

What goes around, comes around: Cases that keep me going

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I am fascinated by the treasure trove of meanings tucked away in the grammatical morphemes that many people think of as mere functional fillers. As a student, the Slavic case endings on nouns baffled me, then later delighted me with their complex stories about trajectories, time, benefit and harm, labels, and so much more. Some twenty years ago I was satisfied that I had cracked that code, and after writing some articles and a couple of textbooks on the topic, I moved on. But the cases came back to me again and again. I will tell the story of how my work on case semantics later helped to inspire three further projects: two major online resources, the Russian Constructicon (<https://constructicon.github.io/russian/>) and the Strategic Mastery of Russian Tool (<https://smartool.github.io/smartool-rus-eng/>), and an analysis of president Putin's portrayal of Russia, Ukraine, and NATO (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11185-022-09269-2>).