

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CATEGORY OF VERB IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This thesis presents a comparative analysis of the category of the verb in the English and Uzbek languages. The study examines the expression of grammatical meanings in both languages, accounting for their typological distinctions. English verbs are primarily characterized by analytical structures, whereas Uzbek verbs rely on agglutinative forms. The research is grounded in the theoretical frameworks of Otto Jespersen and V.V. Vinogradov, whose approaches to verbal categories provide a solid foundation for this comparison. The thesis identifies both universal (shared) and language-specific features of the verbal systems in English and Uzbek.

Keywords: verb category, grammatical meaning, typological differences, analytic verb system, agglutinative verb system, comparative analysis

The verb is considered the central and most complex grammatical category, as it functions as the core of predication and determines the structure of the sentence. Through the verb, grammatical meanings such as tense, aspect, mood, and voice are realized, making it a key element in the grammatical system of any language. For this reason, the study of the verb category remains one of the most significant issues in modern linguistics. A comparative approach to the verb category is particularly relevant when analyzing English and Uzbek due to their typological differences. English is characterized as a predominantly analytic language, where verbal meanings are often expressed through auxiliary constructions, whereas Uzbek is an agglutinative language, in which grammatical meanings are mainly conveyed by suffixation. Identifying these differences is essential for translation studies and language teaching methodology.

In Uzbek linguistics, the verb is traditionally defined as a word class expressing action, state, or process, and functioning as the grammatical center of the predicate. Uzbek scholars emphasize both semantic meaning (action/state) and grammatical categories (tense, mood, person, voice).

Abdurauf Fitrat, one of the founders of modern Uzbek linguistics, viewed the verb as inseparable from the doer and time. According to Fitrat, a verb expresses an action together with its performer and its time. For example:

Yozdi (wrote)

Action: writing

Doer: implied 3rd person

Time: past tense

Fitrat's approach is important because it links lexical meaning with grammatical function.

Another prominent modern Uzbek linguist Shoabdurahmonov gives important insights regarding the concept of verb category. In his work, *Hozirgi O'zbek Adabiy Tili*, the verb is defined more systematically. More specifically, A verb is an independent part of speech expressing action or state in the form of a process and answering the questions "what to do?" or "what state to be in?"

Examples:

Yugurmoq (to run) — action

Uxlamoq (to sleep) — state

Qizarmoq (to redden) — process/change

The scholars, G'ani Abdurahmonov and Shavkat Shaxobiddinov, emphasize the "processual" nature of the verb. They define it as a part of speech that denotes the action or state of a person or object and possesses grammatical indicators such as tense, person-number, mood, and voice. For example:

O'qimoqda (is reading - action), *uxlayapti* (is sleeping - state). The suffixes *-moqda* and *-yapti* signify the continuous aspect and present tense.

A prominent expert in Uzbek morphology, Hojiyev focuses on the lexical-grammatical forms of the verb. He argues that the verb is the only category capable of expressing the dynamic change of an object over time. He specifically highlights the category of *Nisbat* (Voice) as a defining feature of Uzbek verbs. For example: *Yozildi* (It was written). Here, the root *yoz-* (write) is modified by the suffix *-il-* to change the direction of the action toward the object.

In English linguistics, the verb is often defined as the predicative core of the sentence. Because English is an analytical language, definitions often focus on the verb's function within the sentence structure rather than just its endings. Similar to Uzbek language, verbs are seen as words expressing actions, states, or occurrences, but modern linguistics places stronger emphasis on syntactic function and morphological behavior.

British linguist Randolph Quirk states that a verb is a word class that functions as the head of the verb phrase and expresses processes such as actions, events, and states. For example, *run* → action, *know* → state, *happen* → event. Quirk emphasizes that verbs form verb phrases, show tense and aspect and also participate in voice and mood systems.

According to highly influential modern grammar linguists Huddleston and Pullum, verbs are a lexical category characterized by their ability to function as the head of predicate structure and to inflect for tense. Huddleston and Pullum focus less on meaning and more on **distribution and grammar**. **Example:**

She writes.

She is writing.

She has written.

These illustrate tense and aspect variation.

Classic linguist Otto Jespersen described verbs primarily through their semantic role. His definition is that a verb is a word that expresses action, occurrence, or state and forms the predicate of a sentence. Example:

He runs.

She is happy. (state expressed through a verb)

Structural Linguist Zellig Harris defined verbs through morphological distribution. His definition is that words that can take inflections like *-ed* and *-ing* and occur after auxiliaries (*will, can, should*) belong to the verb class. Example:

walk → walked → walking

write → will write

This approach defines verbs by behavior, not meaning.

Both Uzbek and English linguistics define verbs as words expressing **action or state**, but their emphases differ:

Uzbek Linguistics

Strong semantic focus

Verb tied to doer and time

Rich inflection for person, mood

Central in predication

English Linguistics

Strong structural focus

Verb as predicate head

Rich tense-aspect system

Central in clause structure

While Uzbek linguists define the verb as a cluster of suffixes attached to a root to express action, English linguists define it as a functional engine that drives the sentence structure.

A comparative approach to the verb category is particularly relevant when analyzing English and Uzbek due to their typological differences. English is characterized as a predominantly analytic language, where verbal meanings are often expressed through auxiliary constructions, whereas Uzbek is an agglutinative language, in which grammatical meanings are mainly conveyed by suffixation. Identifying these differences is essential for translation studies and language teaching methodology. The theoretical foundation of this study is based on the views of Otto Jespersen, who underscored the structural role of the verb in English, and V. V. Vinogradov, who emphasized the functional and grammatical richness of the verb system within its morphological framework.

From a structural point of view, the most significant difference between English and Uzbek verbs lies in the way grammatical meanings are expressed. In English, verbal meanings are predominantly conveyed through analytic constructions involving auxiliary verbs. For example, in the sentence “*He has come*,” the grammatical meaning of tense and aspect is expressed by the auxiliary verb *has* combined with the past participle *come*. In Uzbek, however, the same meaning is realized through agglutinative suffixation, as in “*Kelgan*,” where grammatical information is embedded directly into the verb form. This contrast clearly illustrates the analytic nature of English and the agglutinative character of Uzbek.

This structural distinction is consistent with the views of **Otto Jespersen**, who argued that English grammar tends to replace inflectional morphology with auxiliary constructions in order to express grammatical relations¹. Jespersen emphasized that the verb phrase in English functions as a complex analytical unit, where grammatical meaning is distributed across several elements rather than concentrated in a single form. In contrast, **V. V. Vinogradov** described the verb as the most grammatically rich and structurally significant part of speech in languages with developed morphological systems². His analysis highlights the role of affixation in expressing tense, person, and modality.

A comparison of specific verbal categories further supports this distinction. In English, the category of person and number is weakly marked and limited mainly to the third person singular in the present tense (*he works*), whereas in Uzbek, person and number are clearly and consistently indicated by verbal suffixes (*kelaman, kelasiz*,

¹ Jespersen, O. *The Philosophy of Grammar*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1924, pp. 92–98.

² Vinogradov, V. V. *Russkiy yazyk. Grammaticheskoye ucheniye o slove*. Moscow: Vysshaya shkola, 1972, pp. 245–252.

kelishdi). Similarly, tense forms in English often require auxiliary verbs, while Uzbek tense forms are morphologically compact and transparent. These differences demonstrate that although English and Uzbek share universal verbal categories, their realization depends largely on typological structure.

In conclusion, the comparative study of the category of the verb in English and Uzbek demonstrates that although both languages share common grammatical functions, their structural realization differs significantly. The analytic verb system of English, which depends on auxiliary constructions, contrasts with the agglutinative verb system of Uzbek, where grammatical meanings are expressed through suffixation. These differences, supported by the theoretical views of Otto Jespersen and V. V. Vinogradov, underline the importance of typological factors in linguistic analysis. The findings of this study have practical value for translation studies and for developing effective methods of teaching English to Uzbek-speaking learners.

References

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The category of the verb is considered one of the most intricate and multifaceted components in both Uzbek and English linguistics. In both languages, verbs occupy a central position as they serve to express fundamental actions, processes, and states of being. Tense time Tense