



CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

53rd Foundation Day Lecture Series

Lecture 28

Friday, January 7, 2022 at 3:00 pm IST

**Two semantic fields in Western NIA:
a lexical-typological study**



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Liudmila Khokhlova is an Associate professor, Department of Indian Philology, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University, Russia. She specializes in Indo-Aryan languages, especially in Hindi-Urdu. Her research interests include syntactic typology, semantics and historical linguistics. She is a recipient of the awards of Indian government in 2005 and 2007 and the 2005 award of Punjabi Saath, London for her contributions to Hindi studies and Punjabi studies in Russia respectively. She has several noteworthy publications on Indo-Aryan linguistics both in Russian and English. Her recent publications include 'Expression of Painful Sensations in Hindi', In: *Alternative Horizons in Linguistics*, Lincome Europa, Munich, Germany, 2020.

This talk is based on a frame-based approach to typological study. It is argued that semantic comparison should rely on a set of conceptual frames that can be revealed through analysis of word combinability in natural texts. The frame method was developed and tested by the Moscow Lexical Typology Group and is currently used in all its projects. The core of the method is finding contexts in which a word cannot be replaced by a given near-synonym and determining which properties prevent the substitution. The methodology includes survey of Dictionaries, corpora, the analysis of literature (prose and poetry) and work with the questionnaires (checklists for collecting data filled in by native speakers). The talk will cover two projects of the Moscow Lexical Typology Group which I participated in:

(1) 'Aqua motion verbs in Western NIA'

Cross-linguistically the main semantic domains of aqua-motion are 'swimming' – self-propelled motion of an animate Figure; sailing - motion of vessels or people aboard and Floating - 'passive', uncontrolled and non-agentive aqua-motion. The deviations from these semantic domains and their extensions as well as metaphorical shifts in Western NIA will be discussed in my talk.

(2) 'Verbs of position in Hindi in comparison with Russian'. Comparative usage of the verbs 'sit', 'stand' and 'lie' with different animate and inanimate objects and common and different metaphorical extensions of the direct meaning of these verbs in Hindi and Russian will be in focus of my talk.

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