

**MEANINGS OF AKTIONSPORT (WAYS OF VERBAL ACTION): A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS****Rakhimova Sevinch Abdukhamid kizi**

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**ANNOTATION:** The article examines the semantic nature of Aktionsart (ways of verbal action) in the Russian language, focusing on how verbs encode the internal structure, dynamism, and phase organization of events. Special attention is given to the semantic types of Aktionsart, including ingressive, durative, iterative, semelfactive, cumulative, resultative, and distributive meanings. The analysis shows that Russian verbal morphology—prefixes, suffixes, and lexical patterns—functions as a cognitive mechanism for conceptualizing event boundaries, temporality, and procedurality. Examples from Russian demonstrate how Aktionsart contributes to narrative development, text coherence, and the linguistic representation of actions. The study highlights the role of Aktionsart in functional semantics and its importance for understanding Russian aspectuality.

**Keywords:** Aktionsart, verbal action, verbal semantics, Russian verb, aspectology, event structure, ingressive, iterative, semelfactive, resultativity.

**АННОТАЦИЯ.** В статье исследуется семантическая природа способов глагольного действия (акционсрта) в русском языке, а также механизмы кодирования внутренней структуры, динамики и фазовой организации событий. Особое внимание уделяется основным типам акционсрта: ингрессивному, длительному, итеративному, семельфактивному, кумулятивному, результативному и дистрибутивному значениям. Показано, что русская глагольная морфология — приставки, суффиксы и лексические модели — выступает когнитивным инструментом концептуализации границ события, временной протяжённости и процессуальности. Примеры из русского языка демонстрируют вклад способов глагольного действия в развитие повествования, текстовую связность и языковое представление действий. Исследование подчёркивает важность акционсрта для функциональной семантики и для понимания аспектуальной системы русского языка.

**Ключевые слова:** акционсрт, способы глагольного действия, глагольная семантика, русский глагол, аспектология, структура события, ингрессивность, итеративность, семельфактивность, результативность.

The semantic structure of the verb in modern languages, including Russian, represents a multilayered system in which temporal, aspectual, and modal nuances closely interact. Within this system, the category traditionally termed Aktionsart or “ways of verbal action” occupies a central position. Aktionsart refers to the lexical-semantic patterns through which a verb conveys the nature of an action’s development, its boundaries, internal phases, and its dynamism. Unlike

grammatical aspect, which expresses general temporal structure, Aktionsart focuses on the *qualitative configuration* of the event.

The study of Aktionsart, commonly translated as “ways of verbal action,” occupies a central position in aspectology and general linguistic theory. Although the term originates from German linguistics, its conceptual foundations are deeply rooted in the analysis of Slavic verbal systems, particularly Russian. The theoretical distinction between grammatical aspect and Aktionsart provides the main conceptual framework for understanding various approaches to event structure. Aspect, as traditionally defined, expresses the general temporal contour of an action, whereas Aktionsart captures the qualitative characteristics of how an event unfolds. This differentiation was emphasized by scholars such as V. V. Vinogradov, A. V. Bondarko, and J. Forsyth, who argued that Aktionsart represents a lexico-semantic category rather than a purely grammatical one.

From a typological perspective, Aktionsart corresponds to what is known in Western linguistic tradition as “lexical aspect” or “inner aspect.” Scholars including Bernard Comrie, Robert Binnick, and Carlota Smith have shown that verbs across languages encode inherent temporal properties such as punctuality, duration, telicity, and dynamism. These properties influence the ways in which events are interpreted in context, regardless of their grammatical marking. In Russian, these lexical semantic patterns are reinforced by rich derivational morphology, particularly through prefixation and suffixation. This morphological productivity allows Russian to distinguish finely between the beginning, continuation, repetition, completion, or intensity of verbal actions.

Functional grammar approaches, especially those represented by Bondarko’s theory of functional-semantic categories, conceptualize Aktionsart not as a closed list of verb types but as a continuum of semantic oppositions. In this framework, ingressive, durative, iterative, semelfactive, cumulative, and resultative meanings are not simply categories but functional zones within a larger semantic field of aspectuality. Each Aktionsart meaning interacts with grammatical aspect, tense, and modality, resulting in a multidimensional semantic structure. For example, the ingressive prefix *за-* or the semelfactive suffix *-нуть* are viewed not just as morphological resources but as operators that reorganize the cognitive representation of an event.

Cognitive linguistic theories add another dimension to the theoretical background by treating Aktionsart as part of conceptual event construal. From this perspective, verbal morphology encodes how speakers mentally structure dynamic situations. Processes such as segmentation, boundary-setting, iteration, and accumulation reflect universal cognitive mechanisms. Russian verbal derivation, therefore, is not merely formal but conceptual in nature: it provides speakers with tools to highlight specific phases of an event or to reshape its internal temporal profile.

The generative tradition also contributes to the theoretical understanding of Aktionsart. Within lexical semantics, researchers argue that event structure is represented in the verb’s lexical meaning through features such as [+telic], [+dynamic], [+punctual], or [+durative]. These features determine how verbs combine with temporal adverbials, aspectual morphology, and syntactic structures. For Russian, this interaction explains why certain prefixes systematically alter the event type: for instance, *но-* can create delimitative meanings, while *раз-* often contributes distributive or dispersive semantics.

Finally, the theoretical framework is supported by cross-linguistic evidence, which demonstrates that Aktionsart-like distinctions are found in many languages, though expressed through different morphosyntactic means. Slavic languages, with their rich system of prefixes, provide some of the clearest and most systematic manifestations of Aktionsart. However, parallels exist in languages such as Finnish, Hungarian, and even English, where lexical verb classes (states, activities, accomplishments, achievements) serve similar semantic functions. These cross-linguistic insights highlight that Aktionsart reflects universal cognitive principles but is shaped by the morphological resources of each language.

In Russian linguistics, the study of Aktionsart has a long tradition, and its classification reveals important insights into how speakers conceptualize events. The verbal semantics of Russian allows rich morphological and lexical mechanisms for marking the onset, duration, repetition, or completion of an action. The following analysis provides an overview of the major types of Aktionsart and illustrates how semantic nuances function in authentic usage.

One of the most widely recognized types is ingressive Aktionsart, denoting the beginning phase of an action. Verbs with prefixes such as *за-*, *по-* often express the transition from a non-action state to the onset of activity. For instance: «Он заплакал» conveys not the entire process of crying, but precisely its beginning. The semantics here highlights the shift into action, indicating a dynamic threshold.

A second major type is durative Aktionsart, which describes the prolonged or continuous unfolding of an activity. This type focuses on the internal temporal extension of the event. In Russian, suffixation or lexical choice may reinforce the idea of sustained action. For example: «Она сидела и улыбалась» emphasizes the steady, uninterrupted nature of the situation. The verb denotes not momentariness but the continuity of a state or action.

Iterative Aktionsart represents repeated, cyclic, or habitual actions. Russian uses lexical markers, prefixation (*пере-*, *по-*), and contextual cues to show recurrence. A typical example is: «Он постукивал пальцами по столу». The verb communicates not a single act of tapping but a series of repeated small actions, giving the event a rhythmic profile. Iterativity often serves important discourse functions, such as backgrounding or characterizing behavior.

Another significant subtype is semelfactive Aktionsart, referring to a single, instantaneous event with no internal duration. In Russian, the suffix *-нуть* frequently performs this role. For instance: «Он кивнул» expresses one quick, indivisible motion. Semelfactives contribute to narrative dynamism by highlighting discrete micro-events that advance the storyline.

### Comparative Table of Major Types of Aktionsart

Type of Aktionsart	Semantic Description	Main Function in the Verb	Typical Russian Example	Interpretation
Ingressive	Marks the beginning or onset of an action	Introduces transition from non-action to action	Он заплакал.	He began to cry (focus on the starting moment).

<b>Durative</b>	Indicates prolonged, continuous action	Highlights the internal duration or ongoing nature of an event	<i>Она сидела и улыбалась.</i>	She was sitting and smiling (continuous state).
<b>Iterative</b>	Represents repeated, habitual, or cyclic action	Adds rhythmic repetition or habituality	<i>Он постукивал пальцами по столу.</i>	He kept tapping his fingers (series of repeated actions).
<b>Semelfactive</b>	Expresses a single, instantaneous action without duration	Emphasizes one quick, indivisible event	<i>Он кивнул.</i>	He nodded once (momentary action).
<b>Cumulative</b>	Denotes actions accumulated into a result via multiple small acts	Shows repeated acts forming a collective outcome	<i>Она нарвала цветов.</i>	She picked flowers (many acts → one result).
<b>Resultative</b>	Indicates an achieved final state or completed result	Marks endpoint and change of state	<i>Он выучил урок.</i>	He learned the lesson (result emphasized).
<b>Distributive</b>	Shows an action applied separately to multiple objects or persons	Segments the event across different entities	<i>Он поцеловал детей.</i>	He kissed the children (each child individually).
<b>Attenuative/Delimitative</b>	Expresses action performed “a little”, “for a short while”	Focuses on temporal limitation of an action	<i>Он посидел у окна.</i>	He sat by the window for a short time.
<b>Intensive</b>	Shows a highly forceful, strong, or intensified action	Increases the energetic profile of the event	<i>Он закричал.</i>	He cried out loudly / suddenly (intensified onset).

<b>Progressive-Processual</b>	Emphasizes the unfolding process itself	Highlights progression without beginning or end	<i>Ветер дул весь день.</i>	The wind was blowing all day (ongoing process).
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Cumulative Aktionsart encompasses actions that accumulate into a result through repeated small efforts. Although each individual act may be semelfactive, the resulting meaning is collective. A clear illustration is: «*Она нарвала цветов*». The semantics implies multiple acts of picking, interpreted together as a single outcome.

Another important category is resultative Aktionsart, which profiles the final state achieved through the action. Russian perfective verbs often encode this meaning. For example: «*Он выучил урок*» presents the action as completed with an attained result. In contrast to process-focused Aktionsart types, resultative verbs highlight endpoint and achievement.

Distributive Aktionsart indicates that an action is applied to multiple objects or subjects separately. In Russian, this meaning may be created through prefixes such as *по-* or contextual cues. For example: «*Он поцеловал детей*» means that he kissed each child individually, not collectively, showing the segmentation of the event across multiple participants.

From a theoretical perspective, the study of Aktionsart also intersects with cognitive linguistics. The ways of verbal action serve as cognitive templates through which speakers mentally structure the experience of time and event development. Prefixes and suffixes, often treated merely as grammatical devices, are in fact semantic operators that reorganize the conceptualization of actions. Russian verbal morphology therefore functions not only as a form-building mechanism but as a system for encoding event construals.

Furthermore, Aktionsart plays an important role in text coherence and narrative structure. Ingressive verbs introduce new phases, iterative verbs fill in background actions, semelfactive verbs punctuate the narrative rhythm, while resultative verbs advance the storyline by marking transitions to new states. Through these patterns, a text achieves temporal layering and expressive depth.

In conclusion, Aktionsart represents a key component of verbal semantics in Russian, shaping how actions are conceptualized, structured, and expressed. Its study reveals the richness of the Russian aspectual system and shows how speakers linguistically encode event dynamics, internal phases, boundaries, and results. The interaction of prefixes, suffixes, and lexical choices forms a complex semantic network that reflects the cognitive organization of human experience. The continued examination of Aktionsart contributes significantly to theoretical linguistics, especially in areas of aspectology, cognitive semantics, and text analysis.

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