**Speakers’ choice of nominal forms in Russian as compared to Catalan**

***An experimental investigation***

The experimental study that I am going to present focuses on the choice of nominal forms in Russian (a language without articles) in comparison to Catalan (a language with articles), based on theoretical proposals on (in)definiteness in typologically different languages by Heim (2011), Šimik & Demian (2020), i.a. The study examined the distribution of simple singular preverbal NPs - bare nominals or NPs preceded by the indefinite determiner *odin* ‘one’ in Russian, and NPs preceded by a definite or indefinite article in Catalan in contexts where these nominals are discourse-novel but may be uniquely identifiable, as in (1a) and (2a). Furthermore, we study how the distribution of the above-mentioned elements changes if a second identical but non-coreferential NP is introduced into the immediately following discourse by means of *l’/un altre* ‘the other/another’ in Catalan and *drugoj* ‘other/another’ in Russian, as in (1b) and (2b).

(1) *Russian*

Počti srazu k mestu proisšestvija priexala brigada skoroj pomošči.

a. *Medsestra/Odna medsestra* poprosila čto-nibud’, čtoby ostanovit’ krov’.

nurse one nurse asked something in.order.to stop blood

b. *Drugaja* medsestra predložila svoj šarf.

other nurse offered her scarf

‘Almost immediately, the ambulance arrived at the place of the events. *The/A/ø nurse* asked for something to stop the bleeding. *The other/Another* nurse offered her her scarf.’

(2) *Catalan*

Gairebé immediatament, l’ambulància va arribar al lloc dels esdeveniments.

a. *La/una* infermera va demanar que li donessin alguna cosa per aturar l’hemorràgia.

the/a nurse asked.3sg that her give.ipf.subj.3pl some thing for stop the.bleeding

b. *L’/Una* altra infermera, que era a prop, li va oferir la seva bufanda.

the/a other nurse that was near her offered.3sg the her scarf

A series of acceptability judgment tasks run with native speakers allowed to show that speakers’ preferences vary when, in each context, reference is made to one single individual or to two disjoint referents. In the former case, Russian speakers chose bare nominals as a default form, while Catalan speakers chose (in)definite NPs depending on the accessibility of contextual information that guarantees the unique interpretation of the referent or a lack of it. When reference is made to two disjoint referents (as encoded by the presence of *altre/drugoj* ‘other’), Russian speakers prefer an indefinite *odin* ‘a’ + N, come’ followed by *drugoj* + N, while Catalan speakers prefer an optimal combination of two indefinite NPs (i.e., *un* N followed by *un altre* N). This study showed how speakers of the two languages manage to combine grammatical knowledge (related to the meaning of the definite and the indefinite articles and *altre* in Catalan; and the meaning of bare nominals, *odin* and *drugoj* in Russian) with world knowledge activation and accessibility to discourse information.