

A Study of the Russian Verbs of Motion

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Abstract

This paper studies verbs of motion in Russian Language. Differences of the usages in different Russian verbs of motion are described. This study also analyses the way, in which the Russian verbs of motion are evolved by adding prefixes to the existing verbs, with the example sentences. As the study focuses on the most commonly used Russian verbs of motion, it can be beneficial for the Myanmar learners of Russian language.

Keywords: Russian, grammar and verbs of motion

Introduction

Many languages are used all over the world. Each language has its own grammar system. There is no language without grammar rules. People use languages to communicate with one another. Therefore, languages are essential in communication. Then it becomes important for the people to understand the grammar system of a language. Every grammar has rules. Grammar plays an important role to make a sentence. In Russian grammar, the verbs of motion play an important role and it is necessary to understand the usage of verbs of motion to be able to use Russian language communicatively.

Aim

The aim of this research paper is to present the verbs of motion in Russian Language in order to support the Russian language learners to be able to use Russian language effectively.

Research Method

Data were collected from Russian dictionaries and the Grammar text books such as "RUSSIAN in EXERCISES", "Very Simple Russian for Beginners", "All Purposes Russian for Adults", "A Practical Grammar with Exercise", "Russian for Beginners", "Conjugation of Russian verbs", "Грамматика Русского Языка в Упражнениях и Комментариях". In this study, the Russian verbs of motions are presented in comparison with English equivalents of the same types by using a descriptive survey method.

Research Questions

- (1) What are the most commonly used verbs of motion in Russian language?
- (2) What are the usages of these Russian verbs of motion?
- (3) How is the understanding of the usage of Russian verbs of motion necessary in learning Russian language?

Literature Review

The verbs of motion in Russian language include verbs used to describe "going on foot" and "going by a type of vehicle", and their use in the context is different based on the tenses such as present, past and future. When prefixes are added to the beginning of the verbs of motion, their meaning becomes varied. (Pulkina, 1999) In Mandalay University of Foreign Languages, there were Master Degree Theses and Bachelor Degree Final Year Projects in Russian Language.

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These papers are about sentence construction, conjunction, adjectives and other grammatical issues. However, this research paper is different from these papers, as this paper studies about verbs of motion.

Verbs of Motion

Grammar plays an important role in every language. The verb is very important in the construction of the sentence. Among Russian verbs of motion, there is a small class of verbs which have certain peculiarities in their use. These verbs characterize the same movement in different ways. The same motion may be expressed by two imperfective verbs formed from different stems.

1. Unidirectional verbs and Multidirectional verbs

Verbs of motion can be classified as follows:

(A) Unidirectional verbs

(B) Multidirectional verbs

(A) Unidirectional verbs

Unidirectional Verbs denote a movement in a single definite direction. They are called verbs of definite motion.

Some commonly used unidirectional verbs in Russian language are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1. идти | - to go (on foot) |
| 2. ехать | - to go (by a vehicle) |
| 3. вести | - to lead |
| 4. нести | - to carry (in the hand) |
| 5. лететь | - to fly |
| 6. бежать | - to run |
| 7. плыть | - to swim, to sail |
| 8. везти | - to carry (by a vehicle) |

Examples:

- Утром студенты **идут** в университет.

In the morning students **go** to university.

- Осенью птицы **летят** на юг.

In autumn the birds **fly** to the south.

- Дети **бегут** сюда.

The children **are running** here.

(B) Multidirectional verbs

Multidirectional verbs denote a movement not in a single definite direction, but in many different directions (possibly at intervals). They are called verbs of indefinite motion.

Verbs of indefinite motion may denote a movement in two directions – there and back.

They are also used in the past tense to denote a movement there and back which occurred only once. They are used to describe action in general, or capacity for action.

Some commonly used multidirectional verbs in Russian language are as follows:

1. ходить - to go (on foot)
2. ездить - to go (by transport)
3. водить - to lead
4. носить - to carry (in the hand)
5. летать - to fly
6. бегать - to run
7. плавать - to swim, to sail
8. возить - to carry (in a vehicle)

Examples:

- Дети целый день **бегают** во дворе.

The children **are running** about in the yard the whole day.

- Птицы **летают**, кружиться над озером.

The birds **are flying**, circling over the lake.

- Летом мы каждый день **бегаем** на речку купаться.

In summer we **run** to the river to bathe every day.

- Сегодня я **ходил** в библиотеку.

Today I **went** to the library.

- Он хорошо **плавает**.

He **swims** well.

2. Imperfective Verbs from Verbs of Motion

This class of verbs of motion also includes the following imperfective verbs:

Group I	Group II
брести	бродить - to roam
лезть	лазить - to climb
гнать	гонять - to drive
тащить	таскать - to drag
ползти	ползать - to crawl

The verb of indefinite motion бродить to roam differs from other verbs of motion in that it cannot denote a movement there and back; it denotes an action without any specific direction:

Example :

- Мы долго **бродили** по лесу.

We **roamed** the wood for a long time.

3. Verb "to go (on Foot)"

"To go" has two types: to go (on foot) and to go (by a vehicle).

Verb "to go (on Foot)" -

1. идти
2. ходить
3. пойти

3.1. идти – to go (on foot)

(a) The following conjugations are used in the Present Tense.

я (I)	иду
ты (you)	идёшь
он/она (he/she)	идёт
мы (we)	идём
вы (you)	идёте
они (they)	идут

(b) These verbs are usually used in the Past Tense. It is suggested that two actions have been done simultaneously.

I	He	You(singular)	шёл
I	She	You(singular)	шла
We	They	You(plural)	шли

Examples:

- Когда я **шёл** в кино, я встретила своего друга.

When I **went** to the cinema, I met my friend.

3. 2. ходить –to go (on foot)

(a) These conjugations are used in the Present Tense in the five situations: usually, always, sometimes, every and often.

я (I)	хожу
ты (you)	ходишь
он/она (he/she)	ходит
мы (we)	ходим
вы (you)	ходите
они (they)	ходят

Examples:

- Каждый день я **хожу** в университет.

Everyday I **go** to the university.

- Я часто **хожу** на почту.

I often **go** to the post office.

- Он обычно **ходит** в буфет.

He usually **goes** to the buffet.

- Она всегда **ходит** в библиотеку.

She always **goes** to the library.

- Мы иногда **ходим** в театр.

We sometimes **go** to the theater.

(b) The following verb forms are used in a circumstance when the action has been done.

I	He	You(singular)	ходил
I	She	You(singular)	ходила
We	They	You(plural)	ходили

Examples:

- Вчера я **ходил** в университет.

Yesterday I **went** to the university.

- Вчера она **ходила** в университет.

Yesterday she **went** to the university.

- В воскресенье мы **ходили** в магазин.

On Sunday we **went** to the store.

3.3. пойти –to go (on foot)

(a) пойти - to go - These conjugations are used in the Future Tense.

я (I)	пойду
ты (you)	пойдёшь
он/она (he/she)	пойдёт
мы (we)	пойдём
вы (you)	пойдёте
они (they)	пойдут

Examples:

- Завтра я **пойду** в театр.

Tomorrow I **will go** and see movie.

(b) These verbs are used in past tense when two actions have been done or happened one after another.

I	He	You(singular)	пошёл
I	She	You(singular)	пошла
We	They	You(plural)	пошли

Examples:

- После завтрака он **пошёл** в библиотеку.
After having breakfast, he **went** to the library.
- Когда она написала её матери, **пошла** к подруге.
After she had written a letter to her mother, she **went** to her friend.
- После экзамена они **пошли** в кино.
After sitting for the exam, they **went** to the cinema.

4. Verb to go (by vehicle)

- Verb to go (by vehicle)-
1. ехать
 2. ездить
 3. поехать

4.1. ехать – to go (by vehicle)

(a) These conjugations are used in the Present Tense.

я (I)	еду
ты (you)	едешь
он/она (he/she)	едет
мы (we)	едем
вы (you)	едете
они (they)	едут

Examples:

- Мы **едем** на завод.

We **are going** to the factory.

(b) ехать – to go -These verbs are usually used in the Past Tense. They are used in past tense when two actions have been done simultaneously.

I	He	You(singular)	ехал
I	She	You(singular)	ехала
We	They	You(plural)	ехали

Examples:

- Я **ехал** в кино в воскресенье, а он **ехал** в театр.

I **was driving** to a movie on Sunday, and he **was driving** to a theater.

- Когда она **ехала** на почту, **шёл** дождь.

When she **went** to the post office, it **was** raining.

- Когда мы **ехали** в университет, но они **ехали** в парк.

When we **went** to the university, they **went** to the park.

4.2 ездить – to go (by vehicle)

(a) These conjugations are used in the Present Tense in the five situations:
usually, always, sometimes, every and often.

я (I)	езжу
ты (you)	ездишь
он/она (he/she)	ездит
мы (we)	ездим
вы (you)	ездите
они (they)	ездят

Examples:

- Каждое утро я **езжу** в школу.

Every morning I **go** to the school.

- Ты часто **ездишь** в магазин.

You often **go** to the store.

- Он обычно **ездит** в город.

He usually **goes** to town.

- Мы всегда **ездим** на почту.

We always **go** to the post office.

- Они иногда **ездят** в сад.

They sometimes **go** to the garden.

(b) The following verbs are used to talk about a circumstance, which has been done or happened already.

I	He	You(singular)	ездил
I	She	You(singular)	ездила
We	They	You(plural)	ездили

Examples:

- В прошлом месяце он **ездил** в Лондон.

Last month he **travelled** to London.

- В воскресенье она **ездила** в деревню.

On Sunday she **went** to the village.

- Вы ездили туда на автобусе.

You went there by bus.

4.2 поехать – to go (by transport)

(a) пойти - to go - These conjugations are used in the Future Tense.

я (I)	поед <u>у</u>
ты (you)	поед <u>ешь</u>
он/она (he/she)	поед <u>ет</u>
мы (we)	поед <u>ем</u>
вы (you)	поед <u>ете</u>
они (they)	поед <u>ут</u>

Examples:

– Завтра мы поедем на стадион.

Tomorrow we will go to the stadium.

(b) поехать – These verbs are used in past tense when two actions have been done or happened one after another.

I	He	You (singular)	поехал
I	She	You (singular)	поехала
We	They	You (plural)	поехали

Examples:

- Летом после экскурсии я поехал в деревню.

In the summer, after going on the excursion, I went to the village.

- Когда она сдала экзамены, поехала жить у родителей на родину.

After she had passed the exam, she went home to live with her parents.

- В прошлом месяце они вернулись из Парижа, а потом поехали на родину.

Last month, they returned from Paris, and went home back.

5. Difference between (идти) and (ходить)

5.1 Verbs of Motion with Prefixes Imparting the Meaning of the Beginning or End of Action or Limitation of Action in Time

No	Imperfective Verbs	Prefix	Perfective Verbs	Imperfective Verbs	
1	идти -to go ходить-to go	вы	выйти	выходить	to go out
2	идти -to go ходить-to go	у	Уйти	Уходить	To go away

No	Imperfective Verbs	Prefix	Perfective Verbs	Imperfective Verbs	
3	идти -to go ходить-to go	при	Прийти	Приходить	To come
4	идти -to go ходить-to go	Пере	Перейти	Переходить	To cross
5	идти -to go ходить-to go	За	Зайти	Заходить	To call
6	идти -to go ходить-to go	Во	Войти	Входить	To go into
7	идти -to go ходить-to go	Со	Сойти	Сходить	To come down from
8	идти -to go ходить-to go	Вз(вс)	Взойти	Всходить	To go up
9	идти -to go ходить-to go	Подо	Подойти	Подходить	To approching)
10	идти -to go ходить-to go	Раз	Разойтись	Расходиться	To go (from one point to different directions)
11	идти -to go ходить-to go	От (ото)	Отойти	Отходить	To step aside from (to depart)
12	идти -to go ходить-to go	со	Сойтись	Соходиться	To come (from different directions to one point)
13	идти -to go ходить-to go	До	Дойти	Доходить	To reach(up to a definite place)
14	идти -to go ходить-to go	Про	Пройти	Проходить	To go past / through / over a definite distance
15	идти -to go ходить-to go	обо	Обойти	Обходить	To go round
16	идти -to go ходить-to go	по	Пойти	Походить	To start going

6. Prefixes of Verbs of motion

When a prefix denoting direction is added to the verb of definitive motion, the new word becomes perfective. Aspect pairs are formed by adding prefixes to verbs of definite and indefinite motion.

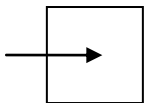
No	Imperfective Verbs	Prefix	Perfective Verbs	Imperfective Verbs	Meaning
1.	Бежать – to run Бегать - to run	Вы У При Пере За	Выбежать Убежать Прибежать Перебежать Забежать	Выбегать Убегать Прибегать Перебегать Забегать	To run out To run away To come running To cross


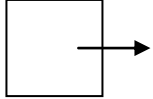
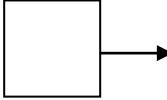

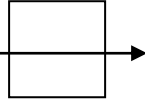
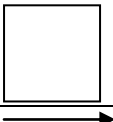
No	Imperfective Verbs	Prefix	Perfective Verbs	Imperfective Verbs	Meaning
					running To drop in
2.	Лететь – to fly Летать – to fly	Вы У При Пере За	Вылететь Улететь Прилететь Перелететь Залететь	Вылетать Улетать Прилетать Перелетать Залетать	To fly out To fly away To come flying To cross flying To fly in
3.	Ехать – to go Ездить- to go	Вы У При Пере За	Выехать Уехать Приехать Переехать Заехать	Выезжать Уезжать Приезжать Переезжать Заезжать	To go out To go away To come To cross To call on
4.	Плыть –to swim Плавать-to swim	Вы У При Пере За	Выплыть Уплыть Приплыть Переплыть заплыть	Выплывать Уплывать Приплывать Переплывать Заплывать	To swim out To swim away To come swimming To swim across
5.	Ползти – to crawl Ползть – to crawl	Вы У При С За	Выползти Уползти Приползти Сползти Заползти	Выползть Уползть Приползть Сползть Заползть	To crawl out To crawl away To come crawling To crawl down To crawl in
6.	Везти- to carry (by a vehicle) возить-to carry (by a vehicle)	Вы У При С За	Вывезти Увезти Привезти Свезти Завезти	Вывозить Увозить Привозить Свозить Завозить	To carry out To carry away To bring To carry

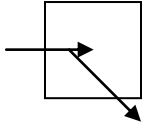
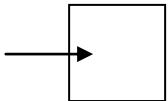
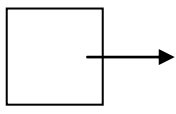
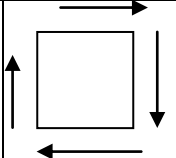
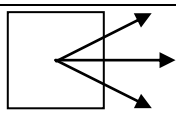
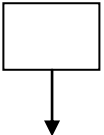
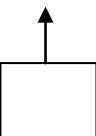
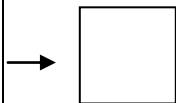
No	Imperfective Verbs	Prefix	Perfective Verbs	Imperfective Verbs	Meaning
					down To bring
7.	Вести - to lead Водить-to lead	Вы У При С За	Вывести Увести Привести Свести Завести	Выводить Уводить Приводить Сводить Заводить	To take out To take away To bring To lead down To lead (to some remote place)
8.	Нести- to carry in the hands Носить - to carry in the hands	Вы У При С За	Вынести Унести Принести Снести Занести	Выносить Уносить Приносить Сносить Заносить	To carry out To carry away To bring To carry down To bring
9.	Гнать-to drive Гонять-to drive	Вы У При С За	Выгнать Угнать Пригнать Согнать Загнать	Выгонять Угонять Пригонять Сгонять Загонять	To drive out To drive away To bring To drive off To drive in

7. The Use of verbs of motion with prefixes in sample sentences

To make the meaning clearer, Антонова (2006) explained the use of verbs of motion with prefixes by using pictures. In the following sample sentences, these pictures are used for clear interpretation.

No	Prefixes	Verbs	Sentences	
1.	При-	Идти-to go Ехать-to go	Он пришёл в институт. He came to the university. Он приехал в Москву. He came to	

No	Prefixes	Verbs	Sentences	
			Moscow.	
2.	Под- (подо)-	Идти- to go Бегать-to run	Он подошёл к товарищу. He approached his friend. Он подбежал к окну. He ran to the window.	
3.	У-	Идти- to go Ехать-to go away	Он ушёл из университета. He left the university. Он уехал от товарища. He left his comrade.	
4.	От-	Идти- to go Плывать- To swim away	Он отошёл от товарища. He was away from his companion. Он отплавал от берега. He sailed away from shore.	
5.	До-	Идти- to go Бегать-to run	Он дошёл до университета. He used to go to the university. Он добежал до реки. He reached the river.	
6.	Пере-	идти -to go ходить-to go	Он перешёл через дорогу. He crossed the road. Он переходил с первого курса на второй. He passed from the first year to the second.	
7.	Про-	Идти- to go Ехать-to go away	Он прошёл мимо дома. He walked past	

No	Prefixes	Verbs	Sentences	
			the house. Он проехал мимо станции. He drove past the station.	
8.	За-	идти -to go ходить-to go	Он зашёл в магазин по дороге домой. He went to the store on his way home.	
9.	В-(во-)	идти -to go ходить-to go	Он вошёл в дом. He entered the house.	
10.	Вы	идти -to go ходить-to go	Она вышла из дома. She left the house.	
11.	О- Об- Обо-	идти -to go ходить-to go	Она обошла вокруг дома. She walked around the house.	
12.	Раз- Рас- (разо-)	идти -to go ходить-to go	Она разошла по домам . She went home.	
13.	С- (со-)	идти -to go ходить-to go	Она сошла со второго этажа. She got off the second floor.	
14.	Вз- Вс- Взо-	идти -to go ходить-to go	Она взошла на второй этаж. She went to the second floor.	
15.	По-	идти -to go ходить-to go	Я встал, оделся, позавтракал и пошёл на работу. I got up, got dressed, ate breakfast and went to work.	

Findings

Many Russian language learners find it difficult to understand the Russian verbs of motion because of its complicated nature. In this research, three most

common verbs of motions which are usually used to talk about going on foot; and another three verbs of motions used to talk about by a type of transportation are categorized separately with examples. The learner's understanding of the usage of Russian verbs of motion can help them construct grammatically correct sentences in Russian language. To provide understanding more effectively to the learners with more comprehensive explanation, the Russian verbs of motions are described in comparison with English verbs.

Discussion

With well-organized explanation, the learners of Russian language are able to gain an insight to the understanding of Russian verbs of motion in an easier and effective way. Consequently, the learners will be able to construct grammatically correct sentences when they express about motion and movement in Russian language. Therefore, Russian language teachers should prepare lesson plans for Russian verbs of motions very well and create as much exercises on these verbs as they can, so that the learners can communicate effectively in Russian language.

Conclusion

In this research, it is found out that there are many variations of verbs of motion, and they have different usages. There are past, present and future tenses. If these phrases and various sentences are understood correctly, it is easier for the learners to use the language. According to the findings of the present study, it can be concluded that learners can understand the sentence constructions in Russian language very well if they know the variations in the usages of verbs of motion in Russian.

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