# The Speech Act of Requesting in Heritage Russian in Contact with Hebrew

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Studies investigating requests in HL speakers are sparse (but see Dubinina & Malamud, 2017, Pinto & Raschio, 2007; Taguchi et al., 2013). HL speakers lack cultural references and have difficulties understanding registers and processing pragmatic subtlety (Polinsky 2018). The current study investigated request realization in HL-Russian in contact with Hebrew. Russian and Hebrew differ in request realization (Blum-Kulka et al. 1989), thus providing an excellent opportunity to study HL-grammar-formation mechanisms in the domain of pragmatics. We considered effects of cross-linguistic influence and Age of Onset (AoO) of the Majority language (here Hebrew) acquisition. For these purposes 4 groups (n=97) were recruited: three groups of adult Russian-Hebrew speakers of various Hebrew AoOs (before the age of 5 (HL-EARLY); between the ages of 5-13 (HL-LATE), after the age of 13 (BiControl)) and a control group of monolingual Russian speakers (MonoControl). The study elicited twenty requests in formal and informal contexts. The use of socially-differential forms of address (TY-VY "Tu–Vous"), the syntactic realizations of requests (Imperatives, Questions, Declarative), the use of politeness marker požalujsta "please" and the use of negative particle 'ne' were analyzed to tap into the transfer from Hebrew. The results showed group differences across the four measures of analysis. The HL-EARLY group overused TY forms and politeness marker požalujsta "please" in both contexts, while underusing negative particle 'ne'. With respect to syntactic realization, HL-EARLY group showed no differentiation between the two contexts and favored interrogatives, whereas the controls chose imperatives in informal and interrogatives in formal contexts. The findings unfold the emergence of new conventions in request formation under the influence of Hebrew, and these effects of transfer are amplified by lower AoOs.

## References

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