



LEXICAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING TEMPORALITY IN THE RUSSIAN AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation. *This article examines the lexical means of expressing temporality in the Russian and Uzbek languages. Temporality, a key linguistic and cognitive category, reflects the temporal characteristics of events and processes within a given cultural and linguistic worldview. Through comparative analysis, the study explores various temporal lexemes—such as adverbs, temporal nouns, idiomatic expressions, and verbal constructions conveying time-related meanings. The research highlights both universal features and culturally specific elements of temporality, illustrating how these are manifested through the lexical resources of each language.*

Keywords: *temporality, lexical means, Russian language, Uzbek language, time expression, comparative linguistics.*

Introduction

Temporality as a linguistic category encompasses the ways in which languages conceptualize and convey the passage, duration, and sequencing of time. It is realized on multiple linguistic levels—morphological, syntactic, and lexical. Among these, the lexical level plays a particularly significant role, as it directly captures and communicates the nuances of time-related meanings. Lexical items concerned with temporality reflect not only the structural aspects of time but also its cultural perception, emotional connotations, and pragmatic implications.

This study focuses on the lexical means of expressing temporality in Russian and Uzbek—two linguistically and typologically distinct languages. The aim is to identify the lexical strategies employed in each language to denote temporal



concepts and to analyze their similarities and differences, especially as influenced by grammatical structure and cultural norms.

Lexical Categories Expressing Temporality

Lexical expressions of temporality include a range of word types and constructions:

Adverbs of time: e.g., *today, soon, recently*

Temporal nouns: e.g., *day, week, century*

Fixed expressions	Idioms and metaphorical phrases	Verbal phrases with temporal implications
over time	at the sunset of life	the moment is passing
since long ago	time flies	the time has come

These expressions not only serve to place actions and events within a chronological framework but also imbue utterances with pragmatic emphasis or emotional nuance.

Lexical Temporality in Russian

The Russian language features a rich and diverse temporal vocabulary, characterized by both precision and stylistic variation. Time adverbs in Russian express both specific references (*вчера* — yesterday, *сейчас* — now, *завтра* — tomorrow) and more general, vague notions (*недавно* — recently, *когда-то* — once, *в ближайшем будущем* — in the near future). Temporal nouns, such as *ночь* (night), *утро* (morning), *век* (century), *момент* (moment), and *эпоха* (epoch), can



combine with prepositions to establish complex temporal relationships (*в течение недели* — during the week, *до рассвета* — before dawn, *после обеда* — after lunch).

A notable feature of Russian is the metaphorical conceptualization of time, seen in expressions such as *время летит* (time flies), *дни бегут* (days run), and *часы тянутся* (hours drag), which emphasize the emotional perception of temporal flow. Russian also makes extensive use of fixed expressions and idioms that reinforce temporality: *со временем* (over time), *день ото дня* (day by day), *в своё время* (in due course/in the past).

These units function across various registers, from colloquial to literary, contributing both to clarity and expressiveness in discourse.

Lexical Temporality in Uzbek

The Uzbek language also possesses a robust system for expressing temporality at the lexical level. Common time-related adverbs include *kecha* (yesterday), *bugun* (today), *ertalab* (in the morning), *tez orada* (soon), and *hozir* (now). Temporal nouns such as *kun* (day), *oy* (month), *yil* (year), *hafta* (week), and *asr* (century) are actively used to establish temporal relations, e.g., *Ertaga uchrashamiz* (We will meet tomorrow), *Uzoq vaqt kutdik* (We waited for a long time).

A distinguishing feature of Uzbek is its reliance on **postpositions and analytical constructions** rather than the case-preposition system found in Russian. Temporal relationships are expressed through postpositional markers like: *-dan beri* (since), *-gacha* (until), *-keyin* (after)



Fixed expressions such as *vaqt o'tib* (over time), *ko'p o'tmay* (soon), *har kuni* (every day), and *bir vaqtning o'zida* (at the same time) are commonly used in both everyday and literary contexts.

Unlike Russian, Uzbek does not possess a grammatical aspect category for verbs. Instead, lexical and contextual devices are employed to convey aspectual nuances. For instance, *hali ham ishlayapti* (he/she is still working) conveys ongoing action through the adverbial phrase *hali ham* ("still"), a function often fulfilled by imperfective verb forms in Russian.

Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis of Russian and Uzbek temporal lexis reveals both shared and language-specific strategies for expressing time. Both languages use temporal adverbs and nouns extensively, but their **syntactic integration and grammatical support structures differ**. Russian temporal expression benefits from its rich aspectual system and syntactic flexibility due to cases, while Uzbek emphasizes analytic means and lexical variation to convey similar meanings.

Notably, culturally specific expressions exist in both languages that shape the narrative framing of time. For instance:

Such expressions illustrate how

Uzbek	Russian
ko'p vaqt oldin (a long time ago) — frequently used in storytelling	в стародавние времена (in ancient times), жили-были (once upon a time), давным-давно (long ago) — used as narrative openers in folklore



each language internalizes and encodes its unique cultural understanding of time and history.

Conclusion

The lexical means of expressing temporality in Russian and Uzbek are essential components of temporal reference, emotional tone, and narrative structure. Despite their typological and grammatical differences, both languages offer well-developed lexical strategies to express time with precision and nuance. A deeper understanding of these mechanisms enhances cross-linguistic communication and contributes to more accurate translation, language instruction, and cultural exchange. Comparative lexical studies such as this one shed light on the intricate relationship between language, thought, and temporal perception.

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