

## On the Syntax of the Russian Motion-Verb System

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*This study focuses on the motion-verb system in a Slavic language, namely Russian. It discusses the lexical elements that combine to express motion events. Talmy (1985, 2000) introduces a two-class typology based on how a language encodes Path of motion: Satellite-framed languages (Path conveyed by a satellite: a preposition, a particle, a prefix) and Verb-framed languages (the verb itself encodes Path). In this typology, Russian is a Satellite-framed language. The paper aims to analyze the various syntactic patterns which emerge from the combination of the lexical tools available in the language. By isolating and analyzing the syntactic patterns, the paper arrives at a comprehensive view of development regarding the expression of motion.*

Keywords: *motion, Path, verbs, patterns, syntactic structures*

### 1. Introduction

The current paper sheds light on the Russian Motion-verb system, taking as base reference Talmy's (1985, 2000) framework in which he distinguishes between Verb-framed languages, like Romance languages, and Satellite-framed languages, like Germanic and Slavic languages. A Satellite-frame language expresses Path of motion through satellites, which can be prefixes, prepositions, particles etc., while Manner of Motion is expressed by the verb itself. In what follows, we are going to see how the Russian aspectual system works, and what types of Motion verbs we can identify. Moreover, we will discuss the prefixes and the prepositions which can take part in a Motion event. Russian has a vast number of prefixes which attach to Motion verbs in order to detail the way in which the Motion event is carried out. The paper aims to present a comprehensive study of the lexical elements that combine to express Motion and also the syntax of the Motion verbs in Russian.

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## 2. Talmy's (1985, 2000) framework

Talmy (1985, 2000) proposes a typology which focuses on the interaction between two internal components of a Motion Event – Path and Manner. He talks about linguistic patterns which splits languages into two major groups: Verb-framed languages and Satellite-framed languages. The former type has the verb itself specifying the Path of Motion, while Manner is expressed through adjuncts (prepositions, particles, prefixes etc.); the latter uses the verb as a Manner marker, whilst Path of Motion is specified by satellites (prepositions, particles, prefixes etc.).

## 3. Aspectual system in Russian

Russian has a distinctive aspectual system which is always dual and carries the same lexical meaning and denotes one and the same action: *sovershennyi vid* 'perfective aspect' and *nesovershennyi vid* 'imperfective aspect' (Hasko and Perelmutter 2010). For a verb such as "to write" in English, Russian has got two lexical items that refer to the same activity: *pisat'* and *napisat'*. The former refers to an action that is ongoing and has not been finished, the latter indicates an action which has reached its endpoint, a completed event.

### 3.1. Imperfective aspect in the context of Motion verbs

The literature discusses several functions which Imperfective aspect exhibits within the context of verbs of motion. I have specified "the context of motion verbs" due to the fact that, as Forsyth (1970, 319) claims, "verbs of motion in Russian present a special case of aspectual usage". Forsyth (1970) also points out what is notably different about motion verbs in Russian, namely that under the same (Imperfective) aspect there are two different lexical items that describe the same type of movement, however each depicting a certain view of that same motion event. The two classes are called Determinate and Indeterminate and set of these verbs is presented below (see Table 1).

**Table 1.** Indeterminate and Determinate verbs

Indeterminate Verbs	Determinate Verbs	English Translation
hudit'	ldti	to go (on foot)
ezdit'	ehat'	to go (by vehicle)
letat'	letet'	to fly
begat'	bezhat'	to run

Indeterminate Verbs	Determinate Verbs	English Translation
plavat'	plyt'	to swim / to sail
lazit'	lezt'	to climb
brodit'	Bresti	to wander / to stroll
nosit'	Nesti	to carry (on foot)
vozit'	Vezti	to transport (by vehicle)
vodit'	Vesti	to lead / to guide
taskat'	tashhit'	to drag
gonjat'	gnat'	to chase / to drive (herd)
katat'(sja)	katit'(sja)	to roll / to ride (for fun)

### 3.1.1. Determinate Verbs

The class of determinate verbs is used to show the speaker's focus on a precise moment in time. They refer to an action that is supposedly taking place "now", thus the entity that undergoes movement must be moving in one direction (see (1a)); they may also convey a planned future meaning akin to the English progressive tense (see 1b). Not only is the motion unidirectional and follows one set Path, but it is also centrifugal and centripetal, which is that the only direction is toward or away from a specific spatial point (Forsyth 1970, 320).

- (1) a. Ivan bežitDET-IMPF v magazin za molokom.  
Ivan run-PRESENT to shop for milk.  
'Ivan is running to a shop to buy some milk.'
- b. Ja idu v kino zavtra.  
I walk-PRESENT to cinema tomorrow.  
'I'm going to the cinema tomorrow.'

(Gepner 2016, 5)

Determinate verbs express a single instance of motion in a specific direction. Speakers opt for determinate verbs when they are confident that the motion occurred once and in a particular direction. Otherwise, they choose indeterminate verbs to avoid transmitting false information (Gepner 2016, 8).

### 3.1.2. Indeterminate Verbs

Indeterminate verbs do not denote only one direction given at one specific moment. They express movement in general, not referring to a single instance. This

class of verbs indicates motion of one or more entities in multiple directions, with no specific direction. Even if the action is denoted through present tense, it does not refer to the actual and instantaneous present. Verbs of *hodit'* type have an ampler view, and they express various moments of time. In a conversation, if the speaker wants to talk about a specific moment in time, they must switch from an indeterminate verb to a determinate one.

Let us have a look at the different interpretation an imperfective indeterminate verb can have. A first reading of such verbs, as mentioned above, would be the multiple direction reading. This usage entails a construction in which a sentence featuring an indeterminate verb represents what is perceived as a unified event, namely motion involving one or more subjects in unspecified directions.

- (2) Lena xodila po parku.  
Lena walkedIND IMP in park  
'Lena was walking about in the park.'

In example (2) Lena was walking in the park randomly, with no specific direction, not heading toward a certain spatial point (Kagan 2007a, 5-6).

Another instance in which we find the indeterminate verbs occur is when the event has an habitual and iterative interpretation, as in (3).

- (3) Dima ezdit iz Francii v Germaniju poezdom.  
Dima ridesIND IMP from France to Germany trainINSTR  
'Dima goes from France to Germany by train.'

(Kagan 2007a, 6)

In (3) we do not have a frequency adverb to suggest the repetitive feature of the event. However, even if with the absence of such an adverb the meaning of the sentences still has the iterative interpretation.

The third situation in which this kind of verbs can be used is generic sentences is when the indeterminate verbs are used to express the kind of movement as a broad concept, detached from any particular instance.

- (4) Malysh eshho ne umeet hodit'INDET-IMPF.  
Baby yet not can walk-PRESENT  
'The baby can't walk yet.'

(Forsyth 1970, 321)

In (4) we can see that the action does not refer to a certain moment in which it occurs, but rather implies the idea of the event “to walk” that happens in the actual world.

One last situation of occurrence of an imperfective indeterminate verb is when it combines with a lexicalized goal argument, thus giving the ‘there and back (once)’ interpretation.

- (5) Včera on xodil v kino.  
 Yesterday he DIR-go-PAST in cinema-(ACC)  
 ‘Yesterday he went to the movies (and came back afterwards).’  
 (Gehrke 2003, 28)

### 3.2. Perfective aspect in the context of Motion verbs

The Russian aspectual system seems to isolate the Perfective verbs within the context of motion, and as Forsyth (1970, 327) claims “the system of usage of verbs of motion cannot be fully demonstrated without reference to the relevant perfective verbs.” Just like the imperfective verbs, there are certain interpretations that perfectives can achieve in the context of motion. Forsyth observes that mostly perfectives used in such contexts (i.e. motion contexts) are those determinate verbs that combine with the prefix *po-*: *pojti*, *pobezhat*!. Generally, this prefix marks the beginning of motion, thus having an inceptive meaning, and can be translated as “to start – walking, running”.

Furthermore, perfectives can also be used whenever there is a change in celerity, whether we talk about a shift to a new direction, as you can see in (6a), or a slightly modification of the pace of motion (6b):

- (6) a. My shli po ulice...na uglu my poshli napravo  
 We walkIMPF PAST on street...on corner we walkPERF PAST right.  
 ‘We walked along the street... at the corner we turned to the right.’  
 (Forsyth 1970, 328)
- b. Snachala my ehali medlenno, a na avtostrade my poehali bystree.  
 At first we driveIMPF PAST slowly, but on motorway we drivePERF PAST  
 faster.  
 ‘At first we drove slowly, but on the motorway we speeded up.’  
 (Forsyth 1970, 328)

Another usage of Perfective Determinates is when they extend their meaning to merely indicate the whole Path between two special points, from point A to point B. However, there is a quite similar function for determinate imperfectives as well, so how would one tell which verbal item should be used? Apparently, there is a context-dependent situation, where speaker's perspective over the whole event is critical. Thus, on one hand, if the emphasis would be on the dynamic of the event we would have a perfective indeterminate verb, as in (7a), on the other hand, if the focus would be on the circumstances or persons the determinate imperfective verb would simply be used as a denotative copula (Forsyth 1970, 329).

- (7) a. Zakonchiv delo s Kravcovym, on poehal na vokzal.  
 After finished business with Krasov, he goPERF D PAST on station.  
 'When he finished his business with Kravtsov he went to the station.'  
 (Forsyth 1970, 328)
- b. Na sledujushhij den' Petja Ermakov shjol domoj bez svoego luchshego druga.  
 On next day Petya Yermakov goIMPF D PAST home without his best friend.  
 'Next day Petya Yermakov went home without his best friend.'  
 (Forsyth 1970, 328)

The perfective variant *poshjol* for the used *shjol* in (7b) would have been synonymous, but because of the focus on *svoego luchshego druga* "his best friend", the context requires the imperfective variant of the determinate verb.

#### 4. Prefixes and prepositions

Many linguists have delved into the topic of verbal prefixes within the Russian linguistic system. The assumption made by Tolskaya (2007) (and by many others like Isačenko 1960, Romanova 2004, Svenonius 2004) is that the Russian verbal prefixes fall into two classes, namely *lexical prefixes* and *superlexical prefixes*. The claim made by Romanova (2004) is that *lexical prefixes* are generally compatible with telic items and verbs of perfective aspect, whilst *superlexical prefixes* usually merge with verbs of imperfective aspect and atelic items. The same prefix can be either *lexical* or *superlexical*, depending on which verb it gets combined with. Moreover, they also share the same lexical item with the prepositions they generally associate with.

**Table 2.** Lexical and Superlexical Prefixes and Corresponding Prepositions

Prefix	Lexical prefix - meaning	Superlexical Prefix - meaning	Corresponding preposition - meaning
Do-	“motion toward”	“motion completed”	“up to”
Za-	“preventing or stopping the motion”	“start of motion”	“behind”
Ot-	“motion away from smth”	“motion completed”	“from near”
S-	“motion above or beyond”	“there and back”	“from on”
Pro-	“Motion ongoing”	“duration”	“about”
Po-	“start of motion”	“limited duration”	“along”
Pere-	“motion across”	“excessive duration”	<i>Pere</i> does not exist as a preposition, there is <i>cherez</i> “across”

In what follows we shall take a look at each prefix and preposition listed above.

#### 4.1. Do-

Prefix *do-* is the marker for reaching an endpoint within the context of a motion event. The point that is reached can be spacial for Determinates or a point in time for Indeterminates. The type of endpoint is not really important, what matters is that a goal is being reached.

- (8) a. *doplytj do berega*  
do-swimDET up.to shore-GEN  
'to swim up to the shore'
- b. *doplavatj rejs*  
do-swimINDT trip-ACC  
'to sail up till the end of the trip (and then quit)'

(Tolskaya 2007,7)

#### 4.2. Za-

*Za-* usually has the meaning of “behind”. There are other interpretations: it can denote occlusion, sequences (see (9c)), and also it can mean “for” and “after”. In combination with motion verbs the prefix gets the feature of modifying Path, thus merging with a Determinate verb would indicate an entity entering in a occluded

space (see (9a)), whilst the mergence with an Indeterminate would mean a change of state for the entity (see (9b)). If *za-* is a lexical prefix it would denote occlusion, whereas if it is superlexical it would have an inceptive meaning (Tolskaya 2007).

- (9) a. Zajti za apteku  
Za-walkDET behind pharmacy  
'Walk behind the pharmacy'
- b. chiasy za-hodili.  
Clock za-walkedINDT  
'The clock started to work.'
- c. Gosti odin za drugim razoshlisj.  
Guests one behind other left  
'The guests left one by one.'

(Tolskaya 2007, 8)

#### 4.3. *Ot-*

*Ot-* specifies when the movement is away from a certain point. When the event features a Determinate verb the distance between the entity and the location increases (9a). If the event involves an Indeterminate verb we talk about a separation in time of the entity from the past event (9b).

- (9) a. Mal'chik otskochil ot kostra.  
boy ot-jumpDET from fire.  
'The boy jumped away from the fire'
- b. Il-76 svoe otletal.  
Il-76 its ot-flyINDT  
'(The plane) IL-76 has done its flying (and will never fly again)'

(Tolskaya 2007, 7)

#### 4.4. *C-*

The prefix *c-* is usually used to put emphasis on a deviation from the general known Path or Location. In combination with a Determinate the prefixed verb would denote a brief deviation from one's usual and expected location. When the verb is Indeterminate, the same type of event would be implied but with a subsequent return.

Let us take a closer look to the context of the Determinate verb. There are two presupposed things about such an event: an entity is supposed to stay in its original location and the distance of the deviation should be short – see (10a).

- (10) a. Poezd so-shel s reljs  
 Train s(o)-walkedDET from rails.  
 The train derailed.
- b. S-begaj za pivom!  
 S-runINDT for beer.  
 ‘Run get some beer (quickly, and then return)’
- (Tolskaya 2007, 10)

#### 4.5. Pro-

In combination with Determinates, this prefix would measure distances (11a), and with Indeterminates it would measure time (11b). However, the preposition which corresponds with this prefix has a different meaning, namely “about”. Tolskaya (2007) notices an interesting usage of this preposition which has another similar function with the preposition *o*, but with a slightly different meaning. Let us have a look at the examples (11c) and (11d) given by Tolskaya (2007, 6).

- (11) a. Projti pjat' kilometrov  
 Pro-walkDET five kilometers  
 ‘To walk five kilometers’
- b. prohodit' ves' den'  
 ‘To walk (around) all day’
- c. govorit' pro lingvistiku  
 talk about linguisticsACC
- d. govorit' o lingvistike  
 talk about linguisticsLOC

In (11c) the talk about linguistics would be rather deeper and more complete than the one in (11d). Therefore, the preposition *pro* would enhance the meaning of the verb which appears next to, and give it a more complex perspective.

#### 4.6. Po-

The preposition *po* can express several meanings, such as *along* (12a), *according to* (12b), and *after* (12c). It may also indicate cause, field of specialization, sphere of

activity, or distribution. As a verbal prefix, *po-* gets an inceptive interpretation when attached to Determinate verbs, and a delimitative interpretation when combined with Indeterminate verbs (see section 3.2.).

- (12) a. *Bezhatj po dorog-e.*  
Run along pathDAT  
'To run along the path.'
- b. *My dialektiku uchili ne po Gegelj-u*  
we dialectics learned not according to HegelDAT  
'We learned dialectics not according to Hegel.'
- (Majakovsky)
- c. *Zapiski, ostavshiesja po smert-i knjagin-i, opublikovali nasledniki.*  
Notes, remaining after deathDAT princessGEN published heirs.  
'The heirs published notes which remained after the death of the princess'  
(Tolskaya 2007, 11)

#### 4.7. *Pere-*

The prefix *pere-* conveys the idea of crossing a boundary. With Determinate verbs, this boundary is typically spatial, while with Indeterminate verbs it can be temporal (as in (13b), where the action of swimming becomes too exhausting after a certain point). This use parallels the English preposition *over*, which likewise denotes boundary-crossing in both space ("the bridge over the river") and time ("to spend over an hour").

- (13) a. *pereplyt' reku*  
Pere-swimDET riverACC  
'To swim across the river'
- b. *pereplavat' v bassejne*  
Pere-swimINDT in swimming pool.  
'To swim too much in the swimming pool.'
- (Tolskaya 2007, 5)

### 5. Prefixed Motion Verbs

Russian Motion verbs, as seen above, come in dual pairs, both being imperfective and both undergoing prefixation, process which either results perfectivization or imperfectivization (Zalizniak 2017). Modern Russian functions based on the

principle which says “Every verb that has been created by prefixation and has not undergone the subsequent imperfectivization is perfective” (Isačenko 1960, 154). Zalizniak (2017) calls this principle *The Perfectivization Law* in her paper. The prefixes that relate to this principle are those of spacial nature and Zalizniak (2017, 4) lists 18 items:

- (14) v-, vz-, vy-, do-, za-, iz-, na-, nad-, o(b)-, ot-, pere-, po-, pod-, pri-, pro-, raz-, s-, u-.

There are a few prefixes which are not used for *The Perfectivization Law*. Some of them are of Latin origin (like *re-*, *de(z)-*, *dis-*), of Church Slavonic<sup>2</sup> nature (like *pre-*, *pred-*, *protivo-*, *so-*, etc.) and the imperfective verb *vygljadet'*, which was obtained by calquing from the German *aussehen*, that has the borrowed form and meaning “to look (good/bad)”. The fact that these exceptions exist and they are imperfective even with a prefixed structure supports the idea that Zalizniak’s *Perfectivization Law* applies for verbs which belong exclusively to the Russian linguistic system.

When it comes to combination between prefixes and motion verbs, there seems to be a certain way in which the prefixes “choose” to merge. There are Determinate verbs which can combine with the whole set of prefixes (such as *idti: vojti, vyjti, dojti, zajti*, etc.), but in the same time an Indeterminate verb has a more restricted range of such combinations (like *hodit'*, which only takes 10 out of the whole set available: *výhodit'*, *zahodit'*, *dohodit'*, *nahodit'*, *othodit'*, *perehodit'*, *pohodit'*, *prohodit'*, *shodit'*, *uhodit'*) (Zalizniak 2017).

According to Zalizniak (2017) when each of the two classes of verbs (i.e. Det. and Indet.) combine with the previously mentioned prefixes they have different interpretations: Determinate verbs indicate the special meaning and the Indeterminates the non-spacial meaning. Moreover, telicity is also a key element which determine the compatibility of these verbs with the prefixes. Determinates are usually compatible with prefixes that would also be felicitous in combinations with other telic verbs, while Indeterminates combine with prefixes which are compatible with atelic verbs.

Zalizniak (2017, 8-10) showcases 10 most used prefixes in combination with motion verbs. She specifies the meaning of the prefix and whether it merges with a Determinate or Indeterminate verb. I have adapted the table for my paper and created two separate tables. The first table focuses on combinations with Determinate verbs; the second table turns to Indeterminate verbs.

<sup>2</sup> Zalizniak (2017, 4-5) provides a more detailed list of the exceptions that come from Church Slavonic.

**Table 3.** Prefixes in Combination with Det. Verbs.

Prefix	Semantic Definition	Combinations with Determinate verbs	Translation
Za-	“motion behind something or inside some closed space”	1. zajti 2. zaehat' 3. zabresti <v les> 4. zakatit'sja <pod krovat'>	1. to drop in / to stop by / to go in (on foot) 2. to drop in / to stop by / to call in (by vehicle) 3. to stray / to wander (into the forest) to roll (under the bed)
Po-	“start/begin to”	1. pojti 2. pobezhat' 3. poehat' 4. pobresti	1. to go / to set off (on foot) 2. to start running 3. to set off / to go (by vehicle) 4. to start wandering / to set off wandering
Ot-	“move away”	1. otojti 2. ot"ehat' 3. otplyt'	1. to step away / to move away (on foot) 2. to drive away / to move away (by vehicle) 3. to sail away / to set off (by boat)
Pro-	“motion through something”	1. projti 2. proehat' 3. proplyt' 4. proletet' 5. provesti	1. to pass (on foot) 2. to drive past / to go past (by vehicle) 3. to swim past / to sail past 4. to fly past 5. to spend (time) / to conduct (an event)
S-	“down”	1. sojti <s lestnicy> 2. s"ehat' <s gory> 3. sletet' 4. spolzti	1. to come down / to go down (from the stairs) 2. to drive down / to ride down (from a hill) 3. to fly down / to fall down (while flying) 4. to slide down
Na-	“motion on something”	1. naehat' <na derevo> 2. naletet' <na stolb> 3. nagnat' <na kogo-to strahu>	1. to drive / ride into (a tree) 2. to collide with / fly into (a pole) 3. to chase / drive someone into fear
Pere-	“motion over something”	1. perejti <ulicu> 2. pereplyt' <reku>	1. to cross (the street) 2. to swim / sail across (the

Prefix	Semantic Definition	Combinations with Determinate verbs	Translation
		3. perevesti, perevezti <kogo-to cherez ulicu, na druguju storonu reki> 4. perenesti <chemodan>	river) 3. to escort / transport someone across (the street, to the other side of the river) 4. to carry / move (a suitcase)
Iz-	“outwards”	1. izgnat' 2. izvesti <tarakanov> 3. izbezhat' <opasnosti> 4. izojti <slezami>	1. to expel / drive out 2. to get rid of / lead out (cockroaches) 3. to avoid (danger) 4. to shed / come out (tears)
Vy-	“outwards”	1. vyjti 2. vyletet'	1. to go out / to exit 2. to fly out / to leave (by air)
U-	“away”	1. ujti 2. uehat' 3. uplyt' 4. ukatit'	1. to leave / to go away (on foot) 2. to drive away / to leave (by vehicle) 3. to sail away / to swim away 4. to ride away / to speed off

The table outlines the meanings and lexical items that emerge from the combination of a prefix with determinate verbs. The next table shows a similar matter, but this time for Indeterminate verbs. It illustrates the meanings of the prefixes and how Indeterminates combine with them.

**Table 4.** Prefixes in Combination with Indet. Verbs

Prefix	Semantic Definition	Combinations with Indeterminate verbs	Translation
Za- 1	“begin”	1. zahodit' 2. zabégat' 3. zabrodit' 'begin to ferment'	1. to drop in / to call in (on foot, repeatedly or habitually) 2. to run in / to dash in 3. to begin to ferment
Za- 2	“damage”	1. zanosit' <plat'e> 2. zavozit' <pol> 3. zaezdit' <plastinku> 4. zagonjat' <kogo-to po poruchenijam>	1. to carry in / to bring in (a dress) 2. to deliver / bring in (flour) 3. to drive in / insert (a record) 4. to hustle / send someone on errands

Prefix	Semantic Definition	Combinations with Indeterminate verbs	Translation
Po-	“during some time”	1. pohodit' 2. pobegat' 3. poezdit' 4. pobrodit'	1. to walk around / to stroll (habitually or for a while) 2. to run around / run for a while 3. to travel around / drive around 4. to wander around / roam
Ot-	“give up doing something”	1. othodit' <na rabotu> 2. ot"ezdit' 3. otplavat'	1. to go away / leave for work 2. to go away / travel (by vehicle) 3. to swim away / sail away
Pro-	“spend all the time doing something”	1. prohodit' <ves' den' po gorodu> 2. probégat' 3. proezdit' 4. proletet' 5. provesti	1. to walk around / spend the whole day walking in the city 2. to run around / run through 3. to drive through / go through (by vehicle) 4. to fly through / fly past 5. to spend (time) / conduct (an event)
S-	“there and back”	1. shodit' <za hlebom> 2. s"ezdit' 3. sletat' 4. splavat' 5. sgonjat'	1. to go get / fetch (bread) 2. to go / travel (by vehicle) 3. to fly (there and back) 4. to swim (there and back) 5. to drive / chase away
Na-	“accumulation”	1. naezdit', 2. naletat' <1000 km> 3. nanosit' <drov>	1. to drive a lot / accumulate mileage 2. to fly / collide over a long distance (1000 km) 3. to bring / deliver (firewood)
Pere- 1	“too much”	1. perehodit' 2. perekatat'sja <na kon'kah>	1. to cross / go across 2. to roll / skate over (on skates)
Pere- 2	“all over again”	1.perehodit'	1. to pass / skip ('[in a boardgame] to do another move instead of the move which was done')
Pere- 3	“impact on all the elements of a class”	1. peretaskat' <vse veshhi>	1. to drag / carry around (all the things)
Iz-	“exhaustive action”	1. ishodit', 2. iz"ezdit' <vsju stranu>	1. to go out / come out 2. to travel around / go all over the country

Prefix	Semantic Definition	Combinations with Indeterminate verbs	Translation
Vy-	“achieving a difficult result”	1. vʹyhodit' <bol'nogo> 2. vʹynosit' <rebenka>	1. to take out / escort out (a sick person) 2. to carry out / take out (a child)
U-	“damage”	1. uvozit' <brjuki> 2. uezdit' <kogo-to>	1. to take away / transport (trousers) 2. to take away / drive off (someone)

As both tables show, motion verb in Russian are of a limited number, but they combine with prefixes in order to enhance the meaning of the motion event. Depending on the nature of the verb (whether it is Determinate or Indeterminate), Russian speakers can depict different types of movement.

## 5. Conclusions

The paper has shown how the Russian Motion-verb system demonstrates a rich interplay between lexical semantics and grammatical structure, highlighting the language's Satellite-framed nature. Through the combination of verb roots expressing Manner of Motion and a wide array of prefixes and prepositions indicating Path, Russian achieves a highly precise and nuanced expression of Motion events. The study of aspect has highlighted the peculiar behavior of motion verbs – how verbs which have the same meaning can be both be imperfective. Thus, we have seen how these imperfective verbs fall into two classes: Indeterminate and Determinate – the former generally expressing motion in multiple directions and the latter motion in one direction, often with a goal. Moreover, when one of these verbs gets a prefix, it undergoes perfectivization. By analyzing the various types of Motion verbs, their syntactic behavior, and the roles of prefixes and prepositions, this paper has shown how Russian systematically encodes motion in a way that allows speakers to convey subtle differences in direction, trajectory, and the manner of movement. Overall, the findings underscore the complexity and flexibility of Russian Motion verbs, offering insights not only into the language's typology but also into broader cross-linguistic patterns of motion expression.

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