

Title: The Interaction of Morphology and Lexicon in Russian Prepositions

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In Russian, as in other synthetic languages, prepositions form a class on purely semantic grounds. Prepositions belong both to morphology and to lexicon. As such, they provide excellent material for studying the interaction between grammar and lexicon.

The basic Russian prepositions (*dlja*, *do*, *iz*, *k(o)*, *na*, *o(b(o))*, *ot(o)*, *po*, etc.) are morphologically opaque. There are also the morphologically transparent adverbial compounds consisting of nouns with other prepositions, e.g., *poverx*, *vverxu*, *vnizu*, *vmesto*, *vmeste s(o)*, *rjedom s(o)*, *nasčēt* (the nouns *verx*, *niz*, *mesto*, *rjad*, *sčēt*).

Some were built from nouns that have since disappeared from the lexicon, e.g., *vdol'*, *vnutr'*, *vperedi* (from *pered'* f.), *pozadi* (from *zad'* f.), *okolo* (from *kolo*).

There are also those built from nouns in spatial case forms without any prepositions, such as *pered*, the accusative of *perēd* 'front', and *krome*, the old locative of *kromá* 'edge' (no longer in the lexicon).

Most non-opaque prepositions were built from noun phrases to fill a specific semantic need in each case. The nouns drafted for these phrases mean spatial coordinate points such as 'top', 'bottom', 'length', 'inside', 'place', 'edge' or point arrangements such as 'circle', 'row', and 'count', with these meanings transferable from the spatial to other semantic domains.

A cross-linguistic investigation, needed to confirm a broader cognitive relevance, indicates that most prepositions in synthetic languages, including the opaque ones, are built from nouns used as adverbs (e.g., Russian *dlja* from a derivative of *delo*, cf. the semantics of Latin *causā* 'for the sake of'; cf. also English *for*, ultimately from a noun meaning 'front, edge').

The conclusion is that synthetic-language speakers draw on lexical items belonging to the morphologically motivated classes (such as nouns) in the appropriate adverbial form (such as locative, accusative or instrumental) to supply the required relational elements (such as prepositions).