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### **Russian heritage speakers in Cyprus: Development of literacy skills**

The present study is focused on language proficiency and literacy skills of Russian–Cypriot Greek bilingual children. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal methodology was implemented to investigate developmental trajectory, dominant language transfer, divergent attainment, and attrition of Russian by Russian heritage speakers in Cyprus (Montrul, 2008, Benmamoun et al., 2013). Heritage speakers were measured on their reading and writing skills in Russian every month for a period of one year. Longitudinal data consists of the written corpus of dictations and the oral corpus of reading aloud recordings.

It was found that heritage children were better at reading than writing and they were better at comprehension than production. They had both developmental and transfer (from CG) spelling errors in their dictations and stress errors in reading (mainly within final-penultimate-antepenultimate syllables). A correlation was found between speech rate, word-per-minute output in reading and spontaneous/elicited speech and degree of grammatical knowledge, in line with Polinsky (2008, 2011).