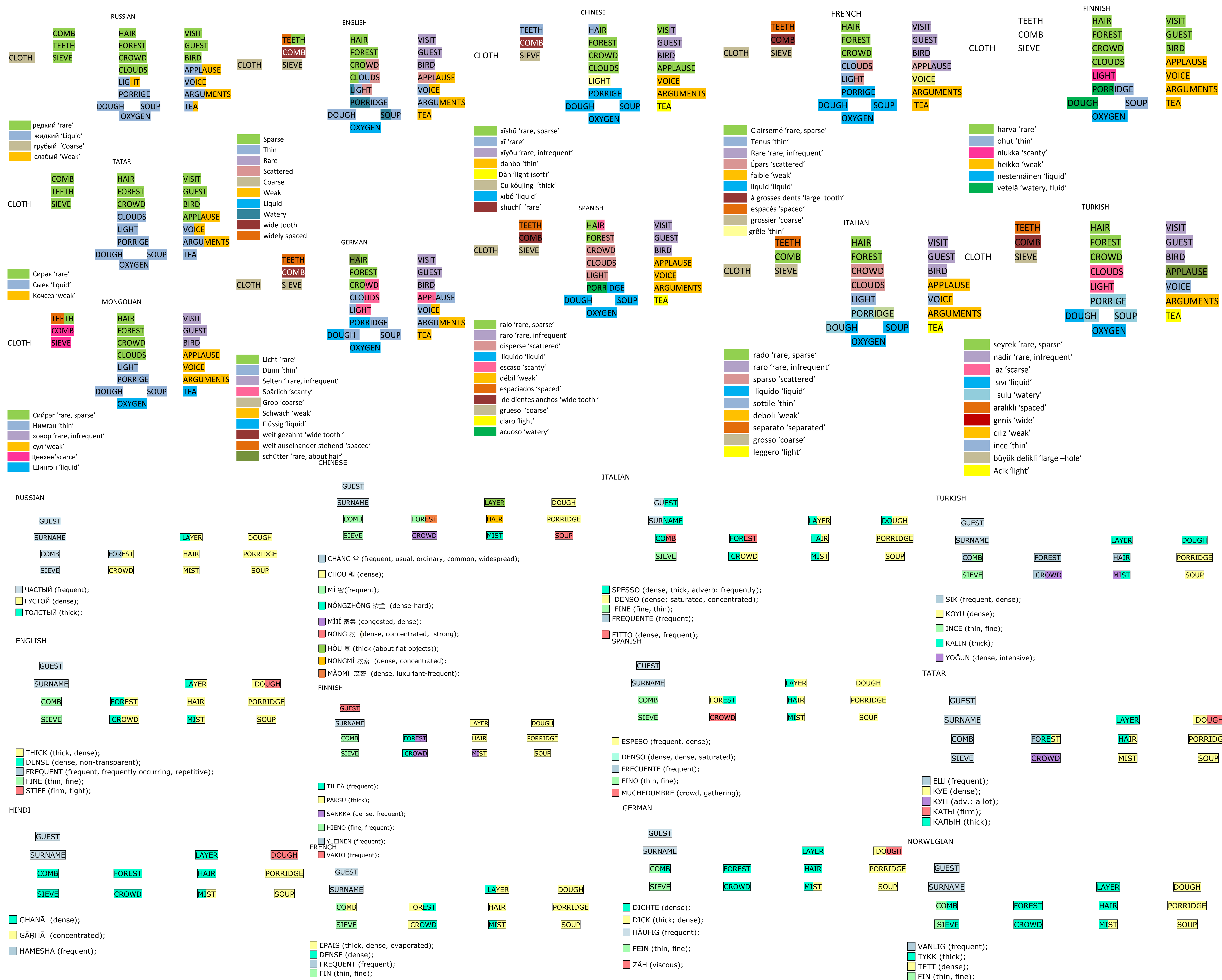


LEXICAL TYPOLOGY

SEMANTIC DOMAINS 'RARE' AND 'DENSE': A CROSS-LINGUISTIC STUDY

This paper is devoted to typological investigation and description of semantic domains 'rare' and 'dense' on the basis of different languages. This research is a part of a larger project of the typological description of the semantics of qualitative features. In this paper we create presumably universal semantic map, that

The research was carried out on the material of 11 languages for description of semantic domain 'rare': Russian, English, German, French, Finnish, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Tatar, Mongolian, Chinese and on the material of 12 languages for description of semantic domain 'dense': Russian, English, German, French, Italian, Norwegian, Chinese, Spanish, Finnish, Turkish, Tatar, Hindi.



I. 'Rare'

i. Physical meanings

'The collection of elements settled at widely spaced intervals';
'Substances with insufficient thickness';
Lexical systems: different frame combinations and oppositions

- 'The collection of elements settled at widely spaced intervals' vs. 'Substances with insufficient thickness'
- 'The collection of elements settled at widely spaced intervals' vs. 'air substances' vs. 'Substances with insufficient thickness'
- 'The collection of elements settled at widely spaced intervals' vs. 'objects located at a distance from each other, scattered' vs. 'Substances with insufficient thickness'

ii. Figurative meanings

- 'Not occurring very often (of an event, situation, or condition)';
 - 'Having a low intensity';
- 'Not occurring very often (of an event, situation, or condition)' vs. 'Having a low intensity'

II. 'Dense'

3 semantic blocks are the source of contrasts in languages:

- Substances: type 'porridge', 'soup' and 'fog'.
- Objects (set of elements): type 'forest', 'hair'.
- Zone and event: 'frequently occurring' and 'frequently seen'.

Types of systems

a. Tripartite system:

- Standard: physical objects vs. substances vs. event. (German, Norwegian, Hindi)
- Standard system: type 1
Special adjective for following nouns: 'forest', 'crowd', 'layer', 'fog' (non-transparent) (French, English).
- Standard system: type 2
Special token frame stands 'layer' ('fat') +, the same token for sets containing thick elements ('hair', 'forest') (Tatar).

b. Less fractional systems:

- Binary:
- Russian system: Substances and objects (sets of elements) vs. developments
 - Dominant:
- Italian system (token 'spesso' covers 3 semantic blocks).
- ##### c. More fractional systems: "distributed":
- Turkish.
 - Chinese.
 - Finnish 'frequently occurring' vs 'frequently seen, met' vs. physical objects

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