

Conceptual Overlap and the Illusion of Semantic Emptiness

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Radial Category Profiling: Case study of RAZ-

1. physical apart		base verb	
<i>razbežat'sja</i>	'run in different directions'	<i>bežat'</i>	'run'
<i>razvezti</i>	'deliver to various places'	<i>vezti</i>	'carry by vehicle'
<i>razvesti(s')</i>	'divorce'	<i>vesti</i>	'lead'
<i>razvejat'(sja)</i>	'disperse'	<i>vejat'</i>	'blow, winnow'
<i>razgraničit'</i>	'separate by a border'	<i>graničit'</i>	'border on, be contiguous with'
<i>razlomat'</i>	'break in pieces'	<i>lomat'</i>	'break'
<i>razmetat'</i>	'scatter'	<i>metat'</i>	'throw'
<i>raznesti</i>	'deliver, disperse'	<i>nesti</i>	'carry'
<i>razojtis'</i>	'walk in different directions'	<i>idti</i>	'walk'
<i>razoslat'</i>	'distribute'	<i>slat'</i>	'send'
<i>razrubit'</i>	'chop apart'	<i>rubit'</i>	'chop, fell'
<i>raskusit'</i>	'bite through'	<i>kusit'</i>	'bite'
<i>raspilit'</i>	'saw apart'	<i>pilit'</i>	'saw'

2. crush		base verb	
<i>razbombit'</i>	'bomb flat'	<i>bombit'</i>	'bomb'
<i>razvalit'(sja)</i>	'collapse'	<i>valit'</i>	'topple'
<i>razrušit'(sja)</i>	'destroy, collapse'	<i>rušit'(sja)</i>	'pull/fall down'
<i>rastoptat'</i>	'trample, crush'	<i>toptat'</i>	'stamp feet'

3. spread			
<i>razvit'(sja)</i>	'expand, unwind, develop'	<i>vit'(sja)</i>	'twist, wind'
<i>razmazat'</i>	'spread, smear'	<i>mazat'</i>	'smear, grease'
<i>razrastis'</i>	'grow thickly, spread'	<i>rasti</i>	'grow'
<i>razrisovat'</i>	'draw all over'	<i>risovat'</i>	'draw'
<i>raskatat'</i>	'unroll, roll out'	<i>katat'</i>	'roll'
<i>raskrasit'</i>	'paint/color all over'	<i>krasit'</i>	'paint'

4. metaphorical spread		base verb	
<i>razobrat'sja</i>	'sort out, make sense of, unpack'	<i>brat'sja</i>	'take up, start'
<i>razrabotat'</i>	'work out, elaborate'	<i>rabotat'</i>	'work'
<i>razreklamirovat'</i>	'publicize all over'	<i>reklamirovat'</i>	'advertise'
<i>raspisat'</i>	'enter figures into account book'	<i>pisat'</i>	'write'

5. soften, dissolve		base verb	
<i>razmyt'</i>	'erode, wash away'	<i>myt'</i>	'wash'
<i>razmijat'sja</i>	'soften up'	<i>mijat'</i>	'knead'
<i>rastvorit'(sja)</i>	'dissolve'	<i>tvorit'(sja)</i>	'do, happen'

6. swell		base verb	
<i>razdut'(sja)</i>	'inflate'	<i>dut'</i>	'blow'
<i>razžitsja</i>	'get rich'	<i>žit'</i>	'live'
<i>raskisnut'</i>	'rise from fermentation'	<i>kisnut'</i>	'turn sour'
<i>raspaxat'</i>	'plough up'	<i>paxat'</i>	'plough'

7. excite		base verb	
<i>razogret'</i>	'warm up'	<i>gret'</i>	'radiate heat'
<i>raskalit'</i>	'make red-hot'	<i>kalit'</i>	'heat, roast'
<i>rasparit'</i>	'cause to sweat'	<i>parit'</i>	'steam'

8. metaphorical excite		base verb	
<i>razveselit'sja</i>	'cheer up'	<i>veselit'sja</i>	'be happy'
<i>razdosadovat'</i>	'annoy'	<i>dosadovat'</i>	'be annoyed'
<i>razygrat'sja</i>	'get carried away with a game'	<i>igrat'</i>	'play'
<i>razrugat'sja</i>	'quarrel'	<i>rugat'sja</i>	'curse'

9. un-, dis-		base verb	
<i>razvjazat'(sja)</i>	'untie'	<i>vjazat'</i>	'tie'
<i>razgruzit'</i>	'unload'	<i>gruzit'</i>	'load'
<i>razlepiti'</i>	'unstick'	<i>lepiti'</i>	'stick'
<i>razmorožit'</i>	'defrost'	<i>moroziti'</i>	'freeze'
<i>razoblačiti'</i>	'expose, reveal'	<i>oblačiti'</i>	'robe'
<i>razognut'sja</i>	'straighten up'	<i>gnut'sja</i>	'bend'
<i>raz"ediniti'</i>	'disconnect'	<i>ediniti'</i>	'unite'
<i>raskryt'(sja)</i>	'open, uncover, reveal'	<i>kryt'(sja)</i>	'cover, be concealed'

10. metaphorical un-		base verb	
<i>razgadat'</i>	'solve a puzzle'	<i>gadat'</i>	'guess, tell fortunes'
<i>razdumat'</i>	'change your mind'	<i>dumat'</i>	'think'
<i>razljubit'</i>	'stop loving'	<i>ljubit'</i>	'love'
<i>razočarovat'(sja)</i>	'make/be disappointed'	<i>čarovat'</i>	'charm'
<i>razučiti'sja</i>	'forget how to'	<i>učiti'sja</i>	'learn'
<i>rasšifrovat'</i>	'decipher'	<i>šifrovat'</i>	'encipher'
<i>rasplatiti'sja</i>	'pay off, settle accounts'	<i>platiti'</i>	'pay'

11. ingressive		base verb	
<i>rasxoxotat'sja</i>	'start guffawing'	<i>xoxotat'</i>	'guffaw'
<i>razvolnovat'sja</i>	'become upset, start fussing'	<i>volnovat'sja</i>	'worry, fuss'
<i>razgovorit'(sja)</i>	'get to talking'	<i>govorit'</i>	'talk'
<i>razžeč'</i>	'kindle'	<i>žeč'</i>	'burn'
<i>rasplakat'sja</i>	'burst into tears'	<i>plakat'</i>	'cry'
<i>rastrogat'(sja)</i>	'move/be moved to tears'	<i>trogat'(sja)</i>	'affect, be affected'

Table 1: Some of the 1000 verbs that use *raz-* for their Specialized Perfective (lexical prefix) or Complex Act Perfective (superlexical prefix, cf. subcategory 11)

1. physical apart			
<i>razbit'</i>	'break'	<i>razgryzt'</i>	'gnaw apart'
<i>razodrat'</i>	'rip apart'	<i>razdrobit'(sja)</i>	'crumble'
<i>raskolot'</i>	'chop up'	<i>raskroit'</i>	'cut up'
<i>raskromsat'</i>	'cut up'	<i>raskrošiti'(sja)</i>	'crumble'
<i>razmel'čit'</i>	'crumble'	<i>razmočalit'</i>	'break down into fibers'
<i>raspotrošiti'</i>	'disembowel, take apart'	<i>rasporot'(sja)</i>	'rip apart'
<i>razorvat'(sja)</i>	'explode'	<i>razrezat'</i>	'cut up'
<i>rasteret'</i>	'pulverize'	<i>rasterzat'</i>	'tear apart'
<i>rastoloč'</i>	'pulverize'	<i>rastrepat'</i>	'shake up/apart'
<i>rasčesat'</i>	'comb apart'	<i>rasčekaniti'</i>	'cut apart (metal)'
<i>razryxlet'</i>	'become particulate (soil, snow)'	<i>razryxlit'</i>	'break up into particles (soil)'

2. crush			
<i>razgromiti'</i>	'destroy'	<i>razdaviti'</i>	'crush'
<i>raspljuščiti'</i>	'flatten'	<i>razmjat'</i>	'crush'
<i>rasplastat'</i>	'flatten'		

3. spread			
<i>razdeliti'(sja)</i>	'divide up'	<i>razmenjat'</i>	'get change from big piece of money'
<i>razrozniti'</i>	'break up a set of'	<i>rasfasovat'</i>	'pre-pack in measured quantities'
<i>rasčleniti'(sja)</i>	'break up into parts'	<i>razvetviti'sja</i>	'branch out'

<i>rasplodit'</i> (sja)	'multiply'	<i>raspjalit'</i>	'stretch out'
<i>rastopyrit'</i>	'spread (arms, legs)'	<i>razrovnjat'</i>	'level, spread out'
<i>razrumjanit'</i> (sja)	'(make) blush'		

4. metaphorical spread			
<i>razgrafit'</i>	'depict in graphs'	<i>rasklassificirovat'</i>	'classify, sort into groups'
<i>rasplanirovat'</i>	'work out a plan'	<i>rassortirovat'</i>	'sort into groups'
<i>rastranzirit'</i>	'squander money in many places'	<i>razrezvonit'</i>	'spread the word'

5. soften, dissolve			
<i>razmjaknut'</i>	'soften'	<i>rasplavit'</i> (sja)	'make/become liquid by heating'
<i>rastajat'</i>	'melt'	<i>raz"est'</i>	'corrode'
<i>rastopit'</i> (sja)	'liquefy by heating'		

6. swell			
<i>razbuxnut'</i>	'swell'	<i>razžiret'</i>	'get fat'
<i>raskosmatit'</i>	'make shaggy'	<i>razloxmatit'</i> (sja)	'make/become shaggy'
<i>raspuxnut'</i>	'swell'	<i>raspušit'</i>	'make fluffy'
<i>rastolstet'</i>	'get fat'	<i>razbogatet'</i>	'become rich'
<i>razdobret'</i>	'become fat'		

7. excite			
<i>razberedit'</i>	'irritate'	<i>razbudit'</i>	'wake up'
<i>razveredit'</i>	'irritate'	<i>razgorjačit'</i>	'heat up, irritate'
<i>rasševelit'</i>	'set into motion'		

8. metaphorical excite			
<i>razgnevat'</i> sja	'become angry'	<i>razgorjačit'</i> sja	'act irritated'
<i>razveselit'</i>	'make happy'	<i>razozlit'</i> (sja)	'make/bec angry'
<i>raspetušit'</i> sja	'act excited, angry'	<i>raskajat'</i> sja	'repent'
<i>rassvirepet'</i>	'become enraged'	<i>rasserdit'</i> (sja)	'make/bec angry'
<i>rassečerat'</i>	'become angry'	<i>rassmešit'</i>	'make someone laugh'
<i>raskipjatiit'</i> sja	'get angry'		

Table 2: The 89 verbs that use *raz-* for their Natural Perfective (meaning of Perfective and Imperfective are the same, Imperfective is same form minus *raz-/ras-*)

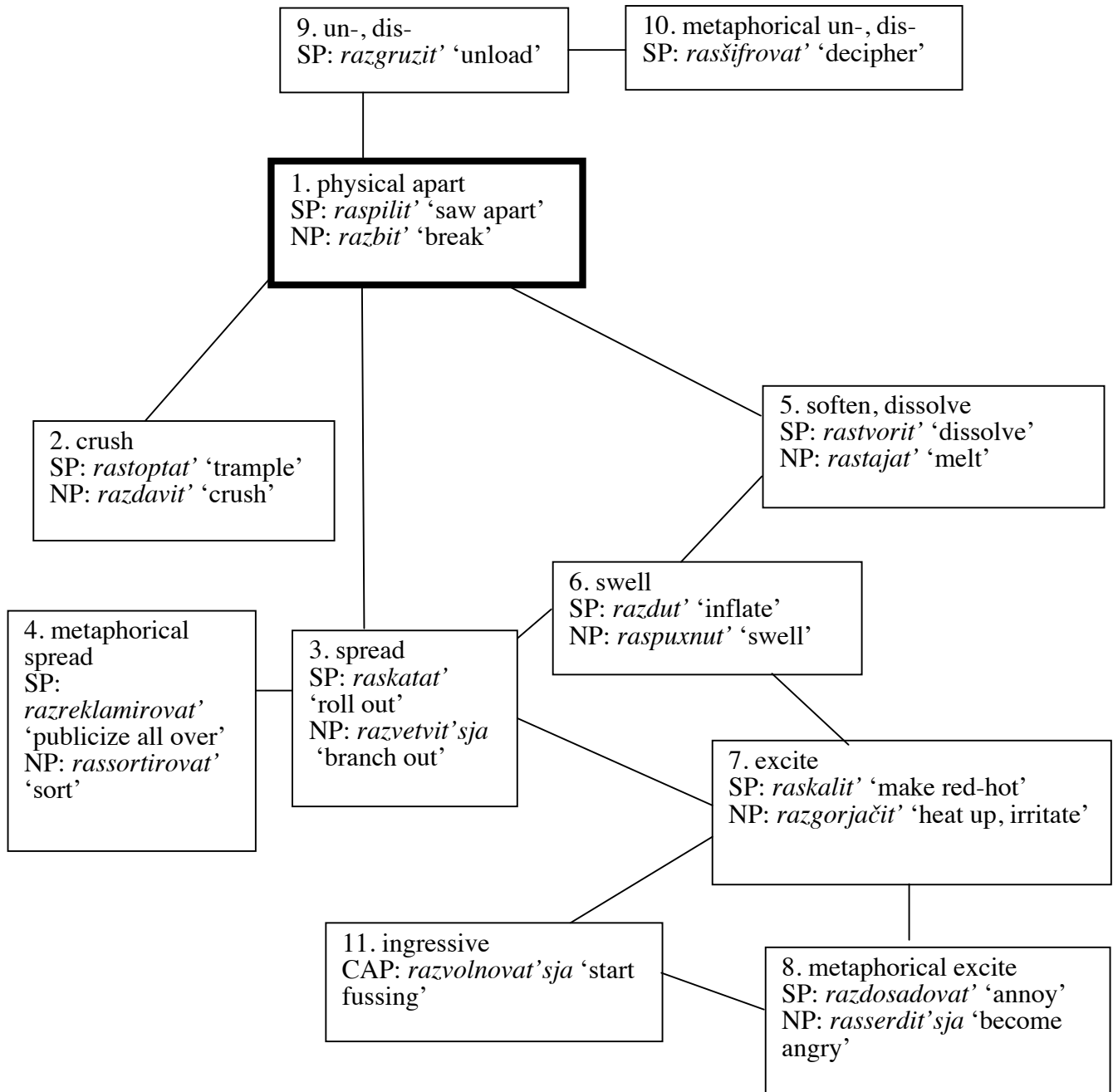


Figure 1: Network for *raz-* (NP=Natural Perfective, SP=Specialized Perfective, CAP=Complex Act Perfective)

Semantic Profiling: the prefixes *po-*, *s-*, *za-*, *na-*, *pro-*

- *pro-*
 - Attracted to SOUND&SPEECH (sounds that carry through space or time)
 - Neutral to IMPACT (penetration)
 - Repulsed from BEHAVIOR, CHANGE STATE
- *po-*
 - Attracted to CHANGE STATE, SOUND&SPEECH (increase along a scale, duration)
 - Neutral to IMPACT
 - Repulsed from BEHAVIOR
- *za-*

- Attracted to IMPACT, CHANGE STATE (covering, filling, fixing)
- Repulsed from BEHAVIOR, SOUND&SPEECH
- s-
 - Attracted to BEHAVIOR (semelfactive)
 - Neutral to CHANGE STATE, SOUND&SPEECH, IMPACT
- na-
 - Attracted to IMPACT, BEHAVIOR (accumulate on a surface, large quantity)
 - Neutral to SOUND&SPEECH
 - Repulsed from CHANGE STATE
- Summary of results
 - The meanings of the **verbs** with “empty” prefixes (Natural Perfectives) as classified by their semantic tags correspond to the meanings of the **prefixes** in their “non-empty” uses as previously described by scholars
 - **Conceptual overlap**: each verb selects the prefix that conforms best to the verb’s meaning

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