Partitivity in German-Russian language contact. A corpus-based study on the language of Russian-speaking immigrants in Germany

Christine Grillborzer University of Freiburg / Germany

The central aim of the talk is to describe and to explain the change in the morphosyntactic structure of the Russian spoken in Germany. The study focuses on the category partitivity and consists of two parts. The first one is the analysis based on an interview corpus (containing the transcriptions of the authentic spoken language data). The observed peculiarities will be classified into the following groups: 1) 'the direct transfer from German', 2) 'the indirect influence of the German patterns' and 3) 'peculiarities which cannot be traced back to the influence of German'. Although the analysis of the interview corpus provides some morphosyntactic particularities, all of them appear with a comparatively low frequency. Therefore, a further empirical study focused on partitivity and implementing the observed tendencies proves absolutely essential in order to generalize the conclusions. Thus, the second part of the talk discusses the evaluation of the questionnaire completed by thirty Russian-speaking immigrants in Germany. The results, compared with the data of a commensurate control group, will allow us to demonstrate some explicit contact-induced tendencies in the morphosyntactic change of Russian under influence of German.