

GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF BLESSINGS AND WISHES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This study offers a comprehensive grammatical investigation of blessings and wishes in English and Uzbek, focusing on verb forms, mood, modality, and sentence structures. Blessings and wishes, as linguistic expressions of goodwill and desires, exhibit language-specific grammatical encoding shaped by typological and cultural features. English mostly uses modal auxiliaries, the subjunctive mood, and lexical verbs such as *wish* to construct blessings and wishes. In contrast, Uzbek employs rich agglutinative morphology with mood-marking suffixes including *-sin*, and special syntactic constructions.

Keywords: Blessings; Wishes; English Grammar; Uzbek Morphology; Mood; Modality; Subjunctive; Agglutination; Comparative Linguistics; Speech Acts

1. Introduction

Blessings and wishes represent important speech acts that communicate desires for others' wellbeing, happiness, or success. Their pragmatic functions and cultural significance are widely recognized across languages; however, the grammatical encoding mechanisms vary considerably depending on language typology and morphology. English and Uzbek, typologically distinct — the former analytic and Germanic, the latter agglutinative and Turkic — provide a fertile ground for comparative grammatical study of these utterances.[1:33]

This paper presents a comparative grammatical analysis of blessings and wishes in English and Uzbek. We analyze frequently occurring constructions, focusing on verb morphology, mood, modality, and sentence structure. The corpus data are supported by

examples from canonical grammar references and linguistic research.[2:13]. The objectives are:

- To identify core grammatical features used in blessing and wishing expressions.
- To describe contrasts and similarities in morphological and syntactic marking.
- To discuss implications for language learning and intercultural communication.

2. Methodology

This study applies a qualitative and descriptive approach, combining corpus examination, contrastive grammatical analysis, and literature review. Data were gathered from:

- 1.English corpora including the British National Corpus (BNC) and COCA for usages of blessings and wishes with modals and the subjunctive.[3:67]
- 2.Uzbek texts and recordings, including traditional blessings, folk expressions, and contemporary language samples.
- 3.Scholarly grammars and linguistic descriptions.

The analysis focused on identifying key grammatical markers related to modality and mood, such as:

- 4.English modal auxiliaries *may*, *might*, *wish*, and subjunctive verb forms.
- 5.Uzbek verb suffixes *-sin*, *-ay*, and particles expressing optative, desiderative, or imperative mood.

Examples were extracted, translated, and examined to clarify underlying morphological and syntactic mechanisms.

3. Results

English Expressions of Blessings and Wishes

English utilizes specific grammatical strategies to express blessings and wishes:

-Modal Auxiliary Verbs and the Optative

The modal verb may often introduce blessings, marking a hopeful or desired state:

May you live long and prosper.

May peace be with you always.

May all your dreams come true.

May the journey bring you happiness.

These constructions are typically followed by the base verb (infinitive without to), forming an optative mood-like expression.

2. Modal Auxiliary Verbs and the Optative

The Verb *Wish* and Subjunctive Mood

Verb *wish* introduces wishes and counterfactual desires, often combined with the past subjunctive or past perfect for hypothetical contexts:

- *I wish you happiness.* (simple wish in present)
- *I wish you were here.* (counterfactual past)
- *I wish I had attended the meeting.*

English subjunctive mood, though less commonly productive, persists in certain blessing and wish expressions, such as *Long live the king!*

Sentence Structures and Word Order

English blessings and wishes mostly follow Subject-Modal-Verb-Object (S–V–O) order but may omit subjects for brevity or formality:

- *Bless you!* (imperative form)
- *God bless you!*

Uzbek Expressions of Blessings and Wishes

Uzbek grammar marks blessings and wishes primarily through morphological suffixes and particles.

Optative and Desiderative Verb Suffixes

The suffix *-sin* attaches to verbs to express optative or wish moods:

-O'zingni asra-sin! (May you take care of yourself!)

-Yaxshi odamlar ko'p bo'lsin! (May there be many good people!)

Another related suffix, *-ay*, marks exhortations or wishes where the speaker encourages or hopes for an action.

Particles and Syntax

Particles like *bo'lsa* and *bo'lar* appear in wish-like conditional and optative clauses:

Omad yor bo'lsa! (May luck be with you!)

Uzbek word order is primarily Subject-Object-Verb (SOV), and mood suffixes appear directly on the verb stem.

Comparative Analysis

Feature	English	Uzbek
Language Type	Analytic, Germanic	Agglutinative, Turkic
Use of Modal Auxiliaries	<i>may, might, wish</i>	N/A
Verb Morphology	Minimal (subjunctive endings largely lost)	Rich suffixes (<i>-sin, -ay</i>)
Mood Expressed	Subjunctive, optative (modal auxiliaries)	Optative, desiderative, imperative
Sentence Structure	SVO	SOV

Differences rooted in typology underpin dissimilar grammatical realization of similar speech acts [5:45].

4. Discussion

The data illustrate how grammar mediates the expression of culturally charged speech acts like blessings and wishes. English relies on modal verbs and vestiges of the subjunctive mood, reflecting its analytic history and modal system. The presence of lexical verbs like *wish* that combine with subordinate clauses adds flexibility. Uzbek's agglutinative system favors direct morphological marking of mood on verbs, producing compact but highly expressive forms.

These distinctions have practical implications. Language learners may struggle transferring the English modal-based wish expressions when approaching Uzbek suffix morphology. Translators must be keenly aware of the structural differences to preserve meaning and tone across languages.

Furthermore, the cultural context embedded in blessings and wishes influences their grammatical realization, making direct translation challenging. For instance, certain English modal phrases may carry nuances of politeness or formality that are expressed differently or more explicitly in Uzbek through verb suffixes and honorific particles. This mismatch requires learners and translators not only to understand grammatical rules but also sociolinguistic conventions to maintain the intended emotional and cultural impact. Failure to account for these subtleties can lead to translations that sound either overly literal or culturally inappropriate. Therefore, effective cross-linguistic communication of blessings and wishes demands an integrated approach combining grammatical knowledge with cultural competence.

References

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