

This paper examines the formal and semantic properties of the Russian verbal stems which I term **dual simplexes** and **dual perfectives**. Dual simplex stems are two non-prefixed stems in which the root is the same, but the suffixes differ; e.g. **хвати-/хватай-**. Dual perfective stems are two prefixed stems in which both the prefix and root are the same, but the suffixes differ, e.g. **захвати-/захватай-**; they are often the derivational result of prefixing dual simplexes. By definition, dual perfectives always share the same imperfective (e.g. **захватывай-**), insofar as an imperfective exists for the given verb. One might unite both of these categories with a label such as **dual verb stems**. Such verbs are rather few in Russian, numbering approximately thirteen root families, with a variety of prefixes.

Dual verb stems resemble the so-called **verbs of motion** in certain formal ways. For example, the motion verb simplex pair **кати-/катай-** resembles the non-motion simplex pair **хвати-/хватай-**; likewise, the motion verb dual perfective pair **скати-/скатай-** resembles the non-motion dual perfective pair **захвати-/захватай-**; and the motion verb shared imperfective **скатывай-** recalls the shared non-motion shared imperfective **захватывай-**. They have formal similarities, but it is more difficult to establish to what extent the semantic opposition “monodirectional vs. polydirectional” reproduced in the non-motion set.

Several such root families of dual verb stems will be examined with respect to the question of whether common semantic properties can be established for this formal class. Furthermore, the paper will consider the validity of establishing such a formal class purely on the basis of aspectual relations and opposing meanings, without necessarily identifying the specific meanings common to verb stems which only differ in their use of the **-и-** and **-ай-** suffixes.