

Chapter 8

Silent HAVE needs revisiting: (Non-)possessive meanings with transitive intensional ‘need’ in Russian

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I discuss two ‘need’ + NP constructions in Russian, namely (i) the more basic construction with a nominative theme and (ii) the underdescribed, highly colloquial construction with an accusative theme. Building on work on the semantics of possessive constructions, I show that the two constructions differ as to which semantic relations they can express. Specifically, the nominative construction can not only express the control relation (the most prototypical possessive relation), but also a variety of others, whereas the accusative construction is restricted to the control relation, as manifested in the animacy and concreteness restrictions associated with it. Based on previous work on intensional transitive verbs, I analyze both constructions as involving a concealed clausal complement with a silent HAVE but extend this analysis by assuming that HAVE selects an NP complement via a syntactically represented type-shifting operator, which encodes the respective semantic relations expressed in the construction. I further argue that the accusative construction incorporates the type-shifter for the control relation, thus accounting for its selectional restrictions, and tentatively suggest that this might also explain the accusative marking. Finally, I report the results of three acceptability rating studies testing the animacy and concreteness restrictions in the accusative construction.

Keywords: intensional transitive verbs, possession, case alternation, Russian, experimental syntax

1 Introduction

In standard Russian, ‘need’ with a nominal complement (compare to English *I need a book*) is typically realized by the adjectival predicate *nužen* ‘necessary’, which takes a dative subject and a nominative theme controlling the number and gender agreement on the predicate (henceforth, the ‘need’ + NOM construction), as shown in (1a). In colloquial registers, ‘need’ can also occur with accusative (sometimes genitive) themes without any clear truth-conditional difference, as shown in (1b). In this case ‘need’ is realized by the non-agreeing (adverbial) form *nužno*, identical to the neuter singular form, or by the non-inflecting impersonal predicate *nado* (henceforth, the ‘need’ + ACC construction).¹

- (1) a. Mne nužn-a knig-a. ‘need’ + NOM
 me.DAT necessary-F.SG book-NOM.SG
 ‘I need a book.’
- b. Mne nužno / nado knig-u. ‘need’ + ACC
 me.DAT necessary.ADV necessary.ADV book-ACC.SG
 ‘I need a book.’

ACC marking on the theme in the ‘need’ + ACC construction alternates with genitive marking for mass and plural nouns, as well as for some abstract nouns like ‘love’, ‘happiness’, etc., especially under negation, as shown in (2). Henceforth, I will disregard examples with genitive marking and only discuss examples with ACC themes.

- (2) a. Mne nado vod-y / ščast’-ja.
 me.DAT necessary.ADV water-GEN.SG happiness-GEN.SG
 ‘I need water/happiness.’
- b. Mne ne nužno vod-y / podark-ov.
 me.DAT NEG necessary.ADV water-GEN.SG present-GEN.PL
 ‘I do not need water/presents.’

The ‘need’ + NOM construction is stylistically neutral and is by far more frequent than the ‘need’ + ACC construction, which is highly colloquial and is sometimes considered non-standard by native speakers. Nevertheless, the ‘need’ + ACC construction occurs with a non-negligible frequency in the corpus.² There are further

¹In what follows, *nužno* and *nado* are glossed as ‘adverbial’ (ADV) to highlight their non-verbal character, without any theoretical implications.

²In a study based on the Russian National Corpus (RNC; <http://www.ruscorpora.ru>), I found 54 examples of ‘need’ + ACC with *nužno* and 223 examples with *nado* in the texts written after 1950. The results of this study are discussed in Knyazev 2020.

pragmatic differences between the two constructions, having to do with the subjective component in the meaning of ‘need’ + ACC. I disregard these differences in this paper (but see [Knyazev 2020](#)).

The ‘need’ + ACC construction has been briefly discussed in the literature (see, e.g., [Švedova 1980](#): 325–327, [Pesetsky 1982](#): 213, [Mikaelian & Roudet 1999](#): 28), mostly in connection with other ACC-assigning non-verbal predicates in Russian such as *žal* ‘(it is a) pity’, *vidno* ‘(it is) visible’, *slyšno* ‘(it is) audible’, and some others. To my knowledge, however, it has not received a detailed analysis so far and has never been systematically contrasted with the ‘need’ + NOM construction. Most strikingly, it is not mentioned in [Harves \(2008\)](#) and [Harves & Kayne \(2012\)](#), which specifically address Russian ‘need’ with a nominal complement, a point to which I return in §4.2.

In [Knyazev \(2020\)](#), I discussed the semantic/distributional differences between the ‘need’ + NOM and the ‘need’ + ACC constructions, suggesting that ‘need’ + ACC has a more restricted distribution. Specifically, I argued that ‘need’ + ACC is restricted to the expression of concrete human possession, namely possession of concrete (manipulable) objects by human beings (which is sometimes metaphorically extended to abstract objects), which I referred to as the CONCRETENESS and the ANIMACY RESTRICTIONS. By contrast, the ‘need’ + NOM construction can express a wide variety of relations, including those that are not typically associated with possession.

In this paper, I review some of these findings but also situate them in a larger theoretical context, namely the literature on intensional transitive verbs, including, in particular, [Harves \(2008\)](#) (and, to a smaller extent, [Harves & Kayne 2012](#)), which is specifically dedicated to ‘need’ + NP in Russian. My goal is to show how these findings lead to a revision of the silent HAVE analysis proposed by [Harves \(2008\)](#) for the ‘need’ + NOM construction and also how this analysis can be extended to the ‘need’ + ACC construction (which [Harves](#) does not discuss), in a way that can capture its semantic restrictions.

The account I propose heavily relies on the recent semantic account of the English transitive ‘need’ construction proposed in [Zaroukian & Beller \(2013\)](#) (which is, in turn, strongly influenced by [Vikner & Jensen 2002](#)). The particular importance of [Zaroukian & Beller \(2013\)](#) is that it explicitly deals with the semantic variability in transitive ‘need’ (which is rarely discussed in the literature) as well as proposes a compositional account of this variability.

The second goal of this paper is to present the results of three formal acceptability judgment studies aimed at investigating the proposed animacy and concreteness restrictions using methods of experimental syntax (see [Sprouse & Hornstein](#)

2013). Somewhat unexpectedly, these studies failed to provide direct support for the hypothesized restrictions. I offer some speculations as to why these negative results might have been obtained and make some methodological suggestions for future research.

The paper is structured as follows: In §2, I give an overview of the discussion of the ‘need’ + NP construction in the literature on intensional transitive verbs, starting from the ‘standard’ silent HAVE analysis of ‘need’ + NP (§2.1), then turning to some problematic examples with apparently non-possessive relations (§2.2) and, finally, presenting Zaroukian & Beller’s (2013) semantic account of ‘need’ + NP (§2.3). In §3, I turn to the ‘need’ + NOM construction in Russian, first briefly presenting Harves’s (2008) account (§3.1), then discussing semantic relations expressed in this construction (§3.2), and, finally, presenting my own account of ‘need’ + NOM. In §4, I discuss the ‘need’ + ACC construction in Russian, first focusing on its semantic restrictions (§4.1) and then presenting my account of these restrictions (§4.2). §5 discusses the experimental studies. §6 concludes the paper.

2 Previous research on the ‘need’ + NP construction

2.1 A silent HAVE/GET account

In generative approaches, ‘need’ with a nominal complement (henceforth transitive ‘need’ or the ‘need’ + NP construction), as in *Bill needs a beer*, is usually analyzed, along with *want*, *seek*, *fear*, and a handful of other verbs, as a so-called INTENSIONAL TRANSITIVE VERB, i.e., as a verb whose nominal complement has some semantic properties associated with clausal complements, jointly referred to as “intensional” (see den Dikken et al. 2018 and Schwarz 2006, among others). For example, transitive ‘need’ shows lack of existential import of its complement, as shown in (3a), just as what we observe with the clausal complement of ‘need’, as in (3b), but not with non-intensional transitive verbs like ‘drink’, as in (3c). Transitive ‘need’ also shows lack of falsity of non-referring terms, as in (4a), cf. (4b) and (4c).³

³Another intensional property often attributed to ‘need’ is its failure to preserve truth under substitution of co-referring terms (see den Dikken et al. 2018; Harves 2008). However, as pointed out by Forbes (2020), this property does not generally hold for ‘need’ (at least in its non-psychological sense), cf. *Bill needs water* (= H₂O).

- (3) a. Bill needs a beer. \Rightarrow There is a beer (in the relevant context).
(Schwarz 2006: 259)
 b. Bill needs to drink a beer. \Rightarrow There is a beer (in the relevant context).
 c. Bill is drinking a beer. \Rightarrow There is a beer (in the relevant context).
- (4) Assuming that there is no such thing as a 40% beer:
- a. Bill needs a 40% beer.
 b. Bill needs to drink a 40% beer.
 c. # Bill is drinking a 40% beer.

The intensional properties of transitive ‘need’ and other intensional transitive verbs are typically accounted for by analyzing their complement as underlyingly clausal (see, e.g., [den Dikken et al. 2018](#); [Harves 2008](#)). Specifically, it is argued that transitive ‘need’ (and also transitive ‘want’) takes a concealed clausal complement headed by a silent possessive verb (HAVE), as shown in the structure (5a) for (3a).⁴ The presence of silent HAVE in (5a) receives support from the general availability of paraphrases with overt *have* for examples with transitive ‘need’, see the paraphrase in (5b) for (3a), suggested in [Schwarz \(2006: 259\)](#).

- (5) a. Bill needs [PRO/*t* HAVE a beer].
 b. Bill needs to have a beer.

Three questions arise in connection with the analysis in (5a), in increasing order of specificity: (a) Does the complement of transitive ‘need’ always have a possessive meaning? (b) Is the possessive meaning in the complement of transitive ‘need’ syntactically represented (as a silent head)? (c) Is this silent head (if it exists) necessarily HAVE? All three questions have been addressed in the literature on intensional transitive verbs.

Starting from question (b), there has been a general consensus that the possessive meaning associated with transitive ‘need’ (at least in English) must be encoded as a silent predicative head, thereby rendering examples like (3a)–(5a) biclausal (see, e.g., [den Dikken et al. 2018](#); [Schwarz 2006](#); [Marušič & Žaucer 2006](#);

⁴Whether transitive ‘need’ takes a control or a raising complement (or perhaps either one) is an open question in the literature (see, e.g., [Schwarz 2006](#); [Harves 2008](#)). The same applies to the question about the syntactic category of its complement. In this paper I remain agnostic about these potentially important questions.

Harves 2008; Zaroukian & Beller 2013).^{5,6} This analysis has been supported by a number of biclausality diagnostics, most prominently by adverb ambiguities, as shown in (6). For example, in (6) the before-phrase can modify not only the matrix clause, as in (6a), but also the implicit possessive predication, as in (6b). The latter reading is naturally accounted for if there is a suitable attachment site for the before-phrase, e.g., a lower VP/vP projection.⁷

- (6) Matt needed some change before the conference.
- a. There was a time before the conference at which Matt needed some change.
 - b. Matt's need is to have some change before the conference.
- (Schwarz 2006: 261)

As to question (c), there has been some debate in the literature concerning the nature of the silent possessive head. In the earlier work, it was identified as HAVE (see, e.g., den Dikken et al. 2018 and also Fodor & Lepore 1998 as a precursor). However, Harley (2004) pointed out examples with transitive 'need'/'want' that only allow a paraphrase with *get* but not with *have*, as in (7) (see also Harves 2008). This led her to propose a unified structure for (3a) and (7) involving a silent prepositional head (P_{HAVE}), which, according to her view, underlies both overt *have* and *get* (see, e.g., Harley 2002). However, Marušić & Žaucer (2006) convincingly argue against this analysis on the basis of the fact that temporal adverbials cannot modify PPs, see (6), and some other facts. Instead, they propose that the silent possessive head in question must be either HAVE or GET (see also Harves 2008 and Zaroukian & Beller 2013 for an endorsement of this view).

- (7) I need (to get/#have) a kiss/a compliment. (Harves 2008: 215)

Harves (2008) further argues that the range of silent possessive verbs in constructions with transitive 'need'/'want' cross-linguistically must also include (possessive) BE (see also Harves & Kayne 2012). Her argument is based on the existence of transitive 'want' and the 'need' + NP construction in languages like Russian,

⁵See also Pyllkkänen (2008) for an interesting discussion of this issue in the context of psycholinguistic experiments of complement coercion.

⁶Marušić & Žaucer (2006) discuss some unresolved problems of the silent head (verb) analysis. In their view, however, these problems do not threaten the overall validity of this analysis. The reader is referred to their work for further details.

⁷Other diagnostics include, but are not limited to, *too/again* ambiguities and the scope of quantifiers and negation. The reader is referred to the work cited above for more details.

where there is no basic transitive verb of possession ('have') but the respective constructions still have a possessive interpretation, as shown in (8a) and (8b).⁸

- (8) a. Maš-a xočet mašin-u.
 Masha-NOM.SG wants car-ACC.SG
 'Masha wants (to have) a car.'
- b. Maš-e nužn-a mašin-a.
 Masha-DAT.SG necessary-F.SG car-NOM.SG
 'Masha needs (to have) a car.'

In contrast to questions (b) and (c), question (a), as to whether transitive 'need' always expresses possession, has received relatively little attention in the literature, which has largely presupposed that the construction has a possessive meaning. In order to answer this question, one would need some clarification of the relevant notion of possession. These issues have been addressed in the work of Schwarz (2006) and Zaroukian & Beller (2013), to which I now turn.

2.2 Non-possessive examples with transitive 'need'

Schwarz (2006) noted that there are examples of transitive 'need' such as (9) which do not have a possessive meaning. He argued that (9) and similar examples involve an unspecified contextually supplied relation *R* (interpreted in this particular case as 'run' or 'participate') rather than a possessive relation like HAVE/GET.⁹ Examples like (9) appear to threaten a uniform silent HAVE/GET analysis of transitive 'need'.

- (9) John needs (to #have/#get) a marathon. (Schwarz 2006: 272)

Similar problems are presumably posed by other kinds of non-possessive examples with transitive 'need', although, to my knowledge, they have not been discussed in the relevant literature (including Schwarz 2006). First of all, there are examples with 'passive' or so-called retroactive deverbal nominals (see, e.g., Safir

⁸The verb *imet'* 'have' in Russian cannot be considered a "basic" verb of possession as it is mostly used in fixed expressions or with abstract possessors. Otherwise it is restricted to the expression of (permanent) ownership (see footnote 4 in Harves & Kayne 2012 and also Stolz et al. 2008: 440ff.).

⁹Schwarz (2006) further argues that there is no evidence for the syntactic representation of the relation *R* based on some biclausality diagnostics. He tentatively concludes that the non-possessive variety of transitive 'need' requires a monoclausal analysis, where the relation *R* arises via pragmatics. Although this is an important issue, I leave the discussion of this aspect of Schwarz's (2006) proposal for future research; see also footnote 17.

1991; Roeper 2000) illustrated in (10a)–(10c). In these examples, the subject is construed as the internal argument of the deverbal nominal (observe the paraphrases with passive infinitives). Thus, the understood relation associated with these examples can be taken to be the theme/patient relation (in the neo-Davidsonian sense) rather than a possessive relation, as in cases like (3a). Interestingly, examples with passive/retroactive nominals sometimes have paraphrases with an overt *have/get*; see (10a). However, this seems to be an accidental property of the specific examples rather than a necessary feature of the construction.

- (10) a. Individuals need help (= to be helped / get help).
b. The leadership needs discussion (= to be discussed).
c. The disease needs prevention (= to be prevented). (Roeper 2000: 306)

Apart from the problematic examples with passive/retroactive deverbal nominals, there are also examples with ‘active’ deverbal nominals such as (11a) and (11b), where the subject is construed as the external argument of the deverbal nominal. In principle, Schwarz’s (2006) example (9) from above could also be analyzed along these lines assuming that the non-derived nominal *marathon* stands proxy for an ‘active’ deverbal nominal like *running*. Again, even though possessive paraphrases are possible in (11a) and (11b), the subject here is more appropriately analyzed as standing in the agent/undergoer relation to the object (i.e., the deverbal nominal) rather than in a possessive relation.

- (11) a. John needs rest (= to rest/to have a rest).
b. John needs a nap (= to nap/to have a nap).

I will jointly refer to the non-possessive relations expressed in the examples with passive/retroactive and active deverbal nominals in (10) and (11) as the THEMATIC RELATION, reflecting the fact that it corresponds to one of the theta-roles involved in the construal of the subject of transitive ‘need’.

The other kind of relation expressed in constructions with transitive ‘need’ which is not manifestly possessive is illustrated in examples like (12a)–(12c). In these examples, the subject argument is typically inanimate or understood in physical terms (i.e., as a body), whereas the object argument is typically a mass noun expressing some material substance or a more abstract resource which is required by the subject argument for proper functioning. Again, while paraphrases with overt *have/get* are often possible, the subject argument stands in the REQUIREMENT RELATION rather than in a possessive relation.

- (12) a. Muscles need energy (= to get energy).
 b. You need calcium (= to get calcium).
 c. Plants needs light (= to get light).

The non-possessive examples discussed above appear to suggest that a uniform possessive analysis of transitive ‘need’ cannot be maintained. It turns out, however, that a more careful modelling of the possessive meaning in the transitive ‘need’ construction may open the way to subsume the non-possessive examples in (9)–(12) under the uniform silent HAVE/GET analysis. I now turn to the account of Zaroukian & Beller (2013), who have recently proposed such a model.

2.3 Zaroukian & Beller on semantic variability of silent HAVE

Zaroukian & Beller (2013) propose a typology of constructions involving silent HAVE which includes not only transitive ‘want’ and ‘need’ (treated as a single class), but also evaluative verbs such as *like* and *enjoy* with concealed complements (e.g., *John likes (to have) a cookie after dinner*) as well as double object constructions with *get* and *give* and, finally, overt *have*.

According to their typology, there are four types of silent HAVE which differ along two independent dimensions: (a) whether silent HAVE is static or telic (i.e., has a time interval argument) and (b) whether it is syntactically verbal (and thus leading to a biclausal structure) or prepositional (leading to a monoclausal structure). I will not dwell on all aspects of Zaroukian & Beller’s (2013) proposal. What is important for my purposes is their analysis of sentences with overt *have* and transitive ‘want’/‘need’. Specifically, I will focus on two aspects, namely (a) the semantic variability of silent HAVE and (b) the compositional analysis of this variability.

Starting from question (a), Zaroukian & Beller (2013) essentially extend Vikner & Jensen’s (2002) account of the English ’s genitive to the constructions with silent HAVE listed above. In particular, they argue that overt *have* and transitive ‘want’/‘need’ (with minor exceptions) can express a number of diverse semantic relations, namely, the control, part-whole, inherent, typical-use, and agentive relations. These relations, illustrated in (13a)–(13e), are discussed immediately below.¹⁰

The control relation, illustrated in (13a), is perhaps most prototypically associated with possession. It is defined as “the relation which holds between an

¹⁰Zaroukian & Beller also mention the (contextually supplied) pragmatic relation (R) but do not discuss it in any detail. In what follows, I will not deal with this relation.

animate being X and an item Y which X has at his or her disposal, being able to use or handle it” (Vikner & Jensen 2002: 196–197). As can be seen, the control relation is not limited to ownership, which is typically viewed as the most prototypical possessive notion in the functional-typological literature (see, e.g., Heine 1997), but also includes physical and temporary possession.¹¹

The inherent relation, illustrated in (13b), is expressed in constructions with kinship terms and other inherently relational nouns like ‘teacher’. The three remaining relations (part-whole, typical-use, and agentive) are specified by the so-called qualia structure of the object noun, namely the CONSTITUTIVE (i.e., the relation between an object and its constituents or proper parts), TELIC (i.e., purpose or function of the object), and AGENTIVE QUALE (i.e., factors involved in the origin or “bringing about” of an object), as discussed in Pustejovsky (1995).

The part-whole relation, illustrated in (13c), is more or less straightforward. Along with the inherent relation, it corresponds to inalienable possession (see Heine 1997). The typical-use relation, illustrated in (13d), specifies how a given object is typically used (for example, cookies are typically used for eating, etc.).¹² The agentive relation, illustrated in (13e), holds between a created thing and its creator; this relation is only expressed with overt *have* but not with transitive ‘need’.¹³

- | | | |
|------|---|------------|
| (13) | a. The girl has / needs a car.
≈ has a car at her disposal / needs a car to be at her disposal | control |
| | b. The girl has / needs a teacher
≈ is / needs to be in a teacher-student relation | inherent |
| | c. The girl has / needs a (new) nose.
≈ has a nose as part of her / needs a nose to be part of her | part-whole |

¹¹The control relation is illustrated by the following quote from Vikner & Jensen:

In the case of the girl’s car, the girl may control the car because she owns it, or because she has borrowed it, or because she has hired it, or because she is driving it, or because she is sitting in it, and so on. In the case of, say, a stone, one may control a stone by holding it in one’s hand, by having it within reach, by owning it, etc. (Vikner & Jensen 2002: 196–197)

¹²Zaroukian & Beller (2013) observe that the typical-use relation is restricted to “consumable” objects in both constructions.

¹³Zaroukian & Beller (2013) speculate that the agentive relation is incompatible with transitive ‘want’/‘need’ constructions because they typically convey a displacement in time between the subject and the object, whereas the creation process requires some span of time, in which the subject controls (an early stage of) the object. I will tentatively assume Zaroukian & Beller’s explanation for the incompatibility of the agentive relation with the ‘need’ + NP construction in the subsequent discussion of the Russian data.

- d. The girl had / needs a cookie. typical-use
 ≈ ate a cookie / needs to eat a cookie
- e. The girl has / needs a poem. agentive
 ≈ has created a poem / #needs to create a poem

Now, let's turn to question (b) concerning the compositional analysis of the examples in (13a)–(13e). First of all, Zaroukian & Beller (2013) assume that examples with transitive 'need' involve a concealed complement clause with silent HAVE. They also assume that silent HAVE and overt *have* have the same denotation. Specifically, they analyze HAVE/*have* as a (higher-order) relation that takes an individual and another relation (supplied by the complement) and returns a truth value, as schematized in (14).¹⁴

$$(14) \quad \llbracket \text{HAVE} \rrbracket = \lambda R_{\langle e, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle} \lambda y_e [\exists x [R(y)(x)]] \quad (\text{Zaroukian \& Beller 2013: 649})$$

An important assumption of Zaroukian & Beller's analysis is that the complement of *have*/HAVE must be of type $\langle e, t \rangle$ (relation). This does not create a problem for examples with the inherent relation such as (13b), since the relevant $\langle e, t \rangle$ -type expression is supplied by the object noun itself, which is inherently relational. In case of the other kinds of relations, where the object noun is non-relational, the noun must be coerced into a relational denotation.

Zaroukian & Beller (2013) assume, following Vikner & Jensen (2002), that this is achieved by using various type-shifting operators, corresponding to one of the remaining semantic relations in (13). For example, the type-shifter corresponding to the agentive relation is shown in (15a), where the Q_A stands for the function that returns the relation supplied by the agentive quale of the relevant noun.¹⁵ For the noun *poem* in (13e), it will return the $\langle e, t \rangle$ -type expression given in (15b). The part-whole and typical-use relations are analyzed in a similar way.

¹⁴More precisely, the denotation in (14) is for static HAVE, which lacks a time-interval argument. The denotation for telic HAVE, which is equivalent to Marušič & Žaucer's (2006) silent GET and its prepositional counterpart, is given in (i). I will largely ignore the difference between static and telic HAVE, since this difference becomes relevant only in Zaroukian & Beller's account of the double object construction and the construction with evaluative verbs, which I do not discuss in this paper.

(i) $\llbracket \text{HAVE} \rrbracket = \lambda R_{\langle e, \langle e, \langle s, t \rangle \rangle} \lambda y_e \lambda i_s [\exists x [R(y)(x)(i)]]$ (Zaroukian & Beller 2013: 648)

¹⁵Vikner & Jensen's notation has been slightly adapted.

- (15) a. For any W (of type $\langle e, t \rangle$),
 $\text{Ag}(W) = \lambda y \lambda x [W(x) \ \& \ Q_A(W)(x)(y)]$ (Vikner & Jensen 2002: 209)
 b. $\text{Ag}(\llbracket \text{poem} \rrbracket) = \lambda y \lambda x [\text{POEM}(x) \ \& \ \text{COMPOSE}(x)(y)]$

As for the control relation, shown in (16), it does not depend on the qualia structure of a word but directly on the predicate CONTROL, whose meaning corresponds to Vikner & Jensen’s (2002) definition cited above (see page ix).

- (16) $\text{Ctr}(W) = \lambda y \lambda x [W(x) \ \& \ \text{CONTROL}(x)(y)]$ (Vikner & Jensen 2002: 210)

The compositional process is illustrated (on the basis of the verb phrase *have a car*) in Figure 1, adapted from Zaroukian & Beller (2013).¹⁶

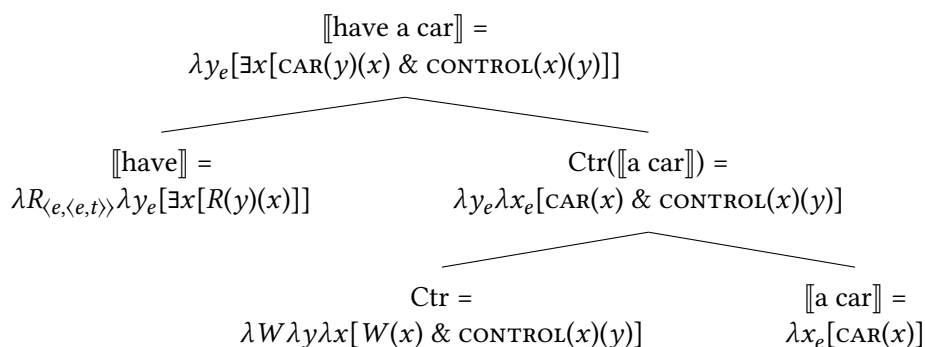


Figure 1: The compositional analysis of *have a car* in Zaroukian & Beller (2013)

The crucial feature of Zaroukian & Beller’s (2013) account is that the semantic variability of constructions with silent HAVE is captured by way of using various type-shifting operators, whereas HAVE itself is analyzed as an abstract linking element, which is in principle compatible with any kind of relational meaning. This potentially allows to accommodate the non-possessive examples of transitive ‘need’ discussed in §2.2 without necessarily discarding a uniform silent HAVE analysis. Although Zaroukian & Beller do not discuss problematic examples like (9) and examples with the thematic and the requirement relations in (10), (11),

¹⁶Zaroukian & Beller assume, without explicit discussion, that the type-shifting operators are represented in the syntactic structure (as silent heads). This assumption will become relevant for my analysis of the Russian data to be discussed below.

and (12), their analysis can potentially be extended to these examples. For example, the thematic relation and presumably examples like (9) can be subsumed under the inherent relation. Similarly, examples with the requirement relation, as in (12a)–(12c), could arguably be viewed as a special case of the part-whole relation (i.e., as relations specified by the constitutive quale). This suggests that a silent HAVE analysis for transitive ‘need’ can still be maintained in view of the considerable semantic variability of these constructions.¹⁷

I will largely follow Zaroukian & Beller’s (2013) analysis of silent HAVE in my account of the two ‘need’ + NP constructions in Russian, to which I now turn.

3 The ‘need’ + NOM construction

3.1 Harves’ account of ‘need’ + NOM

As we saw in the introduction, Russian has two ‘need’ + NP constructions, illustrated in (17a) and (17b). To my knowledge, the only discussion of ‘need’ + NP in Russian within the context of intensional transitive verbs is found in Harves (2008), which is only concerned with the ‘need’ + NOM construction.¹⁸ Interestingly, the ‘need’ + ACC construction is mentioned neither in Harves (2008) nor Harves & Kayne (2012), which is specifically dedicated to transitive/ACC-assigning ‘need’.

- (17) a. Mne nužn-a mašin-a. ‘need’ + NOM
 me.DAT necessary-F.SG car-NOM.SG
 ‘I need a car (to be at my disposal).’
- b. Mne nužno / nado mašin-u. ‘need’ + ACC
 me.DAT necessary.ADV necessary.ADV car-ACC.SG
 ‘I need a car (to be at my disposal).’

Harves (2008) proposes to analyze the ‘need’ + NOM construction along the lines of English transitive ‘need’. Based on adverb ambiguities, as shown in (18b), she argues that the construction involves a silent possessive verb which she identifies as BE (or GET), assuming that Russian lacks silent HAVE (see footnote 8).

¹⁷Note also that the absence of evidence for biclausality for ‘non-possessive’ examples, as discussed by Schwarz (2006), see footnote 9, could potentially be explained by assuming that silent HAVE is prepositional in this case. A more detailed investigation of this issue is left for future work.

¹⁸The construction itself has been noted in the literature, as I mentioned in the introduction.

- (18) Ivan-u byli nužn-y den'g-i do sobranija.
Ivan-DAT.SG were.PL necessary-PL money-NOM.PL before meeting.
'Ivan needed some money before the meeting.'
- a. 'There was a time before the meeting at which Ivan needed some money.'
- b. 'Ivan's need was to have some money before the meeting.'
- (Harves 2008: 216)

Harves (2008) does not discuss semantic variability in the 'need' + NOM construction, all her examples being of the control type (see previous section). This is the topic to which I now turn.

3.2 Semantic variability of 'need' + NOM

We have already seen examples of the 'need' + NOM construction with the control relation, such as (17a). As we can see in (19a)–(19c), the construction is also compatible with the inherent, part-whole, and typical-use relations, just like English transitive 'need', cf. (13b)–(13d). Similarly to English 'need', 'need' + NOM is also incompatible with the agentive relation, as shown in (19d), see (13e).

- (19) a. Maš-e nužen recenzent. inherent
Masha-DAT.SG necessary.M.SG reviewer.NOM.SG
'Masha needs a reviewer (= to be in a reviewer-reviewee relation).'
- b. Vas-e nužen novyj nos. part-whole
Vasja-DAT.SG necessary.M.SG new nose.NOM.SG
'Vasja needs a new nose (to be part of him).'
- c. Maš-e nužn-a sigaret-a. typical-use
Masha-DAT.SG necessary-F.SG cigarette-NOM.SG
'Masha needs a cigarette (= to smoke a cigarette).'
- d. # Maš-e nužen tort. agentive
Masha-DAT.SG necessary.M.SG cake.NOM.SG
'Masha needs (#to bake) a cake.'

In addition, the 'need' + NOM construction is also compatible with the thematic relation, whether expressed by active nominals, as in (20a), see (11), or by passive/retroactive nominals, as in (20b), see (10), and with the requirement relation, as in (21a) and (21b), see (12).

- (20) a. Maš-e nužen otdyx / son. thematic
 masha-DAT.SG necessary.M.SG rest.NOM.SG sleep.NOM.SG
 ‘Masha needs rest/sleep.’
- b. Maš-e nužn-a pomošč’ / hospitalizaci-ja.
 masha-DAT.SG necessary-F.SG help.NOM.SG hospitalization-NOM.SG
 ‘Masha needs help/hospitalization.’
- (21) a. Myšč-am nužn-a ěnergi-ja. requirement
 muscle-DAT.PL necessary-F.SG energy-NOM.SG
 ‘Muscles need energy.’
- b. Rasteni-jam nužen svet.
 plant-DAT.PL necessary.M.SG light.NOM.SG
 ‘Plants need light.’

Now, let’s turn to the analysis of the ‘need’ + NOM construction in Russian.

3.3 Analysis of ‘need’ + NOM

In view of the semantic similarity between ‘need’ + NOM in Russian and transitive ‘need’ in English, I will extend *Zaroukian & Beller’s* (2013) account of the latter construction to the analysis of ‘need’ + NOM.

Following *Harves* (2008), I assume that the ‘need’ + NOM construction in Russian is biclausal, containing a silent possessive verb BE. I further assume that silent BE and HAVE are semantically identical and differ only syntactically, as, e.g., in the influential analysis proposed by *Freeze* (1992), where ‘have’ is universally the result of incorporation of a locative preposition into ‘be’. Given the last assumption, I will assume the same denotation for silent BE as proposed by *Zaroukian & Beller* (2013) for silent HAVE, which we saw in (14) above.¹⁹ I also follow their account of the variability of silent HAVE in terms of type-shifting operators.

The simplified structure for ‘need’ + NOM is given in Figure 2.²⁰ One important assumption about this structure that I am making is that type-shifting operators are explicitly represented in the syntax (if present).²¹ This assumption, which will be relevant for my account of ‘need’ + ACC to be presented in §4.2,

¹⁹As for silent GET, which, according to *Harves* (2008), can also be present in the ‘need’ + NOM construction, I assume that it is the telic version of HAVE/BE (see footnote 17).

²⁰Again, I abstract away from the control/raising distinction in my analysis of the construction, as in the case of transitive ‘need’ above, cf. (5a).

²¹Recall that a type-shifter is optional to capture examples with the inherent relation; see (13b).

is consistent with recent syntactic theorizing about the syntax-semantics interface. Specifically, it is explicit in approaches which postulate silent determiners in “determiner-less” languages on the basis of semantic arguments (i.e., to avoid type mismatch). Thus, for instance, Ramchand & Svenonius (2008) reject purely semantic type-shifting operators as proposed by, e.g., Chierchia (1998).²² These approaches assume that type-shifting operators that create type e denotation for noun phrases are syntactically represented as silent determiners. Similarly, we may assume that type-shifting operators that create type $\langle e, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$ (relational) denotations for sortal $\langle e, t \rangle$ noun phrases are also syntactically represented.

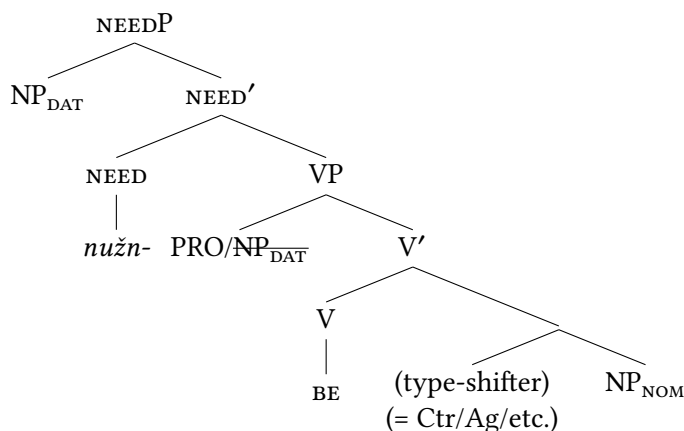


Figure 2: Simplified structure for ‘need’ + NOM

The last assumption will be crucial for my analysis of the ‘need’ + ACC construction, to which I now turn.

4 The ‘need’ + ACC construction

4.1 Semantic restrictions on ‘need’ + ACC

In contrast to ‘need’ + NOM, the ‘need’ + ACC construction has a more limited semantic variability. As we saw in (17b) above, ‘need’ + ACC can express the control relation; see two naturally-occurring examples from RNC in (22a) and (22b).

²²I wish to thank Pavel Rudnev for the discussion of this issue with me.

- (22) a. Len-e nado otdel'nuju komnat-u.
 Lenja-DAT.SG necessary.ADV separate room-ACC.SG
 'Lenja needs a separate room.' (Valentina Oseeva, *Dinka*, 1959)
- b. Mne nužno lopat-u.
 me.DAT necessary.ADV spade-ACC.SG
 'I need a spade.' (Vera Panova, *Sereža*, 1955)

However, when it comes to other HAVE-relations, the examples become more dubious. Consider (23a)–(23c), which are meant to illustrate the inherent, part-whole, and typical-use relations.²³ Although as such the examples are not ungrammatical, it is not clear whether they in fact express the relations in question. Specifically, I wish to argue that in these examples the respective relations are confounded with the control relation and, thus, when the latter is controlled for, the examples become infelicitous.

- (23) a. ?Ej nužno recenzent-a. inherent
 her.DAT necessary.ADV reviewer-ACC.SG
 'She needs a reviewer (= to be in a reviewer-reviewee relation).'
- b. ?Emu nužno novyj nos. part-whole
 him.DAT necessary.ADV new nose.ACC.SG
 'He needs a new nose (to be part of him).'
- c. Ej nužno sigaret-u. typical-use
 her.DAT necessary.ADV cigarette-ACC.SG
 'She needs a cigarette (= to smoke).'

Starting from the inherent relation in (23a), it can be observed that the example allows the construal 'needs a supervisor *to be at her disposal*' in a metaphorical sense. When this construal is blocked, as in a situation with an inanimate subject, e.g., where a paper must be assigned a reviewer, the 'need' + ACC construction becomes strongly infelicitous, as shown in (24b); cf. 'need' + NOM in (24c). This suggests that the inherent relation cannot be expressed in the 'need' + ACC construction without simultaneously expressing the control relation.

²³As with 'need' + NOM (see (19d)), the agentive relation is infelicitous; see (i) and footnote 13.

- (i) #Maš-e nužno tort. agentive
 Masha-DAT.SG necessary.ADV cake.ACC.SG
 'Masha needs (#to bake) a cake.'

- (24) a. Prišla novaja statja.
 arrived new paper.NOM.SG
 ‘A new paper has arrived.’
- b. # ... Ej nužno recenzent-a. ‘need’ + ACC
 her.DAT necessary.ADV reviewer-ACC.SG
 Intended: ‘It (the paper) needs a reviewer.’
- c. ... Ej nužen recenzent. ‘need’ + NOM
 her.DAT necessary.M.SG advisor.NOM.SG
 ‘It (the paper) needs a reviewer.’

Similarly, example (23b), meant to illustrate the part-whole relation, can also be metaphorically construed in the control sense, i.e., as ‘needs a new nose *to be at his disposal*’. Again, in a situation with an inanimate subject, e.g., if a statue’s nose has been broken and needs to be replaced, the ‘need’ + ACC construction is infelicitous, as in (25b); see (25c). This suggests that, just like in the previous case, the part-whole relation in the ‘need’ + ACC construction cannot be expressed independently without the control relation.

- (25) a. Statu-ja slomalas’.
 statue-NOM.SG broke
 ‘The statue has broken.’
- b. # ... Ej nužno novyj nos. ‘need’ + ACC
 her.DAT necessary.ADV new nose.ACC.SG
 Intended: ‘It (the statue) needs a new nose.’
- c. ...Ej nužen novyj nos. ‘need’ + NOM
 her.DAT necessary.M.SG new nose.NOM.SG
 ‘It (the statue) needs a new nose.’

The typical-use relation in (23c) is similarly confounded with the control relation. This can be shown in the following way. Observe that if one needs to smoke a cigarette (or ‘consume’ some other object), one first needs to have it at one’s disposal.²⁴ That is, acts of consumption typically presuppose some sort of control on the part of the subject. However, one can still imagine a situation where someone (say, a baby) is forced to take a medication. In this situation, again, the ‘need’ + ACC construction is infelicitous, as shown in (26b); cf. (26c).

²⁴Recall that the typical-use interpretation is restricted to ‘consumable’ objects, according to Zaroukian & Beller (2013); see footnote 12.

- (26) a. Rebenok bolen.
 baby.NOM.SG sick
 ‘The baby is sick.’
- b. # ... Emu nužno tabletk-u. ‘need’ + ACC
 him.DAT necessary.ADV pill-ACC.SG
 Intended: ‘He (the baby) needs (to take) a pill.’
- c. ... Emu nužn-a tabletk-a. ‘need’ + NOM
 him.DAT necessary-F.SG pill-NOM.SG
 ‘He (the baby) needs (to take) a pill.’

The infelicity of the examples in (24b)–(26b), with inanimate/non-volitional subjects, can be accounted for if the ‘need’ + ACC construction is restricted to the expression of the control relation, as defined in Vikner & Jensen (2002), which requires an animate being (presumably with some degree of voluntary involvement). By contrast, the other HAVE-relations (i.e., the inherent, part-whole, and typical-use) relations do not require animacy/volition on the part of the subject and, thus, the infelicity of the relevant examples would remain unexplained if ‘need’ + ACC were allowed to express these relations.

The restriction of the ‘need’ + ACC construction to the control relation is further supported by the fact that ‘need’ + ACC is totally incompatible with the expression of the thematic relation, as shown in (27a)/(27b), and the requirement relation, as shown in (28a)/(28b); see the corresponding examples with the ‘need’ + NOM construction in (20a)/(20b) and (21a)/(21b), respectively.²⁵

- (27) a. *Ej nužno otdyx / son. thematic
 her.DAT necessary.ADV rest.ACC.SG sleep.ACC.SG
 Intended: ‘She needs rest/sleep.’

²⁵The change to genitive marking in these examples does not lead to any improvement, as shown in (i.a) and (i.b).

- (i) a. *Ej nužno pomošč-i / otdyx-a.
 her.DAT necessary.ADV help-GEN.SG rest-GEN.SG
 Intended: ‘She needs help/rest.’
- b. *Im nužno svet-a.
 them.DAT necessary.ADV light-GEN.SG
 Intended: ‘They (plants) need light.’

- b. *Ej nužno pomošč' / gospitalizaci-ju.
 her.DAT necessary.ADV help.ACC.SG hospitalization-ACC.SG
 Intended: 'She needs help/hospitalization.'
- (28) a. *Im nužno ènergi-ju. requirement
 them.DAT necessary.ADV energy-ACC.SG
 Intended: 'They (muscles) need energy.'
- b. *Im nužno svet.
 them.DAT necessary.ADV light.ACC.SG
 Intended: 'They (plants) need light.'

The ungrammaticality of (27a)/(27b) and (28a)/(28b) also follows from the selectional restriction on the control relation, as in the cases discussed above. Specifically, the examples with the thematic relation in (27a)/(27b) are incompatible with the restriction on the internal argument of the control relation to (concrete) physical objects (i.e., something that can be used or handled by the subject, perhaps in a metaphorical sense).²⁶ As for the examples with the requirement relation in (28a)/(28b), they are incompatible with animacy/volitionality restriction on the control relation, as we saw earlier.

To summarize, I have shown that whereas the 'need' + NOM construction is compatible with a variety of HAVE-relations, the 'need' + ACC construction appears to be compatible only with the control relation. I now turn to an account of this restriction.

4.2 Analysis of 'need' + ACC

In order to capture the fact that the 'need' + ACC construction necessitates the presence of the control relation, I assume that the predicate *nužno* in this construction lexicalizes Vikner & Jensen's (2002) control type-shifter (Ctr); see (16).

²⁶Vikner & Jensen (2002) treat the notion of a 'physical object' in a very broad sense to include not only non-human physical objects such as animals, physical artifacts, and natural objects but also commercialized abstract artifacts like computer programs, etc. I will further assume 'physical objects' to also potentially include humans (in a metaphorical sense) when the latter are construed as means to an end. This will account for examples like (i).

(i) Mne nado Kol-ju!
 me.DAT need.ADV Kolja-ACC.SG
 'I need Kolja (to be at my disposal).' (Valentin Kataev, *Almaznyj moj venec*, 1979)

This can be implemented by abstract incorporation (via head movement). In accordance with standard assumptions about head movement, the Ctr head will first incorporate into the immediately c-commanding silent BE, creating a complex head [Ctr + BE], which will, subsequently, incorporate into NEED. The resulting complex [Ctr + BE + NEED] head will be spelled-out as *nužno*. This is schematically represented in Figure 3.

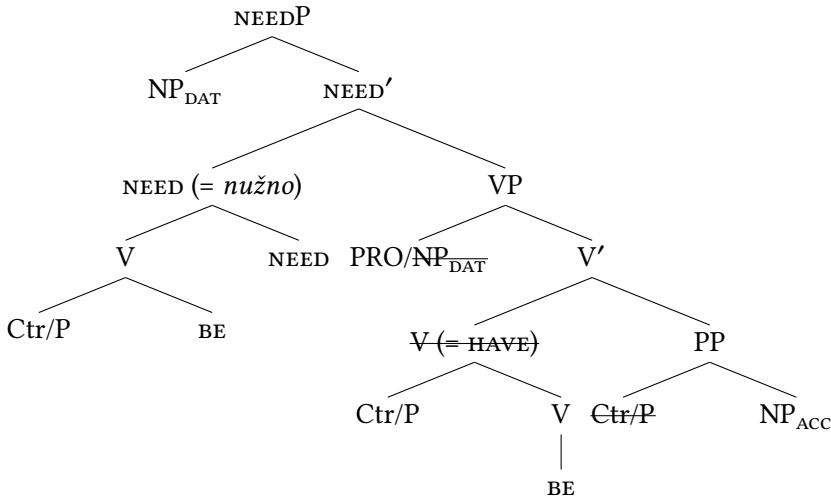


Figure 3: Simplified structure for ‘need’ + ACC

An interesting consequence of the analysis in Figure 3 is that it may be able to derive the ACC marking in the ‘need’ + ACC construction. The basic idea is this: It has been independently proposed that ‘have’ involves (abstract) incorporation of (locative) P into verbal ‘be’, to account for the functional similarity of possessive constructions with ‘have’ and ‘be’ across languages (see Freeze 1992; Kayne 1993). Although, in the discussion above, I have abstracted away from the syntactic category of Ctr (and the other type-shifters producing relational denotations for NPs), it may be observed that Ctr is similar to a preposition. For example, it is also relational, it takes a noun phrase as its argument, and it is selected by a verbal head. Thus, we may tentatively assume that Ctr is a P head. Now, under the Freeze/Kayne analysis, the incorporation of Ctr/P into BE will lead to the creation of HAVE, thus accounting for the observed transitivity/ACC marking in the construction.

The analysis presented in Figure 3 appears to contradict Harves & Kayne’s (2012) analysis of Russian within the context of their proposed cross-linguistic

generalization, according to which transitive ‘need’ is only found in languages with transitive ‘have’. As I alluded to above (see §2.1), they assume that Russian conforms to this generalization as it lacks both (basic) transitive ‘have’ and transitive ‘need’. If the analysis in Figure 3 is correct, it leads to the opposite conclusion, namely that Russian has both (at some level of abstraction). Curiously, this does not falsify Harves & Kayne’s cross-linguistic generalization but, on the contrary, confirms it. That is, Russian has transitive/ACC-assigning ‘need’ precisely because it has a particular structure underlying ‘have’, i.e., [P + BE].²⁷ Both structures, however, appear only in rather marginal constructions and thus were probably overlooked by Harves & Kayne (2012).

Before concluding this section, I wish to discuss some independent evidence for the existence of the [Ctr/P + BE] structure in Russian, which is underlyingly identical to ‘have’. Specifically, Russian has a so-called verbless subjunctive construction with nouns (see Dobrushina 2015). The construction involves a dative subject, the subjunctive particle *by*, and an ACC (or GEN) argument. An interesting and unexplained property of this construction noted by Dobrushina (2015) is that it disallows a NOM-NP; see (29). In Knyazev (2020), I argue that the construction roughly expresses a possessive meaning as indicated by the translation in (29).²⁸

- (29) Mne by knig-u / *knig-a.
me.DAT SBJV book-ACC.SG book-NOM.SG
‘I wish I had a book.’

Although the matter requires further investigation, there is some evidence that the construction actually has the control interpretation, as suggested by the fact that it is disallowed with deverbal nominals, as shown in (30a) and (30b). Assuming that the construction involves Ctr and silent BE and is derived by Ctr-to-BE movement, as proposed for the ‘need’ + ACC construction (without, however, a further step as there is no NEED for [Ctr/P + BE] to incorporate into), we could account for the otherwise mysterious ACC marking in this construction.

²⁷The analysis in Figure 3 is consistent with the correlation between transitive ‘need’ and ‘have’ proposed by Harves & Kayne (2012) but crucially differs from their causal account of this correlation, according to which transitive ‘need’ is derived from incorporation of nominal (non-verbal) ‘need’ into ‘have’ rather than the other way around (see their footnote 11). A detailed comparison between the two accounts is left for future work.

²⁸Dobrushina (2015) analyzes this construction as a result of ellipsis of an infinitive, but in Knyazev (2020) I show that the ellipsis analysis makes wrong predictions and argue for a possessive analysis.

- (30) a. * Mne by gospitalizaci-ju / gospitalizaci-ja.
 me.DAT SBJV hospitalization-ACC.SG hospitalization-NOM.SG
 Intended: ‘I wish I were hospitalized.’
- b. * Emu by čistk-u / čistk-a.
 him.DAT SBJV cleaning-ACC.SG cleaning-NOM.SG
 Intended: ‘I wish I had it (the carpet) cleaned.’

In the rest of this paper, I will discuss three formal acceptability judgment studies which tested the hypothesis that the ‘need’ + ACC construction lexicalizes the control relation, as understood by [Vikner & Jensen \(2002\)](#). Because this relation cannot be directly observed, the experiments tested the selectional restrictions on this relation, namely the animacy restriction on the dative subject and the restriction on the ACC theme to (concrete) physical objects, i.e., the concreteness restriction.

5 Experimental studies

5.1 Experiment 1a

5.1.1 Design and hypotheses

The purpose of Experiment 1a was to test the animacy restriction on the dative subject in the ‘need’ + ACC construction with *nužen/nužno*. The experiment had a 2×2 factorial design, crossing CONSTRUCTION TYPE (ACC | NOM) and ANIMACY (ANIMATE | INANIMATE), as shown in (31).

- (31) a. Klient-u nužen akkumuljator. NOM | ANIMATE
 client-DAT.SG necessary.M.SG battery.NOM.SG
 ‘The client needs a battery’.
- b. Klient-u nužno akkumuljator. ACC | ANIMATE
 client-DAT.SG necessary.ADV battery.ACC.SG
 ‘The client needs a battery’.
- c. Noutbuk-u nužen akkumuljator. NOM | INANIMATE
 laptop-DAT.SG necessary.M.SG battery.NOM.SG
 ‘The laptop needs a battery’.
- d. * Noutbuk-u nužno akkumuljator. ACC | INANIMATE
 laptop-DAT.SG necessary.ADV battery.ACC.SG
 Intended: ‘The laptop needs a battery’.

Given that the ‘need’ + ACC construction is highly colloquial, it was expected that the ACC condition will generally be less acceptable than the NOM condition. It was also expected that the INANIMATE condition will be generally less acceptable than the ANIMATE condition, as such examples are considerably less frequent. Crucially, it was also expected that the decrease in acceptability in the ACC | INANIMATE condition (as compared to the baseline NOM | ANIMATE condition) will be above and beyond the combined effects of both INANIMATE and ACC conditions. In other words, a SUPERADDITIVE INTERACTION was expected (see [Sprouse et al. 2012](#) for details).

5.1.2 Materials and procedure

Eight lexically matched sentence sets of four sentences as in (31) were created. All sentences had the dative subject realized as an animate or inanimate common noun with no prenominal or postnominal material (the animate and inanimate nouns within a sentence set were not matched by any criteria). Thirty-two experimental sentences were distributed over four protocols using a Latin Square design. They were interspersed (in a pseudorandom order) with eight filler sentences half of which were fully grammatical while the other half were fully ungrammatical (four sentences contained the ‘need’ + NOM construction with agreement violations; four sentences contained *nužen/nužno* followed by an infinitival or a subjunctive clause). Participants had to rate how natural each sentence sounded on a 7-point scale. As usual, participants were instructed to consult their own intuition, disregard any prescriptive knowledge, and focus on whether any sentences sounded “foreign” to them. The experiment was conducted in Google Forms and was completed by 123 participants.

5.1.3 Results

Prior to the analysis, the ratings were *z*-score transformed (see [Schütze & Sprouse 2014](#)). The mean rating for the ungrammatical fillers was -0.98 ($SD = 0.35$); the mean rating for the grammatical fillers was 0.9 ($SD = 0.42$). The raw ratings were 1.21 (0.11) and 6.43 (0.17), respectively. The condition means are shown in [Table 1](#) and in [Figure 4](#).

For the statistical analysis, a mixed-effects linear model was constructed using the `lmer` function from the R statistical language package `lmerTest`. The model included the factors CONSTRUCTION TYPE and ANIMACY as well as their interaction as fixed effects and had a maximal random effects structure (including random intercepts for subject and item as well as by-item and by-subject random slopes,

Table 1: z-score means (SD) in Experiment 1a

	‘need’ + NOM	‘need’ + ACC
animate	0.94 (0.44)	-0.76 (0.44)
inanimate	0.63 (0.60)	-0.82 (0.48)
animate (raw)	6.44 (1.29)	1.98 (1.55)
inanimate (raw)	5.70 (1.81)	1.80 (1.51)

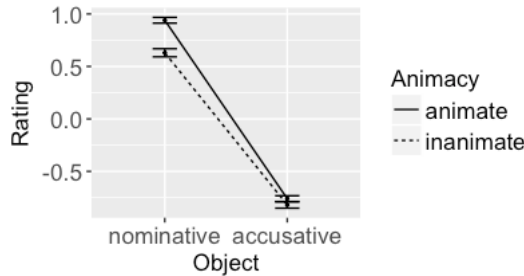


Figure 4: Interaction plot for Experiment 1a

and correlations for all fixed effects and their interaction), as recommended by [Barr et al. \(2013\)](#). p -values were obtained using the Satterthwaite approximation, available from the same package.²⁹

As expected, there was a highly significant main effect of CONSTRUCTION TYPE, showing that sentences with ACC themes are rated lower than sentences with NOM themes (Estimate = -1.70 , SE = 0.04 , $t = -29.1$, $p < 0.001$). There was also a main effect of ANIMACY, showing that sentences with inanimate subjects are rated lower than sentences with animate subjects (Estimate = -0.31 , SE = 0.12 , $t = -2.59$, $p = 0.03$), although this effect was less significant. However, the interaction was not significant (Estimate = 0.24 , SE = 0.12 , $t = 2.02$, $p = 0.08$). Interestingly, the (trend towards an) interaction was not in the predicted direction as inanimacy turned out to decrease rather than increase the lowering effect of the construction with ACC. This pattern has been noted before in the experimental syntax literature and has come to be identified as a SUBADDITIVE effect (see, e.g., [Stepanov et al. 2018](#)).

²⁹The statistical procedures followed [Keshev & Meltzer-Asscher \(2019\)](#).

5.1.4 Discussion

As it stands, the results of the experiment do not support the hypothesized animacy restriction in the ‘need’ + ACC construction, calling for an explanation. Note first that a floor effect is unlikely, as the ungrammatical fillers received a (z-score) rating of -0.98 , which is 0.23 points lower than the ACC | INANIMATE condition (-0.75). However, there might be an alternative source of the negative results.

Given a very large effect of the CONSTRUCTION TYPE (the lowering effect of -1.7 points in the animate condition), it is likely that the participants judged the ‘need’ + ACC construction as simply ungrammatical; see the raw rating of 1.8 – 1.98 for the two ACC conditions. It has been suggested in the processing literature (see Hofmeister et al. 2014) that when one grammatical violation combines with another grammatical violation or a processing effect, the result may be subadditive (underadditive) rather than additive or superadditive, whereby the second grammatical violation or a processing difficulty does not lead to a further decrease in unacceptability in the ungrammatical condition. I tentatively suggest that this is what might have happened in this experiment.

Specifically, given the perceived strong ungrammaticality of the ‘need’ + ACC construction, I suggest that an additional violation of the animacy restriction caused no further decrease in acceptability and thus failed to be detected. Similarly, the processing effect of animacy, which we observe in the ‘grammatical’ NOM condition, did not show up in the ‘ungrammatical’ ACC condition, presumably leading to a trend towards a sub-additive interaction.

5.2 Experiment 1b

5.2.1 Design and materials

Experiment 1b had the same purpose as Experiment 1a but a slightly different design with materials constructed in such a way as to increase the overall ratings of the ‘need’ + ACC construction (and potentially reduce its perceived ungrammaticality). A prior corpus study established that the ‘need’ + ACC construction has a higher absolute frequency with *nado* than with *nužno*.³⁰ Accordingly, it was decided to use *nado* in the ACC condition. Furthermore, it was observed that dative subjects realized as full NPs are very rare in the construction, compared to pronominal NPs. Accordingly, 3rd person pronouns (both singular and plural) were used as dative subjects. Although they are not as frequent as the 1st person

³⁰We cannot compare relative frequencies as *nado* is disallowed in the ‘need’ + NOM construction.

singular pronoun (which is the most frequent one), this allowed to have more variety in the materials. In order to fix the reference of the pronominal subject, the experimental sentences were preceded by a supporting context consisting of a short sentence with one prominent referent, either animate or inanimate. The materials for the experiment are illustrated in (32) and (33).

- (32) *Context*: U Kati slomalsja noutbuk.
 at Katja broke laptop
 ‘Katja’s laptop broke down.’
- a. Ej nužen adapter. NOM | ANIMATE
 her.DAT necessary.M.SG adapter.NOM.SG
 ‘She needs an adapter.’
- b. Ej nado adapter. ACC | ANIMATE
 her.DAT necessary.ADV adapter.ACC.SG
 ‘She needs an adapter.’
- (33) *Context*: Ètot noutbuk slomalsja.
 this laptop broke
 ‘This laptop broke down.’
- a. Emu nužen adapter. NOM | INANIMATE
 him.DAT necessary.M.SG adapter.NOM.SG
 ‘It (the laptop) needs an adapter.’
- b. *Emu nado adapter. ACC | INANIMATE
 him.DAT need.ADV adapter.ACC.SG
 Intended: ‘It (the laptop) needs an adapter.’

Eight sentence sets of four sentences as in (32) and (33) were constructed. The experimental sentences were distributed over four protocols using a Latin Square design and interspersed with 12 filler sentences, which were similar to those used in Experiment 1a except that half of the sentences were with *nado* and there were four sentences of intermediate acceptability that contained inanimate dative subjects with *nado/nužno* followed by infinitival/subjunctive clauses (to contrast the hypothesized animacy restriction with different types of sentences with ‘need’). The experiment was printed and distributed to philology students at a local university. The task and instructions were as in Experiment 1a. Seventy-one students participated in the experiment.

5.2.2 Results

The data from two students were discarded due to missing values. The analysis of the data used z-score transformed ratings, as in Experiment 1a. The mean rating for the ungrammatical fillers was -0.96 ($SD = 0.56$); the mean rating for the grammatical fillers was 0.97 ($SD = 0.46$); the mean rating for the intermediate fillers was 0.08 ($SD = 0.79$). The raw ratings were 1.66 (1.48), 6.40 (1.17) and 3.85 (2.07), respectively. The condition means are given in Table 2 and in Figure 5.

Table 2: z-score means (SD) in Experiment 1b

	‘need’ + NOM	‘need’ + ACC
animate	1.01 (0.50)	-0.46 (0.64)
inanimate	0.38 (0.77)	-0.80 (0.46)
animate (raw)	6.46 (1.23)	2.86 (1.83)
inanimate (raw)	5.01 (1.98)	2.09 (1.28)

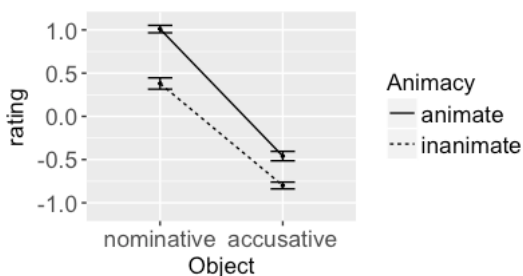


Figure 5: Interaction plot for Experiment 1b

There was a main effect of construction type (Estimate = -1.46 , $SE = 0.15$, $t = -9.23$, $p < 0.001$), showing that sentences with ACC themes are rated lower than sentences with NOM themes and a main effect of ANIMACY, showing that sentences with inanimate subjects are rated lower than sentences with animate subjects (Estimate = -0.62 , $SE = 0.15$, $t = -4.09$, $p = 0.003$). The effect of animacy was more significant and more reliable than in Experiment 1a. The interaction, however, was not statistically significant and numerically in the opposite direction, as in Experiment 1a (Estimate = 0.29 , $SE = 0.17$, $t = 1.74$, $p = 0.12$).

5.2.3 Discussion

The results of Experiment 1b were similar to those of Experiment 1a. Modifications in the design, however, did bring some change in the pattern of the results. The mean rating for the ACC | ANIMATE condition, which can be used to assess whether speakers perceived the ‘need’ + ACC construction as grammatical (in the absence of hypothesized selectional violations), was higher (–0.46) than in Experiment 1a (–0.69); compare 2.86 with 1.8 in raw ratings, and somewhat closer to intermediate acceptability. This suggests that in absolute terms participants did not perceive the ‘need’ + ACC construction as totally ungrammatical; compare –0.96 for the ungrammatical fillers with 1.66 in raw ratings.

In relative terms, however, the decrease associated with the ACC (in the ANIMATE condition) was still very strong (–1.46, as compared to –1.62 in Experiment 1a). Therefore, it is likely that participants still perceived the ‘need’ + ACC construction as ungrammatical, which, again, may have led to a failure to detect the animacy restriction, as in Experiment 1a. Thus, the negative results of Experiment 1b are also consistent with the assumption that combined violations involving grammatical violations do not necessarily add up to decrease the overall acceptability of the sentence. Overall, the main difference between Experiments 1a and 1b was that the participants in the second experiment were more sensitive to the animacy manipulation in the NOM condition, which gave rise to a more pronounced animacy effect.

5.3 Experiment 2

5.3.1 Design and hypotheses

The purpose of Experiment 2 was to test the concreteness restriction on the ACC argument in the ‘need’ + ACC construction with *nužen/nužno*. The experiment had a 2×2 factorial design, crossing the CONSTRUCTION TYPE and CONCRETENESS (CONCRETE | ABSTRACT), as illustrated in (34) and (35). The hypothesis was that both ACC marking and abstractness will lower acceptability. As in Experiments 1a and 1b, it was also expected that the lowering effect of ACC will be stronger in the abstract condition, leading to a superadditive interaction.

- (34) *Context*: U Kati peregorel svet.
 at Katja burn.out light
 ‘The lights burned out at Katja’s place.’

- | | | | | |
|----|----|--------|---|----------------|
| a. | Ej | nužn-a | lampočk-a. | NOM CONCRETE |
| | | | her.DAT necessary-F.SG lightbulb-NOM.SG | |
| | | | ‘She needs a lightbulb.’ | |
| b. | Ej | nužno | lampočk-u. | ACC CONCRETE |
| | | | her.DAT necessary.ADV lightbulb-ACC.SG | |
| | | | ‘She needs a lightbulb.’ | |
- (35) *Context:* Katja ne mozet sama rešit’ ètu problemu.
 Katja not can self solve this problem
 ‘Katja can’t solve this problem alone.’
- | | | | | |
|----|-----|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| a. | Ej | nužn-a | konsul’taci-ja. | NOM ABSTRACT |
| | | | her.DAT necessary-F.SG advice-NOM.SG | |
| | | | ‘She needs advice.’ | |
| b. | *Ej | nužno | konsul’taci-ju. | ACC ABSTRACT |
| | | | her.DAT necessary.ADV advice-ACC.SG | |
| | | | Intended: ‘She needs advice.’ | |

5.3.2 Materials and procedure

The construction of materials was as in Experiment 1b except that the modal predicate did not vary within the sentence sets. As before, there were eight sentence sets of four conditions as in (34) and (35). The abstract/concrete nouns within a sentence set were matched in gender, length, and frequency (according to Ljaševskaja & Šarov 2009). The experimental sentences were interspersed with eight fillers similar to those in Experiment 1a. The task was as in the two previous experiments except that a 5-point rating scale was used. The experiment was conducted in Google Forms and was completed by 54 participants.

5.3.3 Results

The analysis followed the same procedure as in the previous experiments. The mean rating for the ungrammatical fillers was -1.07 ($SD = 0.42$); the mean rating for the grammatical fillers was 0.81 ($SD = 0.43$). The raw ratings were 1.19 (0.68) and 4.57 (0.84), respectively. The condition means are given in Table 3 and in Figure 6.

There was a main effect of construction type (Estimate = -1.32 , $SE = 0.11$, $t = -12.5$, $p < 0.001$), showing that sentences with ACC themes were rated lower than sentences with NOM themes, as in the previous experiments. Neither the main effect of concreteness (Estimate = -0.07 , $SE = 0.13$, $t = 0.59$, $p = 0.58$) nor

Table 3: z-score means (SD) in Experiment 2

	‘need’ + NOM	‘need’ + ACC
concrete	0.89 (0.45)	-0.43 (0.55)
abstract	0.79 (0.54)	-0.71 (0.51)
concrete (raw)	4.72 (0.84)	2.31 (1.23)
abstract (raw)	4.53 (1.04)	1.81 (1.09)

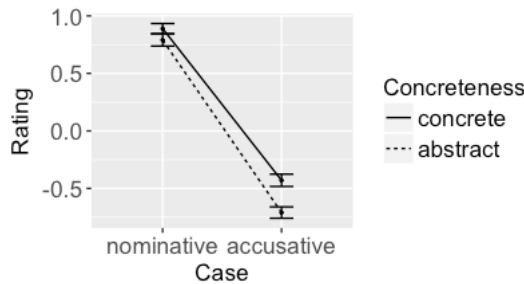


Figure 6: Interaction plot of z-score ratings (SE) for Experiment 2

the interaction between concreteness and construction type (Estimate = -0.23 , SE = 0.16 , $t = -1.44$, $p = 0.19$) were statistically significant. Although the interaction was not significant, we see a trend in the predicted direction, in contrast to Experiments 1a and 1b. Moreover, the size of the interaction (-0.23) is close in magnitude to the lower boundary for weak islands effects as reported by [Kush et al. \(2018\)](#).

5.3.4 Discussion

As in the case with the animacy restriction in Experiments 1a and 1b, the results of Experiment 2 failed to provide support for the hypothesized concreteness restriction. However, given a very strong lowering effect of ACC (-1.32 ; compare -1.62 with -1.46 in the previous experiments), it may again be hypothesized that the participants perceived the ‘need’ + ACC construction as ungrammatical. Given the explanation suggested for Experiments 1a and 1b above, according to which grammatical violations need not combine additively, this may have led to the lack of a statistically significant interaction in the results and thus a failure to detect the concreteness restriction. Interestingly, in contrast to Experiments 1a and 1b, there was no independent effect of concreteness, suggesting that abstractness of

the ACC theme did not incur any extra processing costs (in the NOM condition). This might have led to the absence of a subadditive pattern which was observed in Experiments 1a and 1b.

5.4 General discussion

Unfortunately, the three experimental studies reported above failed to confirm the animacy and concreteness restrictions in the ‘need’ + ACC construction (as operationalized by the presence of superadditive interactions) and thus do not provide (indirect) evidence for the analysis of this construction as involving the control relation (syntactically represented as the Ctr head), which was proposed in §4.2.

However, this does not necessarily imply that the proposed account of the ‘need’ + ACC construction is wrong. As I suggested above, the failure to obtain superadditive interactions in the experiments could be due to the perceived ungrammaticality of the ‘need’ + ACC construction. This may have nullified the lowering effect of the selectional violations associated with the control relation (i.e., the animacy and concreteness restrictions), in accordance with the hypothesis that grammatical violations may not combine additively, as argued in [Hofmeister et al. \(2014\)](#).

This interpretation, of course, requires investigation. Further studies will have to find ways to eliminate the supposed ungrammaticality effect. One obvious possibility is to try to use oral materials to bias participants away from the written/standard variant.³¹ Another option is to alter the judgment task, in view of the possibility that subjects might find it difficult to discriminate between different types of ungrammatical sentences on a scale. For example, one might try using relative judgments with the Thurstone model (see [Langsford et al. 2018](#)) or a joint presentation of conditions, as suggested by [Marty et al. \(2020\)](#).

All in all, the basic prediction of the proposed account is that a superadditive interaction will become visible once the participants are able to judge the ‘need’ + ACC construction as acceptable.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, I have discussed two ‘need’ + NP constructions in Russian, namely, the more basic ‘need’ + NOM construction and the more marginal, highly colloquial ‘need’ + ACC construction. The main focus was on the contrast in the

³¹This was suggested to me by Diogo Almeida (p.c.).

semantic variability between these two constructions (i.e., the range of relations that they can express), as discussed by [Zaroukian & Beller \(2013\)](#) with reference to English transitive ‘need’ and related constructions.

Specifically, I showed that the ‘need’ + NOM construction in Russian can express a variety of relations, including the (arguably most prototypical) control relation, but also the inherent, part-whole, and typical-use relations, on a par with English transitive ‘need’. I also identified two new relations which have not been discussed before in this connection, namely the thematic relation (expressed in constructions with deverbal nominals) and the requirement relation, which are compatible with both ‘need’ + NOM and English transitive ‘need’. I also showed that, crucially, in contrast to the ‘need’ + NOM construction (and transitive ‘need’), the ‘need’ + ACC construction is restricted to the expression of the control relation. This is suggested by the presence of the concreteness and animacy restrictions (which are lexically associated with the control relation) in this construction.

I proposed an analysis of the two ‘need’ + NP constructions in Russian whereby they both take a concealed clausal complement involving silent HAVE, as was proposed in the previous literature on intensional transitive verbs (e.g., [Harves 2008](#)). However, in contrast to the previous literature, I used a more elaborate analysis of the semantic variability associated with HAVE. Specifically, I followed [Zaroukian & Beller \(2013\)](#), where diverse HAVE-relations are modeled as various (syntactically represented) type-shifters, which provide relational denotations for the object NP, whereas HAVE is treated as an abstract linker between the subject NP and the NP-relation.

In order to capture the contrast in the semantic variability between the ‘need’ + NOM construction and the ‘need’ + ACC construction, I argued that the latter but not the former incorporates (via head movement) the type-shifter associated with the control relation (i.e., Ctr). I also tentatively suggested that this might explain the ACC marking in the ‘need’ + ACC construction along the lines of the P-incorporation account of ‘have’ in [Freeze \(1992\)](#) (see also [Kayne 1993](#)).

Finally, I discussed three acceptability judgment studies, which used a factorial design to test the animacy and the concreteness restriction in the ‘need’ + ACC construction, which are associated with the control relation. Intriguingly, these studies failed to provide support for these restrictions (experimentally operationalized as a superadditive interaction). I speculated that the negative results might be due to the perceived ungrammaticality of the ‘need’ + ACC construction and the hypothesis that combined grammaticality violations may not add up to decrease the overall acceptability (see [Hofmeister et al. 2014](#) for further discussion). This suggestion must, of course, be tested in future work.

Abbreviations

RNC	Russian National Corpus	GEN	genitive
1	first person	M	masculine
3	third person	N	neuter
ADV	adverbial	NOM	nominative
ACC	accusative	PL	plural
DAT	dative	SG	singular
F	feminine	SBJV	subjunctive

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Appendix: Experimental materials

- (36) Items for Experiment 1a
- a. Voditelj (avtomobil) nužen (nužno) benzin.
 - b. Voennym (samolet) nužen (nužno) aërodrom.
 - c. Stroitel (beton) nužna voda (nužno vodu).
 - d. Juveliru (kamnju) nužna oprava (nužno opravu).
 - e. Škol’niku (smartfonu) nužen (nužno) modnyj čexol.
 - f. Žil’cam (komnate) nužny (nužno) svetlye oboi.
 - g. Klientu (noutbuku) nužen (nužno) akkumuljator.
 - h. Znakomym (knigam) nužen (nužno) stellaž.
- (37) Items for Experiment 1b
- a. Ej (= Maše) / emu (= telefonu) nužen (nado) čexol.
 - b. Ej (= Kate) / emu (= noutbuku) nužen (nado) adapter.
 - c. Im (= sosedjam) / ej (= komnate) nužna ljustra (nado ljustru).
 - d. Im (= sotrudnikam) / im (= oknam) nužny / nado žaljuzi.

- e. Nam / emu (= avtomobilju) nužen (nado) voditelja.
 - f. Im (= organizatoram) / ej (= olimpiade) nužny volonter / nado volonterov.
 - g. Ej (= Svete) / im (= glazam) nužen (nado) otdyx.
 - h. Nam / emu (= kišečniku) nužna podderžka (nado podderžki).
- (38) Items for Experiment 2
- a. Ej nužna kletka (podderžka) / nužno kletku (podderžku).
 - b. Emu nužen / nužno orden (otpusk).
 - c. Ej nužna figurka (uborka) / nužno figurku (uborku).
 - d. Emu nužen / nužno kostjum (povod).
 - e. Ej nužna lampočka (konsul'tacija) / nužno lampočku (konsul'taciju).
 - f. Ej nužna svekla (otsročka) / nužno sveklu (otsročku).
 - g. Ej nužna pižama (razrjadka) / nužno pižamu (razrjadku).
 - h. Ej nužna ručka (družba) / nužno ručku (družbu).