CrossLexica: A Universe of Links between Russian Words

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CrossLexica is a dictionary available in two formats:

- Full computer format with all facilities and elements of interactive use. It is described in this demo.
- Simplified e-book format lacking English input list and some elements of interactivity.

Russian language changed drastically in the recent quarter century

- Russian vocabulary is enriched. After the end of the Soviet era, spoken and jargon words accumulated beforehands have splashed on the pages of many publications, on advertising, TV and the Web. There appear lots of new borrowing. Many words acquired new meaning.
- The body of collocations has changed and supplemented, meanwhile young Russians widely prefer the novelties.
- The situation with the language skill and competence continues to polarize in Russia.
- Academic dictionaries are hopelessly outdated, whereas large dictionaries appearing in the recent decade cope with interpreting new words but poorly reflect new collocations.

Modern dictionaries should better reflect inter-word links

- Even Russian people with high literacy skills can sometimes not immediately recall that католицизм практикуют 'Catholicism is practiced' or релиз состоялся 'the release took place'.
- People with lower literacy skills should be teached to avoid "uncivilized" expressions,
 - Primitive, like более лучше 'more better', or
 - More subtle ones, like поединок команд 'duel of the teams' or более оптимальный 'more optimal'...
- Virtually all Russian-speaking people need access to a great number of normative language-specific praseological or lexically bound expressions.
- It is also necessary to collect inter-word links of meanings (=semantic links) and of external similarity (=paronymous links).

Modern computers are able to contain millions of inter-word links

- Any language contains millions of inter-word links, and the exhaustive collectinging of all them is impossible. However the problem can be solved with the help of modern computers for several millions of the most frequent links.
- Texts of any manageable size can be placed in computer memory nowadays, and computer screens have not to repeat the format of conventional paper dictionaries.
- One may retreat from the conventional linear principle of dictionary construction as a series of entries that characterize the meaning and grammatical categories of headwords without systematically giving their links with other words.
- The higher interest in inter-word links dictates an alternative, a network principle for dictionary construction: any vocabulary unit (= word or word combination, hereafter vocable) is involved with all its links revealed.
- For the above purposes, we created a super-large computer dictionary CrossLexica. It satisfies the needs of the widest range of users and is built on the set of principles expounded further.

Construction principles of CrossLexica (1+2/8)

- Network principle: Any vocable is involved with all its links revealed so far. No vocables without links.
- Decomposition principle: Any significant word or word combination within a compound vocable is also a vocable.

Examples of the decomposition of compound vocables: air and rail transport = air transport + rail transport air transport = air + transport rail transport = rail + transport

theory of probabilities and mathematical statistics = theory of probabilities + mathematical statistics theory of probabilities = theory + probabilities <u>mathematical statistics = mathematical + statistics</u>

Construction principles of CrossLexica (3+4/8)

- Inclusion of the three known types of links between vocables:
 - Syntactic (in collocations)
 - Semantic
 - Paronymous
- Accounting the *lower language level*: morphological paradigm (= *morpho-paradigm*) is given for each vocable, i.e. all its inflected forms: cases, numbers, tences, persons...

Construction principles of CrossLexica (5/8)

- Covering any target audience, "from a general to a milkmaid", which implies:
 - Polythematic variety, i.e. covering most areas of language use, with the inclusion of both linguistic and encyclopedic knowledge;
 - Narrow but graded set of tags reflecting degrees of colloquialism and figurativeness. These are guidelines and incentives making CL both descriptive and prescriptive;
 - Coexistence of spelling options of new words like бренд Vs. брэнд (both 'brand'), плеер Vs. плейер (both 'player');
 - Optionality of knowledge of linguistic terms. E.g., the user can choose CL option with the delivery section named Classmates instead of Co-hyponyms;
 - Rational deviations from scientific canons. For example, two aspects of a verb and two numbers of a noun are considered different vocables.

Construction principles of CrossLexica (6+7/8)

- > Embeddedness in the modern information world:
 - Compliance with the world language situation: a built-in bidirectional English-Russian dictionary allows to access CL database in English, learn translations of Russian vocables, and correctly translate many English collocations.
 - Selection of relevant query among millions collocations and vocables available in CL and sending it to a popular search engine.
 - Availability of CL on Internet in the public domain (in the future).
- > **Bidirectionality**, i.e. interaction
 - with human user in dialogue and
 - with external program at its request.

Construction principles of CrossLexica (8/8)

- A widely understood computer nature, i.e. opportunity of implementation on different types of computers with various operating systems.
 - Advantages: The widest range of users, unlimited amount of stored data, instant search for an answer, exception of information inconsistencies, the use of color and even sound.
 - Limitations: Extended process of eliminating errors and —in the future—the need for a special service of debugging and replenishment.

Sources of CrossLexica content

- Russian academic dictionaries, dozens of dictionaries on economics, business, electronics, computer science and engineering, construction and other areas.
- Flow of news, political, economical and scientific analytics in the portal Gazeta.ru.
- Tens of thousands of searches concerning words and collocations via Google and Yandex.
- Various types of advertisements, spam, glamor journals on celebrities, fashions, tourism, automobiles, and everyday life.

The items found were being recovered, classified, tagged and entered to computer. The work started in 1990. In parallel, the software of morphologic classification for words and syntactic structuring for collocations have been created and repeatedly improved since 1993, along with programs of computer interface.

CrossLexica subject domains

- Economics, finance and business
- Socio-political sphere
- Exact and natural sciences
- > Humanities and related spheres
- Engineering and technologies
- Medicine
- Sports
- Gastronomy
- Everyday life language including obscene one but without few officially specified Russian taboos ('mat')

Vocables belong to the four main parts of speech

> Nouns:

- Isolated noun: lampshade, battle, steak, goods, pancakes...
- Noun phrase : alcoholic beverages, point of view, standard of living
- > Verbs in infinitive or personal forms:
 - □ Isolated verb : say, go, discuss, sleep, curse...
 - Verb phrase: induce fear, give attention, experience horror...

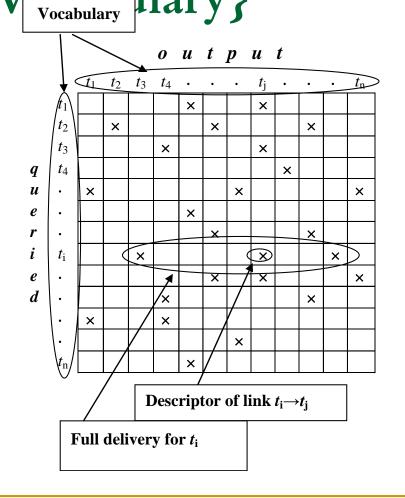
> Adjectivals:

- □ Isolated adjective: *abstract, autonomous, adventurous, beige, air-jet...*
- □ Isolated participle: *advanced, racked, washed, transported, wishing ...*
- Adjectival phrase: in evidence, of long range, like a stone, of fighting breeds, as velvet...

> Adverbials:

- Isolated adverb: absolutely, easily, tastelessly, busily...
- □ Isolated gerund: *wearing, hurrying, whispering...*
- Adverbial phrase: in accurate manner, more or less, like a squeezed lemon...

Global structure of CrossLexica is A gigantic matrix {Vocabulary × V vocabulary }



- A matrix element is a descriptor of the link between the queried vocable *t*i and the output vocable *t*j *i*, *j* = 1...300,000+
- The links are determined and limited by the given language and realities of the outer world.
- Among 95 billions of matrix cells, only each 10800-th is non-empty.
- Average amount of links for a vocable is 28.6

Collocations

- > A collocation is a pair of significant vocables syntactically linked and compatible in meaning.
- Collocations can be frequent or rare, free combinable or phraseologically fixed.
- Syntactic link between collocates may contain a functional word, i.e. a preposition or conjunction and/or:

Each collocation is accessible on both collocates, so that the amount of unidirectional links in any collocations collection is double of the number of collocations.

Types of collocations numbered by hundreds of thousands (1/2)

- Modifying pair 'noun adjective': red cabbage, perfect clarity, bright sun...
- 'Verb its direct / indirect / prepositional complement noun':

consider the problem, pick one's nose, stay because of the weather, buy in the market...

'Participle / adjective – its direct / indirect / prepositional complement noun':

picking one's nose, staying because of the weather, bought in the market, red with anger...

Modifying pair 'verb / adjective / adverb – another adverb':

speak sharply, completely clear, very well...

Types of collocations numbered by hundreds of thousands (2/2)

- 'Noun subject verb in personal form or in short form of adjective or participle': plane departed, attention (was / will be) devoted, enemy attacked, eyes run, alternative confuses...
- 'Noun another subordinate noun': imposition of penalties, differences in pronunciation, fight against terrorism...
- 'Gerund / adverb its direct / indirect / prepositional complement noun': having considered the question, bought on the market, near to the city ...

Types of collocations numbered by units or tens of thousands

Stable coordinate pairs':

buses and trolleys, clear and precise, economic and cultural, to be or not to be, to weigh and to decide, government and business, on time and in full, warehouses and depots, science and technology, air and rail transport...

'Verb – its infinitive complement': to refuse to go, to dream to swim, to want to eat...

> 'Noun - its infinitive complement':

the beer to drink, a desire to leave, the problem to solve...

Gerund / adverb – its infinitive complement': ready to act, hoping to start, agitating to vote ...

Semantic links

The most numerous SemLs:

- > **Synonyms:** 27,700 synsets of avg. 4.8 elements.
- Semantic derivatives: 4,300 groups of avg. 14.8 elements.
 Simple example of SD group: { extraction; extract, be extracted; extracted, extracting; while extracting, being extracted, after extraction }

 \uparrow Elements of the canonical morfoparadigm meet here \uparrow

 \uparrow and basic part of encyclopedic knowledge is given \uparrow

Less numerous SemLs:

- ➤ Co-hyponyms (=Classmates). Example: meat → beef, brisket, stew, meatballs...
- Associations. Example: adenoids → allergy, swimming pool, tonsils, homeopathy, cough, laser, ears...
- > Meronyms/Holonyms (=Parts/Wholes). Example: $terrarium \rightarrow zoo$
- ► Hyponyms/Hyperonyms (=Subclasses/Superclasses). Example: diploma → document
- > Antonyms. Example: $long \rightarrow short$

All of these links are well known, except for the associations, composed of coordinated pairs extracted from RuNet.

CL: Concepts with the largest numbers of associations (from RuNet)

- 558 pregnancy
- 264 health
- 257 alcohol
- 172 sports
- 143 diabetes
- 136 *diet*
- 131 prices
- 127 *men*

- 125 human
- 122 *love*
- 121 business
- 121 smoking
- 120 children
- 117 culture₁
- 112 slimming
- 104 religion

Use of semantic links

- SemLs help to understand the meaning of vocables. Examples:
 - **Synonym** (*graffiti*) = *wall-painting* **Synonym** (*graft*) = *transplant*

Synonym (*halal*) = corresponding to Muslim norms

Hyperonym (*endometriosis*) = *obstetric disease*

SemLs help to construct collocations lacking in CL. Example:

(Hyperonym(callas) = flowers) & (bouquet of flowers) →
 (bouquet of callas)

SemLs reflect a lot of encyclopedic knowledge.

Encyclopedic knowledge

- > Names of geo-objects: continents, oceans, seas, mountain ranges...
- > The names of the biggest world cities in relation to their countries.
- Information about 60 countries (more detailed for the top-20).
- Names and some details for dozens of cities and regions of Russia.
- About 300 most frequent Russian first names along with their diminutive options.
- Names of a number of prominent political, business, academic and cultural figures of the world.
- Names of a number of the largest organizations and corporations in the world.
- > The names of several art masterpieces of the world.
- Terminology of exact and natural sciences, of the humanities, engeneering, medicine, etc.

Tags of degree of colloquialism (Style)

No tag : It is good to know and to properly use this word / phrase: *wall, window, book, taxes, roaming ...*

- Special, bookish or obsolete word / phrase; use it when you are not afraid of being misunderstood: paradigm, existential, bisector...
- Purely colloquial word / phrase; do not use it in official documents: chump, wind nerves, chew snot, soak in the toilet...
- Obscene word or phrase, do not use it at ladies and children, and
 in a formal setting:

shit, ass, asshole, keep the balls...

 The phrase occurs in everyday life, but it should be reworded to satisfy the literary norm.

tag on the screen

Tags of figurativity (Idiomaticity)

No tag – It should be understood in direct sense (go to school, call a plumber)

(fig) - It should be understood figuratively
 (idiomatically)

(hang by a thread)

(mb fig) – It should be understood figuratively or in direct

sense

(put one's foot in it, first racket, first violin)

tag on the screen

Applications of CrossLexica (1/3)

> **Dialog (interactive) application**: the user enters a

- query, and uses the delivery
- □ for in-depth study of Russian language or
- for parallel text editing of Russian texts.
 During the session
- linguistic references and
- encyclopedic references are always available for him/her.

Presupposition: For any person, the passive knowledge of a language is noticeably wider than actively used language means. While CL users see numerous ways to express the same idea in other way, a more suitable option can be easily selected by them.

Applications of CrossLexica (2+3/3)

- Interface application: By means of CL, the user forms a query to Internet, accesses it directly from CL, and uses search results at dicretion.
- Non-interactive applications: An external program accesses the dictionary through a special CL utility and uses the delivery results in its own way.

Examples:

- Automatic detection & correction of semantic errors such as visit to the hysteric center or a trip around the word.
- Word sense disambiguation.
- Filtering multiple results of text parsing.
- Steganography and steganalysis (imposition of a hidden text on the basic text carrier).

Non-interactive applications are not the parts of the present version of CL, except of 'CL Vs. external program' interface utility. The apps are under development as separate products.

Examples of linguistic references

- How to express fare with Russian verbs?
 - оплатить / оплачивать проезд ог платить / заплатить за
 - проезд The options
 - проплатить проезд
 - оплатить за проезд are also given supplied with the colloquial or prohibiting tag.
- How to start иск 'lawsuit' in Russian? You may внести / возбудить / вчинить / подать / предъявить иск, as well as обратиться с иском.
- How to alternatively name бразильские женщины 'Brasilian women'? They are бразильянки.

And what about *иракские женщины* 'Iraqi women'? – In no other way, whereas the word *иракцы* 'Iraqi men' does exist.

What are translations for the English verb pay? These are Russian verbs обращать, обратить, окупать, окупить, оплатить, оплачивать, платить, уделить, уделять, уплатить, уплачивать. For each of them, all relevant information can be obtained.

Example of distinction of morphemic paronyms

вероятный 'probable' IS MODIFIER FOR:

адрес альтернатива 'alternative' вариант версия визит встреча выбор гипотеза запасы изменение

'address' 'variant' 'version' 'visit' 'meeting' 'choice' 'hypothesis' 'reserves'

'change'

вероятностный 'probabilistic' IS MODIFIER FOR:

автомат алгоритм анализ анализатор аспекты вывод задача идеи контроль логика

'automaton' 'algorithm' 'analysis' 'analyzer' 'aspects' 'inference' 'problem' 'ideas' 'control' 'logic'

Selecting CL option in avance: A version of operating language

- Russian scientific version: All menu items, glosses for homonyms, and help information are given in Russian, sections of the delivery are named by scientific terms, like Синонимы, Гиперонимы, Когипонимы...
- Russian public version: All mentioned above are given in Russian, while delivery sections are named in popular way, like Сходные по смыслу, Надклассы, Одноклассники...
- English scientific version: All mentioned above are given in English, delivery sections are named by scientific terms, like Synonyms, Hyperonyms, Co-hyponyms...
- English public version: All mentioned above are given in English, delivery sections are named in popular way, like Related in Meaning, Superclasses, Classmates...

User's options at runtime

- Choosing alphabetical or frequency order of modified collocations. For frequency order, collocations with the most numerous collocates are coming first in the delivery.
- Installing the cut-off threshold for collocations with rare collocates.
- Optional cancellation of obscene, colloquial and/or special words together with their collocations in the delivery on the screen.
- Entering the next query in one of five ways:
 - Typing query with keyboard
 - Selection of a line in the vocabulary list
 - Selection of a line in the screen of current delivery; this is a step of navigation through CL database
 - □ A step forward or backward in the *History* list
 - Typing English word and selecting among Russian translations obtained

Same-name sections of CL deliveries compose sepatarely publishable parts

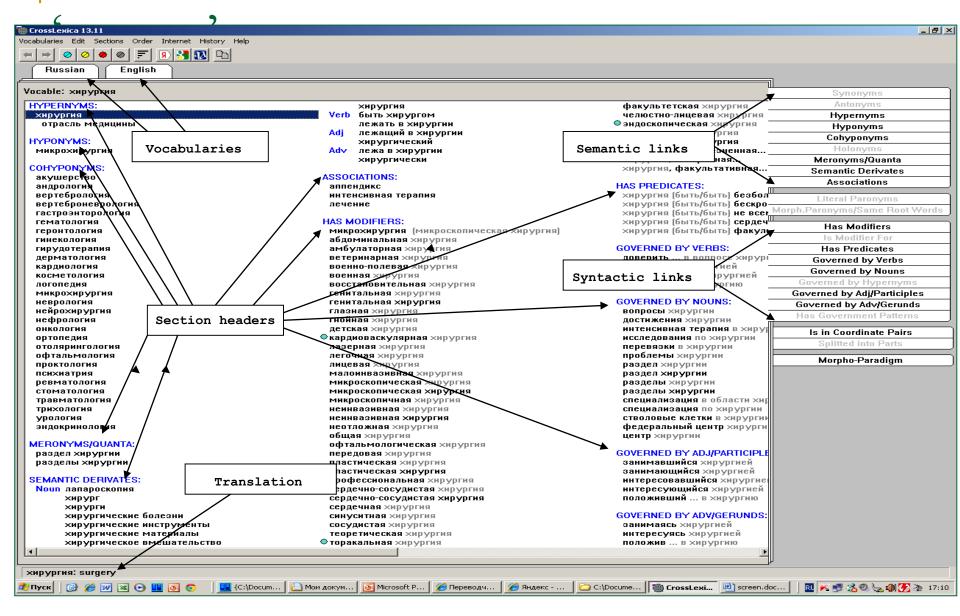
Unique subdictionaries of:

- Collocations
- Exemplified dependency patterns
- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Morphemic paronyms
- Literal paronyms
- Associations in RuNet
- Semantic derivatives
- Morpho-paradigms
- Bidirectional Russian-English conformities

Collections of:

- Idiomatic phrases
- Prominent persons, groups, organizations, masterpieces
- Geo-object names
- Abbreviations of all types
- Homonyms
- Hyponyms, hyperonyms and co-hyponyms
- Holonyms and meronyms / quanta

Screen of delivery for хирургия



Byproduct of CL: Translation of English collocations to Russian

- English vocabulary (=collection of translations for Russian vocables) is sufficient to ontain correct translations (sometimes multiple) of English collocations to Russian. For example,
- green meadow got 1 translation
- **social strata** got **2** translations
- strong woman got 3 translations
- important circumstance got 5 translations
- significant changes got 9 translations

Global statistics, February 2015

The total volume of delivery to the screen is approximately 65 times greater than that of the famous Dahl dictionary of Russian

	Vocables	309,000	Some detail
	Nouns	46%	 Morpho-paradigms 309,000 (= Amount of vocables)
	Verbs	14%	Coordinated pairs 52,800
	 Adjectives 	23%	(all of them are in the
	Adverbs	16%	vocabulary)
	Inter-links	8,910,000	Associations 102,600
	IIIIer-IIIIk5	0,910,000	Homonymous groups 2,500
	Syntactic	5,100,000	(5,800 various senses)
	Semantic	2,950,000	Prepositions 1,400
	Paronymous	860,000	Modified glues 4,200

Platforms of implementation until 2015

Desktop, OS Windows NT (1995)

(2012)

(2014)

- Desktop, OS Windows XP (2003)
- Notebook, OS Windows 7
- Tablet, OS Windows 8.1
- Smartphone, OS Windows 10 ?

Comparisons with earlier dictionaries containing collocations • Dictionary of collocations in Russian language (in paper, Eds. P. N. Denisov and V. V. Morkovkin, 1983):

- 270,000 Russian collocations
- 2,500 headword collocates
- Oxford Collocation Dictionary for students of English (in paper and electronic form, Oxford, 2009):
 - 250,000 English collocations
 - 9,000 headword collocates
- CrossLexica (in electronic form, Moscow, 2015):
 - 2,550,000 Russian collocations
 - 130,000 vocable collocates

Preliminary estimates of the number of regular CL users

GROUP MEMBER

Russian-speaking user owning a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone (an official, businessman, scholar, teacher, journalist, student ...)

[There are 70 million Internet users nowadays in Russia, the number of active mobile subscriptions exceeded 240 million]

Resident of a country adjacent to Russia (Ukraine, the Baltic States, Poland, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, etc.), wishing to restore or enhance knowledge of the modern Russian language (businessman, migrant, student...). [There are more than 12 million migrants in Russia, more than 20 million Russian speakers are outside Russia.]

Resident of a Western contry (US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Scandinavia), already familiar with the Russian language and wishing to improve the skill (businessman, Russian emigrant, teacher of Russian language, Slavic scholars...) [Since 1991, at least two million Russian-speaking professionals moved to the West from the former USSR.]

ESTIMATE

More than a million

to 100,000

to 10,000

Opinions of experts

Prof. Igor Mel'cuk, Canada:

- 'CrossLexica' is unique in its genre. As far as I know, no similar dictionary exists for any language. A few published dictionaries of collocations (English and French) cannot even be compared with 'CrossLexica' as far as the number of phrases described, the wealth of lexicographic information supplied, and the logic of dictionary organization.
- Academician of RAS **Yuri Apresyan**, Dr. **Leonid Iomdin** and Dr. **Leonid Tsinman**, Russia:
- CrossLexica can be recommended as a valuable linguistic resource that can be used in NLP tasks, such as syntactic parsing and machine translation, where it operates as an aid in resolving lexical ambiguity of the two languages concerned. CrossLexica is implemented in the multipurpose linguistic processor, ETAP-3, where it helps choose the correct senses of Russian and English words.

Thank you for your attention! Please send your questions or suggestions to iabolshakov@gmail.com