

Introduction

The present volume honors the contributions of Laura A. Janda to Slavic linguistics, Cognitive Linguistics, and the study of Slavic languages in general. When we think of Laura A. Janda and who she is in Slavic linguistics, the word *leader* comes to mind. By this we don't mean merely that she's eminent or respected in the field. She's clearly both, but being eminent and respected don't necessarily make one a leader. Rather, we're thinking of two qualities of her work. One is her record of continual generation of new ideas and approaches over the years, from the application of principles of Cognitive Linguistics to Russian prefixes in her dissertation, to the cluster model of verbal derivation, to her recent hypothesis that Russian verbal prefixes are a verbal classifier, to name a few. A leader produces new ideas that take an endeavor further, and not only one, but many. Laura has done just that.

Another quality is her ability to motivate people, at first to follow, but ultimately to strike out on their own. This is probably more difficult than coming up with new ideas. Yet it is something that Laura has excelled at, with both students and colleagues. She supports and enables her students to do things that they probably didn't believe possible. And she has done the same with colleagues, by organizing projects and taking care to make them happen, thus providing experienced colleagues with opportunities they never counted on. Laura hasn't become the leader that she is by refusing to get her hands dirty. Whether trying out some new theoretical idea, learning Sami, going back to learn statistics, or including her students in a book project, she does what the cliché says: she leads by doing. And it's her joy in doing, and including others in doing, that makes "each venture a new beginning."

Laura A. Janda was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and grew up in Syracuse, New York. Her schooling was typical of American education, with little emphasis on foreign languages. However, she eventually enrolled in a beginning French course in high school. After two weeks she was told that she was far too advanced for classroom participation and was shut into a janitor's closet with a textbook and a tape recorder for "self-study." In one year she completed the high school's entire French program. The next year, she enrolled in beginning Spanish, and was shut into the same janitor's closet, with the same result.

Afterward she enrolled in Princeton University, where her studies were supposed to prepare the way for a career in medicine. To fulfill the language requirement, she wanted to take Chinese, but that class conflicted with her science classes, and so she took Russian... It was in her Slavic coursework there that she

took courses with Charles Townsend. He inspired her to major in Slavic Languages and Literatures, and she graduated *cum laude* in 1979. Indeed, it was Townsend's example that she was following when she decided to continue her study of Slavic languages as a graduate student (and their friendship would last until his death in 2015). She then studied at UCLA, where she received her MA in 1980 and her PhD in 1984. She worked as an assistant professor at UCLA (1984–85), then the University of Rochester (1985–91), and then the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1991–2007), where she was promoted to associate professor (1991) and full professor (1996). Since 2007 she has served as Professor of Russian Linguistics at the University of Tromsø.

During her career Laura has received many, many grants (totaling over 3.6 million dollars in the US and another 2.6 million dollars (just under 22 million Norwegian Kronor) in Norway) and awards that testify to her resourcefulness and creativity as a researcher. Her funding pedigree includes grants from the Department of Education, The National Science Foundation, the Keenan Foundation, the Norwegian Research Council, and the Center for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Other awards include a Dr. A. Ronald Walton Award from National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages for a distinguished career in Less Commonly Taught Languages, the 2005 Book Prize for "Best Contribution to Pedagogy" from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages along with Steven Clancy (for *The Case Book for Russian*), and the 2011 Prize for Best Researcher at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, University of Tromsø.

Laura's scholarly projects have been guided by her enduring commitment to Cognitive Linguistics and her interest in investigating classic problems of Slavic linguistics, such as those of case and aspect. Her dissertation, *A Semantic Analysis of the Russian Verbal Prefixes ZA-, PERE-, DO- and OT-*, was a trailblazing work in its application of principles of Cognitive Linguistics to the semantic analysis of Russian prefixes. Indeed, it has paved the way for more than thirty years of illuminating research on Russian aspect. She has gone on to tackle aspect and its complexities from a purely semantic perspective, arguing that the human experience of matter provides the source domain for the metaphor that motivates the aspectual opposition in Russian. Her contrast of discrete solid objects (or perfectives) with fluid substances (the imperfectives) revealed a compelling isomorphism with the complex uses of aspect in Russian. Her cognitive approach has also allowed her to develop a viable alternative to the ultimately prescriptivist obsession with aspectual pairs: the cluster model. This model illuminates the complex relationship between aspect and Aktionsart prefixation by drawing a semantic map of aspectual relationships in Russian, and it establishes an implicational hierarchy that predicts all attested cluster types, and only those. Laura's cluster model would be a success based on the term *natural perfective* alone, which captures the essence of the tradi-

tional “perfective partner verbs” better than any appellation offered before in Slavic aspectology. Here we should point out that Laura stands among a very small group of linguists who have coined new terms that are actually useful.

Laura’s most recent theoretical hypothesis about Russian aspectual prefixation is probably the most intriguing put forth on the subject in recent decades. In her 2013 book, *Why Aspectual Prefixes Aren’t Empty: Prefixes as Verbal Classifiers*, she argued for a striking comparison between perfectivizing prefixes in Russian natural perfectives and numeral classifiers in languages such as Yucatec Maya and Chinese. The theoretical implications of this idea are too manifold to be detailed here. This groundbreaking idea was further tested and developed with Stephen Dickey to cover all kinds of perfectivizing prefixation and the entire Slavic linguistic territory. If it gets the attention it deserves, it will be a part of the discourse on Slavic aspect for years to come.

As for case, Laura’s work has produced not only descriptive and theoretical insights but also useful pedagogical materials. Early on her research on Slavic cases made a significant departure from the traditional linguistic norm: instead of focusing on form and accommodating forms in paradigms, Laura approached case from the perspective of function, and employed the principles of Prototype Theory to reveal an intricate network of meaning-relationships between the uses of each form. Her 1993 book on the dative and the instrumental in Russian and Czech, *A Geography of Case Semantics: The Czech Dative and the Russian Instrumental*, was innovative not only with regard to its Cognitive Linguistic approach but by virtue of employing that approach to shed light on the rather elusive differences between the functions of these cases in Russian and Czech. This study served as a model of how to tease out differences between functional categories in closely related languages, influencing others who would carry out comparative investigations of Slavic grammatical categories.

Though Laura has been an extremely creative researcher, she remains a dedicated teacher. Many of her research projects have been conceived with pedagogical applications in mind. Her AATSEEL prize for *The Case Book for Russian*, co-authored with Steven Clancy, as the “Best Contribution to Pedagogy” for 2005 makes her almost unique—how many Slavic linguists have ever won a pedagogy prize? Indeed, she has hardly had a single major project that was not inspired by her extensive experience of conveying the challenging beauty of the Slavic languages and led to significant improvements in the way in which those languages are taught. Her aspect work also produced an online textbook in 2006, *Aspect in Russian* (available at <http://ansatte.uit.no/laura.janda/aspect/ainr/>).

Laura is probably best known for her work on synchronic linguistics, but she has devoted considerable energy to diachronic Slavic linguistics as well. She co-authored *Common and Comparative Slavic: Phonology and Inflection, with Special Attention to Russian, Polish, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, and Bulgarian* (1996) with Charles

Townsend, which was praised by William Schmalstieg as an unusual combination of accessibility for beginners and accuracy regarding the material. The same year saw the publication of *Back from the Brink: A Study of How Relic Forms in Languages Serve as Source Material for Analogical Extension*, which discussed the resurgence of *-m* as a verbal inflection, of *u*-stem endings, and of old dual endings in Slavic. Here she developed a coherent theory of the fate of these elements, which had not been linked before. We would point out that the account of the expansion of *-m* as a first-person present-tense inflection in West and South Slavic languages was remarkable in its detailed analysis of a complex phenomenon that had resisted a comprehensive analysis.

Laura's role in Slavic Cognitive Linguistics was also cemented by the initiative she took in the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association. As memory fades, it becomes harder to recollect the beginnings of SCLA, but it seems that Stephen Dickey made a tongue-in-cheek comment to the effect that Slavic Cognitive Linguists needed "to organize," whereupon they discussed the possibility of creating the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association. And so, in the spring of 2000, the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association was born in Laura's living room on 1621 Clearwater Lake Road in Chapel Hill, NC. It took Laura's drive and resourcefulness to turn a half-hearted joke into reality. The rest is history—SCLA has flourished in the last 17 years, and conferences have been held almost every year in locations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Laura has helped lay the foundation for two other developments that have shaped and will shape Cognitive Linguistics over the years to come. She has been an active advocate for the Quantitative Turn in Cognitive Linguistics, encouraging colleagues to embrace statistics regardless of their career stage. But quantitative analysis is only possible if there is data, and the concern for data conservation has led Laura to lead on the creation of an open repository archive for linguistic research data. TROLLing (Tromsø Repository of Language and Linguistics) is now hosted by the University library in Tromsø (<https://opendata.uit.no>). To support the repository, Laura recorded a hilarious short promotional video where she plays her antagonist, a hopelessly old school professor who doesn't know where (and if) she keeps her data "TROLLing—why linguists need it" (https://youtu.be/uEf0cONT9_A).

Laura's enthusiasm is contagious: her energy motivates others, and she will go out of her way to help her collaborators, colleagues and students succeed both in their professional and private lives. She happily advises on anything from Prototype Theory and Logistic Regression to buying a car and is an expert in finding her PhD students rooms with individually adjusted ambient noise levels. She's unusually well-versed in solving everyday problems and supported flexible working arrangements that go far beyond what is currently deemed reasonable long before anyone else did. She raised three wonderful girls herself, she has a dog, loves nature and goes biking, skiing and hiking. She cooks delicious food, and her reper-

toire includes everything from reindeer soup to pumpkin pie. For years she had her students over for a potluck dinner on a weekly basis, and the “samizdat” catering she and Meredith Clason ran in Chapel Hill will remain legendary. She makes beeswax candles and weaves carpets. She goes to concerts and theatre performances. She reads in English, Czech, Russian, Norwegian and Sami. She claims that she started learning the latter just to keep herself entertained while Tore practices his viola. By now, her translations from Sami into English are being published. Tore must be practicing an awful lot. Or Laura is tremendously talented.

There is certainly something we have left out, but it should be clear now why we are so enthusiastic about Laura. And it is no wonder so many people agreed to contribute to the current volume. This volume unites Laura’s teachers, colleagues, students and friends and brings together a number of disciplines, all in one way or another related to Laura’s work or interests.

The book begins with articles that either offer a more theoretical and general perspective on language or explore a new method. Ronald Langacker discusses epistemic control and shows that there is a systematic correspondence between quantifiers, modals and frequency adverbs in that they can all express different degrees of epistemic control. John Newman’s paper highlights the dangers of large-scale linguistic studies and emphasizes the importance of person/speaker-oriented research. Dirk Geeraerts describes the development of distributionalism in linguistics from Harris to contemporary approaches. Harald Baayen and Dagmar Divjak focus on the challenges that acceptability or grammaticality ratings present for statistical modeling and describe a new method for analyzing this type of data. Vsevolod Kapatsinski reports on a number of experimental studies, concluding that learning proceeds in a general-to-specific direction and that the root of linguistic creativity is, in fact, copying. Ewa Dąbrowska uses a grammaticality judgment study, a production study, and a corpus study to demonstrate that general schemas are not necessary to explain productivity in a language. Julia Kuznetsova proposes a method to measure the creativity of a given text by analyzing word forms that appear only once in this text. Alan Cienki, Olga Iriskhanova, and Valeriia Denisova address one of Laura’s favorite topics, Russian aspect, from a new perspective, noting a new informative dimension—gestures. Steven Clancy describes how vector-based approaches can help identify linguistic constructions and potentially find zero-markers in a language.

The second section of the book includes analyses of specific language phenomena in various languages of the world, from Athabaskan to Slavic languages, mostly using the toolbox of Cognitive Linguistics. Andrej Kibrik’s paper discusses how the notion of frame of reference helps understand the conceptualization of movement in the Upper Kuskokwim language of Alaska. Tuomas Huumo adopts Laura’s idea that events can be represented either as solid or fluid entities and applies it to Finnish numerical quantifiers and the aspectual case marking of the object. Tore

Nesset discusses football and fishing in his paper and offers an analysis of Norwegian compounds in terms of blends and compression. Maarten Lemmens compares Dutch prepositional progressive constructions with progressive constructions that make use of a variety of posture verbs, suggesting that the difference lies in the processual vs. situational focus of the context. Neil Bermel, Luděk Knittl, and Jean Russell describe an elicitation experiment run to shed light on the mystery of nominative plural endings of Czech masculine animate nouns. Mateusz-Milan Stanojević and Anita Peti-Stantić describe how the prepositional dative ended up under pressure in Croatian and is losing its position to the genitive case. Stephen Dickey describes auxiliary omissions in the compound preterit in Meša Selimović's *Death and the Dervish* and demonstrates that they occur when an event is epistemically immediate to the speaker. Svetlana Sokolova and Anna Endresen offer a new analysis of the verbal prefix *za-* in Russian, revisiting a topic that Laura investigated in early days of her linguistic career. Hanne Eckhoff also explores the semantics of verbal prefixes—in addition to the prefix *za-* she also analyzes the prefix *voz-* as part of an analysis of the ingressive aorist in Old Church Slavonic and Old East Slavic. Václav Cvrček and Masako Fidler apply keyword analysis to corpus data and explore contextual patterns of aspectual selection in Czech. Vladimir Plungian and Ekaterina Rakhilina study the uses of the Russian adverbial *bez konca* 'without end' and explain how durative and iterative semantics can coexist and are related in this adverbial. Elena Paducheva also carries out a semantic analysis of one linguistic unit, the expression *do six por* 'up until now' with the archaic pronoun *sej* 'this' and compares it to *do ètix por* 'up to that time' demonstrating that they are not easily interchangeable.

Section three of the book puts linguistic studies and language in a broader context and includes papers on literature and culture. Michael Flier's contribution connects language and culture by analyzing morphological, lexical, and culturally syntactic instances of iconic change. David Danaher discusses how Tolstoy employs the symbolic motif of doubling and engages the readers in a cognitive simulation of the main themes of *Anna Karenina*. Elżbieta Tabakowska focuses on conceptual integration of mental spaces in the complex world of *Alice in Wonderland*. Andrei Rogatchevski takes us through the world of spies and offers a detailed analysis of how the USSR and the West were represented in the movies made by the two sides about one another.

A paper by Mark Turner concludes the volume. Mark tells the story about how Laura inspired his work on a huge archive of media data and helped a dream come true. That dream has a name—the Little Red Hen Lab.

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So let us now wish Laura a Happy Birthday. May she have many returns of the day, and many new ventures!

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