SEMANTIC AND FUNCTIONAL FEATURES OF THE VERB WITH THE MEANING “TO WORK” IN JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE
(Comparative study)

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ABSTRACT
Within the framework of this article, the verb "работать" (to work) is analyzed with the exact from the point of view of its semantics in Russian and Japanese languages. The analysis of polysemy and synonymous features of the verb "to work" is carried out in the semantic field. Descriptive, comparative, typological and empiric methods was used for study. In result, exact similarities and differences between meaning of the verb “to work” and their functions were defined following factual materials and scientific theories.

KEY WORDS: semantics, semantical field, functional feature, to work, pragmatic competence, synonyms.

INTRODUCTION
Language develops through social experience. Learners who are studying a new language automatically make some pragmatic failures not knowing the semantic, namely, meaning field of the foreign language’s words also not realizing functional features of those words without the pragmatic competences. Pragmatic competence is essential for investigating functional features of the target to be able to apply the linguistic units on the right time and with appropriate interlocutors. We have selected the verb with the meaning “to work” which is most used verb in any language and its comparative study gives chance to the language learners to distinguish differential and identifying also absolute same points.

LITERATURE REVIEW
The verb "работать" refers to completed verbs, the subject and object can be either a person or an inanimate object. In Russian linguistics investigation on lexical and semantic features of the verb had started in 60th of XX century and it is still considered to be a hot topic for researches. A number of scholars such as L.A.Bogdanova, L.M.Vasilyev, V.L.Ibragimova, T.A.Kildibekova, E.V.Kuznetsova, N.P.Sidorova have conducted effective and wide researches on Russian verbs: their classification and formation as well as the interaction and intersection matters of Verb LSG (lexical semantic groups). ²

1 Ярема Елена Владимировна. Функционально-семантические особенности глаголов движения. Диссертация. Армавир, Россия. 2008.
2 http://www.nauteh-journal.ru/files/d77fb4b8-e61e-4b66-8d69-7d57143075f5
The features of Japanese verbs have been studied depending on various principles and perspectives. There are two directions of Japanese researchers on the topic “Verb”. Supporters of the first group tend to examine the meaning of the verb from the typological and language, in contrast with “do-type” languages such as English, based on a cognitive-typological point of view (Ikegami’s (1981, 1991), Shibatani’s (19734, 1976a, b, Shibatani and Pardeshi 2002)) whereas another direction approached verb meaning from the standpoint of morphology and syntax, an approach seen in verb classifications based on aspect (e.g. Kindaichi 1950; Kudo 1995), and in various studies undertaken within the framework of Kageyama’s (1996) lexical conceptual structure (LCS)9

In this article functional and semantic features of the verb with the meaning “to work” in Japanese and Russian language will be discussed and investigated comparatively.

**METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The article was followed using descriptive, comparative, typological and empiric methods. Facts are described and compared with one another in various languages, as well as conducting investigation using empiric method via observation written and alive situations.

**Semantic and functional features of the verb “работать” in Russian**

Large explanatory dictionary of Russian language10 gives the definition to the verb “работать” as following:

1. **to do, to engage, to labour**
2. **to have a constant occupation, to be in service**
3. **work in smb/smth’s benefit, interest; to favour**
4. **to put smth into action, to manage/to operate smth, to run smth**
5. **to function (mechanisms, units, devices)**

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3 Ikegami, Yoshihiko. 1981. Suru to naru no gengogaku: Gengo to bunka no taiporozii e no siron [Linguistics of BECOME and DO: an essay in the typology of language and culture]. Tokyo: Taishukan.
4 Ikegami, Yoshihiko. 1991. DO-language and BECOME-language: two contrasting types of linguistic representation. In Yoshihiko Ikegami (ed.), The empire of signs: semiotic essays on Japanese culture, 258–326. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
5 Shibatani, Masayoshi. 1973. Semantics of Japanese causativization. Foundations of Language 9. 327-373.
6 Shibatani, Masayoshi. 1976a. Causativization. In Masayoshi Shibatani (ed.), Japanese generative grammar (Syntax and semantics 5), 239–294. New York: Academic Press.
7 Shibatani, Masayoshi. 1976b. The grammar of causative construction: A conspectus. In Masayoshi Shibatani (ed.), The grammar of causative constructions (Syntax and Semantics 6), 1-40. New York: Academic Press.
8 Pardeshi, Prashant, Kazuyuki Kiryū, Heiko Narrog (eds.) 2015. Yuu-tui-doosi no tuugengoteki-kenkyuu: Nihongo to syogengo no taisyooyu kara mietekuru mono [Crosslinguistic studies on paired verbs: insights from comparisons of Japanese and other languages]. Tokyo: Kurosio.
9 Matsumoto Yo. The semantics of Japanese verbs. Handbook of Japanese semantics and pragmaticsPublisher: De Gruyter Mouton. 2020.
10 Большой толковый словарь русского языка. Гл. ред. С. А. Кузнецов. Первое издание: СПб.: Норинт, 1998.
Analysis of each meaning of “РАБОТАТЬ” contrasting with Japanese and English via factual materials. Five independent semantic areas were found in Russian verb “работать” and analyzed this verb’s semantic-functional features comparatively. As an object of this research, besides Japanese, we decided to include English verb “to work” either only for contrasting in order to get more clear results.

| to do, to engage, to labor | Russian | Писатель работает над книгой. |
|:---:|---:|---:|
| | Japanese | きっか ほん じゅっさく 作家が 本 を 作 している。 |
| | English | A writer is working on his book. |

| to have a constant occupation, to be in service | Russian | Работать на всю семью. |
|:---:|---:|---:|
| | Japanese | せんかぞく はたら 全家族のために 働 く。 |
| | English | To work for everybody in family. |

| to function (mechanisms, units, devices) | Russian | Магазин работает без перерыва. |
|:---:|---:|---:|
| | Japanese | じかんえいぎょう コンビニは 24 時 間 営 業 です。 |
| | English | The store is open 24/7. |
At such moments she/he thinks clearly.

I wonder why this calculator won’t work!

Russian verb “работать” with the semantic field “to do, to engage, to labor” does not always match with Japanese verb which gives the meaning “to work”. Working on a book is expressed with 言作する in Japanese which requires pragmatic competence and functional feature changes to another verb.

Semantic field “to have a constant occupation, to be in service” can be expressed same meaning verbs in three languages (работать – to work – はたらく) But the functional point of occupation can be replaced with 仕事をする (do work, do career) in Japanese.

Meaning of function (mechanisms, units, devices): About the “working non-stop, namely 24/7 three languages demonstrated three different cases. Russian applies “работать”, English uses “open” (adjective) and Japanese doesn’t have exact translation of the word, but it is available to realize the “nonstop work” via context in Japanese.

It is important define the minimum semantic field in analyzing the verb semantically and then identifying similarities and differences in meaning, also finding their common semanthem makes the research deep and clear to explore structure description and meaning. In semantic analysis comparing the differences and similarities of the word meaning is the best method to realize the differences between synonyms, polysemy and antonyms.

11 https://www.kensup.co.jp/1486.html
Semantic field plays a significant role in semantic study as "Related to the concept of hyponymy, but more loosely defined, is the notion of a semantic field or domain. A semantic field denotes a segment of reality symbolized by a set of related words. The words in a semantic field share a common semantic property." Andersen\(^\text{12}\) states "Traditionally, semantic fields have been used for comparing the lexical structure of different languages and different states of the same language." We agree that the investigation on the same language’s features is essential, whereas comparative study on two or more languages’ characters is more effective and detailed. Since determination of the main points of the target topic can be exact and wide by the contrast study. Furthermore, “learning a foreign language is not limited with learning its grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Being able to choose the appropriate word at the right time and for the right addressees is vital point of the communication and it is related to the knowledge in semantics.”

In Ojegova’s\(^\text{14}\) dictionary these verbs below mentioned are the synonyms of “работать” (to work)

- **Трудить** — to force somebody to work (archaic) (**Заставлять работать**), to accomplish something working hard (oral) (**Старательно выполнять**);
- **Я годами трудился, чтобы изменить свою жизнь.**

I worked for years to get my life back on track.

This verb highlights that action is accomplished with a lot of effort.

- **Трубить** — to perform for longer period (monotonously and tediously) (**долгосрочно делать** (**монотонно или утомительно**));
- **Труить** — to work hard (**работать, тяжелая работа**);

This verb highlights long and boring period of the action.

- **Вкалывать** — to work, to work hard (**работать, тяжелая работа**);
- **Ломить** — to work hard (**difficult and troublesome** **тяжелая работа** (**сложная и мучительная**));

The verbs mentioned above relate to common oral speech and emphasizes the work’s tiring and hard feature.

- **Ишачить** — to perform hard work (**выполнять тяжелую работу**).

This verb’s origin is “ishak – eshak” in Uzbek language with meaning “donkey”. Donkey works hard but it is never loved. In this kind of case, in Russian language ишачить is used with the purpose to show how hardworking but underestimated the accomplisher of the work is.

**Не можешь же ты всю жизнь на нее ишачить.**

You can't go on slaving for her all your life.

There are more than 70 synonyms for “работать” in dictionaries\(^\text{15}\) of Russian language, but in our article we have decided to select 5 of them and compare with Japanese units.

- **Gradual analyze of “работать” due to its meaning “how hard to work”:**

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\(^{12}\) Brinton, Laurel J. (2000). The structure of modern English: a linguistic introduction. Illustrated edition. John Benjamins Publishing Company. ISBN 9789027225672, p.112

\(^{13}\) Andersen, Peter Bøgh (1990). A theory of computer semiotics: semiotic approaches to construction and assessment of computer systems. Volume 3 of Cambridge series on human-computer interaction. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-39336-1, ISBN 978-0-521-39336-2, p.327

\(^{14}\) С. Н. Ожегов Толковый словарь русского языка Москва ООО «Бета Фрейм», 2003. — 430 с.
SYNONYMS of “Работать” in Russian and their semantical comparison with other languages

| Russian   | Japanese   | English             | Semantic degree               |
|-----------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Делать    | 搓る・行う   | To make, to do      | neutral                       |
| трудиться | 働く        | To labour, to trouble| Highlighting the hardness     |
| заниматься| 従事する    | To be engaged in, to be occupied with | neutral               |
| корпеть   | 毛穴に      | To pore over, sweat over | Colloquial, emphasize         |
| мучиться  | ころしむ・悩む | To suffer, to be tormented | Negative meaning, emphasize the hardness |
| потеть    | 汗をかく     | To sweat            | Colloquial                     |
| функционировать | 作用する・機能を果す | To function        | formal                        |
| служить   | －のために働く | To work for         | neutral                       |

Japanese equivalent verbs to Russian “работать” and their functional and semantic features

- はたら - to work, to act, to commit, to work on, to labor, to do
- 働く - to work, to act, to commit, to work on, to labor, to do
- работать, действовать, совершать, работать, трудиться, делать
- 頭の働かない人 - lit. person whose head (brain) doesn’t work – Тупой человек (stupid man) In colloquial Russian language this phrase can be expressed as “У него голова неработает” where “работать” is used. 頭の働かない人 can be translated word by word into both English and Russian language with same meaning and structure.
He committed many kinds of crimes. - Он совершил много видов преступлений. In this example, the verb 労く has polysemy with the verb 犯す and is translated into both English and Russian with the same equivalents such as “to commit” and “совершать”.

Working very hard, my father worked like an ox day and night. - Мой отец день и ночь работал как вол.

Work hard and you will never be poor. - Работай усердно, и ты никогда не будешь бедным.

Semantic Analysis and Idioms. The collocations of verb and particle in turn collocate with other lexical items, as just mentioned. Some of these collocations are very familiar to the speakers of a language, and attain a high degree of cohesion, while others are quite restricted in their acceptability. Besides the factor of familiarity, contextualization also plays an important role with such restrictions. Familiar collocations, which could be called set phrases, may be semantically self-evident, such as bacon and eggs, here and there, but they may also be highly idiomatic, such as rub noses or shoot the breeze. Hereby some idiomatic phrases of Russian language are collected through observing alive conversations and compared semantically with Japanese and English.

| Russian | Japanese | English | Comments |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| 工作する до поту лица | よく頑張る | To work very hard | Work until face gets sweaty |
| работать, как вол | ちち み こ ひる | To work without rest, to work very hard | My father worked like an ox day and night. |
| Мой отец день и ночь работал как вол. | 父は身を粉にして昼 よる はたら も夜も働いた。 | I don't have time to breathe | Working hard being extremely busy |
| Не дадут спину разогнуть | 手を休めずに | Time is on our side | Winning the time |

16 Cf. Greenbaum (1968), Lipka (1971c).
17 Leonhard Lipka Semantic structure and word-formation verb-particle constructions in contemporary English. Munchen, 1972.
Japanese idiomatic phrases with meaning “to work”

| Japanese idioms           | Meaning                                                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 私は金ではうごかない。      | *I will not be influenced by money*                                      |
| 彼女の新設について彼の心はうごいた。 | *Her kindness finally touched him (won his heart)*                     |
| 時間を稼ぐ                | *Win the time*                                                          |
| 馬車馬のように働く       | *work like a carriage horse*                                            |
|                          | *Meaning: work single-mindedly. PS. Carriage horses wear blinkers, so as not to be distracted.* |

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion it is identified that semantic and functional features in Japanese and Russian also English language very essential to realize the pragmatic competence to use the word with appropriate function and correct meaning. The research topic is very actual where formality, informality, semantic and functional gradunomy as well as synonyms gradual degree have been proven. This article can contribute to the educational system of Japanese or Russian language.

**LITERATURE**

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