Convergence of Case Representation in Northeastern Romani Dialects

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- Significant rearrangement in the domain of the case representation
- This change conditioned by the L2

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- How to visually represent such data in a clear and useful manner?

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- Ursari – used for control

Case Convergence in other data

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- Aikhenvald's (2003: 8-10) – Tariana abandoned the conservative Arawak system of locative (LOC, ALLAT, ABL and PERL), and uses East Tucanoan model of having 1 locative marker – the ALLAT *-se*

Haig discussion of Laz

- Haig (2001: 214-217), discusses the contact situation of Ardeşen Laz, a Kartvelian language in contact with Turkish, where Laz case marking has converged with Turkish in some types of constructions, as follows:

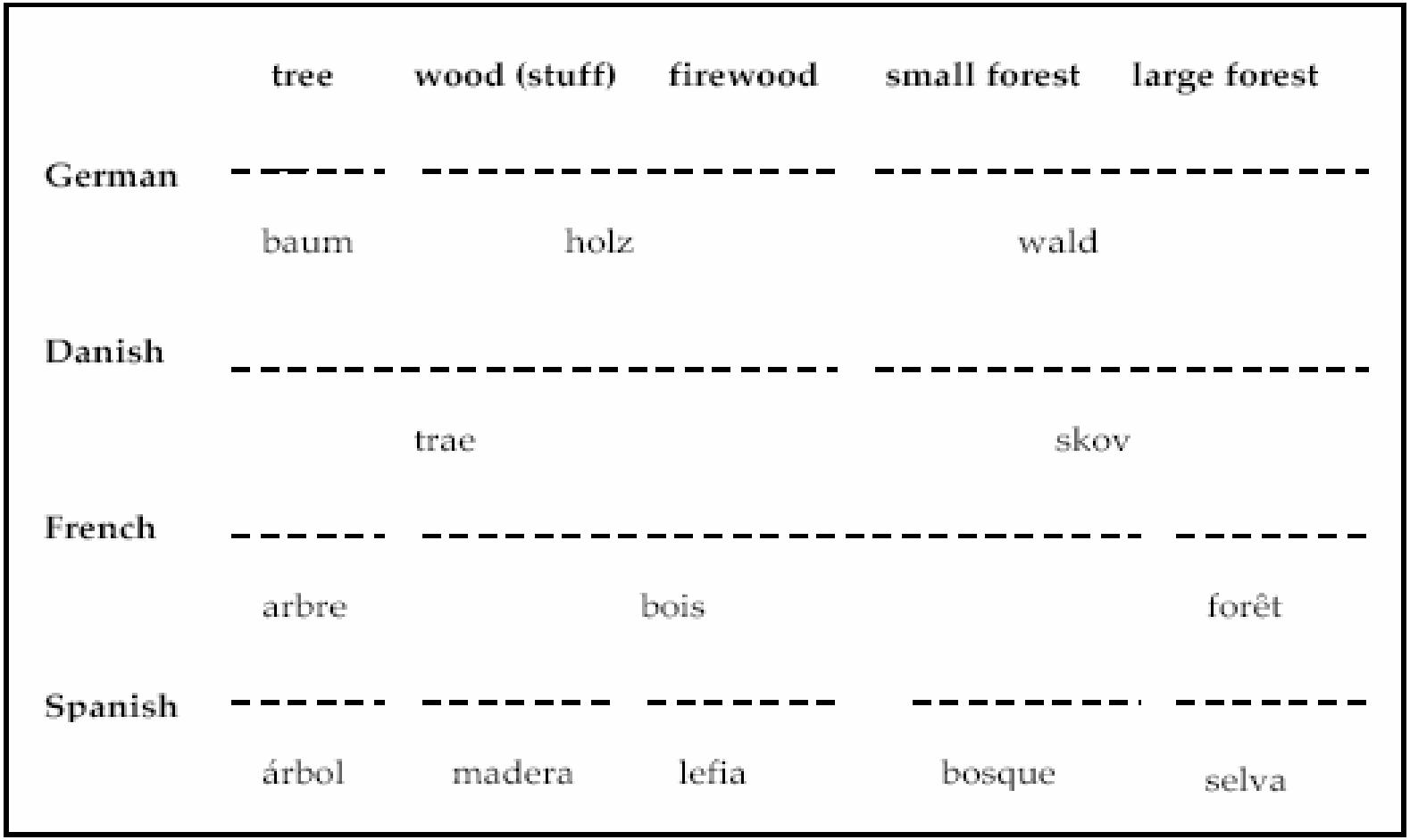
Haig's discussion of Laz

Function:	LAZ	TURKISH	ARDEŞEN LAZ
Subject	*-Ø, -k, -s*	*-Ø*	*-Ø*
Agent	*-k, -s*	*-Ø*	*-Ø*
Object	*-Ø*	*-Ø~-(y)I*	*-Ø*
Ind. Obj.	*-s, -še~-ša*	*-(y)A*	*-ša*
Goal	*-še~-ša*	*-(y)A*	*-ša*

Construction-Based Analysis

- My analysis is based on constructions (for example – Croft's RCG).
- No differentiation between grammatical and semantic constructions for my purposes. Just forms vs. functions.
- No. of constructions can be very large. I limit myself to constructions where I saw a pattern

Semantic Map – Hjelmslev (1963)



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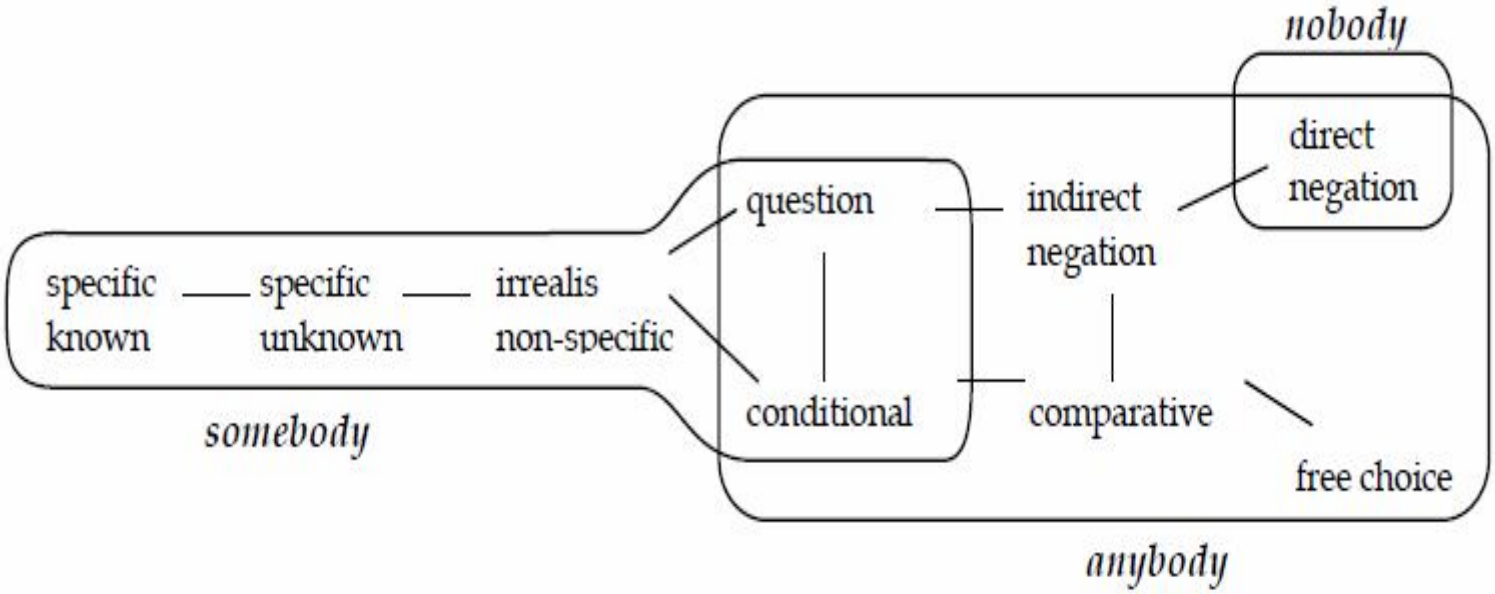

Figure 2: English *somebody*, *anybody* and *nobody*

Example: Subject of Negative Existence - Pronominal

me *ni somas khere* (Ursari)
I.NOM NEG was home

menja *ne bylo doma* (Russian)
me.(DirObj.) NEG was home

man *na sys kxere* (Lith. Romani)
me.DirObj. NEG was home

'I was not at home'

Example: External Possession

dukhal ***man*** *o* *nakh* (Ursari)
hurts **me.DirObj** ART.M nose

mande *dukxal nak* (Lith. Romani)
me.LOC hurts nose

u menja *bolit nos* (Russian)
to me.GEN hurts nose

'My nose hurts'

Example: Stative Location

pashal tute (Ursari)
next.to you.LOC

nadur tute (Lith. Romani)
near you.LOC

vozle tebja (Russian)
next.to you.GEN

'Next to you'

Example: Possessor

*si **man*** *duj phrala* (Ursari)
is **me.DirObj** two brothers

mande *sy duj pshala* (Lith. Romani)
me.LOC is two brothers

u menja *dva brata* (Russian)
to me.GEN two brothers

'I have two brothers'

Russian GEN and Romani LOC

Function:	Ursari	Lithuanian Romani	Russian
Stative Location	Loc. prep + LOC	Loc. prep + LOC	Loc. prep + GEN
External Possession	Dir.Obj. case	LOC	Loc. prep + GEN
Possessor	Dir.Obj. case	LOC	Loc. prep + GEN

What is going on?

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- What is actually 'borrowed'?

Grammaticalization?

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- Not committing to the grammaticalization.

Semantic map replication

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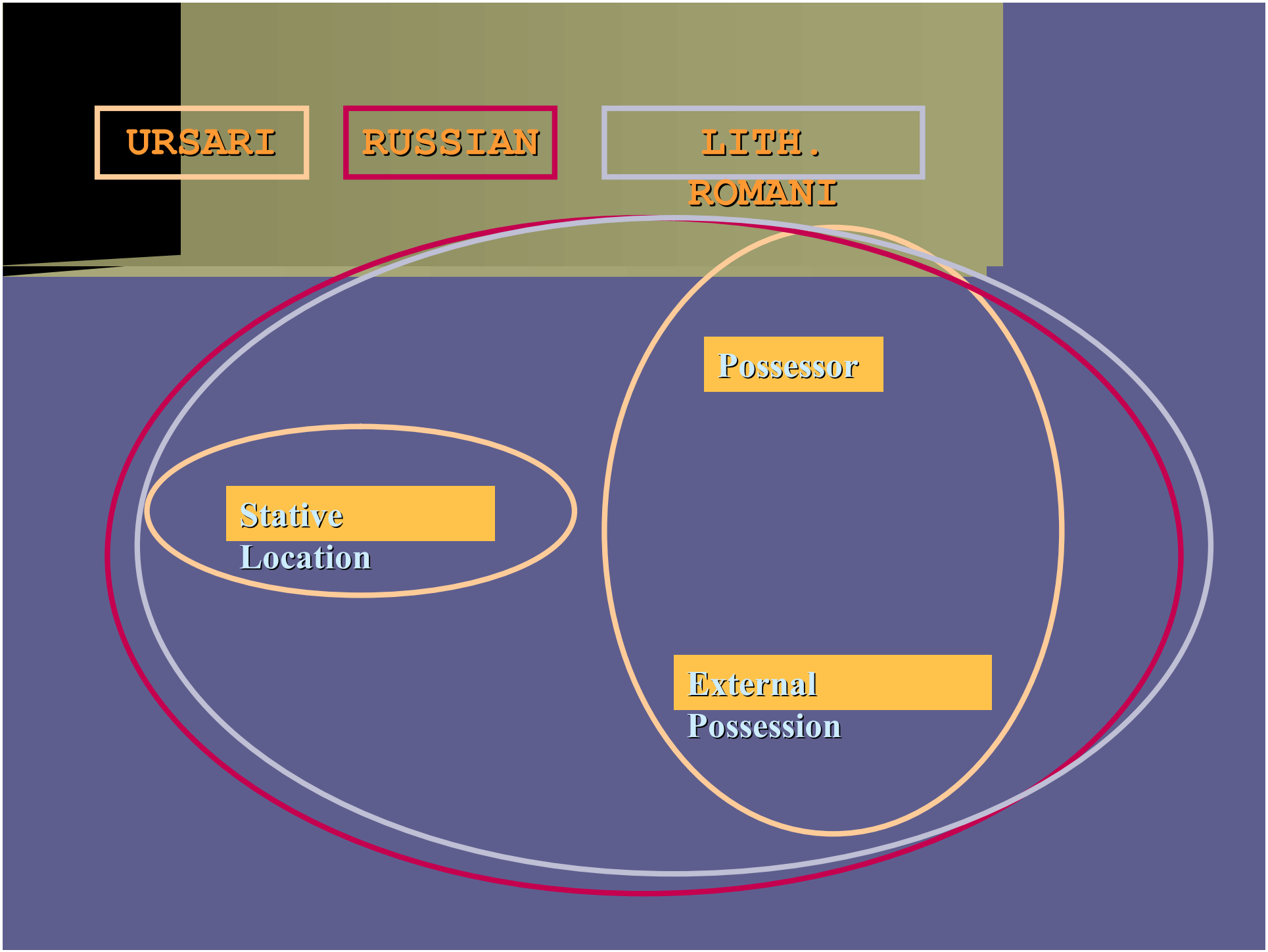
- 'Semantic map replication': it is the semantic map that is 'borrowed'. (Cross-Ling. vs. L-spec.)


URSARI
RUSSIAN
LITH.
ROMANI
Possessor
Stative
Location
External
Possession

Example: Source

on shunde adajxa paramisi ***mandar*** (Ursari)
they heard.3PL this story **me.ABL**

jone shundle da rakiriben ***mandyr*** (Lotfitka)
they heard.3PL this story **me.ABL**

oni slyshali etu istoriju ***ot menja*** (Russian)
they heard.3PL this story **from me.GEN**

'They heard this story from me'

Example: Partitive

duj ***andar lende*** (Ursari)
two **from them.LOC**

duj ***lendyr*** (Lotfitka)
two **them.ABL**

dvoje ***iz nix*** (Russian)
two **from them.GEN**

'Two of them'

Example: Privative

yn afare *de* ***phuro*** (Ursari)
in exception of **old.man.NOM**

krom'e ***pxuredyr manushestyr*** (Lotfitka)
except.for old.ABL man.ABL

krom'e starika (Russian)
except.for old.man.GEN

'Except for the old man'

Russian GEN and Romani ABL

Function:	Ursari	Lotfitka	Russian
Source	ABL	ABL	Abl. prep + GEN
Partitive	Abl. prep + LOC	ABL	Abl. prep + GEN
Privative	prep + NOM	prep + ABL	prep + GEN

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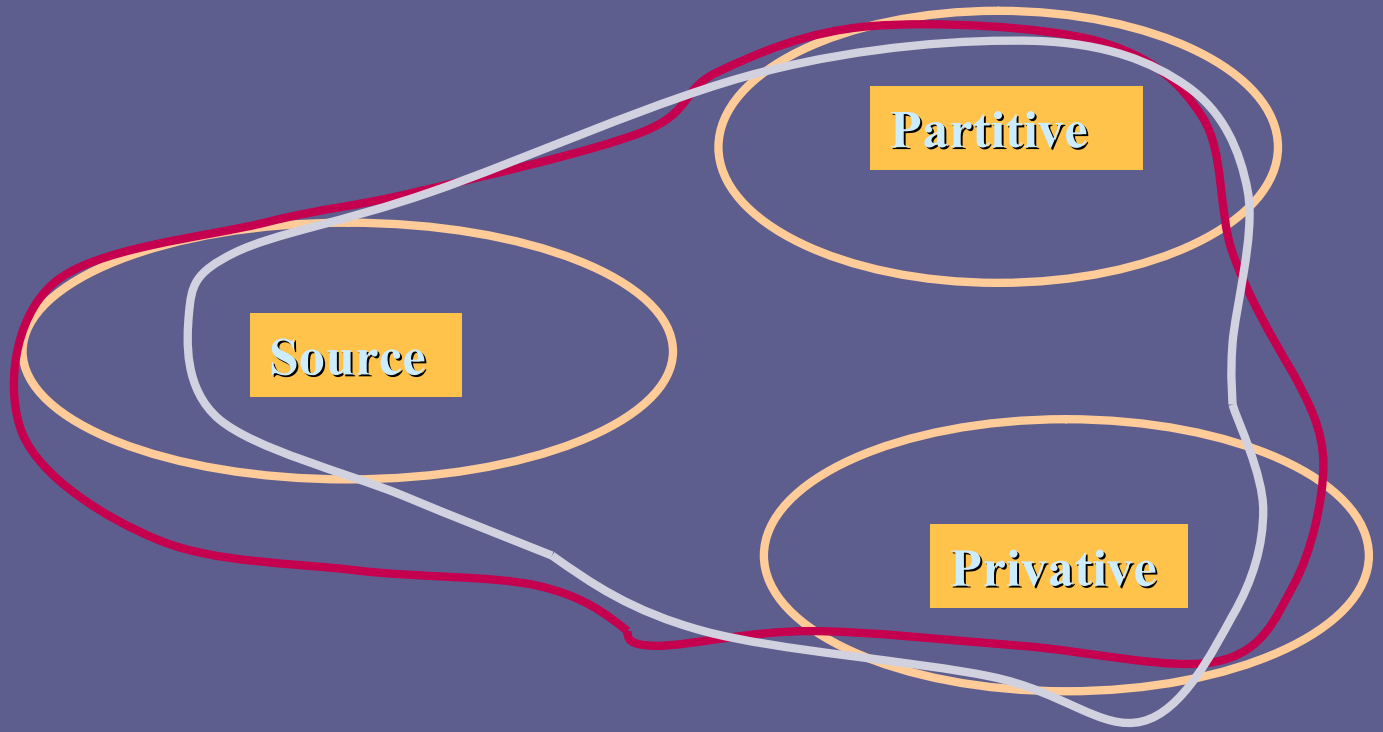
URSARI

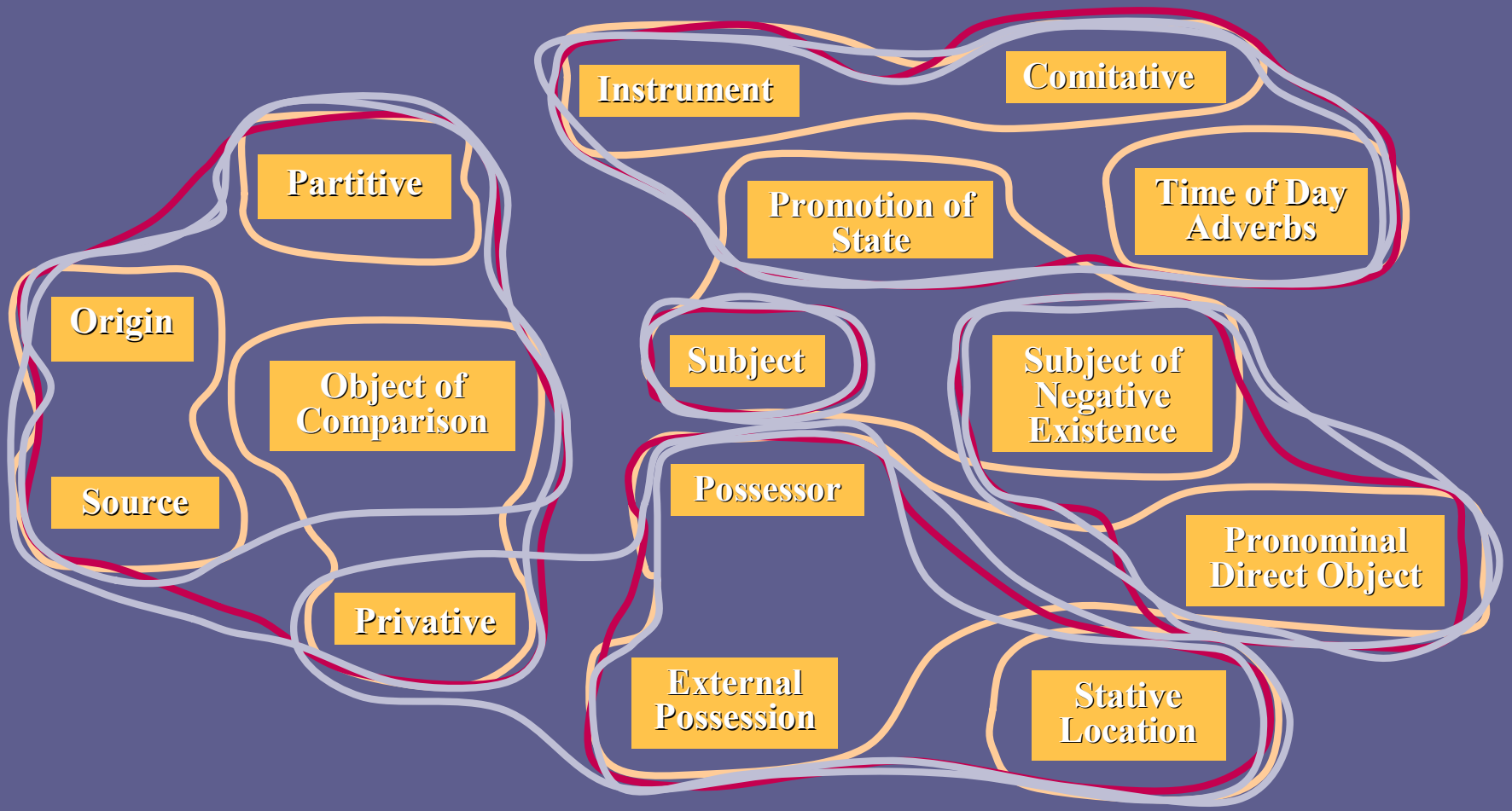
RUSSIAN

LOTFITKA



Selected Semantic Map

URSARI | RUSSIAN | LOTFITKA | NORTH RUS. ROMANI



Further Evidence -Russian vs. Polish

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- Russian and Polish differ in their semantic maps
- Is this difference reflected in the Russka Roma vs. Polska Roma dialects?

Example: Subject of Negative Existence

menja *ne bylo doma* (Russian)
me.(DirObj.) NEG was home

(ja) *nie byłem doma* (Polish)
(I.NOM) NEG was.1SG home

me *na somys khere* (Polska Roma)
I.NOM NEG was.1SG home

'I was not at home'

Example: External Possession

u menja *bolit nos* (Russian)
to me.GEN hurts nose

boli ***mne*** *nos* (Polish)
hurts **me.DirObj** nose

man *dukhal nakh* (Polska Roma)
me.DirObj hurts nose

'My nose hurts'

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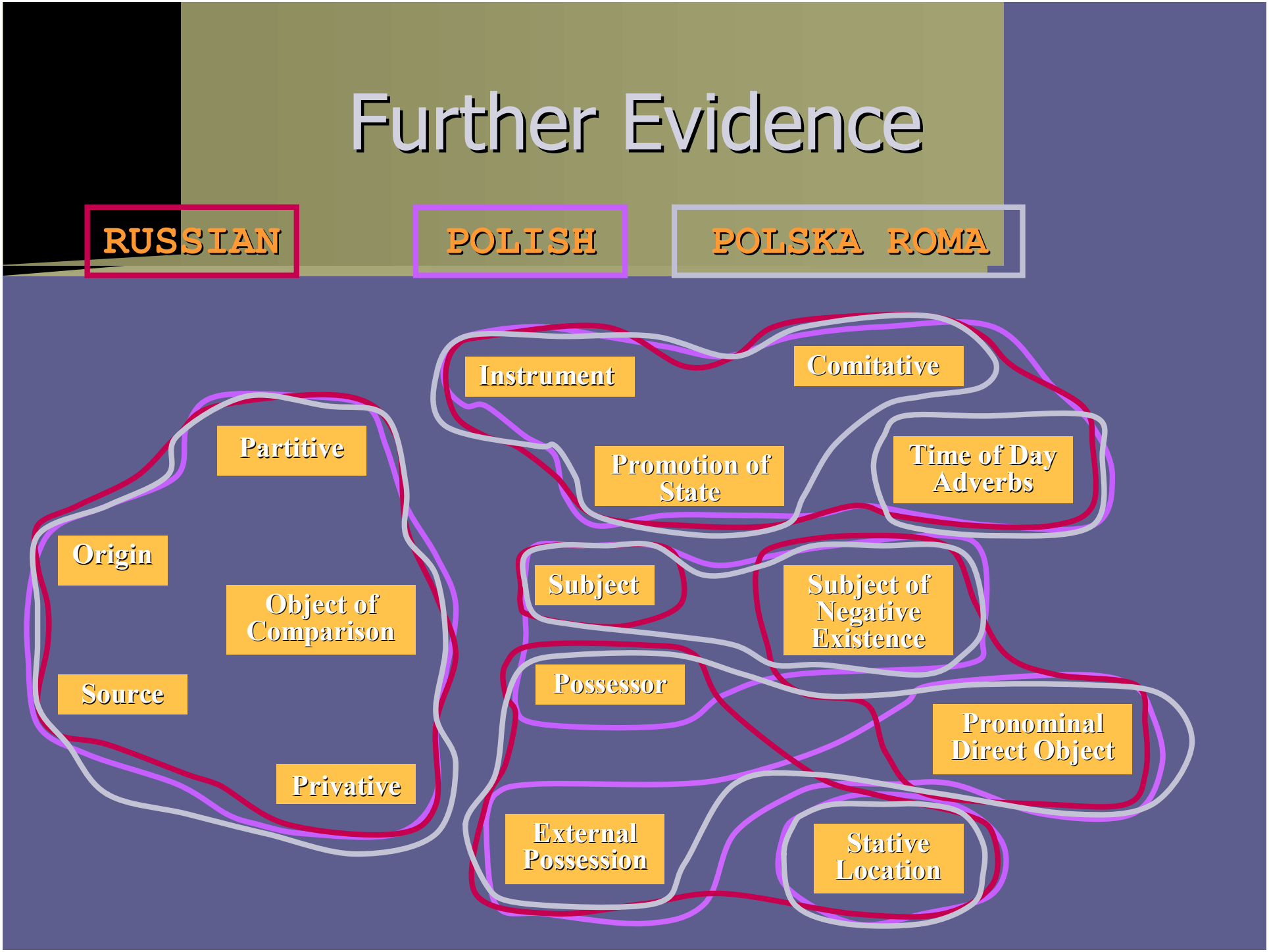

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- Convergence of case representation in the Northeastern Romani dialects is accomplished through semantic map replication.
- Semantic maps could be used to explain language contact phenomena where there is no transfer of matter.
- Cognitive motivation: speakers aim at cross-linguistic harmony of the semantic maps.
- Side note: this approach can be applied in the fields of areal convergence and second language acquisition. (or, immigrant language)

Comparing to Haspelmath

- Haspelmath (2003) – semantic maps are implicational, they make predictions. Does not work with Language Contact.
- No MDS (Multidimensional Scaling) with Language Contact – haven't figured out how to do it.
- Haspelmath's maps don't have a central or prototypical function. With Language Contact – there are something like prototypes. (pivot points, around which replication takes place)

What is the Mechanism?

- When there is an attempt to reach cross-linguistic harmony of semantic map, there are choices to be made.

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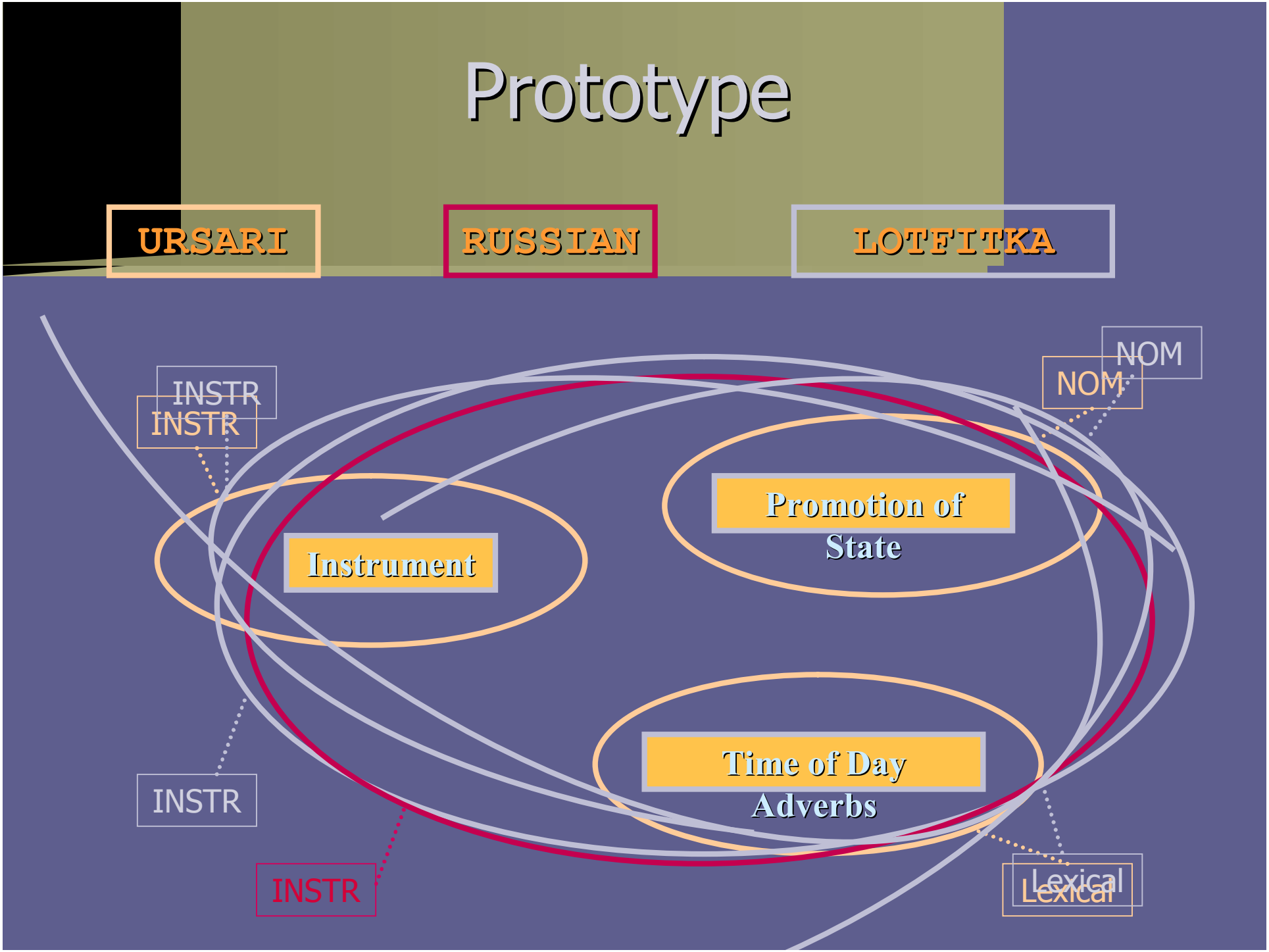
- When there is an attempt to reach cross-linguistic harmony of semantic map, there are choices to be made.
- Which construction should be taken as a basis for extending the functionality?

Prototype


URSARI
RUSSIAN
LOTFITKA
INSTR
INSTR
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Instrument
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Lexical
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- Empirical evidence for a continuum of 'prototypical'.
- Prototypes can be used as supportive empirical data in the domain of universals and markedness

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- Language contact can be of service to the field of typology.

References

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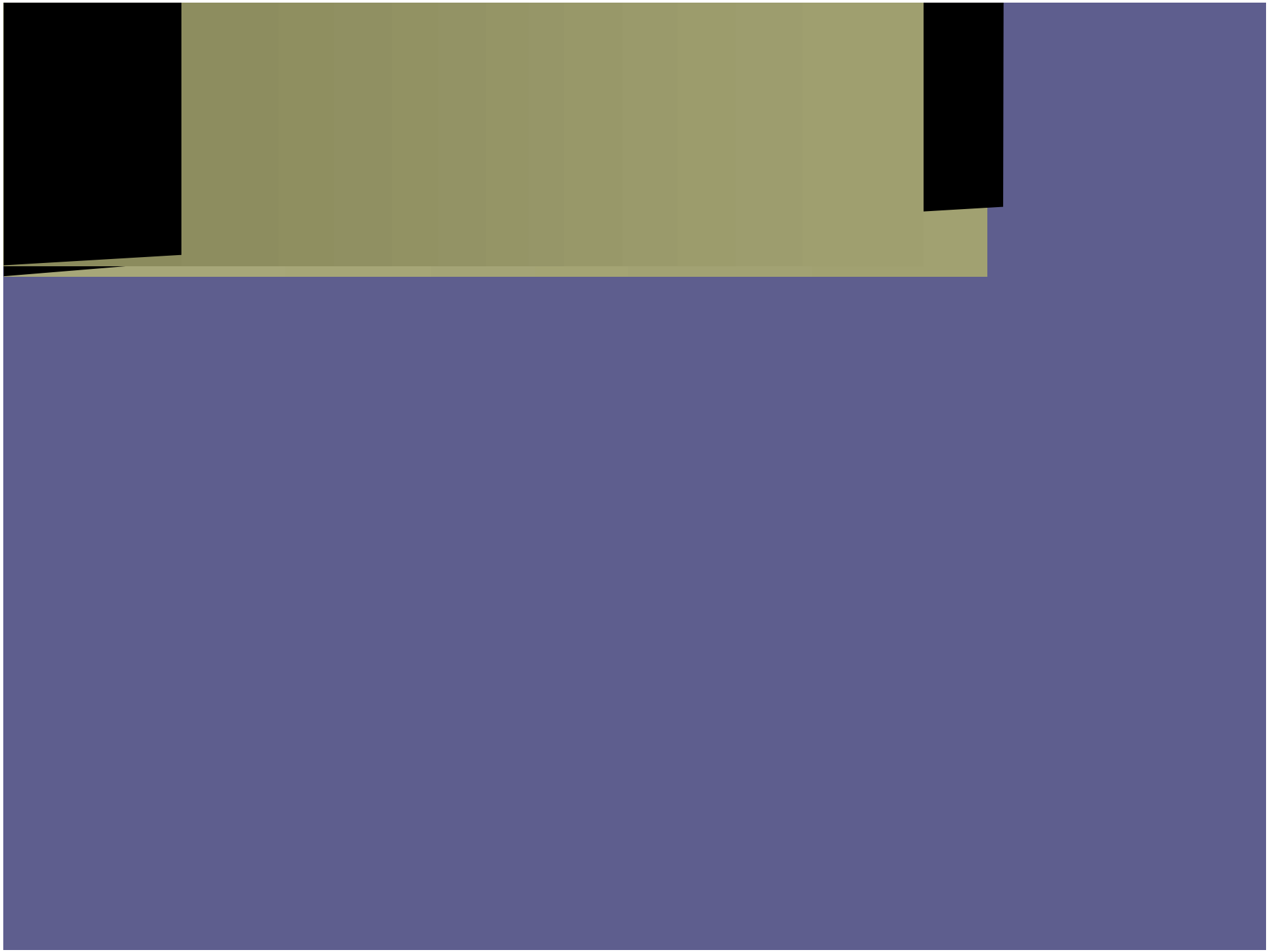

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