



## Comparative Cognitive-Semantic Study of Verbs of Movement in English and Russian

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Annotatsiya

This article presents a comparative cognitive-semantic analysis of verbs of movement in English and Russian. The study focuses on the structural, semantic, and cognitive differences between the two languages, particularly in the use of verbs such as *идти–ходить* and *ехать–ездить* and their English equivalents to go, to walk, to ride, and to drive. The research examines how meanings are structured, extended, and interpreted within each language system. Special attention is given to the role of polysemy, aspect, and directionality, as well as to the interaction between language and cognition. The findings demonstrate that differences in verb semantics reflect broader distinctions in how speakers of English and Russian conceptualize motion and spatial relations.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** verbs of motion, comparative linguistics, cognitive semantics, polysemy, aspect, directionality, lexical system

### Introduction

Verbs of movement occupy a central position in the lexical and grammatical systems of many languages. They serve not only to describe physical motion but also to encode complex semantic and cognitive information about direction, manner, frequency, and intention. A comparative study of English and Russian verbs of movement reveals significant differences that reflect deeper typological and cognitive distinctions between the two languages.

In modern linguistics, increasing attention is given to the relationship between language and cognition. Language is viewed as a system that both reflects and shapes human understanding of reality. From this perspective, verbs of movement are particularly important because they are closely connected with everyday human experience and spatial perception.

Russian, as a synthetic language, possesses a highly developed system of verbs of movement. These verbs are organized into pairs that distinguish between unidirectional and multidirectional actions, as well as between single and repeated movements. For example, *идти* refers to movement in one direction at a specific moment, whereas *ходить* denotes repeated or habitual movement. Similarly, *ехать* and *ездить* describe movement by transport but differ in terms of directionality and frequency.

English, in contrast, is an analytical language that does not encode such distinctions directly in the verb form. Instead, it uses a combination of lexical items, auxiliary verbs, and contextual cues to convey similar meanings. This fundamental difference creates challenges in translation and language learning, as one Russian verb pair may correspond to several English verbs depending on the context.

### **Materials and Methods**

The material for this study includes commonly used verbs of movement in Russian and their English equivalents. The analysis is based on data from bilingual and explanatory dictionaries, as well as examples from contemporary language use.

The research employs a cognitive-comparative method, which allows for the identification of both universal and language-specific features. In addition, descriptive and semantic analysis methods are used to examine the structure of meanings and their extensions. The focus is on identifying lexical-semantic variants and understanding how they form networks of related meanings within each language.

### **Results and Discussion**

The analysis shows that one of the main differences between English and Russian verbs of movement lies in the category of directionality. Russian verbs explicitly distinguish between movement in a single direction and movement in multiple or habitual directions. This distinction is grammatically encoded and forms a fundamental part of the verb system. English, however, lacks this grammatical category and expresses similar meanings through adverbials or context.

Another important difference is related to aspect. Russian verbs of movement are closely connected with the aspectual system, which distinguishes between imperfective and perfective actions. Prefixation plays a key role in forming perfective verbs and adding meanings such as completion, beginning, or change of direction. For instance, the verb *идти* can produce a variety of prefixed forms like *войти*, *выйти*, and *непешти*, each with a specific spatial meaning.

English does not have an equivalent system of prefixation for verbs of movement. Instead, it uses phrasal verbs and prepositions to express direction and result, such as “go in,” “go out,” or “go across.” While these constructions can convey similar meanings, they do not form a systematic grammatical category comparable to Russian prefixes.

Polysemy is another key feature of verbs of movement in both languages. However, the mechanisms of semantic extension differ. In Russian, the rich system of prefixes and aspectual distinctions contributes to the development of multiple related meanings within a single verb. In English, polysemy often arises through metaphorical usage and the combination of verbs with particles.

From a cognitive perspective, these differences reflect distinct ways of conceptualizing motion. Russian speakers tend to focus on the path and structure of movement, while English speakers emphasize the manner in which movement occurs. This aligns with broader typological classifications, where English is considered a manner-oriented language, and Russian shows features of both manner and path orientation.

The study also reveals that the semantic volume of equivalent verbs rarely совпадает completely. Even when two verbs share a core meaning, their range of usage

and associative connections may differ significantly. This discrepancy highlights the importance of considering both linguistic and cognitive factors in comparative analysis.

### Conclusion

The comparative study of English and Russian verbs of movement demonstrates that differences in grammar and vocabulary are closely linked to differences in cognition and worldview. Russian verbs encode detailed information about direction, repetition, and completion within their structure, while English relies more on context and syntactic constructions.

These distinctions are not merely linguistic but also cognitive, reflecting different ways of organizing and interpreting experience. Understanding these differences is essential for effective language learning, translation, and cross-cultural communication.

In conclusion, verbs of movement provide valuable insight into the interaction between language and thought. Their study contributes to a deeper understanding of how different languages represent reality and how speakers of those languages perceive and describe the world around them.

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