

EXPRESSION OF LEXICAL ECONOMY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK THROUGH STYLISTIC MEANS

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Abstract

Lexical economy refers to the tendency of languages to convey more meaning using fewer words. This article explores how lexical economy is expressed through stylistic means in both English and Uzbek. It analyzes ellipsis, abbreviation, compounding, nominalization, and agglutination, offering examples and comparisons. These features are examined in terms of their stylistic function in both literary and colloquial contexts. The paper aims to contribute to cross-linguistic stylistic studies and enhance understanding of linguistic minimalism as a creative and communicative tool.

Annotation

This article investigates the phenomenon of lexical economy and its stylistic manifestations in English and Uzbek. The study aims to identify how both languages employ various linguistic tools—such as ellipsis, abbreviation, compounding, nominalization, and agglutination—to convey more meaning using fewer words. The analysis is based on descriptive and comparative methods, focusing on examples from literary, colloquial, and digital contexts. The findings demonstrate that while English relies heavily on analytic strategies such as abbreviation and ellipsis, Uzbek achieves economy through agglutination, contextual omission, and informal borrowing. The study highlights the functional and stylistic significance of lexical economy in modern communication. This cross-linguistic perspective provides insights into the creative and efficient use of language structures in two typologically distinct systems.

Keywords: lexical economy, ellipsis, agglutination, abbreviation, stylistics, Uzbek language, English language

1. Introduction

Language naturally evolves towards efficiency. Lexical economy, or the principle of saying more precisionh fewer words, is found in all languages and serves various stylistic purposes: clarity, precision, brevity, and aesthetics. English, being an analytic language, and Uzbek, an agglutinative one, approach lexical economy differently but precisionh comparable goals. Understanding how each language achieves this helps us better grasp how meaning is compactly and creatively conveyed.

2. Lexical Economy in English

English achieves lexical economy through various stylistic strategies:

2.1 Ellipsis:
The deliberate omission of words understood from the context.
Examples:

- "You going to the party?" (instead of "Are you going to the party?")
- "John can play the guitar; Mary, the piano."

2.2 Abbreviations and Acronyms:
Examples:

- UN (United Nations), AI (Artificial Intelligence), DIY (do-it-yourself)
- In informal texts: "u" (you), "r" (are), "idk" (I don't know)

2.3 Compounding and Blending:
Examples:

- "Webinar" (web + seminar), "Infomercial" (information + commercial)

Stylistic use in branding: "Netflix" (internet + flicks)

2.4

Nominalization:

Transforming verbs into nouns allows more formal, compact expression.

Examples:

- "The committee decided" → "The decision of the committee"
- "He failed to respond" → "His failure to respond" (*Note: Netflix is a blend, not a traditional compound*)

3. Lexical Economy in Uzbek

Uzbek exhibits economy primarily through agglutination and ellipsis.

3.1

Contextual

Ellipsis:

Omission of verbs or nouns that are clear from context.

Example:

- "Men boraman, u — yo‘q." (I will go, he — not.)
- "Sen maktabga, men — bozorga."

3.2

Affixation

and

Agglutination:

Uzbek combines root words with suffixes for tense, person, negation.

Example:

- "Ko‘rmayapman" (I am not seeing) = root + negation + progressive + person

3.3

Reduplication

and

Shortening:

Informal

forms

like:

- "Televizor" → "televik"
- "Institut" → "instik"

Common in youth slang and colloquial speech.

3.4

Borrowings:

Russian and English borrowed terms often shortened:

- "Univer" (university), "komp" (computer)

Also used creatively in media: "siyosatshunos" (political scientist)

4. Comparative Examples

English: "I'll go, and she'll go too." → "I'll go, she too."

Uzbek: "Men boraman, u ham boradi." → "Men boraman, u ham."

English: "Information Technology" → IT

Uzbek: "Axborot texnologiyalari" → AT

English compound: "toothbrush"

Uzbek: "tish cho'tkasi" (literally: tooth brush — a phrase, not a compound) (*Note: 'AT' is less commonly used in Uzbek than 'IT' in English*)

5. Functional and Stylistic Roles

Lexical economy isn't just about saving space. It reflects tone, style, and register:

- In poetry: it creates rhythm and emphasis.
- In journalism: it enhances clarity and impact.
- In casual speech: it reflects intimacy and spontaneity.
- In digital communication: it enables speed and brevity.

Example from poetry:

- English: "Veni, vidi, vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered) — Latin brevity used in English literature.

- Uzbek: "Ko'p gap — kam amal" (Much talk — little action) — proverb form expressing efficiency.

6. Application in Modern Contexts

In social media and text messaging, both English and Uzbek users rely heavily on lexical economy.

- Emojis, abbreviations, acronyms reduce word count.
- Uzbek speakers may drop pronouns or use suffixes to convey nuance.

Examples:

- English: "LOL, brb, ttyl"
- Uzbek: "Kelyapman" (I'm coming) – one word carries full meaning.

Shortened forms in both languages are increasingly accepted in informal writing and advertising. (*Consider discussing emojis' semantic function briefly*)

7. Conclusion

Lexical economy enhances the expressiveness, speed, and stylistic diversity of a language. English uses ellipsis, nominalization, and abbreviation, while Uzbek employs agglutination, contextual omission, and creative borrowings. Despite structural differences, both languages reflect a common human tendency: to do more with less.

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