

COMPERATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE VERBS OF INTENSITY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This thesis investigates the verbs of intensity in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on their structural, semantic, and functional characteristics. Verbs of intensity express varying degrees of action, state, or process and play a crucial role in conveying nuance, emphasis, and emotional or cognitive force within communication. A comparative analysis of these verbs in English and Uzbek reveals how linguistic, morphological, and cultural factors influence the expression of intensity in different languages. The research examines both grammatical and semantic properties of intensity verbs, including their derivational patterns, aspectual features, syntactic behavior, and pragmatic functions. In English, intensity is often conveyed through auxiliary verbs, adverbial modification, phrasal constructions, or semantic gradation (e.g., *strengthen*, *intensify*, *heighten*), whereas in Uzbek, agglutinative morphology, verb affixation, and context-dependent markers play a central role in expressing intensification. This study also considers the interaction between verb semantics and sentence structure, showing how intensity verbs function in relation to arguments, mood, and aspect to enhance meaning. Using descriptive, analytical, and contrastive methods, the thesis identifies both convergences and divergences in the use of intensity verbs across the two languages. It highlights universal linguistic principles underlying the expression of intensity while illustrating language-specific strategies shaped by morphology, syntax, and cultural context.

Keywords: Verbs of intensity, comparative linguistics, verb semantics, semantic gradation, intensity and emphasis, aspect and degree.

The expression of intensity is an essential semantic category in human language, allowing speakers to convey degrees of force, strength, emotional involvement, and emphasis in actions and states. Verbs of intensity play a significant role in this process, as they encode not only the occurrence of an action but also its degree or strength. A comparative analysis of verbs of intensity in English and Uzbek provides valuable insight into how two typologically different languages conceptualize and linguistically represent intensified actions and processes. Intensity in verb semantics refers to the degree or strength with which an action, state, or process is performed or experienced. Verbs of intensity may inherently contain intensified meaning (*to intensify, to strengthen, to worsen*) or acquire it through contextual, morphological, or syntactic means. From a semantic perspective, intensity is closely related to gradability, aspect, and emotive force, enabling speakers to fine-tune meaning according to communicative needs.

English primarily employs analytic and lexical strategies to express verbal intensity. One common method involves the use of verbs with inherent intensifying semantics, such as *intensify, deepen, heighten, strengthen, exaggerate, and aggravate*. These verbs often function transitively and are frequently used in academic, literary, and journalistic discourse to emphasize changes in degree or force. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, relies heavily on morphological mechanisms to express verbal intensity. Intensity is frequently encoded through suffixation, reduplication, and derivational affixes that modify the meaning of the verb stem. Verbal affixes may indicate repetition, continuity, completeness, or excessiveness of action, thereby intensifying the semantic content of the verb.

A contrastive examination reveals that both languages share the communicative goal of expressing degree and emphasis but employ different linguistic strategies. English favors lexical choice, adverbial modification, and syntactic constructions, reflecting its analytic nature. Uzbek, in contrast, demonstrates a preference for morphological encoding and verb-internal modification, characteristic of agglutinative languages.

Semantically, English intensity verbs often display greater polysemy and metaphorical extension, while Uzbek verbs show systematic gradation through affixation.

Pragmatically, intensity in both languages is influenced by discourse type, speaker intention, and cultural norms. For instance, Uzbek discourse may rely more on morphological intensity in everyday speech, whereas English frequently uses adverbs and stylistic variation to achieve similar effects. These differences have important implications for translation and language teaching. Learners must not only understand lexical meanings but also recognize how intensity is structurally and culturally encoded in each language. Direct translation of intensity verbs may lead to semantic loss or stylistic distortion if these differences are not taken into account.

Beyond their structural and semantic features, verbs of intensity serve important pragmatic functions. They enhance expressiveness, convey emotional involvement, and allow speakers to evaluate actions and events. In both English and Uzbek, intensity verbs contribute to persuasion, narrative tension, and stylistic richness, particularly in literary and rhetorical texts. Understanding these functional aspects is essential for comprehensive linguistic analysis, as intensity verbs reflect not only grammatical structure but also speaker intention and cultural patterns of expression.

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