

SERBIAN VERBAL PREFIXES *DO-*, *ZA-*, *IZ-* AND THEIR ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

Jovana Vujić¹

Abstract

This paper deals with Serbian verbal prefixes do-, za-, iz- and their English equivalents. The paper starts with the assumption that the most examples will be with prefix iz- since it is one of the most common verbal prefixes and very productive, and that there will be more examples with metaphorical than with the basic meaning, as well as that it is expected that the verbs will be translated into English as verbs, phrases or descriptively. The aim of this research is to use the methods of analysis and comparison in order to establish the correlation between verbal prefixes in both languages. The results show that most of the analyzed verbs are with prefix za-, that each verbal prefix has more metaphorical than basic meaning, and that the translations are diverse.

Key words: verbal prefixes, aspect, type of verb situation, Serbian language, English language

¹ Jovana Vujić, MA, Foreign language teacher, "Bijeljina" University, Pavlović road bb, 76300 Bijeljina, Republic of Srpska, BIH, +387 65 843 030, e-mail: jovana.vujic.ubn@gmail.com

СРПСКИ ГЛАГОЛСКИ ПРЕФИКСИ DO-, ZA-, IZ- И ЊИХОВИ ЕНГЛЕСКИ ЕКВИВАЛЕНТИ

Јована Вујић¹

Апстракт

Овај рад истражује српске глаголске префиксе do-, za-, iz- и њихове енглеске еквиваленте. У раду се полази од претпоставки да ће бити највише примера са префиксом iz- јер је он један од најзаступљенијих глаголских префикса и веома је продуктиван, те да ће бити више примера са пренесеним него са основним значењем, као и да се очекује да ће глаголи бити преведени на енглески језик као глаголи, фразе или пак описно. Циљ овог истраживања је да се над узетим примерима изврше методе анализе и компарације како би се успоставила корелација између глаголских префикса у оба језика. Резултати показују да је пронађено највише глагола са префиксом za-, да сваки глаголски префикс има више пренесених него основних значења, као и да су преводи разнолики.

Кључне речи: глаголски префикси, глаголски вид, тип глаголске ситуације, српски језик, енглески језик

¹ Јована Вујић, МА, Предавач страног језика, Универзитет „Бијељина“, Павловића пут 66, 76300 Бијељина, Република Српска, БиХ, Тел: +387 65 843 030, E-mail: jovana.vujic.ubn@gmail.com

Introduction

This paper deals with Serbian verbal prefixes *do-*, *za-*, *iz-* and their English equivalents. The first part of the paper is theoretical and it includes a chronological review of the literature on the process of prefixation and its significance, both in Serbian and English. The aspect and the type of verb situation are also mentioned. The second part of the paper includes an overview of the results obtained after the research.

Prefixation in Serbo-Croatian literature

The formation is the process of creating a word that is very productive in Serbian, it is a branch of lexicology which deals with the study of the principles on which new words are formed in a language. There are two processes of word formation, primary and secondary, and one of the subtypes of the primary word formation is prefixation. Stevanović (1986: 434), in his monograph Contemporary Serbo-Croatian language I, emphasizes that the prefixes are those parts of compounds that look like prepositions which combined with the other part of the compound become prefixes. Also, it is considered that the most numerous words with prefixes are actually verbs. Adding prefixes to the verb changes its aspect in most of the cases.

Furthermore, Klajn points out that the change that prefixes make to the verbs is known as perfectivization, and therefore the perfective verbs remain perfective even though they are added to the prefix as in the case of *dati - izdati*, as well as transitivity in which one verb can go from an intransitive to transitive as in these cases, *živeti - doživeti*, *misliti - zamisliti*, *leći - izleći*, *ćutati - oćutati*, *plivati - preplivati*, *plakati - rasplakati*, *brinuti - zbrinuti*. There are also examples where the verbs remain imperfective regardless of prefixation. Such examples are: *leteti - doleteti*, *lutati - zalutati*, *stradati - nastradati*, *sumnjati - posumnjati* etc. (Klajn 2002: 241, 242).

Prefixation in English literature

Many linguists wrote about the process of prefixation, saying that this is a very productive process. In his work Introducing linguistic morphology, L. Bauer points out that the most common way of forming new words in languages is by adding affixes to stems, and more often adding suffixes than prefixes. According to him, prefixes can be derivational and inflectional (Bauer, 1988: 19-21). He further states that the most general rule that can be applied to prefixes is that they do not carry the primary accent, nor can they affect the accent of new words created by the process of prefixation. He also points out that there is a disagreement in the literature on what is precisely considered to be a prefix. Such examples are *confer*, *defer*, *infer*, *refer*, *admit*, *commit*, *remit*, *submit* which some authors consider as verbs with prefixes while others think it is a bound root (Bauer 1983: 123).

Quirk et al. distinguish four types of word formation in A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language, and one of them is prefixation. It is defined as adding the prefix to stem of the word, usually without changing the part of speech, although in some cases, it is also possible. Quirk et al. identify sixteen most common prefixes in English:

co-, counter-, de-, dis-, fore-, inter-, mal-, mis-, non-, out-, over-, re-, sub-, trans-, un-, under- that are further divided into ten groups (Quirk et al., 1985: 981-992).

Prefix *do-*

The prefixes that are studied in this paper are *do-*, *za-* and *iz-*. The prefix *do-* is one of the most productive prefixes in the process of the verb formation and has various meanings. According to Klajn, its basic meaning is a spatial meaning that coincides with the spatial meaning of the preposition *do* (Klajn 2002: 250).

The prefix *do-* can occur in intransitive verbs such as *doći, dotrčati, dojuriti, dosp(j)eti*, or as a supplement to the verbs, *dolepršati, doklatiti se, dotandrkatiti*, which do not mean movement from place to place. The next meaning of the verbal prefix *do-* is time meaning which refers to the duration until a certain moment. Examples of this meaning are the verbs *doživ(j)eti, dorasti, dotrajati, dočekati*. Verbs *dodirnuti, dotaći, dostići, dosegnuti, dohvatiti, dograbiti* mark the physical contact that has a specific action for the target. The following meaning of the verbal prefix *do-* relates to intransitive verbs with dative that involve the creation of a relationship with someone or something. This meaning occurs in verbs such as *doviknuti, došapnuti, dojaviti, dostaviti, doturiti, dopremiti, dod(ij)eliti, doznačiti, dosuditi* etc. (Klajn 2002: 250). A complete meaning that involves the completion of the action to the end is also significant. Therefore, in his book, Klajn states the following examples that support this meaning: *dovršiti, dokrajčiti, doraditi, doslužiti, doškolovati, doreći, dotući*. This complete meaning of the prefix *do-* has its subtype, which includes the verbs that signify the extension of the action, not necessarily their completion. It appears in the verbs *dodati, dometnuti, dopuniti, doliti, dosuti, doplatiti, dopisati, dozidati, dograditi, dosoliti, dokuvati, dopeći, doštampati* etc. However, there are also examples that can have both meanings, as is the case with the verb *dopeći* which meaning can be interpreted in two ways, as baking to the end or baking just a little bit more.

Prefix *za-*

As Klajn writes, this prefix is one of the semantically most complex and indeterminate, with no prototypical meaning, with many nuances which can be interpreted and classified differently (Klajn, 2002: 251).

The first meaning is spatial meaning of the preposition *za* that occurs in the following: verbs *zaći, zamaći, zabaciti, zaturiti, zataći, zavući, zaviriti* and so on. The second meaning of this prefix is fencing, embracing, placing a shield or wrap around an object. It appears in the verbs *zagradići, zakloniti, zakriliti, zaštititi, zagrliti* (Klajn, 2002: 252).

The third group of verbs has the significance of the putting something aside, i.e. in an undesirable direction. This meaning occurs in the verb *zaturiti*. There is another group of verbs that denote the unwillingness, but only in terms of time specially because of the longer duration of the action: *zas(j)esti, zaležati se, zaraditi se, zagor(j)eti, zapiti se, zaigrati se, zamisliti se, zabrojati se* (Klajn, 2002: 252). The fourth group of verbs consists of verbs in which the prefix *za-* represents the mark for the beginning of the action, i.e. it has an ingressive meaning. The verbs that are included in this group are *začeti, započeti, zaigrati, zakoračiti, zaplivati, zamahnuti, zatresti, zaorati, zavrt(j)eti,*

zaželeti, zažaliti, zasuziti, zaboleti, zamirisati, zasmrd(j)eti, zasvetleti, zasijati, zaspati, zadr(ij)emati, zagalamiti, etc. There are two subtypes in this division. The first includes verbs with the meaning of the beginning of the action, which at the same time signify a long-term change in the state. These verbs are *zakišiti, zasnežiti, zahladiti, zavoleti, zastar(j)eti, zavladatai, zamrzeti, zavoleti, zaljubiti se, zainteresovati se, zabrinuti se, zabeleti se, zarumeniti se* (Klajn, 2002: 253). The fifth group of verbs has a factual meaning which implies provoking some trait in an animate or inanimate object. Verbs with a factual meaning are *zacrniti, zaluditi, zasl(ij)epiti, zagluhnuti, zaobliti, zaokrugliti, zaljutiti, zakrečiti, zaprašiti*. These non-prefix verbs generally do not exist at all and have no meaning, and therefore we consider them to be the process of perfectivization (Klajn, 2002: 253).

Prefiks *iz-*

The prefix *iz-* is very productive. In addition to its basic form, there are also 5 other allomorphs: *is-* (in front of the voiceless consonants), *iš-* (in front of the letters č and ć - *iščašiti, iščuškati*), *iž-* (only in the verb *ižđikljati*), *i-* (in front of the verb starting with s, š, z, ž - *isušiti, išibati, izračiti, iživ(j)eti*) and *iza-* (in front of the bases that begin with the consonant group in the infinitive - *izatkati, izabrati, izazivati*), sometimes in the present *izasuti-spem, izašeti-žmem* (Klajn, 2002:254).

The verbs with prefix *iz-* have numerous meanings. One of them is the spatial meaning of the preposition *iz* which many transitive verbs such as *izbaciti, izn(ij)eti, izgurati, ist(j)erati, isturiti* have. The second meaning relates to cases in which the prefix refers to movement, more precisely to one-length or one-height spacing and it is represented by verbs such as *izdići (se), ispraviti (se), ispružiti (se), istegnuti (se)* (Klajn, 2002: 255).

Many transitive verbs, which contain the prefix *iz-*, are derived from the adjectives and represent a characteristic denoted by those adjectives. Examples of these verbs are *izoštriti, istupiti, izdužiti, istanjiti, ispuniti, isprazniti, iskriviti, ispraviti, izravnati, izgladiti, izjednačiti, istr(ij)ezniti, etc.*

The next group of verbs with this prefix denotes the meaning of achieving a goal by the long and persistent performing of the action expressed by the basic verb. This group includes the following verbs *izmoliti, iskamčiti, iskukati, isplakati, isprositi, isprosjaćiti, izboriti, izvojevati, isposlovati*.

The next meaning of the verb with prefix *iz-* is the execution of the action in sufficient measure, known as the sative meaning which has two variants. The first one refers to the action that is done to satisfy the need or to calm the emotions it has caused and it is visible in these examples *ispavati se, isplakati se, izvikati se, izduvati se, izbesneti se, izduvati se*. The second variant relates to an action that is carried out entirely as it is the case in the verbs *ispisati, išarati, iskititi, izgraditi, izređati, izbrojati, ispričati, izljubiti, izučiti, istražiti, iskuvati, ispucati, istrajati*.

The next meaning is very close to the previous one. It refers to the fact that the action is carried out by a large number of entities or that the action is carried out on a large

number of objects *izroditi, iženiti, izopijati se, isposvađati se, ispreturati, izujedati, ispodvlačiti, ispolagati* (Klajn, 2002:256).

Klajn points out that the most commonly used meaning of this verbal prefix is where the prefix serves for the perfectivization of the verb such as *izraditi, izvršiti, iskoristiti, izgubiti, izračunati, isc(ij)epati, iskidati, iskvariti, isprljati, izm(j)eriti, ispričati, izgristi, ispeći*. It is most commonly used for the perfectivization of verbs of foreign origin: *izdiktirati, izdresirati, isplanirati, isprovocirati, iskonstruisati* (Klajn, 2002: 257).

Verbal aspect and verb situation type

The aspect of a verb is a grammatical category that is present in both languages that were studied. Changes in the semantics of the verb lead to changes in the type of verb situation states Novakov (2005: 61). According to the aspect of the verbs, they are divided into perfective and imperfective. Thus, for example, Stevanović (1964: 507) points out that the verbal aspect represents the temporal limitation of the process in one case, while in the second case, it signifies the process of unlimited duration. The limitation of duration is denoted by perfective verbs, while the process of unlimited duration of action is denoted by imperfective verbs.

The type of verb situation is a lexical category that relates to the way of realization of the verb situation, on the nature of that situation, and presents its objective characteristics. According to this classification, the verbs can be defined by several distinctive features that determine the type of the verb situation (Aktionsart), which are state, duration, goal and willingness (Brinton, 1988: 28-29).

There are four types of verb situations: activities, states, accomplishments, achievements according to Vendler's classification (Vendler, 1967) and distinctive features of L. Brinton (Brinton, 1988: 28-29).

Activities are verb situations in which all segments are equal in quality. In other words, there is no segment that would mark the end of the situation, but each is individually sufficient to indicate the quality of the situation.

There are tests in the form of questions that determine whether or not something is activity. The questions How long did it take to V (Koliko dugo je trebalo da V) or For how long / For how long someone is V are not used with activities because they are not limited to the final segment or the purpose of what this test shows. The activities appear in tests with the question How Long / Koliko vremena je neko V because this implies only duration, without the final segment or goal (Novakov, 2005: 27). In addition, activities cannot be used with adverbial expressions like in X time (for X times), because activities include duration without a goal, but can be used with the term for X time (X vremena) because it implies only duration. Also, activities can occur in the form of conditional If one stops Ving, one did V (If someone stops V, he is V). Activity can occur in this form because the segments are the same in quality, the activity can be interrupted without affecting the nature of the situation (Novakov, 2005: 28).

States relate only to the existence of some trait in time. There aren't any process or dynamic segments in them. One can also apply tests in the form of questions to determine whether something is state or not. For example, we cannot use the question How long did it take to V (Koliko dugo je trebalo da V) or question For how long / For how long someone is V, since they have no final segment or goal. They can be used with the question How long / Koliko vremena je neko V. The states cannot be modified by the expression in X time (for X times) because they have no goal, but can be modified by the phrase for X time. Furthermore, they cannot be used with adverbs *carefully, intentionally, quickly, slowly*, because they only mean duration in the time, not the realization of the action. Test in the form of a conditional If one stops Ving, one did V (Ako neko prestane da V, on jeste V), can be applied on the states as the time flow can be interrupted at any time, and the part of the situation before the interruption can indicate it (Novakov, 2005: 28).

Accomplishments are types of verb situations that denote segments that include the flow of the situation, the final segment, or the endpoint in which the situation naturally ends. They last for a while and have a natural ending. Tests that can be applied to the accomplishments in the form of the following questions: How long did it take to V (Koliko dugo je trebalo da V) and For how long / Za koliko vremena je neko V as they mean the goal. Accomplishments do not occur with the question How long / Koliko vremena je neko V. They can be modified by the expression in X time (for X times) because there is a natural end of the situation. The test in the form of a conditional cannot be applied to the accomplishments If one stops Ving, one did V (Ako neko prestane da V, on jeste V), but can be applied to the sentence If one stops Ving, one did not V (Ako neko prestane da V, on nije V) because the accomplishments have to have a final segment in order to indicate the quality of the whole situation (Novakov, 2005: 29).

Achievement represents a situation that involves only one moment in which the whole situation unfolds. Tests with questions, How long did it take to V (Koliko dugo je trebalo da V) and For how long / For how long someone is V, can be applied. These questions refer to the time that passed until the moment of realization of the situation, since the achievements do not mean duration. The test does not indicate the duration of the situation but the period preceding its performance. The achievements can be used with the phrase in X time (for X times), but it denotes the period before the realization of the achievement, and not the duration of the situation as in the accomplishment. The achievements are momentary, so the conditional sentence cannot be applied, but its variant can: as soon as one Vs, one has Ved (Čim neko počne da realizuje V, on jeste realizovao V) (Novakov, 2005: 29-30).

Research methods

The corpus consisted of sentences in Serbian and their translation equivalents in English. Each of them contained a verb that was created by the process of prefixation, i.e. by adding the prefixes *do-*, *za-*, *iz-* to the verb stems. The examples were taken from Milorad Pavic's two books and from their translations into English. The first book was translated by Dragana Rajkov-Simić as *Second Body*, and the other book, *The*

Inner Winds, was translated by Kristina Pribičević-Zorić as Inner Side of the Wind or the Novel of Hero and Leander.

The criterion by which these books were chosen is that the author of these books is a contemporary Serbian author, thus the use of archaic verbs is reduced to a minimum. The methods used in this research are the methods of analysis and comparison. Examples were analyzed using Vendler’s tests (Vendler, 1967). The meaning of each prefix is determined separately based on the division in the Klajn's book *Tvorba reči u savremenom srpskom jeziku* and Stevanović’s book *Savremeni srpskohrvatski jezik II*. An overview of the corpus structure will be summarized in the following table, from which it can be seen that most examples were found with prefix *za-*.

Tabela 1. *Corpus display*

Number	Prefix	Number of verbs with prefixes	Percentage of verbs with prefixes
1.	DO-	38	17,43%
2.	ZA-	108	49, 54%
3.	IZ-	72	33, 03%
Total		218	100%

Source: Author

Discussion and results of the research

In this research, 108 examples of a total number of found 218 examples were analyzed. That makes approximately 50% of the examples that were found. In the analyzed corpus, verbs with prefix *do-* present 25.93%, verbs with prefix *za-* 39.81%, while verbal prefix *iz-* present 34.26% of the corpus taken for analysis.

When it comes to prefix *do-*, the basic spatial meaning has 32,14% of the cases, while 67,86% of the cases have an extended or metaphorical meaning.

Looking at the analysis that was made regarding the aspect of the verbs, 89.29% of the cases are perfective, and 10.71% are imperfective.

Most of the verbs are by the type of verb situation accomplishments, even 60.71%. Lesser number of examples belong to achievements, to be precise 28.57%, 10.71% of examples are activities while the states do not exist at all.

From the data of the percental analysis, it can be concluded that the verbs with prefix *do-* are largely perfective, that according to the type of the verb situation are mostly accomplishments, and that the meaning of the prefix is predominantly metaphorical.

Examples with verbal prefix *za-* represent 39.81% of the total number of cases being analyzed. Among the mentioned examples, 23.26% of the verbal prefixes have the basic spatial meaning, and 76.74% of them have metaphorical meanings.

All the verbs, in other words 100% of them, are perfective according to verbal aspect. The verbs with prefix *za-* are accomplishments in 34.88% of the cases, achievements in 65, 12% of the cases, while there are no examples that would indicate activity and state.

From these data it can be concluded that the verbs with prefix *za-* are all perfective, that they generally have the metaphorical meanings, and that according to the type of verb situation achievements prevail.

The verbs with prefix *iz-* make up 34.26% of the analyzed corpus. Examples that are taken in the analysis are divided into verbs in which the prefix *iz-* denotes the basic spatial meaning and verbs in which the prefix has a metaphorical meaning. The first group represents 48.65% and the other one 51.35%.

Most of these verbs are perfective, as much as 75.68%, while the rest of 24.32% are verbs that are imperfective.

The verbs that appear with the prefix *iz-* are achievements (62.16%), activities (16.22%), accomplishments (10.81%), and states (8.11%). Therefore, it can be concluded that the type of verb situation that most often occurs is achievement.

Conclusion

According to I.Klajn, the prefix *iz-* is one of the most prevalent and most productive prefixes according to the number of verbs in which it is located. Therefore, the expectations were that more verbs with this prefix would be found. However, after the analysis, it was concluded that the prefix *iz-* was not the most productive. According to the research, the largest number of verbs that were found were with prefix *za-* for which, Klajn states that is semantically the most complex and most indeterminate. It was also assumed that there would be found more examples with metaphorical than with basic meaning of the prefix. This assumption proved to be true.

References

1. Bauer, L. (1983): *English word-formation*. Cambridge: CUP.
2. Bauer, L. (1988): *Introducing linguistic morphology*. Cambridge: CUP.
3. Brinton, L. (1988): *The Development of English Aspectual Systems*. Cambridge: CUP.
4. Klajn, I. (2002): *Tvorba reči u savremenom srpskom jeziku, prvi deo*. Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva/Institut za srpski jezik SANU; Novi Sad: Matica srpska.
5. Novakov, P. (2005): *Glagolski vid i tip glagolske situacije u engleskom i srpskom jeziku*. Novi Sad: Futura publikacije.
6. Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartrik, J. (1985): *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. New York: Longman.
7. Stevanović, M. (1964): *Savremeni srpskohrvatski jezik II: Gramatički sistemi i književnojezička norma*. Beograd: Naučno delo.
8. Stevanović, M. (1986): *Savremeni srpsko hrvatski jezik I: Gramatički sistemi i književnojezička norma*. (5th izd.). Beograd: Naučno delo.

9. Vendler, Z. (1967): Verbs and Times. *Linguistics in Philosophy*. Ithaca: Cornell.