

The case of the Serbian Superlexical *pro*

In Slavic, three subclasses of prefixes exist: lexical prefixes (LP), superlexical prefixes (SLP) and Russian Intermediate prefixes (IMP). These three types of prefixes vary in semantic and syntactic properties.

SLPs express adverbial-like meanings and form meaning in a systematic and predictable way. IMPs are similar to SLPs. LPs, however, typically have idiosyncratic meanings. Other differences include: SLPs not affecting argument structure (Romanova, 2005), SLPs not making an object obligatory (Svenonius, 2005), SLPs never changing the participant relations of an original object (Ramchand, 2005) and SLPs not attaching to verbs with the secondary imperfective suffix (Svenonius, 2005).

Syntactically SLPs are considered to be high up the derivation, well above the limit for nominalization, and are generally considered to be above the secondary imperfective morpheme. IMPs are in-between SLPs and LPs which are VP internal.

In Serbian, however, one SLP *pro* combines with verbs bearing the secondary imperfective. This should not happen as blocking the secondary imperfective is a defining characteristic of SLPs. Current analyses fail to account for this prefix.

A syntactic analysis based on Serbian data reveals that *pro* and other SLPs are a head above the limit for nominalization; above *vP*. The secondary imperfective is also assumed to be a head above *vP*. As for the placement of SLPs in relation to the secondary imperfective, the fact that most SLPs block the latter indicate that SLPs are found higher in the structure.

$$[_{pro}[_{AsP} \textit{-iva}[\dots [_{vP} [_{VP} \dots LP \dots]]]]]]]$$

A solution to the Serbian problem comes from two heads forming idiosyncratic meaning. In this case *pro* together with the secondary imperfective always form a meaning which indicates habituality/ability.

- (1) Jovan je pro-govarao^{SLP} sa dvije godine.
 Jovan aux INCH-talk with two years
 Jovan started talking when he was two.
- (2) Jedva ćekam ljeto da se pro-plivavam^{SLP}
 Barely awaits summer to reflexive INCH-swim
 'I can barely wait for summer to start being able to swim'.