

[The Conceptual Nexus of BE and HAVE. A network of BE, HAVE, and their semantic neighbors in Issue 5](#)

**Steven Clancy**

In this paper, data has been assembled from the Slavic languages and from Hindi-Urdu, with frequent comparisons made to English BE and HAVE expressions. The notions of polysemy and suppletion as both phenomena and developmental processes are discussed in section 2. Section 3 provides a brief explanation of the structure of BE and HAVE assumed for Slavic in the current study. Section 4 then takes up the structure and nature of the conceptual nexus itself and section 5 provides further evidence of the conceptual nexus as a source for grammaticalization of auxiliaries. In order to understand the importance of the BECOMING-BEING-UNBECOMING conceptual nexus, we must first understand the role of polysemy and suppletion in the composition of a language's constructions for BE and HAVE, then see that there are a host of other related concepts with similar complexity and behavior in language. Having identified the nature and relative quantity of the concepts involved, we can begin to explore the relevance of this conceptual structure for the extension and development of new grammatical categories. The Slavic languages discussed in this paper have utilized the conceptual nexus to varying degrees and have developed grammatical and syntactic features of the nexus in unique ways. As in the other studies of Slavic in this volume, we see quite similar languages finding quite different ways of fleshing out the semantic and conceptual space in the minds of their speakers.