Redundancy means “superfluous repetition” according to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary. When we talk about case, redundancy means that information encoded in case endings also appear in other parts of the sentence. We argue that at least some Russian case endings are redundant, and that the information encoded in the case endings is also expressed by other means, for example word order and prepositions.

In this seminar we present a planned research project at the University of Turku about redundancy in the Russian case system, and how it compares to case endings in other languages. We also discuss the findings of two Russian-language experiments about misspellings in case endings and other word forms and homonymous inflection forms; sentences in which speakers must follow other cues than case endings in order to decipher the meaning.

Ksenia Kanerva and Gustaf Olsson are PhD candidates in Russian Language at the University of Turku.