



TYOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF VERB SYSTEMS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract

This paper examines the typological aspects of verb systems across languages, focusing on the contrast between analytical and agglutinative structures. It explores how grammatical categories such as tense, aspect, mood, voice, and valency are encoded in different linguistic systems. Special attention is given to English as an analytical language and Uzbek as an agglutinative language. The study highlights both universal and language-specific features of verbs and demonstrates how typological differences shape grammatical expression. The findings show that while semantic functions remain universal, languages employ distinct morphological and syntactic strategies to express them.

Keywords: language typology, verbs, analytical languages, agglutinative languages, English, Uzbek, tense, aspect, valency

Introduction

Language typology investigates how languages are structurally organized and how they encode grammatical meaning. Verbs, as the central element of predication, play a crucial role in typological studies because they express core grammatical categories such as tense, aspect, mood, voice, and argument structure. As Comrie (1989) argues, verbs provide the most reliable basis for cross-linguistic comparison because they encode fundamental grammatical distinctions. This study aims to



analyze typological differences in verb systems, focusing on English and Uzbek as representatives of analytical and agglutinative language types.

Language Typology and Verb Systems

Language typology classifies languages according to their morphological and syntactic characteristics. Greenberg (1963) distinguishes isolating, agglutinative, fusional, and polysynthetic language types, each reflecting different strategies of encoding grammatical meaning. English is primarily an analytical (isolating) language, where grammatical relations are expressed through auxiliary verbs, word order, and function words (Crystal, 2003). In contrast, Uzbek is an agglutinative language, where grammatical meanings are expressed through a sequence of suffixes attached to a lexical root (Rahmatullayev, 2006).

For example, past tense in English is expressed as “He wrote,” while in Uzbek it is “U yozdi.” The progressive aspect appears as “He is writing” in English and “U yozayapti” in Uzbek. Similarly, future tense (“He will write”) corresponds to “U yozadi,” and the perfect form “He has written” corresponds to “U yozgan.” These examples demonstrate that while the semantic meanings are equivalent, the structural realization differs significantly (Comrie, 1976).

Analytical Verb Systems in English

In analytical languages such as English, grammatical meanings are primarily expressed through periphrastic constructions involving auxiliary verbs. Tense is indicated by forms such as “will go” and “has gone,” while aspect is expressed through constructions like “is writing” and “has been working” (Biber et al., 1999). Mood is conveyed through modal verbs such as “can,” “must,” and “should,” which encode meanings of possibility, necessity, and obligation.

Chomsky (1995) emphasizes that word order plays a crucial role in such systems, as it determines syntactic relations. For instance, “The boy kicked the ball” differs fundamentally from “The ball kicked the boy,” illustrating the importance of



linear order. Thus, English relies heavily on syntactic structure rather than morphological marking.

Agglutinative Verb Systems in Uzbek

Uzbek verbs are characterized by agglutination, where each suffix corresponds to a specific grammatical function. Past tense is marked by *-di* or *-gan*, progressive aspect by *-yapti*, conditional mood by *-sa*, causative by *-tir* or *-dir*, and passive by *-il* or *-in* (Rahmatullayev, 2006).

As noted by Sodiqov (2010), Uzbek verbs can encode multiple grammatical meanings within a single word. For example, *kelib qo'ygan edim* expresses a complex temporal and aspectual meaning equivalent to “I had come.” This demonstrates the high degree of morphological synthesis in Uzbek, reducing the need for auxiliary constructions.

Universal and Language-Specific Features

Typological research distinguishes universal features of verbs from language-specific characteristics. Universal features include the presence of predication, temporal reference, aspectual distinctions, and argument structure (Comrie, 1989). Semantic roles such as agent, patient, and experiencer are also found across languages.

However, languages differ in how these features are realized. English relies on auxiliary verbs and a fixed SVO word order, while Uzbek employs rich suffixation and allows relatively flexible word order due to case marking (Greenberg, 1963). These differences illustrate the diversity of linguistic structures despite shared communicative functions.

Comparative Typological Principles

Comparative typology examines how languages encode similar meanings using different structural means. In English, grammatical meaning is expressed through auxiliary verbs combined with the main verb, whereas in Uzbek it is encoded through suffixation. English depends on word order to signal grammatical relations,



while Uzbek uses morphological case marking, allowing syntactic flexibility (Crystal, 2003).

Valency adjustment also differs. English uses syntactic constructions such as the passive voice (“The book was read by John”), whereas Uzbek uses morphological markers (“Kitob o‘qildi”) and causative forms (“Kitob o‘qitildi”). These differences highlight how typology influences argument structure realization.

Tense and Aspect Systems

Tense and aspect are central categories in verb typology. English distinguishes between simple, progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive forms using auxiliary verbs (Biber et al., 1999). Uzbek expresses these meanings through suffixes such as *-di*, *-yapti*, and *-gan*.

For instance, *yoziq qo‘ydi* indicates a completed action, while *yoziq turdi* expresses continuity or repetition. Comrie (1976) notes that aspectual distinctions are universal, but languages differ in whether they express them morphologically or syntactically.

Voice and Modality

Voice indicates the relationship between the verb and its arguments. In English, passive constructions are formed syntactically (“The door was opened”), whereas Uzbek uses morphological markers (“Eshik ochildi”) (Crystal, 2003). Uzbek also has productive causative forms such as “ochdirdi.”

Modality is expressed in English through modal verbs such as “can,” “must,” and “should,” while Uzbek uses suffixes and particles such as *-sa*, *-sin*, *kerak*, and *lozim* (Sodiqov, 2010). Despite structural differences, both languages express universal meanings of necessity, possibility, and obligation.

Conclusion

The typological analysis of verb systems demonstrates that languages differ significantly in how they encode grammatical meaning. English relies on analytical and syntactic strategies, while Uzbek employs agglutinative and morphological



mechanisms. Despite these differences, both languages share universal semantic functions. This confirms that typology reveals both diversity and unity in language structure and plays an essential role in comparative linguistics and language teaching.

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