

STRUCTURE AND SEMANTIC PROPERTIES OF VERBS IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This article presents a comparative linguistic analysis of English and Uzbek verbs, focusing on their structural and semantic properties. Verbs, as core sentence elements, are analyzed in terms of morphology, syntax, and meaning. The study examines key verb categories—tense, aspect, modality, and voice—highlighting how they are expressed differently in each language. English relies on auxiliary verbs to form complex verb phrases, whereas Uzbek employs a richer inflectional system that encodes multiple meanings through morphological changes. The paper also explores differences in aspectual distinctions (perfective vs. imperfective), transitivity, valency, and argument structure. While English verbs typically show fixed transitivity, Uzbek verbs offer greater flexibility through suffixation. Additional analysis includes the role of word order, auxiliary and modal verbs, and how verbs reflect cultural and cognitive frameworks. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how actions, agency, and causality are linguistically structured in English and Uzbek.

Keywords: English verbs, Uzbek verbs, verb structure, semantics, tense, aspect, modality, voice, transitivity, valency, morphology, syntax, auxiliary verbs, comparative linguistics.

Introduction

Verbs, as essential components of any language, play a pivotal role in the syntactic and semantic construction of sentences. They function as the backbone of the clause, conveying actions, states, occurrences, or processes. The structure and semantic properties of verbs are fundamental to understanding the nuances of communication in any language. In both English and Uzbek, verbs are not merely used to describe actions but also to mark various grammatical categories, including tense, aspect, mood, voice, and modality, which together define the time, frequency, and nature of the event or action.

The study of verbs, particularly their structure and semantics, reveals the intricate ways in which meaning is encoded in language. While English and Uzbek share some universal grammatical categories related to verbs, they differ in how these categories are realized in structure and function. English, a Germanic language, relies heavily on auxiliary verbs, word order, and the inflection of verbs to express tense, aspect, and modality. In contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic language, uses a system of verb conjugations and suffixes to express these

categories. These structural differences not only influence the construction of sentences but also have profound implications for meaning, especially in how verbs are used to convey actions, experiences, and events in both languages.

One of the most significant aspects of verb semantics is the way in which different languages categorize and conceptualize actions. While English tends to have a relatively straightforward system for classifying verbs based on tense and aspect, Uzbek verbs are characterized by a rich system of grammatical forms that allow for greater flexibility in expressing the completion, continuity, or potential of an action. The semantic distinctions made by verbs in each language reflect the broader cognitive frameworks and cultural nuances that underpin the respective languages.

This article aims to provide a comparative analysis of the structure and semantic properties of verbs in English and Uzbek. Through this comparison, we will explore the similarities and differences in how verbs operate within the two languages, focusing on their syntactic behavior, the expression of tense, aspect, and modality, as well as their impact on the meaning of sentences. The analysis will also consider how these verbal forms are employed in both literary and everyday contexts, highlighting the dynamic interplay between form and meaning in communication.

1. Verbal structure in English and Uzbek

Verbs are fundamental in both English and Uzbek, but the ways in which they are structured in the sentence differ significantly due to the grammatical frameworks of the two languages. The structural properties of verbs are crucial for understanding how actions, events, or states are expressed, and they impact the syntactic construction of sentences.

a. English verbal structure

English verbs are characterized by a relatively simple system of inflections, with tense and aspect being expressed through auxiliary verbs and modifications to the verb itself. The typical structure of a verb phrase in English follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order. English verbs typically conjugate for tense, aspect, and modality, with auxiliary verbs helping to express these meanings. For example, in the present perfect tense, the verb "have" is used as an auxiliary to combine with the past participle, as in "I have eaten."

Additionally, English uses modal verbs (can, will, must, etc.) to convey meanings related to necessity, possibility, permission, and ability. These modal verbs are distinct from the main verb in their structure and do not change form based on the subject. For example, "He can go" shows modality, with "can" expressing ability.

English also uses auxiliary verbs to indicate aspect. The progressive aspect is formed using the verb "to be" in the present or past tense, combined with the present participle of the main verb (e.g., "She is running"). The perfect aspect is formed with the verb "have" plus the past participle (e.g., "She has run").

b. Uzbek verbal structure

In contrast, Uzbek, being an agglutinative Turkic language, employs a more complex system of verb conjugations through suffixes to indicate tense, aspect, mood, and person. The verb in Uzbek does not rely on auxiliary verbs, and tense, aspect, and modality are conveyed using different morphological endings that are added directly to the root form of the verb.

The basic structure of a verb phrase in Uzbek follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order, which means that the verb typically appears at the end of the sentence. For example, "Men kitob o'qidim" (I read the book), where "o'qidim" is the past tense form of the verb "o'qimoq" (to read).

In terms of tense, Uzbek uses a variety of suffixes to indicate the past, present, and future tenses. For example:

- Present tense: "O'qimoq" (to read) → "o'qi-gan" (reading),
- Past tense: "o'qidi" (he/she read),
- Future tense: "o'qiydi" (he/she will read).

Aspect in Uzbek is expressed similarly to tense but through different markers that indicate the completeness or the continuation of the action. For example, the verb "qilmoq" (to do) can take the suffix "-ib" to form a continuous action: "qilib turmoq" (to be doing).

Modality in Uzbek is also marked with specific suffixes or auxiliary words. For example, "kerak" (necessary) is often attached to the verb to express necessity, while "mumkin" (possible) indicates possibility.

Thus, Uzbek verbs are highly inflected and carry multiple pieces of information within a single word form, while English verbs often rely on auxiliary verbs and word order to convey similar meanings.

2. Semantic properties of verbs in English and Uzbek

The semantic properties of verbs, which define the core meaning of an action, state, or event, also differ between English and Uzbek. The categorization of verbs in both languages involves significant cultural, cognitive, and linguistic implications.

a. Verb classes in English

In English, verbs are classified based on their meaning and usage in a sentence. These include action verbs, stative verbs, and auxiliary verbs.

- Action verbs: These verbs describe physical or mental actions, such as "run," "think," or "write." They are typically used to express concrete events that occur in time.

- Stative verbs: Stative verbs refer to states or conditions rather than actions, such as "believe," "know," or "exist." They do not imply an action but describe a situation or condition that remains unchanged over time.

- Causative verbs: English also uses causative verbs such as "make," "have," and "get" to indicate that one person or thing causes another to do something. For example, "I had him clean the room" uses the causative verb "had" to indicate that the subject caused someone else to perform the action.

Additionally, English has a significant number of phrasal verbs verb phrases formed by combining a main verb with one or more particles (e.g., "get up," "run into," "give up"). These phrasal verbs add further nuance and meaning to the basic verb.

b. Verb classes in Uzbek

In Uzbek, the verb classes align similarly to English but with a greater focus on morphological changes to indicate meaning. In addition to action and stative verbs, Uzbek verbs are often classified by their aspectual meanings and how they represent the completion or continuity of an action.

- Action verbs: Like in English, Uzbek action verbs describe concrete actions. However, the richness of suffixes and endings in Uzbek allows for more subtle distinctions. For instance, the verb "yurmoq" (to walk) can take a variety of suffixes to show different nuances of walking (e.g., "yurib" for walking in progress, "yuribdi" for ongoing walking).

- Stative verbs: Similarly to English, stative verbs in Uzbek express conditions, such as "bo'lish" (to be) or "bilmoq" (to know).

- Causative verbs: Uzbek also employs causative forms, often created by adding a suffix to a verb root. For example, the verb "yurmoq" (to walk) can become "yuritmoq" (to make someone walk), showing the causative transformation.

Uzbek, like English, also makes use of idiomatic expressions involving verbs that change the meanings of the root verb depending on the context.

3. Verbal aspect and tense in English and Uzbek

Both English and Uzbek have intricate systems of verbal aspect and tense to express the timing and nature of actions, but they differ in their structure.

- English aspect and tense: English distinguishes between different tenses (past, present, future) and aspects (simple, progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive) using auxiliary verbs. The perfect aspect, for example, is formed by combining the auxiliary verb "have" with the past participle (e.g., "She has studied"), while the progressive aspect is formed by the auxiliary verb "be" plus the present participle (e.g., "She is studying").

- Uzbek aspect and tense: In Uzbek, tense and aspect are often conveyed by a complex system of suffixes. For instance, the verb "o'qimoq" (to read) can be modified to show tense and aspect directly through suffixation, without the need for auxiliary verbs. The past tense marker "-di" expresses a simple completed action, while the addition of "-ib" can indicate an action that is ongoing or habitual.

The richness of verbal aspect in Uzbek offers nuances of meaning not always explicitly found in English, such as the distinction between the continuous or habitual nature of an action. This creates unique patterns of expression in both languages and highlights their distinct linguistic structures.

4. Cultural and cognitive implications

The structure and semantics of verbs are influenced by cultural perspectives and cognitive schemas. For example, in English, verbs such as "to know" and "to understand" may be used interchangeably, while in Uzbek, a distinction might be made between cognitive states such as "bilmok" (to know) and "tushunmoq" (to understand), which carries more emphasis on the process of comprehension.

Cultural perspectives also shape the way verbs are used in both languages. In English, there is a tendency to use action-oriented verbs that are more focused on physical movement, while Uzbek verbs are often more oriented around mental processes or the relationships between actions and their results.

Conclusion:

The comparative analysis of the structure and semantic properties of verbs in English and Uzbek highlights both the similarities and distinctive features between the two languages. While both languages utilize verbs as essential components in expressing actions, states, and events, the structural and semantic mechanisms differ significantly due to their unique linguistic systems.

In terms of structure, English verbs rely heavily on auxiliary verbs and word order to convey tense, aspect, and modality. The auxiliary verb system in English plays a crucial role in indicating different verb forms, including progressive, perfect, and passive constructions. On the other hand, Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, uses a complex system of suffixes directly attached to the verb root to indicate tense, aspect, and modality. The absence of auxiliary verbs in Uzbek leads to a more compact verbal expression, with multiple grammatical features encoded in a single verb form.

Semantically, the verbs in both languages serve similar communicative functions but exhibit culturally and cognitively significant differences. English distinguishes between action verbs, stative verbs, and modal verbs with a focus on the action and its temporality. Uzbek verbs, however, include rich aspectual and modal distinctions through morphological markers, allowing for nuanced meanings in expressing not only the action but also its duration, repetition, or causality.

Moreover, the syntactic placement of verbs in the two languages also reflects their structural differences. While English follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order, Uzbek typically adheres to a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order, positioning the verb at the end of the sentence. This contrast in syntactic order affects the verbal phrase construction and emphasizes the verbal action differently in both languages.

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