

[Semantic Maps for BE and HAVE in Slavic in Issue 1](#)

Steven J. Clancy

This study presents data concerning the concepts BE and HAVE, what these concepts mean, and how they are expressed lexically in Russian, Czech, Polish, and Bulgarian. These concepts are revealed to have multiple meanings and functions (polysemy) and to be expressed by various lexical items (suppletion). An understanding of polysemy and suppletion both as phenomena in language and as developmental processes is important for understanding how BE and HAVE are structured and how they change over time. Both BE and HAVE show polysemy in a blended prototype model, whereby each are composed of two major, inseparable meanings, an abstract idea and a joining idea. BE and HAVE also show various degrees of suppletion in different languages. The similar structure, meaning, and function of BE and HAVE reveal that these two concepts are closely related semantic ideas that are also the organizing principles in a broader nexus of semantically related concepts. When BE and HAVE are renewed in language, new lexical material is provided from these semantically related concepts. As we look closely at the semantic maps of BE and HAVE in four Slavic languages, we will see the complexities of BE and HAVE, the degrees and types of polysemy and suppletion, and the types of language-dependent variety that are found in the expression of these two key semantic ideas.