

Adjective *tight* in lexical typology

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Intro: about research and methods

- This research is devoted to typological description of a semantic domain 'tight' within the framework of lexical typology[1]
- The basis for the study is the frame-based approach[2]: minimal situations that can be lexically opposed in the languages of the world
- 7 languages under study:

Russian	<i>tugoj, uprugij</i>
English	<i>tight, resilient, taut</i>
German	<i>fest, prall, straff, steif, biegsam, federnd, dehnfähig, elastisch</i>
Spanish	<i>tenso, ajustado, resistencia, fuerte, duro, apretado, turgente, repleto, inflado</i>
French	<i>tendu, serré, rigide, élastique, dur, flexible</i>
Chinese	<i>jǐn, jiēshì, jǐnbēng, jǐnzhì, tuán, iānrèn</i>
Serbian	<i>uzak, čvrst, tesne, zategnut, tvrd, elastičan, savitljivo</i>

The aim: reveal the system of the semantic domain

- Sort out parameters that structure semantic domains under study and that are relevant for distinguishing lexemes in different languages
- Reveal common regularities in the system of semantic domains
- Create universal semantic map that reflects the system of semantic domains

Frames of the 'tight' domain

[1] an object can be stretched very tight: 3 topological classes of objects

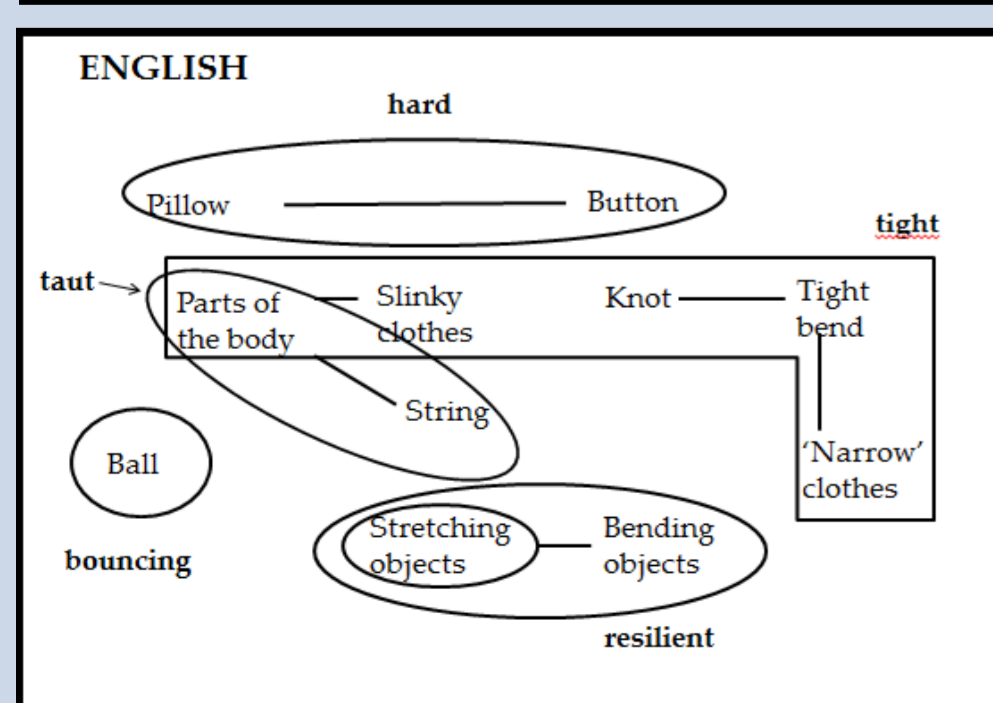
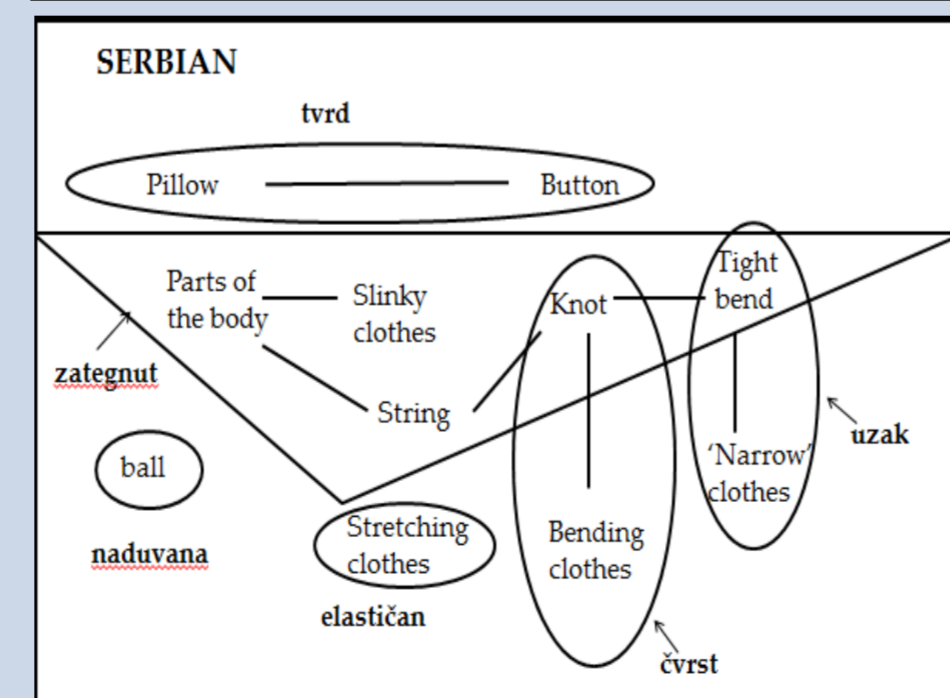
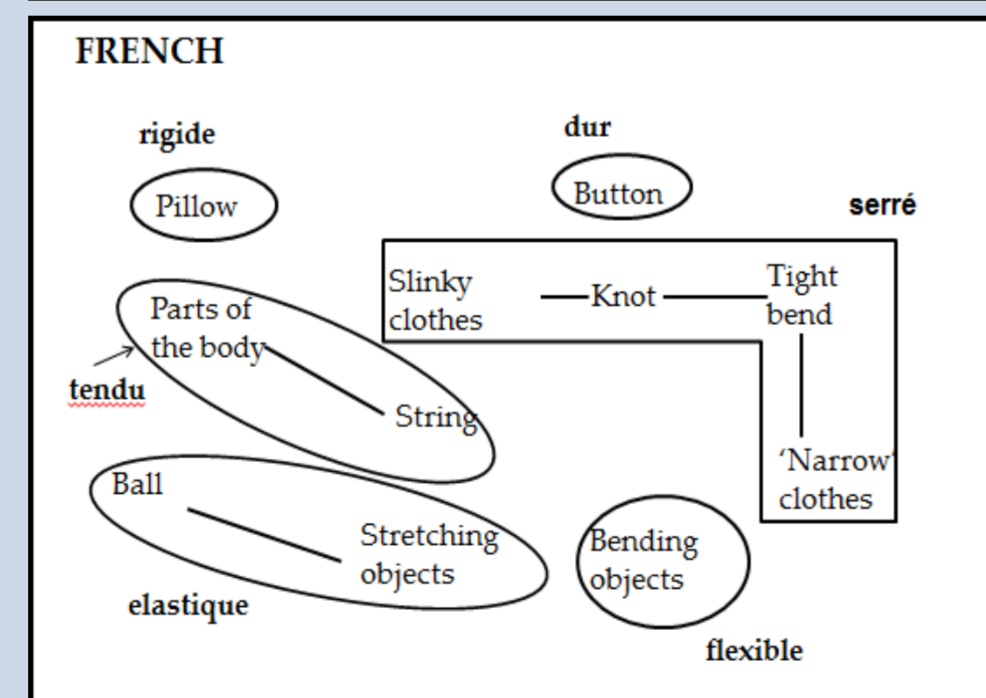
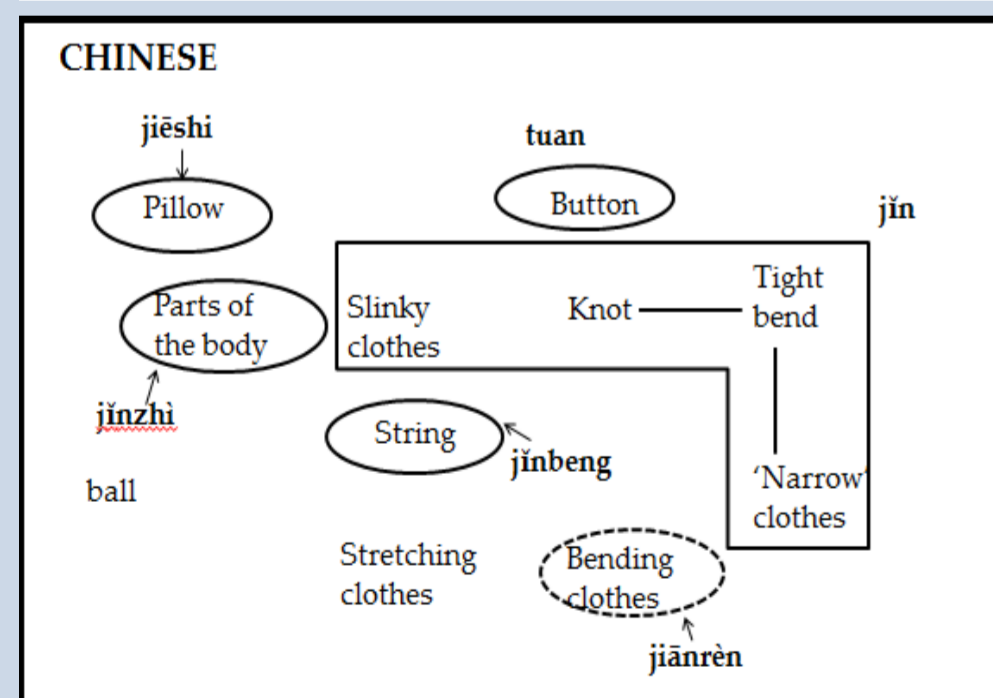
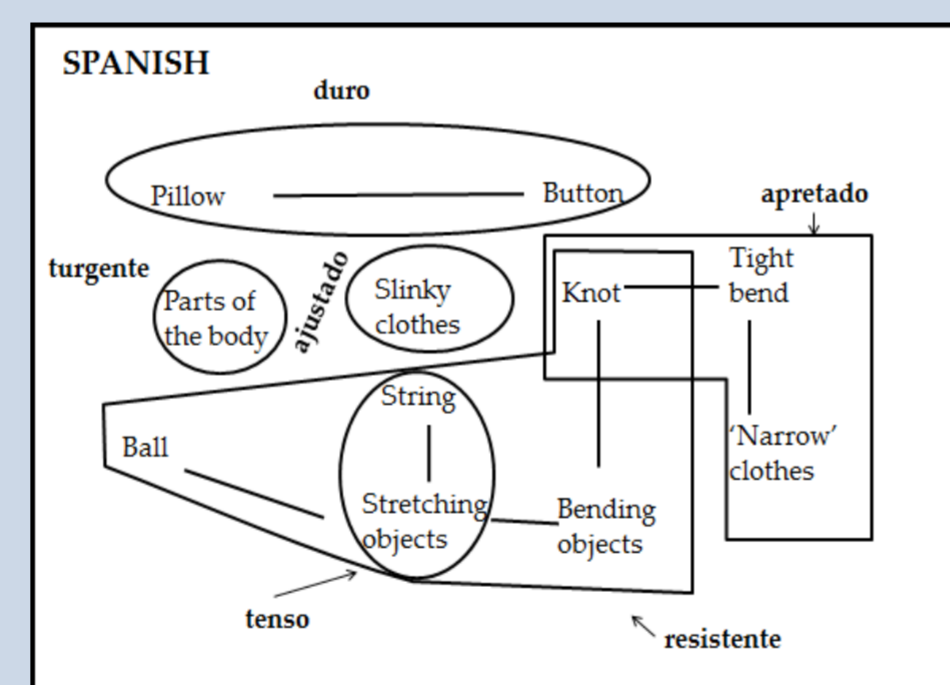
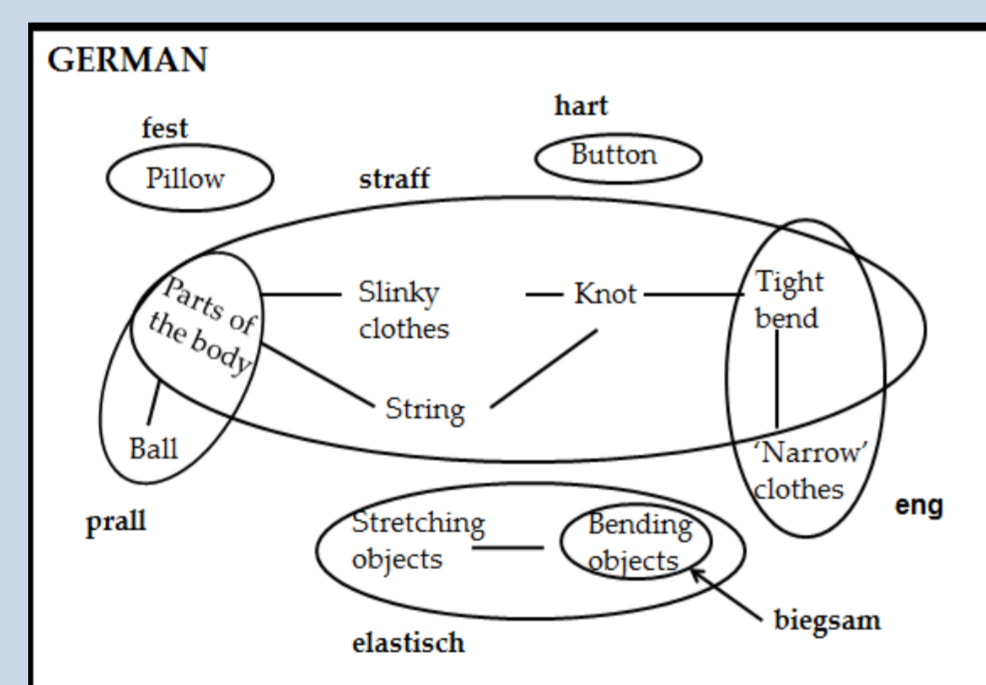
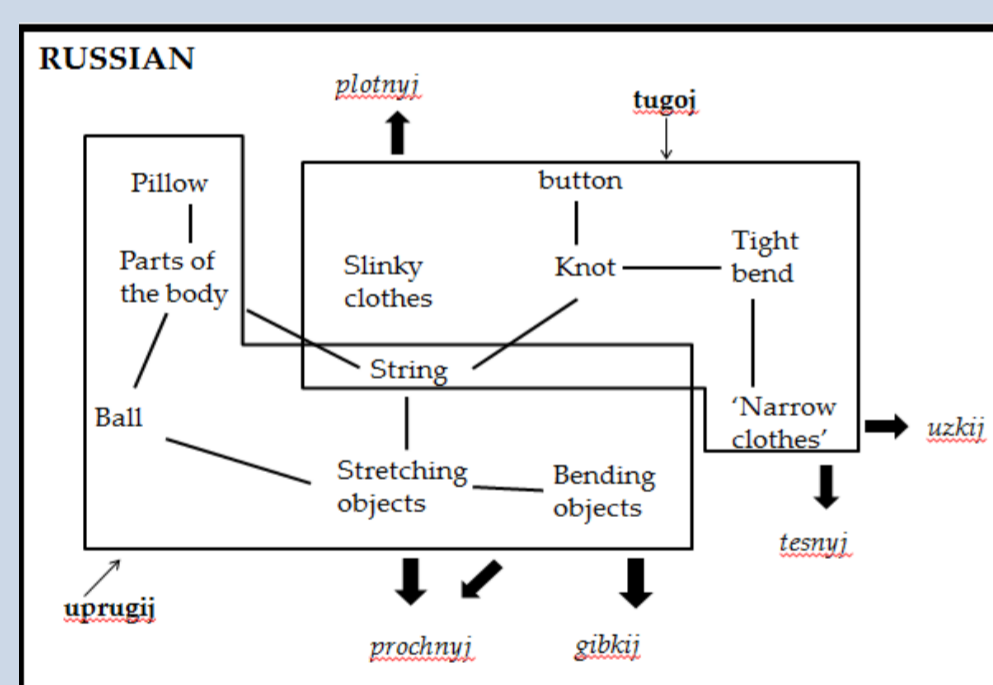
- ropes, including:
 - string [FRAME: STRING]
 - resulting metonymy: knot [FRAME: KNOT]
 - band(+ influence on a person) [FRAME: TIGHT BAND]
- fabric, including:
 - clothes on a person – visual perception (an object is defined 'on the outside'): slinky [FRAME: SLINKY CLOTHES]
 - clothes on a person – tactile perception: 'narrow', 'squeeze' [FRAME: 'NARROW CLOTHES']
- skin (of a person) – visual perception + analogical: parts of the body [FRAME: PARTS OF THE BODY]
- fabric stretched around the content [FRAME: BALL]

[2] an object is resistant to something -> an object is exposed

- button, pedal [FRAME: BUTTON]
- pillow (+ estimating perception) [FRAME: PILLOW]

[3-4] if an object is poorly exposed, than it returns to its original form -> an object is not destroyed : 2 classes of objects

- stretching (rope, fishing-line...): 'can be stretched and is not broken' [FRAME: STRETCHING OBJECTS]
- bending (branch, stick...) 'can be bent but is not broken' [FRAME: BENDING OBJECTS]



References:

1. Коптјевскаја-Тамм, М. *Approaching lexical typology* // М. Vanhove(ed.). From polysemy to semantic change: Towards a typology of lexical semantic associations. Amsterdam, 2008
2. Рахилина Е. В., Резникова Т. И. *Фреймовый подход к лексической типологии* // Вопросы языкознания. 2013. № 2. С. 3-31.

Results:

- semantic domain under study has a complex structure and particular fragments can be highlighted during lexicalization
- domain variety of lexical means is typical for the same type of objects
- there is regularly lexicalized opposition of the type of perception (visual vs. experiential)
- the contiguity of the studied area with other different semantic domains: for instance, Russian 'tverdyj', žestkij, 'tesnyj', 'gibkij', 'plotnyj', 'uzkij' and so on