

## Adjectives of temperature in Latvian

In this paper I present my preliminary investigation on temperature terms in Latvian. For the aims of the study the semantics of eleven Latvian temperature terms was analyzed: five adjectives denoting warm temperature (*karsts*, *silts*, *tveicīgs*, *versmains*, *svelmains*), one adjective denoting neutral temperature (*remdens*) and five adjectives denoting cold temperatures (*auksts*, *salts*, *vēss*, *dzestrs*, *dzedrs*). The data were collected from the corpus of Latvian and from different dictionaries; most collocations were valued by the native speakers and checked up with the use of search machines (Google).

First, the analysis of tactile, non-tactile and experience-based temperature uses [Koptjevskaja-Tamm 2007] has shown that only 4 of 11 adjectives, namely *karsts*, *silts*, *vēss* and *auksts*, may be considered as basic, because, besides some other properties, they may denote all these types of temperature (see also [Plank 2003]). This property of all these terms is, of course, correlated with their possibility of occurring in different syntactic positions:

- (1) *karsta / silta / vēsa / auksta tēja*  
'hot / warm / cool / cold tea'
- (2) *Bija karsta / silta / vēsa / auksta nakts.*  
'The night was hot / warm / chilly / cold.'
- (3) *Šodien ir karsts / silts / vēss / auksts.*  
'It's hot / warm / chilly / cold today.'
- (4) *Man ir karsti / silti / vēsi / auksti.*  
'I feel hot / warm / cool / cold.'

It is worth mentioning that *vēss*, comparing to three other adjectives, is more rare and has a narrower distribution concerning the compatibility with different nouns. Probably it may be explained by the fact that *silts* denotes a warm temperature which is mainly comfortable for humans, *auksts* and *karsts* may denote unpleasantly cold and unpleasantly hot, respectively, while *vēss* is something between *silts* and *auksts* (i.e. 'cool', 'chilly') and may often be substituted by other "cold" adjectives.

The semantics of *remdens* is rather interesting, since it denotes neither particular warm or cold temperature, but rather not warm enough comparing to the expected warm temperature (cf. the analysis of Swedish *ljum* in [Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Rakhilina 2006]).

So, one may not use the collocation *remdens alus* in the context 'It's hot today, I'd like to slake my thirst with cold beer', because it will sound strange: warmish beer is not good, it is too warm to drink (cf. *auksts alus*, *vēss alus* 'cold beer'). On the contrary, *remdena tēja* 'lukewarm tea' is rather cold to drink, it hasn't the right temperature.

*Salts* denotes the temperature which is very cold (cf. English *frosty*, Russian *морозный*). It has a restricted combinability with nouns (mainly *salta diena* 'frosty day' and *salta ūdens* 'very cold water'). It's interesting that the collocation *salta diena* may also be positively evaluated.

*Svelmains*, *tveicīgs* and *versmains* denote an atmospheric, hot temperature, which is unpleasantly high:

- (5) *Šodien ir svelmains / tveicīgs / versmains.*  
'It's hot today.'
  - a) \* the day is pleasantly warm
  - b) <sup>ok</sup> the day is unpleasantly hot

In my talk, I'm going to give more data on Latvian temperature terms and to speak about their properties, concerning their position on the temperature scale, compatibility with different nouns, evaluative connotations, substitutability and some semantic shifts in this domain.

## References

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