This talk is based on a frame-based approach to typological study. It is argued that semantic comparison should rely on a set of conceptual frames that can be revealed through analysis of word combinability in natural texts. The frame method was developed and tested by the Moscow Lexical Typology Group and is currently used in all its projects. The core of the method is finding contexts, in which a word cannot be replaced by a given near-synonym and determining which properties prevent the substitution. The methodology includes a survey of dictionaries, corpora, the analysis of literature (prose and poetry) and work with questionnaires (checklists for collecting data filled in by native speakers). The talk will cover two projects of the Moscow Lexical Typology Group in which I participated in:

1. ‘Aqua motion verbs in Western NIA’
   Cross-linguistically the main semantic domains of aqua-motion are ‘swimming’ – self-propelled motion of an animate figure, sailing – motion of vessels or people aboard and floating - ‘passive’, uncontrolled and non-agentive aqua-motion. The deviations from these semantic domains and their extensions as well as metaphoric shifts in Western NIA will be discussed in my talk.

2. ‘Verbs of position in Hindi in comparison with Russian’.
   Comparative usage of the verbs ‘sitt’, ‘stand’ and ‘lie’ with different animate and inanimate objects and common and different metaphorical extensions of the direct meaning of these verbs in Hindi and Russian will be in focus of my talk.