The Semantics and Pragmatics of Co-Occurring $o+\text{LOC}$ and $\text{pro}$ Object Referents in Russian

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**pro object referents**
- determined entities
- narrow in scope
- concrete
- holistic
- actual
- specific

**o+LOC object referents**
- propositions, processes, events
- broad in scope
- abstract
- detailed
- potential
- generic
On znal i pro Sergeja Trubeckogo ... i o
he-NOM know-M.PST.SG and about Sergej-ANIM.ACC Trubeckij-ANIM.ACC and about
Evgenii Trubeckom.
Evgenij-LOC Trubeckij-LOC

‘He knew both about [pro] Sergej Trubeckoj and about [o] Evgenij Trubeckoj.’

Ty, master, pro den’gi ne dumaj ... ty
you-NOM.SG master-NOM.SG about money-ACC.PL not think-IMP.SG you-NOM.SG

o rabote dumaj.
about work-LOC.SG think-IMP.SG

‘Master, don’t think about [pro] the money—think about [o] the work.’

О любви, про любов’— но не любов’жу že pisat’.

‘About [o] love, [or] about [pro] love—just don’t write by means [i.e., under the spell] of love.’

‘He begins talking about [pro] the morning delivery and about [o] unused reserves.’

He told about the blood of Russians, about [his] brother who had been crushed in the desert sand by tank tracks.

German, Ju. (1961) Dorogoj moj čelovek. (RNC)
‘I’m not [talking] about [pro] you personally, but in general about [o] civilians, about [o] intellectuals.’

Gor’kij, M. (1928-35) Žizn’ Klima Samgina. (RNC)
Govorjat ne o byloj junosti, a pro Marusju.

‘They’re talking not about [o] (their) former youth, but about [pro] Marusja.’

Žabotinskij, V. (1936) Pjatero. (RNC)
I spoke about you to our Kazak elders, about your zeal.

Šiškov, V. (1934-39) Emel’jan Pugačev. (RNC)
‘I longed to see Anna Andrejevna, in order tell her about [pro] the Mandel’štams, about [o] their return to Moscow.’

Kul’čickij rassprašivaet pro Lubjanku, pro Abakumova, again about my-LOC.PL with he-M.INST.SG relationship-LOC.PL

‘Kul’čickij is asking about [pro] the Lubyanka, about [pro] Abakumov, [and] again about [o] my relations with him [Abakumov].’

Šatilov ... xotel o sebe rasskazyvat’, ne tol’ko pro
Šatilov-NOM want-M.PST.SG about self-LOC tell-INF not only about
grabeži i edinstvennoe ubijstvo: on xotel
robbery-ACC.PL and single-N.ACC.SG murder-ACC.SG he-NOM want-M.PST.SG
povedat’ vsju svoju žizn’.
recount-INF whole-F.ACC.SG own-F.ACC.SG life-ACC.SG

‘Šatilov wanted to tell about [o] himself, not only about [pro] the robberies and the one murder [that he had committed]; he wanted to recount his entire life.’

Makanin, V. (1996-96) Andegraund, ili geroj našego vremeni. (RNC)
Bogatye i žirnye pro Boga ne vsominajut, ... o
rich-NOM.PL and fat-NOM.PL about God-ANIM.ACC not remember-PRS.3.PL about

Boge tol’ko bednye, bol’nye da nesčastnye vsominajut.
God-LOC only poor-NOM.PL sick-NOM.PL and unhappy-NOM.PL remember-PRS.3.PL

‘The rich and fat don’t remember about [pro] God ... It’s only the poor, sick, and unhappy who remember about [o] God.’

Volodarskij, Ė. (1997) Dnevnik samoubijcy. (RNC)
‘But Hemingway talks almost always openly about [o] himself, [and] about [pro] himself, even though he is carrying on a conversation as if it were about [o] other people altogether.’

О любви, про любов’ – но не любов’’жу, что писат’
about love-LOC.SC about love-ACC.SG but not love-INST.SG just write-INF

‘About [о] love, [or] about [про] love—just don’t write by means [i.e., under the spell] of love.’

Я рассказываю ей о своих встречах с людьми, о цирке, о кино, о зарубежных поездках.

‘I tell her about [o] my meetings with people, about [o] the circus, about [o] the cinema, about [o] foreign trips.’

Nikulin, Ju. (1979) *Moje ljubimoe kino.* (RNC)
'That is, you can [speak that way] about [pro] government, but you can’t speak that way about [pro] the Kremlin.'

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