

**Russian indefinite pronouns in first-order logic with choice**  
**Natalia Talmina, JHU Cognitive Science**

This paper aims to provide a description of Russian indefinite pronouns in a systematic way in order to account for their differences in scopal properties and specificity. Traditionally, indefinites in general and indefinite pronouns in particular have been analyzed in terms of choice- or Skolem-functions that state their semantics in terms witness choice. This approach accounts for the scopal freedom of indefinites and their apparent insensitivity to scope islands. We will argue that this approach is not fine-grained enough to account for the diversity of meanings that Russian indefinites can take. Instead, we will propose a new semantics for Russian indefinites grounded in first-order logic with choice (Brasoveanu and Farkas, 2011). We will show that this framework allows us to make correct predictions for the indefinites' specificity and scopal behavior directly in the definition of truth and satisfaction. Finally, we will argue that partially divorcing syntactic scope from semantic scope solves some of the well-known problems associated with Russian indefinites.