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Review: *The Forms of Russian*

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good mother'" (151). Professor Morson gives us an example of the kind of moral condemnation that would result in such a situation.

The festschrift is loaded with articles that look at Russian literature from a deeply felt and original point-of-view. It represents some of the best in contemporary American critical thinking.

The one weakness in the collection is an occasional over-indulgence in abstract writing which can make legitimate critical points rather hard to understand. As an example, "What is relevant for us in hermeneutics is that it focuses on the prism of perception relevant for the perceiver, a prism conditioned by the context relevant for him or her—a context that may be cultural or personal depending on the perceiver's sore spots or points of reference, etc." (48). But these occasional weaknesses do not lessen the overall impact of this marvelous collection.

Irwin Weil
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Charles E. Gribble, *The Forms of Russian*. Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica, 2014. 195 pp.

The Forms of Russian is a traditional approach to the fundamentals of Russian morphology based largely on the work of Jakobson, Levin, Lipson and Townsend. It is essentially the introductory course on Russian morphology that many, if not most, working North American Slavists took in graduate school. The work arises from such a course taught over many years by the author. The book is clearly intended for future teachers of Russian. The two main goals of the book are (1) to make working with and using Russian easier and (2) to explain how to establish a systematic description of Russian. As stated by the author, "the goal of the book is to improve your Russian, not to teach linguistics" (5). With these goals in mind—a basic description of the structures of Russian and an attempt to use this systematic approach to help students better understand the functioning of the language—the book is successful. The material is thoroughly covered, but the presentation does not get mired in excessive details and exceptions. The examples are largely presented with Cyrillic characters, which is important if the goals are not strictly linguistic but partially focused on learning to use Russian better. This allows future

teachers of the language a way to use the original forms of the language in explanations to students without complicating the process with transcription. The only real exception to this is that phonological transcriptions are given with Latin characters using a comma under consonants to indicate palatalization (8). It might have been more consistent to use Cyrillic characters here as well.

The pedagogical nature of the work is also clear in the style of writing and presentation. The tone of the book is that of an engaging lecture with questions for thought proposed for students to contemplate as they work through the chapter (27). Each chapter closes with practice exercises based on the material covered. Each section is thoroughly explained and well written.

Chapter 1 serves as an introduction with a brief discussion of the phonology of Russian, including transcription, allophones, complementary distribution in vowel reduction, and consonantal devoicing. The basic spelling and pronunciation rules important to morphological description are also introduced.

The subsequent chapters take on the main topics in Russian morphology following a typical order for a descriptive grammar: descriptive grammar, noun declensions, noun stress, adjective formation, pronominals, numerals, verb formations, participles, gerunds and derived imperfectives. Chapter 2, which focuses on the categories of Russian noun declension, is particularly well organized, with helpful clarifications of problematic areas like the formation of the genitive plural and rules for fill vowels (fleeting vowels). Chapter 3, noun stress, includes five concise methods for predicting stress.

Chapters 7, 8 and 10 comprise a detailed and clearly organized discussion of verbal morphology, both inflectional and derivational, serving as an excellent introduction to the topic. My one critique is, admittedly, about a personal theoretical preference for a usage-based approach to Russian morphology. I do not like the general reliance on unreal underlying forms and ordered rules to derive surface forms in verbal morphology, specifically the one-stem verb system. I admit that the system is internally consistent and that it provides an elegant description of the Russian verbal system, but it does not actually simplify the description. In order to identify the single stem, a student needs to know the infinitive, non-past and past forms as well as truncation and mutation

rules along with other rules like a disappearing *u* in the imperative. Why not just describe the real patterns of Russian verbs? That one critique aside, the discussion of verbal morphology is complete and clear and provides a useful introduction to the material.

The Forms of Russian is a well-written introductory description of Russian morphology. It is full of valuable information and is comprehensive without being bogged down with detail. Outside of my concerns with the one-stem verb system, I would use it as a supplement in my own courses on the structures of Russian.

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Даниэль Вайс, Анна Занадворова, Оксана Иссерс, Маргарита Китайгородская, Ренате Ратмайр, Нина Розанова, Эдгар Хоффманн, при участии Урсулы Долешаль, *Еда по-русски в зеркале языка*. М.: РГГУ, РАН: Институт русского языка им. В.В.Виноградова, 2013. 586 с.

“Еда по-русски...” это объемная, состоящая из пяти глав, коллективная монография, в написании которой участвовал представительный интернациональный коллектив исследователей из Австрии, Швейцарии и России. В книге читатель не найдет рецептов щей, борща, или кулебяки, не обнаружит рекомендаций по речевому поведению за русским столом, не отыщет экскурсов в этимологию названий русских блюд, не встретит идиоматического материала, базирующегося на пищевых и кулинарных словах и выражениях. Работа, кажется, в меньшей степени учитывает нужды и интересы филологов-русистов, студентов и аспирантов, изучающих русский язык, преподавателей русского языка как иностранного или же школьных учителей русского языка, а рассчитана больше на специалистов по деловой и межличностной коммуникации, социолингвистов, этнолингвистов, культурологов, специалистов по истории пропаганды и маркетологов.

Первая глава посвящена историческому анализу советского дискурса о пище. Здесь разбираются такие тексты на тему пищи, как