

Descriptive verbs in Sakha

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Verbs in Sakha are divided into three basic types depending on their lexical semantics and grammatical properties. These are action and state verbs, onomatopoeic verbs and descriptive verbs. This talk will concentrate on the latter class of verbs, although onomatopoeic verbs will also be considered where relevant. Descriptive verbs differ from regular action and state verbs in that they create a more descriptive visual image in the reader's mind of the action being performed. In other words, one can say that they inherently incorporate an adverbial meaning in their semantics. Some examples include *sunduluj* 'move briskly having an elongated body', *kuoqaj* 'bend in the upper part (said of a long and thin entity like a tree, a neck a person)', *sajbaj* 'gently flutter being wide in the bottom part (said of a loose dress)' and many others. Various theoretical approaches to the study of descriptive verbs will be considered including sound symbolism (also known as phonosemantics). In addition, apart from examining syntactic properties of descriptive verbs, their usage in literature and mass media will be discussed. As expected, the occurrence of descriptive verbs is most prevalent in fiction literature.