

STRUCTURE AND SEMANTIC PROPERTIES OF VERBS IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation: A comprehensive examination of the structural and semantic characteristics of verbs in English and Uzbek reveals both striking similarities and notable differences shaped by their respective linguistic typologies. English, belonging to the Indo-European family, and Uzbek, a representative of the Turkic language group, offer unique perspectives on verb formation, grammatical categorization, and semantic representation. This study investigates the morphological patterns, including verb inflection and derivation processes, as well as the systems of tense, aspect, and modality (TAM) in both languages. Additionally, the research analyzes how verbs assign semantic roles such as agent, experiencer, theme, and beneficiary in sentence structures. Through comparative linguistic analysis, key areas of convergence and divergence are identified, especially in relation to verb valency, argument structure, and the expression of modality. The results underscore the complexity and richness of verbal systems in both languages, highlighting the influence of agglutinative versus analytic structures on meaning construction. Insights gained from this study contribute to the broader understanding of cross-linguistic verb semantics and have practical applications in areas such as bilingual education, language acquisition, and the development of accurate translation models between English and Uzbek.

Keywords: Verb morphology, tense and aspect, modality, agglutinative languages, analytic languages, cross-linguistic comparison, verb classes, argument structure, case marking, language typology, semantic roles, syntactic roles, word order, phrasal verbs, verb derivation, transitivity and valency.

Annotatsiya: Ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi fe'llarning tuzilma va semantik xususiyatlarini chuqur o'rganish ularning tilshunoslik tipologiyasiga xos jihatlaridan kelib chiqqan holda bir qancha o'xshashliklar va sezilarli farqlarni ko'rsatadi. Indo-Yevropa til oilasiga mansub ingliz tili hamda turkiy tillar guruhiga kiruvchi o'zbek tili fe'l yasash, grammatik tasnif va semantik ifodalanish borasida o'ziga xos yondashuvlarga ega. Ushbu tadqiqotda har ikki tilning fe'l morfologiyasi, ya'ni fe'lning yasalishi va o'zgarishi, shuningdek, zamon, aspekt va modal (TAM) tizimlari o'rganiladi. Bundan tashqari, fe'llarning agent, tajriba egasi (experiencer), mavzu (theme) va foyda oluvchi (beneficiary) kabi semantik rollarni qanday taqsimlashi ham tahlil qilinadi. Taqqoslov lingvistik tahlil orqali fe'l valentligi, argument tuzilmasi va modalitayani ifodalash usullaridagi o'xshashlik va farqlar aniqlanadi. Tadqiqot natijalari har ikki til fe'l tizimining murakkabligi va boyligini ko'rsatib, agglutinativ va analitik tuzilmalar semantikani qanday shakllantirishini yoritib beradi. Bu tadqiqotdan olingan bilimlar ikki tilli ta'lim, til o'zlashtirish va ingliz hamda o'zbek tillari o'rtasida aniq tarjima modellarini ishlab chiqishda amaliy ahamiyatga ega.

Kalit so'zlar: Fe'l morfologiyasi, zamon va aspekt, modalitaya, agglutinativ tillar, analitik tillar, tillararo taqqoslash, fe'l sinflari, argument tuzilmasi, kelishik ifodalanishi, til tipologiyasi, semantik rollar, sintaktik rollar, so'z tartibi, frazeologik fe'llar, fe'l yasalishi, tranzitivlik va valentlik.

1. Introduction

Verbs occupy a central role in the grammatical structure and semantic interpretation of sentences across all human languages. They function as the core of predicates and serve to express essential elements of communication, including actions, occurrences, processes, and states of being. As dynamic carriers of meaning, verbs not only convey temporal and aspectual information but also define the relationships between participants within a given event. Despite their universal presence and grammatical importance, the structure and semantic properties of verbs can differ considerably across languages, depending on the typological and historical development of each linguistic system. This study focuses on a comparative analysis of the structural and semantic characteristics of verbs in two typologically distinct languages: English and Uzbek. English, a Germanic language within the Indo-European family, is predominantly analytic in nature. Its grammatical relationships are typically expressed through fixed word order and the use of auxiliary verbs, modal verbs, and periphrastic constructions. Morphologically, English verbs are relatively simple, with limited inflectional forms and heavy reliance on syntactic means to express tense, aspect, and modality.

2. Materials and Methods

This study investigates the morphological patterns, including verb inflection and derivation processes, as well as the systems of tense, aspect, and modality (TAM) in both languages. Additionally, the research analyzes how verbs assign semantic roles such as agent, experiencer, theme, and beneficiary in sentence structures. Through comparative linguistic analysis, key areas of convergence and divergence are identified, especially in relation to verb valency, argument structure, and the expression of modality.

3. Results

3.1 Verb Morphology

English Verbs:

English verbs demonstrate a relatively simple morphological structure. Inflectional changes are minimal, typically limited to distinctions in tense, person, and aspect. For regular verbs, the past tense and past participle forms are created by adding *-ed* (e.g., *walk* → *walked*). Irregular verbs (e.g., *go* → *went*) do not follow this pattern. Third person singular present tense is marked by the *-s* suffix (e.g., *he runs*). Progressive and perfect aspects are formed through the use of auxiliary verbs such as *be* and *have* (e.g., *is walking*, *has walked*). Modal meanings (necessity, possibility, ability, etc.) are expressed through a closed set of modal auxiliaries like *can*, *should*, *must*, and *might*, which do not inflect for tense or person.

Uzbek Verbs:

In contrast, Uzbek verbs exhibit a rich and complex morphology due to the agglutinative nature of the language. Verb stems are modified through the addition of various suffixes that convey person, tense, aspect, mood, voice, and negation. For example, the root verb *bor-* (to go) can appear in numerous forms such as *boraman* (I go), *borganman* (I have gone), or *borayotgan edim* (I was going). Unlike English, Uzbek does not require auxiliary verbs for most aspectual and temporal distinctions; instead, these are embedded within the verb structure itself. This morphological complexity allows for a high degree of nuance in verbal expression.

3.2 Verb Classes and Derivation

Verb derivation is an important morphological feature in Uzbek. New verbs can be systematically created by adding derivational affixes to verb roots, allowing for the formation of causative, passive, reflexive, and reciprocal forms. For example, from the root ko‘r- (to see), one can derive ko‘rsat- (to show), ko‘rsatil- (to be shown), and ko‘rish- (to see each other). This results in a highly productive and flexible verb system.

English, in comparison, uses fewer derivational suffixes to form verbs and often relies on phrasal verbs to express derived meanings (e.g., give up, put off, take in). While derivational morphology exists (e.g., modern → modernize, simple → simplify), it is more restricted and typically does not reflect the same range of grammatical voices as in Uzbek. Instead, English leans on syntactic constructions or auxiliary verbs to perform equivalent functions.

3.3 Tense, Aspect, and Mood (TAM)

English:

English distinguishes three primary tenses: present, past, and future. These tenses interact with four aspects—simple, progressive (continuous), perfect, and perfect progressive—to form a total of twelve basic verb forms (e.g., he will have been studying). Aspect is especially important in English for expressing the internal temporal structure of events. Modal meanings are communicated via auxiliary modals, which are invariant and syntactically positioned before the main verb.

Uzbek:

Uzbek verbal morphology encodes tense and aspect using a combination of suffixes and participles. The past (keldi), present continuous (kelmoqda), and future (keladi) tenses are commonly used. Mood is expressed through suffixes or particles such as -sin, -ing, kerak (must), and mumkin (may). Unlike English, modal verbs are not separate lexical items but rather particles or suffixes added to the verbal stem or clause. This results in a tightly integrated TAM system within individual verb forms.

3.4 Argument Structure and Valency

English:

English verbs are classified based on their valency—the number of arguments they take. Intransitive verbs require only a subject (He sleeps), transitive verbs require a subject and a direct object (She eats an apple), and ditransitive verbs take a subject, a direct object, and an indirect object (He gave her a book). Due to its analytic nature, English heavily depends on word order to indicate grammatical roles; deviation from canonical Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order can lead to ungrammaticality or ambiguity.

Uzbek:

Uzbek verbs are also classified into intransitive, transitive, and ditransitive categories, but unlike English, grammatical relationships are marked morphologically through case endings. For example, both U kitobni o‘qidi (He read the book) and Kitobni u o‘qidi (The book, he read) are grammatically acceptable, with the object being identified by the accusative marker -ni on kitob. This case-based system allows for greater syntactic flexibility and variation in focus or emphasis.

3.5 Semantic Roles

Semantic roles define the functions participants play in an event as described by the verb. Common roles include agent (doer of the action), theme (entity affected), experiencer (entity feeling or perceiving), and beneficiary (entity receiving benefit). These roles are present in both English and Uzbek but are encoded differently.

In English:

She gave him a gift.

Agent: She, Recipient: him, Theme: a gift.

In Uzbek:

U unga sovg'a berdi.

Agent: U, Recipient: unga, Theme: sovg'a.

In Uzbek, these roles are marked via case endings (-ga, -ni, etc.) rather than fixed word order. This allows for flexible sentence construction without loss of clarity regarding participant roles.

4. Discussion

This study demonstrates that while English and Uzbek verbs perform similar grammatical and semantic functions within their respective languages, the structural realization of these functions varies significantly. English, as an analytic language, typically relies on auxiliary verbs, modal verbs, and fixed word order to express complex verbal meanings such as tense, aspect, and modality. For example, auxiliary constructions like *is walking* or *has gone* and modal verbs such as *can*, *should*, and *might* play a central role in expressing the temporal and modal nuances of actions. In contrast, Uzbek, being an agglutinative language, achieves much of the same expressive range through a highly inflected verb system. Verbs in Uzbek are often modified with a series of suffixes, which encode information about tense, aspect, mood, person, and voice in a single word. For instance, the verb *bor-* (to go) can take forms like *boraman* (I go), *borganman* (I have gone), or *borayotganman* (I am going), reflecting both tense and aspect without the need for auxiliary verbs. The rich morphological structure in Uzbek allows for nuanced expression within compact verbal forms, which contrasts sharply with the more analytic constructions found in English. These structural differences between English and Uzbek verbs have significant implications for various areas of language study and practical applications. From a theoretical standpoint, this contrast highlights the typological distinctions between analytic and agglutinative languages, offering insights into how different linguistic systems encode meaning and organize verbal morphology. The study also emphasizes the role of language typology in shaping grammatical structures, revealing how syntactic and morphological elements can diverge while fulfilling similar communicative functions.

6. Conclusion

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