

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK WORD COMBINATIONS

Nazarov Sardor Shamurodovich

Economics and Pedagogy University

Email: sardornazarov77777@gmail.com

Phone number: +998916393515

Abstract: This research provides a comparative analysis of the structural and semantic characteristics of word combinations in English and Uzbek, examining their formation, idiomatic nature, and the impact of cultural and linguistic factors. English, an analytic language with a fixed word order and frequent use of phrasal verbs, stands in stark contrast to Uzbek, which is an agglutinative language that depends on suffixes, postpositions, and auxiliary verbs. The study investigates significant differences in syntax, morphology, and semantic clarity, highlighting the difficulties encountered in translation and second-language acquisition. While English often relies on idiomatic expressions with less transparent meanings (e.g., "kick the bucket"), Uzbek combinations tend to be more literal, although idioms influenced by Persian and Russian are also present (e.g., "dil kushodasi" [heart's joy]). Additionally, the study looks at how cultural and historical influences shape the collocational structures in both languages. By comparing these features in detail, the paper aims to improve cross-linguistic understanding, offering valuable insights for translators, linguists, and language learners. The findings emphasize the importance of context-sensitive approaches to mastering the distinct structural and semantic systems of both languages.

Keywords: word combinations, collocations, structural-semantic features, English-Uzbek contrast, idiomaticity, agglutination, translation challenges.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqotda ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi so'z birikmalarining tarkibiy va semantik xususiyatlari qiyosiy tahlil qilinib, ularning shakllanishi, idiomatik tabiati, madaniy va lingvistik omillarning ta'siri o'rganiladi. Ingliz tili, so'z tartibi qat'iy bo'lgan va frazemalarning tez-tez qo'llanilgan analitik tili qo'shimchalar, qo'shimchalar va yordamchi fe'llarga bog'liq bo'lgan aglutinativ til bo'lgan o'zbek tilidan keskin farq qiladi. Tadqiqot sintaksis, morfologiya va semantik ravshanlikdagi sezilarli farqlarni o'rganadi, tarjima va ikkinchi tilni o'zlashtirishda duch keladigan qiyinchiliklarni ta'kidlaydi. Ingliz tili ko'pincha shaffof ma'nosi kam bo'lgan idiomatik iboralarga (masalan, "paqirni tepmoq") tayansa, o'zbekcha birikmalar ko'proq tom ma'noda bo'ladi, garchi fors va rus tillari ta'sirida bo'lgan idiomalar ham mavjud (masalan, "dil qushodasi" [yurak quvonchi]). Bundan tashqari, tadqiqot madaniy va tarixiy ta'sirlar har ikkala tildagi kollokatsion tuzilmalarni qanday shakllantirishiga qaraydi. Ushbu xususiyatlarni batafsil taqqoslash orqali maqola tarjimonlar, tilshunoslar va til o'rganuvchilar uchun qimmatli tushunchalarni taqdim etib, tillararo tushunishni yaxshilashga qaratilgan. Topilmalar har ikki tilning alohida strukturaviy va semantik tizimini o'zlashtirishda kontekstga sezgir yondashuvlar muhimligini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: so'z birikmalari, birikmalar, struktur-semantik xususiyatlar, inglizcha-o'zbekcha kontrast, idiomatiklik, aglyutinatsiya, tarjima muammolari.

Аннотация: В этом исследовании представлен сравнительный анализ структурных и семантических характеристик словосочетаний в английском и узбекском языках,

рассматривается их формирование, идиоматическая природа и влияние культурных и языковых факторов. Английский язык, аналитический язык с фиксированным порядком слов и частым использованием фразовых глаголов, резко контрастирует с узбекским языком, который является агглютинативным языком, зависящим от суффиксов, послелогов и вспомогательных глаголов. Исследование изучает существенные различия в синтаксисе, морфологии и семантической ясности, подчеркивая трудности, возникающие при переводе и усвоении второго языка. В то время как английский язык часто опирается на идиоматические выражения с менее прозрачными значениями (например, «kick the bucket»), узбекские сочетания, как правило, более буквальны, хотя также присутствуют идиомы, на которые повлияли персидский и русский языки (например, «dil kushodasi» [радость сердца]). Кроме того, исследование рассматривает, как культурные и исторические влияния формируют коллокационные структуры в обоих языках. Сравнивая эти особенности подробно, статья направлена на улучшение межъязыкового понимания, предлагая ценные идеи для переводчиков, лингвистов и изучающих языки. Результаты подчеркивают важность контекстно-зависимых подходов к освоению различных структурных и семантических систем обоих языков.

Ключевые слова: словосочетания, словосочетания, структурно-семантические особенности, англо-узбекский контраст, идиоматичность, агглютинация, трудности перевода.

The study of word combinations, also known as collocations, plays a key role in understanding how languages organize meaning and communicate subtle information. English and Uzbek, belonging to the Indo-European and Turkic language families respectively, offer distinct approaches to the structural and semantic formation of word combinations. This comparative analysis explores the key characteristics of these combinations in both languages, focusing on the syntactic and semantic factors that influence their construction and usage.

Structural Features of Word Combinations

Word Order in English and Uzbek Word Combinations

English, a Germanic language, typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure in sentences. This pattern is reflected in word combinations, where adjectives usually precede nouns (e.g., "beautiful garden"), and adverbs modify verbs (e.g., "run quickly"). English word order is relatively rigid, and the positioning of words often determines the relationships between them.

In contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic language, follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure in its sentences. Word combinations in Uzbek are more flexible, with adjectives typically following nouns (e.g., "bog' go'zal" for "beautiful garden"). This flexibility allows for greater stylistic variation, particularly in poetry and artistic expressions. Additionally, the placement of modifiers within a phrase can be adjusted in Uzbek to emphasize certain aspects or create specific themes.

Morphological Considerations

English and Uzbek also differ in their use of inflections and agglutations. English combines words into fixed expressions, often utilizing compound nouns (e.g., "toothpaste," "mother-in-law") that typically remain unchanged. Prepositions and articles in English help establish grammatical relationships, which makes the language relatively analytic.

Uzbek, however, is an agglutinative language, meaning it relies on suffixes to express grammatical relationships. Word combinations in Uzbek often involve various suffixes that modify the root word,

adding layers of meaning. For instance, the word "yosh" (young) can be transformed into "yoshlik" (youth) by adding the suffix "-lik." This morphological flexibility allows for rich, nuanced word combinations that convey details about tense, case, and number.

Semantic Features of Word Combinations

Collocational Patterns and Meaning

Collocations—commonly paired words—are an essential part of both English and Uzbek. However, the semantic nature of these combinations differs due to cultural, historical, and linguistic influences. In English, collocations are often set expressions, where the meaning can generally be deduced from the individual words. For example, “make a decision” is a typical collocation, where "make" combines with "decision," even though "make" doesn't directly mean “to decide.”

In Uzbek, many collocations are more fluid and can adapt to specific cultural contexts. For instance, the phrase "qol o'rnida" (literally “in place of the hand”) can figuratively refer to a job or task that needs to be completed, showcasing the metaphorical nature of word combinations in Uzbek.

Cultural Context and Figurative Language

The use of figurative language in word combinations differs significantly between English and Uzbek, with each language having its own idiomatic expressions and metaphors. In English, expressions like “a rough road ahead” or “a silver lining” are common. These metaphors often draw upon cultural references or historical contexts that have shaped the language over time.

Uzbek, influenced by Turkic, Persian, and Arabic traditions, often uses more vivid and poetic phrases. For example, the expression "ko'z yosh" (literally "eye tear") conveys feelings of sorrow or sadness, reflecting how figurative language in Uzbek can carry deep cultural meaning.

Everyday Speech and Informal Contexts

Word combinations in both English and Uzbek are frequently used in everyday speech and informal settings, often creating a relaxed or colloquial tone. For example, in English, expressions such as “grab a bite” or “hit the books” use common verbs in non-literal, figurative ways. These idiomatic phrases are widely used in informal communication and offer a sense of familiarity and ease in conversation.

In Uzbek, everyday phrases like "biror narsa qilish" (to do something) or "birga o'tirish" (to hang out) demonstrate how simple words, when combined, can express a more casual or friendly tone. Such combinations allow speakers to convey complex ideas in a more succinct and informal manner.

Both languages display a certain fluidity in informal contexts, where the rules of word combinations might bend to accommodate colloquial speech patterns, social norms, or regional dialects.

Formal vs. Informal Contexts

The syntactic and semantic nuances of word combinations can vary significantly between formal and informal contexts in both languages. In formal English, word combinations are typically more structured and precise, as in “conduct an interview” or “hold a meeting,” where formality is maintained through careful selection of verbs and nouns. These combinations often aim for clarity and professionalism, especially in academic, legal, or business settings.

In informal English, the same words might be replaced with more casual expressions: "have a chat" instead of "conduct an interview," or "hang out" instead of "hold a meeting." These variations highlight how word combinations adapt to social settings, with a more relaxed, conversational style prevailing in everyday speech.

Similarly, in formal Uzbek, word combinations are more likely to be complete and grammatically precise. For instance, the formal term for "to express an opinion" might be "fikr bildirish," while in casual conversations, one might use "o'ylamoq" (to think). In contrast, informal Uzbek allows for more flexibility in word order and structure, and speakers may opt for simpler or even metaphorical expressions to convey meaning more fluidly.

Teaching Word Combinations in English and Uzbek as a Second Language

Teaching word combinations to non-native speakers is a crucial aspect of language learning, as these combinations reflect not only syntactic structures but also cultural and idiomatic usage.

In English as a second language (ESL), learners often struggle with collocations since they do not always follow logical patterns. Teaching focuses on common verb-noun pairings like "take a shower" or "make a mistake" and encourages students to memorize these combinations. Using authentic materials, such as movies, books, and conversations, can help learners internalize these expressions, particularly in idiomatic or colloquial forms.

For Uzbek as a second language (USL) learners, teaching word combinations involves helping students understand the agglutinative nature of the language. Learners need to grasp how suffixes modify words to change their meaning, as well as how word order can be flexible depending on the context. Additionally, learners need to familiarize themselves with the culturally specific idioms and metaphors in Uzbek, such as "qop qutqarish" (to save the day), which might not translate directly into English.

Both languages require a deep understanding of context, as word combinations in both English and Uzbek can vary widely based on the level of formality, the speaker's background, and regional dialects.

Complex Sentences and Word Combinations

English frequently uses compound and complex sentences to show relationships between different actions or states. Word combinations in English are often extended with relative clauses or additional descriptive elements (e.g., "the book on the table" or "the man who is reading the book"). This construction adds layers of meaning and context.

In Uzbek, complex sentences are similarly used, but due to the language's agglutinative nature, relationships are expressed differently. Instead of relying on conjunctions or relative clauses, word combinations in Uzbek are extended with suffixes that provide additional meaning to the root words. For instance, "yurish" (to walk) can be modified with suffixes to show intent, duration, or manner, offering a deeper semantic understanding.

Syntactic Flexibility and Stylistic Variations

Both English and Uzbek offer a degree of syntactic flexibility, allowing for stylistic expression. In English, word combinations can be adjusted for emphasis or rhythm, particularly in poetry,

advertisements, and casual speech. While the fixed word order in English doesn't prevent creative rearrangements, it still requires attention to syntactic rules.

Uzbek, with its more flexible word order, provides greater freedom in structuring sentences. Modifiers can be moved around within phrases to shift the meaning or emphasis without altering the basic structure of the sentence.

Conclusion

The comparative study of the structural and semantic features of English and Uzbek word combinations reveals significant differences in how each language constructs meaning. English tends to favor a rigid syntactic structure, while Uzbek makes use of a more flexible system that allows for complex morphological and syntactic constructions. The use of collocations in both languages reflects distinct cultural perspectives, with each language offering idiomatic expressions that shape how speakers perceive and understand their surroundings.

As global communication continues to increase, recognizing the structural-semantic differences between English and Uzbek will improve cross-cultural understanding and aid in the teaching and learning of both languages. This comparative analysis highlights the rich diversity of linguistic expression and emphasizes the importance of context, culture, and structure in shaping how words convey meaning.

References:

1. Chomsky, Noam. *Syntactic Structures*. Mouton, 1957.
2. Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.
3. Popova, Zinaida, and I. A. Sternin. *Semantics: A Coursebook*. Cambridge University Press, 1997.
4. Saidov, Rustam, and Shukhratbek Tursunov. *Uzbek Syntax and Grammar: A Comparative Study with Turkic Languages*. Tashkent University Press, 2007.
5. Kachru, Braj B. *The Alchemy of English: The Spread, Functions, and Models of Non-native Englishes*. University of Illinois Press, 1986.
6. Yusufov, Anvar. *Contrastive Linguistics: A Comparative Study of the English and Uzbek Languages*. Tashkent, 2010.
7. Bahromov, Shokhrukh. *The Syntax of Uzbek: A Typological Perspective*. Tashkent State University, 2015.
8. Jackson, Howard, and Etienne Zephir. *Word Combinations and Idiomatic Expressions: A Linguistic Analysis*. Routledge, 2011.
9. Mansurov, Mukhammad. *Cultural Nuances in Uzbek Phraseology*. Tashkent University Press, 2012.
10. Bauer, Laurie. *English Word-formation*. Cambridge University Press, 1983.