A Dictionary of Slavic Word Families

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Preface

A characteristic of the Slavic languages which impresses itself with particular forcefulness upon the English-speaking student is that they are, in the fullest sense of the term, vernacular tongues. Unlike English, which owing to historical circumstance has turned to foreign sources for most of its literary and specialized vocabulary, the Slavic languages have evolved from their basic store of native word-roots a vocabulary suited to all levels of discourse and capable of expressing abstractions and technical concepts in every field of human endeavor. This process of word-formation has, of course, been very largely a conscious one; many Slavic words are deliberate copies---loan-translations or "calques"---of Latin, Greek or German equivalents. Nevertheless, the result has been to endow the Slavic languages with a unity and coherence which English, with its successive overlays of French, Latin, Greek and other foreign words, does not have. Unless he is at least an amateur Latinist, the English speaker who uses an abstraction like the word <u>coincide</u> can make no associations between it and the concrete words of everyday speech; the meaning seems to have been assigned quite arbitrarily and must be accepted, as it were, on faith. To even a linguistically untrained and unobservant Russian, on the other hand, the equivalent word <u>совпадáть</u> is immediately recognizable as a combination of three familiar words expressing the notion of "falling in together."

In compiling the present dictionary, the author has sought to afford a broad view of the vocabulary structure of the four major Slavic languages, Russian, Polish, Czech and Serbo-Croatian, by assembling all the significant words derived from 200 of the more productive roots occurring in those languages. The work is addressed, in the first instance, to students of the Slavic languages who wish to enlarge their vocabulary in the language or languages with which they are familiar or to take up the study of another. At the same time, it is the author's hope that Slavic specialists, and perhaps students of other languages as well, will derive pleasure and profit from contemplation of the extraordinary richness and diversity of the vocabulary which has evolved from these relatively few, for the most part monosyllabic, roots.

The basic scheme of the dictionary is a comparative one. The words in each root-group are set out in four parallel columns, the Russian, Polish, Czech and Serbo-Croatian entries appearing in that order. Words in the vari-

ous languages which are morphologically identical, or virtually so, appear
on the same line, regardless of meaning. (Under root ДЕРЖ [etc.], for exam-
ple, Rus. держа́ва "power [sovereign state, country]," Pol. dzierżawa "lease,"
Cz. država "domain, possession" and S-C država "state [political entity]"
are entered on the same line, since all are formed from the root by means of
the same suffix.) Thus, by looking down the column the reader can view the
entire range of derivatives formed from the root in the given language,
while by looking across the line he can note any semantic differences that
have arisen in the various languages in words which are morphologically the
same. The order of words in the column is, generally speaking, as follows:
primary root-word, derivatives formed by suffixation, compounds formed by
union with other roots, derivatives formed by prefixation.

The semantic link between a given Slavic word and its root is sometimes
so obvious as to require no explanation and at other times exceedingly tenu-
ous and obscure. Since the meaning of a derivative formed purely by the add-
ition of a suffix is generally not far removed from that of the root (see,
for example, Cz. chodba "corridor; passageway," chodník "pavement," chodidlo
"sole of the foot" (root CHOD "to go, walk"), it has not seemed necessary
to present and define the vast array of suffixes in the four languages in
tabular form. On the other hand, since prefixation normally produces a clear-
ly defined change in meaning, a table of prefixes, indicating the various
functions which each performs in combining with roots, is appended to this
preface. The semantic basis of compounds, which are listed under both compo-
nent roots (unless, of course, one of the roots is not included in this dic-
tionary), can usually be clarified by determining the other root from the
index of root-forms (or, where necessary, the partial index of words) in the
back of the book. The primary purpose of the notes accompanying each root-
group is to solve those problems relating to individual words which cannot
be solved by reference to the meaning of the root, the table of prefixes and
the indexes. The notes also identify and define the second root in compounds
whenever it is not among those included in this dictionary. Finally, both in
order to clarify the semantic basis of the words to which they refer and in
order to place the over-all process of Slavic word-formation in broader per-
spective, they call attention to comparable instances of word-formation in
other languages. A further auxiliary feature is the table at the end of this
preface showing the consonant changes evident in the various forms assumed
by the roots in the four languages.

Several principles have governed the selection of words for the dic-
tionary. It was obviously neither possible nor desirable to include every
word derived from a given root in the four languages. The fundamental aim
has been, rather, to present all those words which are significant in them-
selves and/or illustrate a significant development in the meaning of the ·
root. Words composed of prefix + root have, for example, been excluded if
the meaning of the derivative reflects nothing more than the combined mean-

ings of the two component parts (<u>e.g.</u> Rus. <u>увозить</u>, Pol. <u>uwozić</u> "to carry away" ⟨ <u>у</u>- [<u>u</u>-] "away" + root ВОЗ [WOZ] "to carry"). In the case of related nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs which are differentiated only by their functions as parts of speech (<u>e.g.</u> Rus. <u>забáва</u> "amusement," <u>забáвный</u> "amusing," <u>забáвно</u> "amusingly," <u>забавлять</u> "to amuse"), an effort has been made to select the particular word which (1) most clearly illustrates the semantic use made of the root, (2) constitutes the primary derivative, and (3) is most frequently used. (Needless to say, it has not always been possible to realize all three of these desiderata. In many cases, the most graphic and least cumbersome method of presentation has seemed that of omitting a primary verbal derivative with a multiplicity of meanings---<u>e.g.</u> S-C <u>izdati</u> "to publish; to betray; to spend; etc."---and illustrating its various meanings through the nouns and adjectives formed from it: <u>izdanje</u> "edition; publication," <u>izdaja</u> "treason, betrayal," <u>izdatak</u> "expenditure," <u>izdašan</u> "abundant.") Both aspects of verbs are given (the perfective and imperfective forms appearing in that order) if the differentiation of aspect is achieved by lengthening or otherwise altering the stem; where the perfective is formed by means of a prefix, only the imperfective form is shown. (Perfective forms which lack a corresponding imperfective or are listed separately for technical reasons are denoted by an asterisk [*], while verbs which are both perfective and imperfective take a double asterisk [**]. In the case of imperfective verbs which have a durative and an iterative form, the two appear in that order and are preceded by a dagger [¹], as are those iteratives which are listed separately. Alternate forms of verbs are given in parentheses. Notes introduced by the perfective or durative verb of a perfective-imperfective or durative-iterative combination can be taken to refer to both forms unless the context indicates otherwise.) The vocabulary presented is, of course, essentially that of contemporary Russian, Polish, Czech and Serbo-Croatian; words that have wholly passed from use have been excluded, regardless of interest. At the same time, a place has been given to those archaic words and meanings which, chiefly because of their occurrence in the literary classics, continue to appear in standard dictionaries and may be presumed to be familiar to the educated native speaker of the language. Dialectal and most purely colloquial words and meanings have been omitted. Like all principles and rules, those outlined in this paragraph are subject to occasional violation. For the most part, such departures have been made in order to preserve the comparative feature of the dictionary; wherever a word in one language is listed for its intrinsic interest, its analogues in the other three languages are given as well for purposes of comparison, even though they may have no other claim to inclusion.

The root-groups are arranged in Latin alphabetical order, although the vagaries of phonetic development in the four languages make a completely consistent scheme impossible and a particular group can therefore be located most readily by referring to the index of root-forms. References in the

notes are keyed to the first Russian root-form in the given group.

Serbo-Croatian words are given in the Latin "Zagreb" orthography.

TABLE OF PREFIXES

The table indicates the various forms which the prefixes assume in the four languages together with their more readily identifiable meanings. It should be borne in mind that in many words the prefix has lost its original force or performs such purely grammatical functions as transforming nouns and adjectives into verbs, forming perfective and transitive verbs, etc.

R	P	Cz	S-C	
без, бес	bez	bez	be(z), bes	without, -less
до	do	do, dů	do	to, toward; up to; before, prior (to); ---often expresses striving; reaching, attainment; addition; completion
из(о), ис	z, s	z	i(z)(a), is	out, ex-, e-; ---sometimes expresses exhaustion, deterioration; extraction, acquisition, obtaining
на	na	na, ná	na	on, onto; to; at, near; ---often expresses accumulation, amassing
над	nad	nad	na(d), nat	over, above, super-, sur-; up to; ---often expresses superiority; (act of) exceeding, surpassing
не	nie	ne	ne	not, un-, in-; ---negative, sometimes pejorative
об(о), оби, о	ob(e), obo, o	ob(e), o, ů	ob(a), op, o	around, about; all over; ---expresses surrounding, covering; sometimes error, failure, adverse effect
от(о)	od(e), ot	od(e), ot(e)	o(d)(a), ot	off, away; back, re-; ---expresses separation; undoing; opening; rejection, refusal; negation; return; reply, response

R	P	Cz	S-C	
<u>по</u>, <u>па</u>	<u>po</u>, <u>pa</u>	<u>po</u>, <u>pů</u>, <u>pa</u>	<u>po</u>, <u>pa</u>	all over; along; after; (sometimes in S-C) back, re-; ---expresses covering; distribution; imitation; inferior quality; adverse effect; inception; limited duration
<u>под(о)</u>	<u>pod(e)</u>	<u>pod(e)</u>	<u>po(d)(a)</u>, <u>pot</u>	under, sub-; toward; ---sometimes expresses substitution or falsification
<u>пра</u>	<u>pra</u>	<u>pra</u>	<u>pra</u>	proto-, first
<u>пере</u>, <u>пре</u>*	<u>prze</u>	<u>pře</u>	<u>pre</u>, <u>prije</u>	over, across, trans-; super-, sur-; athwart; through; over, again, re-; ---often expresses transition, transfer, transformation; extreme degree, intensity; superiority; (act of) exceeding, surpassing; interruption, interference; alternation, reciprocity; error, failure
<u>пред</u>*, <u>преди</u>*	<u>przed</u>	<u>před(e)</u>	<u>pre(d)</u>, <u>prijed</u>, <u>pret</u>	before, in front; before, prior (to); fore-, pre-
<u>при</u>	<u>przy</u>	<u>při</u>, <u>pří</u>	<u>pri</u>	to, toward; at, near; ---often expresses addition, attachment; adjustment; application (to); agreement, consent; incomplete, limited action
<u>про</u>	<u>pro</u>, <u>prze</u>	<u>pro</u>, <u>prů</u>	<u>pro</u>	through; by, past; forth, forward; before, prior (to); proto-, first; for (in some prepositional compounds); ---often expresses completion; thoroughness; loss; error, failure
<u>против(о)</u>	<u>przeciw</u>	<u>proti</u>	<u>protiv(u)</u>, <u>protu</u>	against, anti-, contra-

*Of Church Slavic origin.

R	P	Cz	S-C	
paз(o)*, pac*, роз, poc	roz(e)	roz(e)	ra(z)(a), ras, raš	away, apart, in pieces; un-, dis-, di-; ---expresses separation, division; dissolution; undoing; spreading; distribution, arrangement; intensity
c(o), cy	z(e), s(e), ś, są, su	s(e), z, sou	s(a), z, su	with, together, co-, con-
c(o)	z(e), s, ś	s(e), z(e)	s	off, away; down
y, ю*	u	u, ú	u	off, away; ---sometimes expresses negation; distribution, arrangement
в(o)	w(e), wą	v(e), u, ú	u, va*	in, into
вы	wy	vy, vý		out, ex-, e-; ---sometimes expresses exhaustion, deterioration; extraction, acquisition, obtaining
вз, вс, воз*, вос*	wz, ws, wś, wsz, wez, wes	vz(e)	uz, us, vaz**, vas**	up; upon; back, again, re-; ---sometimes expresses sudden inception, emergence
за	za	za, zá	za	(in) back, behind, beyond; ---often expresses motion up to a certain point, within a certain range; halting, detaining; blocking, closing; replacement; inception; (sometimes in S-C) error, failure

*Of Church Slavic origin.
**Of Church Slavic or Russian origin.

Russian

б is sometimes lost before н
в "   "   " after б
г alternates with ж and з
  is sometimes lost before н
д alternates with ж and жд
  is normally lost before л
  " sometimes   "   "   н
з alternates with ж
  sometimes > с before т
к alternates with ч and ц
  is normally lost between с and н
с alternates with ш
  > з before д
ск alternates with щ
ст "   "   " щ
т   "   "   " ч and щ
  is normally lost between с and л
  " sometimes   "   "   р " н
х alternates with ш
ц   "   "   " ч

Polish

b is sometimes lost before n
c alternates with cz
ch   "   " sz and s
d   "   " dz " dź
  is sometimes lost between r and c
   "   "   " before ł
  > t before ch
g alternates with ż
  > k before k
k alternates with cz
  is sometimes lost between s and ł
   "   "   "   " s " n
r alternates with rz
s   "   " ś and sz
st   "   " ść, śɕ and szcz
t   "   " c and ć
  is normally lost between s (ś)
                    and ł (l)
   "   "   " between s (ś)
                    and n
w " sometimes   " after b
z alternates with ź and ż
ż is normally lost before st
zd alternates with źdz and żdż

Czech

b is sometimes lost before n
c alternates with č
d   "   " z
  is sometimes lost before l
h alternates with ž and z
ch   "   " š " s
k   "   " č " c
r   "   " ř
s   "   " š
š > ž before d
sk alternates with št
t   "   " c
v is sometimes lost after b
z alternates with ž

<u>b</u> is sometimes lost before <u>n</u>
  ⟩ <u>p</u> before <u>s</u>
<u>č</u> ⟩ <u>dž</u> " <u>b</u>
<u>ć</u> alternates with <u>št</u>
<u>d</u>   "   "   <u>ǵ</u>
  is sometimes lost between <u>r</u> and <u>c</u> or <u>č</u>
  " normally   " before <u>l</u> or <u>o</u> (⟨<u>l</u>)
  " sometimes   "   "   <u>n</u>
  ⟩ <u>t</u> before <u>k</u>
<u>g</u> alternates with <u>ž</u> and <u>z</u>
  is normally lost before <u>k</u>
  ⟩ <u>k</u> before <u>č</u> or <u>š</u>
<u>h</u> alternates with <u>š</u> and <u>s</u>
<u>k</u>   "   "   <u>č</u> " <u>c</u>
  is normally lost between <u>s</u> and <u>n</u>
<u>l</u> (when final in a word or syllable) often ⟩ <u>o</u>
<u>n</u> ⟩ <u>m</u> before <u>b</u>
<u>s</u> alternates with <u>š</u>
  ⟩ <u>z</u> before <u>b</u> or <u>d</u>
<u>sk</u> alternates with <u>št</u>
<u>t</u>   "   "   <u>ć</u> and <u>št</u>
  is normally lost between <u>s</u> and <u>l</u>
  "   "   "   "   <u>š</u> " <u>m</u>
  " sometimes   "   "   <u>r</u> " <u>n</u>
  " normally   "   "   <u>s</u> " <u>n</u>
  " sometimes   " before <u>st</u>
<u>v</u> "   "   " after <u>b</u>
<u>z</u> alternates with <u>ž</u>
  ⟩ <u>s</u> before <u>k</u> or <u>t</u>
<u>ž</u> ⟩ <u>š</u>   "   <u>k</u> " <u>t</u>