

Ph.D. Thesis title: *Learning Russian Impersonal Sentences: Computer-Mediated Collaborative Writing in the Foreign Language Classroom* – Elisa Moroni – UAB (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Russian is a highly rich inflectional language with a complex morphosyntactic system. Impersonal sentences are distinctive features of Russian syntax and are extensively used by L1 and L2 speakers in everyday conversation and literature (Keyko, 2015). There are several types of Russian impersonal sentences, thoroughly studied by Russian scholars (Babaitseva, 2014; Bestsennaia & Fesenko, 2020; Triberio, 2014; Vinogradov, 1972; Zolotova, 2000). I will focus on impersonal structures of the so-called “category of state”, which are used to talk about health, express feelings, and describe a psychological or physical condition (Galkina-Fedoruk, 2012). Romance languages such as Italian and Spanish differ from Russian in this respect, and impersonal sentences are used and perceived differently. Such syntactic distance might slow the acquisition of the target forms. In my research, I will explore the relationship between computer-mediated collaborative writing (CMCW) and the learning of Russian impersonal sentences. I will employ focused tasks such as the dictogloss to examine how learners use the targeted structures (Ellis, 2003). I will carry out a quasi-experimental study based on a pre-post-test design and a treatment based on CMCW with a focus on impersonal structures. My sample will consist of B1 learners of Russian recruited at two Italian and one Spanish universities. They will be distributed in two groups: a control group (working individually) and an experimental group (working in pairs). I will analyze the data with both qualitative and quantitative measures.

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