Ilola, E., Mustajoki, A.: *Report on Russian Morphology as it appears in Zaliznyak's Grammatical Dictionary*, Helsinki 1989 (Slavica Helsingiensia, 7), 235 pp.

The book under review is unique in at least two ways, in that it is completely dedicated to another book (mentioned in the title), and in that it consists entirely of statistical tables with accompanying examples while the text proper has been reduced to a minimum.

As is well known, Zaliznyak's *Grammatical Dictionary* characterizes each of its approximately 100 000 entries according to word class, inflectional type, and accent pattern with the help of alphanumerical abbreviations which in turn refer the user to paradigms and grammatical rules. The authors of the *Report* now set out to give a statistical account of the occurrence of all these symbols (and combinations thereof) within the given word classes thereby investigating the systemic frequency of these features (termed lexical by the authors). As they explain in the short Introduction (pp. 1–2), this book is only the first in a series of studies dedicated to the investigation of contemporary Russian which will eventually cover the whole range between phonology and semantics.

Of course, such a work would not have been feasible without the help of computers. The authors were lucky in that they were presented by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a computer tape containing all of the data in Zaliznyak's *Dictionary* so there was no need to enter it manually – a time-consuming and error-prone process. (In fact, the material is now made available to other researchers on standard computer diskettes.)

The scope of the study is broad enough to answer more questions than would normally be asked. The material is grouped according to the various word classes with subdivisions on phonological features (e.g. number of syllables), morphological (grammatical categories), as well as morphonological (alternations), stress assignment and so on.

The authors follow the same principle of presenting the material throughout the book: first a short introduction to the linguistic facts, then a statistical table, with examples completing the section. The *Report* rightfully limits itself to simple descriptive statistics – absolute frequencies and, occasionally, percentages. As it has obviously not been the aim of the book to formulate and test specific linguistic hypotheses, the authors do not apply any statistical tests to the data. Therefore, there are ample opportunities left open for others to use this material in every conceivable way. This also means that it is impossible in a review to present an overview of the 'results' – this would simply mean to duplicate the text of the book.

As far as possible, the text, prepared and printed out with a standard PC, uses the same special symbols found in Zaliznyak's *Dictionary*. If one knows Zaliznyak's *Dictionary*, one will be at once familiar with this study. The layout is fairly standard (no bold or italic type, headings are of the same point size as the rest of the text) with tables and examples clearly separated from the text.

The authors state that the book can be useful if words with a special set of features are needed. Had they added an index of words it would also be possible to check if a given word falls into a 'normal' or some special or rare inflectional type.

Sometimes the danger clearly arises of losing the general picture because of the reader being burried in details. Take tables 122–126 for example, which are dedicated to the distribution of the stress in various classes of adjectives. For each combination of inflectional class and accent pattern there is a separate table while no table shows the distribution as such. (There also exists no hypothesis that this distribution should significantly depend on these classes.) Also, one has to very carefully read the accompanying text to avoid misunderstandings. The number of syllables an adjective has is reduced by one, for example, just because the stress (in a given class) cannot fall on the desinence. This may be true, but within the framework of such a basic study one should not transform the variables in such a way.

The book presents a wealth of material awaiting further exploration to those who are looking for certain statistics or who carefully enough read the tables. One example: For Russian adjectives it is well known that there exists a tendency to place the accent near the end of the word (when counted in syllables). As the corresponding table (122) clearly shows, the distribution of the stress position peaks at the next-to-last-syllable within adjectives containing up to six syllables. If they have more than six syllables, the peak shifts to the antepenultimate position, thereby avoiding the combination of two extreme values (length of word and marginal stress position).

Although the tables in general are well laid out, sometimes they leave something to be desired from a statistical point of view. Take table 136 for example, which presents a cross-classification of verbs according to their conjugation and their aspect. This table seems to be ve r t i c a l l y oriented but the percentages are calculated within r o w s and thus do not add up to 100 % in columns as one would normally expect. Here, it clearly shows that more linguistic 'input' into the statistical description would benefit the presentation.

These are but minor criticisms. The *Report* proves to be a very necessary

and helpful addition to the *Grammatical Dictionary* delivering surely all statistics for its morphological classes and subtypes one might normally look for. And for additional investigations, there is now the original source available in a most convenient format.

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