

# Reviews

Paillard, Denis. *Énonciation et détermination en russe contemporain*. Institut d'études slaves, Paris, 1984. xxiii + 460 pp.

THIS book offers a good deal in terms of interesting data, though the presentation leaves something to be desired. There are two parts: the first is devoted to the alternation of *jest'* and the null form of *byl'* ( $\emptyset$ ), while the second analyses indefinites like *kto-to*, *kto-nibud'* and so on. There is a long preface by Veyrenc, which relates almost exclusively to the second part, being a helpful overview of the problem of indefinites in Russian. A similar introduction to the first part would have been useful. Few explicit connections are made between the two parts and there is no general conclusion. The theoretical basis of the book is to be found in the work of Culioli; the reader would be aided by a fuller account of this theory with an indication of its points of contact with more widely known linguistic theories.

The first part deals with the alternation *jest'* ~  $\emptyset$  in possessive expressions (*u nego jest' /  $\emptyset$  mašina*); in locative expressions (*u toj knige jest' /  $\emptyset$  korotkije glavy*); and in equative sentences (*ukazanije na ob'ekt jest' /  $\emptyset$  tol'ko odna iz funkcij artiklja*). While recognizing that equative sentences are rather different from the other two types, the author claims that similar regularities can be demonstrated for the distribution of *jest'* and  $\emptyset$  in all three. This part draws on work by O. N. Selivjorstova and N. D. Arutjunova; one would have expected a fuller discussion of C. V. Chvany's contribution (*On the Syntax of BE-sentences in Russian*, Slavica, Cambridge, Mass., 1975), perhaps in the light of J. Miller's important review article (in *International Review of Slavic Linguistics*, 2, 1977, nos. 2-3, pp. 373-434). There is also little on the notion of sentence stress, which would appear to be a major factor in the choice between *jest'* and  $\emptyset$  (*jest'* appears under sentence stress). The second part is an analysis of indefinites such as *koje-kto*, *čto-to*, *kakoj-nibud'* and *kakoj-libo*. It starts with a fuller discussion of previous work. There is a good account of distinctions between examples with *-to* and *-nibud'*, and it is claimed that there is more than just a stylistic difference between *-nibud'* and *-libo*. Less commonly discussed indefinites are also included.

The book is produced from camera-ready typescript; there are few typographical errors. Both parts include interesting data, some original and some from earlier works. Examples are given, then adjusted slightly to highlight the factors which make a particular form less likely or completely impossible. The inclusion of an apparently innocent particle can radically alter acceptability judgements. The author is also good at finding possible contexts for examples which others might simply dismiss as unacceptable. The data gathered are likely to be of considerable use to subsequent researchers even if the book's theoretical impact is limited.

University of Surrey  
Guildford

GREVILLE G. CORBETT