STYLISTIC DEVICES AND LEXICAL ECONOMY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Lexical economy, the principle of conveying maximum meaning with minimal linguistic resources, is a universal feature of language, yet its expression varies across typologically distinct languages. This study compares how English, an analytic language, and Uzbek, an agglutinative language, employ stylistic devices—ellipsis, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and phraseological units—to achieve lexical economy. Through qualitative analysis of literary texts, media discourse, spoken language, and digital communication, we identify shared and distinct strategies, such as English's reliance on syntactic brevity and clipping versus Uzbek's use of affixation and proverbs. Findings reveal that both languages leverage universal cognitive principles, but cultural and structural factors shape device choice. This research advances comparative linguistics, offering insights for translation, education, and multilingual discourse analysis.

Keywords: lexical economy, stylistic devices, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics

Stylistic Devices and Lexical Economy in English and Uzbek: A Comparative Analysis

Introduction

Lexical economy, rooted in Zipf's (1949) principle of least effort, enables speakers to optimize communicative efficiency by minimizing articulatory and cognitive load. Stylistic devices, such as ellipsis and metaphor, serve as tools for compression, embedding complex meanings in concise forms. English, with its

analytic structure, prioritizes syntactic simplicity, while Uzbek, an agglutinative Turkic language, exploits morphological richness. This study investigates how these languages achieve lexical economy through stylistic devices, addressing three research questions: (1) Which stylistic devices facilitate lexical economy in English and Uzbek? (2) How do structural and cultural factors influence their use? (3) What are the implications for cross-linguistic communication? By analyzing diverse data sources, this research bridges gaps in English-Uzbek stylistic comparisons, with applications in translation and pedagogy.

Method

A qualitative-comparative approach was employed, analyzing 60 texts per language (25 literary, 20 media, 10 spoken, 5 digital). Sources included English novels (e.g., Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea), Uzbek literature (e.g., Qodiriy's O'tgan Kunlar), news archives (BBC, Kun.uz), interview transcripts (TED Talks, Uzbekistan National TV), and social media (X, Telegram). Texts were coded using NVivo for stylistic devices (ellipsis, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, phraseological units) and analyzed for their role in compression, cultural nuance, and structural alignment. Corpus tools (Sketch Engine for English, UzWordNet for Uzbek) provided frequency and collocational data. Plagiarism checks via Turnitin ensured originality.

Results

Both languages employ ellipsis, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and phraseological units, but their execution differs. English uses ellipsis for syntactic brevity, as in "Storm Hits Coast" (BBC), omitting auxiliaries, while Uzbek leverages morphology, as in "Bo'ron Sohilga" (Kun.uz), skipping verbs. Metaphors like "Time is money" (English) and "Vaqt – oltin" (Uzbek) map abstract concepts to concrete imagery, reducing cognitive load (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Metonymy, such as "The White House" (English) and "Toshkent" (Uzbek), relies on shared knowledge for economy. Synecdoche in English focuses on physical parts ("All hands on deck"), while Uzbek includes abstract elements ("Yurak dedi" for conviction). Phraseological units, like "Kick the bucket" (English) and "Oyoq uzatmoq" (Uzbek), compress

meaning conventionally. English favors clipping ("app"), while Uzbek uses affixation ("yozuvchilar").

Discussion

The findings highlight universal cognitive strategies, such as conceptual mapping in metaphors, but structural differences shape their application. English's analytic structure favors word order and lexical brevity, ideal for media and digital contexts (Crystal, 2008). Uzbek's agglutinative morphology enables suffix-driven compression, aligning with proverbs' cultural resonance (Bozorov, 1999). These differences pose challenges for translation, as English's directness may clash with Uzbek's nuanced proverbs. Educators can leverage these insights to teach syntactic simplicity in English or morphological complexity in Uzbek. The study's focus on non-literary domains (media, digital) addresses gaps in prior research (Saidova, 2022), emphasizing lexical economy's adaptability across genres.

Conclusion

This comparative analysis reveals how English and Uzbek achieve lexical economy through shared and distinct stylistic devices, shaped by linguistic typology and cultural context. Future research could explore quantitative patterns or additional languages to deepen universal insights. The findings inform translation strategies, language pedagogy, and multilingual communication design, highlighting the dynamic interplay of brevity and expressiveness.

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