The ambiguity of modifier attachment to a complex noun phrase is widely discussed cross-linguistically (Grillo et al. 2014), and although certain languages are claimed to favour either high or low attachment, the structure of the complex NP (Gilboy et al., Pynte 1998) can also affect attachment preferences.

According to Spanish and French data, complex NPs like $N_1$ with $N_2$ provoke low attachment while in sentences with genitive NPs like $N_1$ of $N_2$ RCs are usually attached high. According to Gilboy et al., argument structure affects thematic role assignment which determines parsing.

We present Russian data which are not compatible with this explanation: no LA preference in $N_1$ with $N_2$ in a questionnaire study (significant HA-preference for animate NPs and no significant preference for inanimate ones). This distribution can be explained if RC-type is taken into account.

In English, French and Spanish studies RCs in all the stimuli were restrictive as they were not separated from a complex NP by a comma. As soon as in $N_1$ with $N_2$ constructions $N_1$ already has a restrictive modifier $N_2$, RC tends not to be attributed to $N_1$. However, in Russian both restrictive and non-restrictive RC are separated by a comma, which is a source of another kind of ambiguity. The distribution is 50/50 for inanimate NPs (RC can be attached high if it is non-restrictive and low if it is restrictive), while for animate NPs $N_2$ can both be a restrictive modifier and express accompaniment relation, which increases the share of HA interpretations.

*Keywords*: sentence processing, ambiguity resolution, modifier attachment.