lambda t' . \llbracket \text{XP} \rrbracket^{w', t', g, c}$

I will make my point by using the example given in (31). The LF for the embedded clause is given in (32). For the simplicity of exposition, I reconstructed the subject to its base-position.

(31) Tanja skazala mne v étom godu, što ee syn (#togda) ležit v
 Tanja say.PAST me in this year that her son then lie.PRES in
 bol'nice.
 hospital
 (Intended:) 'Tanja told me this year that her son was in the hospital (at
 that time).'

(32) $[\text{IP} [\text{I PRES-REL}_1] [\text{vP}' [\text{AdvP togda}_5] [\text{vP her}_7 \text{ son be in hospital}]]]$

With these assumptions, I predict that the embedded clause with *togda* in our problematic sentence (31) will have the intension given in (33).

(33) $\lambda w' \lambda t' : t' \neq t' . \text{Tanja's son is in hospital in } w' \text{ at } t' \text{ \& the year of } t' \subseteq t'$

This intension includes a contradictory presupposition, thus the infelicity of *togda* is predicted.

One natural question arising at this point is whether the presence of this presupposition is predicted to block the use of *togda* in simultaneous reading of past-under-past as well because this would not be the desired result, as the well-formedness of (2) shows. This is the question I will address in the next subsection.

2.4 *Togda* and the simultaneous reading of past-under-past in Russian

In order to account for the restriction on the use of *togda* with embedded and matrix present tense in Russian, I suggested that *togda* in Russian comes with a presupposition that the time intervals it picks are not equal to the local evaluation time.

The simultaneous reading of past-under-past in complement clauses in principle can be derived at least in two ways. One option is a past tense deletion rule. In this system, the past features on the embedded past are not interpreted and an embedded past is interpreted as a relative tense (Ogihara 1989; 1995). A relative tense is interpreted as a local evaluation time, thus, in this system, given the definition I proposed for *togda*, *togda* is predicted to be infelicitous with the simultaneous reading of the past tense.

But this is not the only way past tense could get the simultaneous interpretation. Another standardly assumed way of deriving the simultaneous reading is the *de re* construal (Abusch 1997; Heim 1994; Ogihara & Sharvit 2012). In what follows I will introduce the classic analysis of the *de re* construal and I will show that the presupposition of *togda* that I am proposing is not predicted to be in a conflict with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past in complement clauses.

Thus, I will assume that when *togda* is acceptable with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past, the simultaneous reading is derived via the *de re* construal.

I will show how the system works by using example (2), repeated here as (34).

- (34) V 2016 godu Tanja skazala, čto togda Putin byl prezidentom
in 2016 year Tanja say.PAST that then Putin be.PAST president.INST
Rossii.
Russia.GEN
'In 2016 Tanja said that Putin was the president of Russia then.'

Abusch proposed to extend the *de re* analysis for singular terms developed by Kaplan (1969), Lewis (1979) and Cresswell & von Stechow (1982) to the analysis of tenses in intensional contexts. In my exposition of the temporal *de re* construal I will use Cable's (2015) exposition of this system, which relies on Heim's (1994) implementation.

The past tense undergoes movement within the lower clause, leaving a trace t_4 and triggering lambda abstraction, indicated by 4 in Figure 1. The result of this movement is a predicate of times in the embedded clause.

After that, the past tense undergoes another short movement that is called the res-movement (Heim 1994). This type of movement is special because the moved element does not leave a trace and does not move to a c-commanding position.⁸ It moves to the position of the sister of the verb *say*. Thus, this tense will be interpreted outside of the clause where it originates.

Intensional verbs like *say* are ambiguous between their regular denotation and the denotation given in (35).

⁸Due to those properties res-movement is highly controversial from the syntactic perspective. There is a less controversial way of deriving *de re* readings (developed for individual arguments) via concept generators that was proposed by Percus & Sauerland (2003).

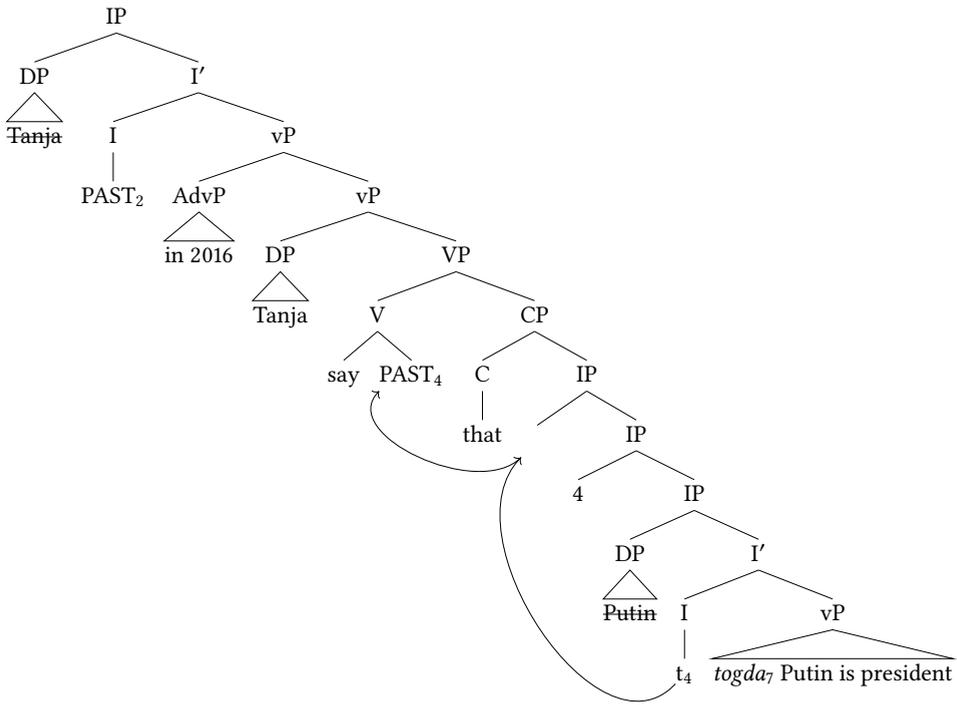


Figure 1: LF of (34)

- (35) $\llbracket \text{say} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} =$
- λt_i the object of believe (res)
 - $\lambda Q_{\langle s, \langle i, \langle i, t \rangle \rangle \rangle}$ the intension of the predicate of times
 - λy_e the attitude holder
 - $\lambda t'_i$ the time of saying
- $$\exists P_{\langle s, \langle i, \langle i, t \rangle \rangle \rangle} [t = \text{the time } z \text{ such that } P(w)(t')(z) \ \&$$
- $$\forall \langle w'', t'' \rangle \in \text{SAY-ALT}(y, w, t') : Q(w'')(t'')(z) = \top]$$

The function denoted by *say* first combines with the tense that has been moved from the lower clause and now is its sister. Then it combines with the intension of the predicate of times created by the movement. After that, it takes an individual (the subject) and the time argument of the higher clause. Intensional verbs contribute quantification over time-concepts (relations between a world, time and another time). Those time-concepts should be understood as descriptions by which a believer represents a time interval to herself.

The denotation for *v 2016 godu* ‘in 2016’ is given in (36): it denotes a set of intervals within 2016.

$$(36) \quad \llbracket v \text{ 2016 godu} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' . t' \subseteq 2016$$

Togda in (34) can either anaphorically refer to 2016 or the time in 2016 when Tanja said the words. I will assume the first option (but nothing hinges on this choice): the assignment function *g* maps index 7 on *togda* to the set of intervals in 2016. *Togda* will denote the set of intervals that surround 2016.

$$(37) \quad \begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{togda}_7 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} &= \lambda t' : t' \neq t . g(7) \subseteq t' \\ &= \lambda t' : t' \neq t . 2016 \subseteq t' \end{aligned}$$

The intension of the predicate of times is computed in (38). In this system, the time of Putin’s presidency (in Tanja’s say-alternatives) and the local evaluation time are two distinct times. *Togda* contributes the presupposition that those two intervals are not equal to each other.⁹

$$(38) \quad \begin{aligned} \lambda w \lambda t . \llbracket 4 [t_4 [\text{togda}_7 \text{ Putin be president}] \dots] \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} \\ = \lambda w \lambda t \lambda t' : t' \neq t . \text{ Putin is the president in } w \text{ at } t' \ \& \ 2016 \subseteq t' \end{aligned}$$

The resulting semantics for the entire sentence is given in (39).

$$(39) \quad \begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{Figure 1} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} &= \top \text{ iff} \\ \exists P : g(4) &= \text{ the time } z \text{ such that } P(w)(g(2))(z) \ \& \ g(2) \subseteq 2016 \ \& \\ \forall \langle w'', t'' \rangle \in \text{SAY-ALT}(\text{TANJA}, w, g(2)) : & [\lambda t' : t' \neq t'' . \text{ Putin is the president} \\ \text{in } w'' \text{ at } t' \ \& \ 2016 \subseteq t'](\text{the } z \text{ such that } & P(w'')(t'')(z)) = \top \\ \llbracket \text{Figure 1} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} &\text{ is defined only if } g(2) < t \ \& \ g(4) < t \end{aligned}$$

This sentence is predicted to be true in case there is a time concept *P* that relates the particular time in the past when Tanja pronounced those words in the actual

⁹The full *de re* analysis requires another presupposition in the embedded clause that the time of the state or eventuality described in the embedded clause is not in the future with respect to the local evaluation time (the upper limit constraint; cf. Abusch 1997). The full intension of the embedded clause is shown in (i). This presupposition is responsible for the fact that past-under-past cannot have the forward shifted reading.

$$(i) \quad \begin{aligned} \lambda w \lambda t . \llbracket 4 [t_4 [\text{togda}_7 \text{ Putin be president}] \dots] \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} \\ = \lambda w \lambda t \lambda t' : t' \neq t \ \& \ \neg t' > t . \text{ Putin is the president in } w \text{ at } t' \ \& \ 2016 \subseteq t' \end{aligned}$$

world and the past moment denoted by the moved past tense such that the same relation also holds between the time when Tanja located herself in her doxastic alternatives (her local now) and the time when Putin is the president in her doxastic alternatives.

One such possible time concept in the case under consideration is given in (40).

(40) $\lambda w \lambda t' \lambda t'' . t''$ is a year-long interval that surrounds t' in w

The two intervals this concept relates are not equal to each other: one surrounds the other one, thus the presupposition introduced by *togda* is satisfied. The existence of the concept given in (40) can make the entire formula in (39) true. The presupposition requires that $g(4)$ and $g(2)$ are in the past. Given this time-concept, the first conjunct in (39) is as follows (41).

(41) $g(4)$ = the time z such that z is a year-long interval that covers the time $g(2)$ (the time when Tanja said those words) & $g(2) \subseteq 2016$

The second conjunct is also true: in all of Tanja's doxastic alternatives, Putin is president at the time z such that z is a year-long interval that surrounds her local 'now' (at the time when she said the words) and $2016 \subseteq z$.

Since the temporal *de re* construal derives the simultaneous reading of past-under-past without requiring that the two time intervals are exactly equal, the presupposition that *togda* carries is not going to be harmful for the meaning of the sentence. Thus, the presupposition that I am proposing is strong enough to rule out *togda* with present-under-past, but is weak enough to make it compatible with a simultaneous reading of past-under-past.

The semantics (39) also accounts for the fact that *togda* enforces the simultaneous reading.¹⁰

Togda picks the intervals that surround the time it is anaphoric to. When *togda* is in an embedded say-context and it is anaphoric to the time of saying, it is predicted to contribute the claim that what is described by the embedded sentence is happening at the time that surrounds the time of saying (from the speaker's perspective).

¹⁰I would like to thank an anonymous reviewer who made this point.

3 *Sejčas* in simultaneous readings of past-under-past in Russian

The set of assumptions that made it possible for us to derive the compatibility of *togda* with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past in complement clauses, leads to the prediction that *sejčas* ('now') should be acceptable in those contexts as well. Thus the contrast between (5) and (6) (repeated here as (42) and (43)) is not predicted.

(42) Kogda ja govorila s nej tri goda nazad, Tanja skazala, čto ona (when I talk.PAST with her three years ago Tanja say.PAST that she sejčas) ∅ beremenna.
 now be.PRES pregnant
 'When I talked to her three years ago, Tanja told me that she was pregnant (then/at that time).'

(43) Kogda ja govorila s nej tri goda nazad, Tanja skazala, čto ona (when I talk.PAST with her three years ago Tanja say.PAST that she byla (#sejčas) beremenna.
 be.PAST now pregnant
 (Intended:) 'When I talked to her three years ago, Tanja told me that she was pregnant (at that time).'

In (42) *sejčas* 'now' is acceptable, which means that *sejčas* is not an unshiftable indexical in Russian. In (42) *sejčas* picks the time interval three years ago when the conversation happened. Thus I will treat *sejčas* as sensitive to the evaluation time and not to the context time as shown in (44): *sejčas* denotes a predicate of times that is true of intervals that surround the local evaluation time. (If instead of surrounding we chose a relation of being equal to, it would not have any significant effect on the final outcome of the system.)

(44) $\llbracket \text{sejčas} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' . t \subseteq t'$

Under those assumptions the fact that *sejčas* is acceptable in (42) follows straightforwardly (with the assumption that present tense in Russian can be interpreted as a relative present).

The main interest for us here is the example (43) and the fact that *sejčas* is not acceptable in this context. Again I will assume the *de re* construal for the simultaneous reading of past-under-past in (43). The LF that will be interpreted here, namely Figure 2, is structurally identical to the one given in Figure 1 (but the lexical items are different).

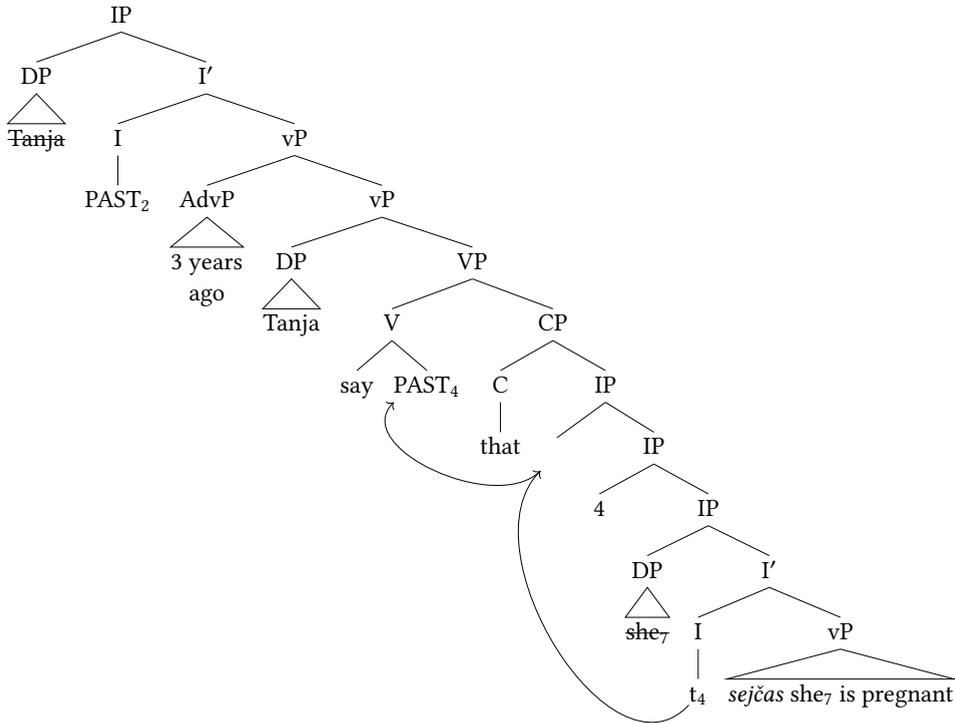


Figure 2: LF of the relevant part of (43)

Again, the attitude verb combines with its res-argument (the tense that was moved from the lower clause), the intension of the predicate of times created by the movement, an individual (the matrix subject), and the time argument of the matrix clause. The intension of the embedded clause is given in (45) (under the assumption that g maps index 7 to Tanja).

$$(45) \quad \lambda w \lambda t . \llbracket 4 [t_4 [sejčas she_7 \text{ is pregnant}]] \rrbracket^{w, t, g, c} \\ = \lambda w \lambda t \lambda t' . t \subseteq t' \ \& \ \text{Tanja is pregnant in } w \text{ at } t'$$

The resulting semantics for the entire sentence is given in (46).

$$(46) \quad \llbracket \text{Figure 2} \rrbracket^{w, t, g, c} = \top \text{ iff} \\ \exists P : g(4) = \text{the time } z \text{ such that } P(w)(g(2))(z) \ \& \ g(2) \text{ is a time 3 years ago} \\ \ \& \ \forall \langle w'', t'' \rangle \in \text{SAY-ALT}(\text{TANJA}, w, g(2)) : [\lambda t' . t'' \subseteq t' \ \& \ \text{Tanja is pregnant} \\ \text{in } w'' \text{ at } t'](\text{the } z \text{ such that } P(w'')(t'')(z)) = \top \\ \llbracket \text{Figure 2} \rrbracket^{w, t, g, c} \text{ is defined only if } g(2) < t \text{ and } g(4) < t$$

The contribution that *sejčas* ends up making is that the time of the state described by the embedded clause (Tanja's pregnancy) surrounds the time when Tanja locates herself in her doxastic alternatives at the time of saying. This should give us the simultaneous reading.

One possible concept that will be suitable in this case is given in (47).

(47) $\lambda_w \lambda t' \lambda t'' . t''$ is a 9-month interval that surrounds t' in w

In the actual world, $g(4)$ (past time from the embedded clause) is the z such that it is the 9-month interval that surrounds $g(2)$ (past time of saying). In Tanja's alternatives Tanja is pregnant at the time z such that z is the 9-month interval that surrounds her local now.

Intuitively it is clear that the clash happens because *sejčas* has a present tense orientation and it is not compatible with the past tense. However, the past tense under the *de re* analysis of the simultaneous reading of past-under-past is not interpreted in the same clause as *sejčas*, thus no clash is predicted. Moreover the presence of *sejčas* in the sentence is predicted to enforce the simultaneous reading of past-under-past the way 'then' enforces it, due to the fact that *sejčas* picks intervals that surround the local evaluation time.

In order to account for the fact observed in (43) I suggest that when tense is interpreted outside of the embedded clause, *sejčas* is interpreted together with it.

This can be implemented in a system where tense and the adverbial undergo the res-movement together. To move *sejčas* together with tense, I will allow tense to combine with adverbials directly: I will change the denotation of tenses and suggest that they take predicates of times (like the one denoted by *sejčas* or *togda*) as their first arguments (48). I will consider tense pronouns to be definite articles of times: they combine with a predicate of times and return a specific time interval. In doing so I do not derail in a significant way from the pronominal semantics of tense. I adopt the idea that all pronouns are definite articles (Elbourne 2005). The pronominal element is still there in the semantics of tense suggested in (48). In this system, just like in the classic pronominal approach to the semantics of tense, past tense denotes a particular interval of time. An adverbial acts like a restrictor on the possible intervals that the tense can denote.

(48) $[[\text{PAST}_2]]^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda P_{\langle i,t \rangle} . \lambda t' P(t') = \tau \ \& \ t' = g(2)$
 $[[\text{PAST}_2]]^{w,t,g,c}$ is defined only if $g(2) < t$

If *sejčas* undergoes res-movement to the matrix clause together with the past tense, the restriction on the use of *sejčas* in simultaneous readings of past-under-past that we observe in (43) follows directly. The predicted result of applying

past to *sejčas* is given in (49). This is because given our definition in (44) the time interval denoted by *sejčas* has to surround the evaluation time, which for the matrix clause is the time of evaluation of the entire sentence, i.e. now. The time interval denoted by the past has to strictly precede the evaluation time. There is no interval that is simultaneously strictly in the past with respect to the current moment and surrounds it. Thus the clash between the past tense and *sejčas* is predicted.

- (49) $\llbracket \text{PAST}_2 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}(\llbracket \text{sejčas} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}) = it' \ t \subseteq t' \ \& \ t' = g(2)$
 $\llbracket \text{PAST}_2 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}(\llbracket \text{sejčas} \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c})$ is defined only if $g(2) < t$

4 *Then* with present-under-past in English

In English, present-under-past in complement clauses cannot get the simultaneous reading. The English present tense cannot be interpreted as a relative present. The absence of the relative present reading in (50) shows that the English present tense is sensitive to the context time and not the evaluation time. In (50) present-under-past gets only the so-called double access reading.

- (50) This year Tanja said that Putin is the president of Russia.

This reading requires that if what Tanja said was true when she said it, then Putin must be the president of Russia now. This reading requires the embedded claim to be true at both the matrix utterance time and at the time of the doxastic alternatives. Abusch (1997) has shown that this reading can be derived if we interpret present tense of the embedded clause in (50) *de re*.

The present tense undergoes res-movement (Heim 1994). This creates the LF structurally similar to the one given in Figure 1. Again, given the semantics for *say* in (35) there is a parallelism requirement on the relation between the present tense moved from the embedded clause and the past moment of saying on the one hand and the relation between the time of the presidency in Tanja's say-alternatives and the time when she locates herself on the other. Due to a constraint on the interpretation of embedded tenses called the upper limit constraint – the idea that tense of an embedded clause cannot be a future directed concept – this cannot be the relation of the past preceding present and Putin's presidency being in the future with respect to Tanja's local now (Abusch 1997). The only other option is the relation of the surrounding, where the interval denoted by the present tense surrounds the one denoted by the past.

In English *then* is also not compatible with present-under-past (51).

(51) #This year Tanja said that Putin is the president of Russia then.

Even if English *then* has the same denotation as Russian *togda* and carries the relevant presupposition, the restriction observed in (51) does not follow unless we make an assumption that the adverbial has to undergo the res-movement together with the present tense. This is the same problem as the one we saw with the Russian *sejčas* in *de re* construals.

In a *de re* construal tense moves out of the clause it originates in. The presupposition of the non equality between the evaluation time and the time intervals *then* picks will translate in this system into the requirement of non-identity of the time of presidency and the time when Tanja locates herself. This is not problematic, given that relation between them is the relation of surrounding. *This year* is an adverbial that is compatible with the present tense in English, thus if *then* can be anaphoric to this adverbial, no clash is predicted between *then* and the present tense.

The restriction we observe in (51) is straightforwardly predicted in the system where the English *then* has the same denotation as the Russian *togda*, shown in (52), and tense adverbials are interpreted together with tense. If tense undergoes the res-movement, the adverbial has to move with it.

(52) $\llbracket \text{then}_5 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c} = \lambda t' : t' \neq t . g(5) \subseteq t'$

If we extend the analysis suggested here for the Russian *sejčas*-cases to English cases with *then*, the fact observed in (51) follows without any further assumptions. Present tense takes *then* as its argument. The result of this is shown (53). Since *then* moves together with the tense and is also interpreted in the matrix clause, there is predicted to be a clash between the presupposition of the present tense (that it denotes the time interval equal to the context time that equals to the matrix evaluation time) and the presupposition of *then* (that the intervals it picks are not equal to the evaluation time). This is shown in (53).

(53) $\llbracket \text{PRES}_2 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}(\llbracket \text{then}_5 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}) = it' g(5) \subseteq t' \ \& \ t' = g(2)$
 $\llbracket \text{PRES}_2 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c}(\llbracket \text{then}_5 \rrbracket^{w,t,g,c})$ is defined only if $g(2) = t_c$ and $g(2) \neq t$

Thus if we extend the analysis suggested here for the Russian *sejčas*-cases with the embedded past to English *then*-cases with the embedded present, the ill-formedness of (51) follows without any further assumptions.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, I looked at simultaneous readings of present-under-past and past-under-past in complement clauses in Russian. I have formulated the adverbial puzzle: there are adverbials like *togda* ‘then’ that can enforce the simultaneous reading of past-under-past but are completely infelicitous with present-under-past; and there are adverbials like *sejčas* ‘now’ that are compatible with an embedded relative present, but not with past-under-past.

I suggested that the restriction on the use of *togda* in Russian can be explained if *togda* carries a presupposition that the time intervals it picks are not equal to the evaluation time. I have shown that this presupposition is strong enough to make *togda* incompatible with the relative present, however weak enough to be compatible with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past. The reason for this is that the simultaneous reading of past-under-past in Russian is derived via *de re* construal and the meaning resulting from this construal does not require that the two intervals are equal, it is enough for them to simply overlap.

I have demonstrated that the fact that *sejčas* is felicitous with present-under-past in Russian and is not acceptable with the simultaneous reading of past-under-past does not follow from the classic *de re* analysis of simultaneous readings of past-under-past. The reason for this is that since the past tense moves out of the embedded clause, no meaning clash is predicted between the meaning of the present oriented adverbial *sejčas* and the past tense. I have shown that the fact that *sejčas* is infelicitous with past-under-past in Russian follows straightforwardly if we allow it to be interpreted *de re* together with an embedded past tense. I extended this analysis to explain the fact that *then* is not compatible with present-under-past in English.

Abbreviations

GEN	genitive	NOM	nominative
FUT	future tense	PAST	past tense
INF	infinitive	PRES	present tense
INST	instrumental	REFL	reflexive

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