

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CATEGORY OF STATIVITY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This paper explores the category of stativity in English and Uzbek languages from a comparative linguistic perspective. The study focuses on how both languages express states, static situations, and non-dynamic actions through grammatical and lexical means. By analyzing verb semantics, aspectual distinctions, and sentence structure, the paper highlights similarities and differences in how English and Uzbek encode states. The results show that while English often relies on lexical verbs and the progressive aspect to mark stative or dynamic contrasts, Uzbek uses morphological and syntactic means to differentiate between stative and dynamic meanings.

Keywords: stativity, aspect, comparative linguistics, verb semantics, English, Uzbek, state verbs, aspectuality

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается категория статичности в английском и узбекском языках с точки зрения сопоставительного языкознания. Исследование сосредоточено на том, как оба языка выражают состояния, статические ситуации и нединамические действия с помощью грамматических и лексических средств. Анализ показал, что в английском языке различие между статичностью и динамичностью часто выражается с помощью лексических глаголов и видовременных форм, тогда как в узбекском языке для этого применяются морфологические и синтаксические средства.

Ключевые слова: статичность, вид, сопоставительное языкознание,

семантика глагола, английский язык, узбекский язык

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida stativlik kategoriyasi qiyosiy tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda har ikki tilda holat, barqarorlik va harakatsizlikni ifodalovchi vositalar — fe'l semantikasi, grammatik shakllar va gap tuzilmalari tahlil qilinadi. Natijalar ingliz tilida stativlik ko'proq leksik va grammatik vositalar orqali, o'zbek tilida esa morfologik va sintaktik yo'l bilan ifodalanishini ko'rsatadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *stativlik, aspekt, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, fe'l semantikasi, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili*

1. Introduction

In modern comparative linguistics, the study of stativity—the expression of states or static situations—plays an essential role in understanding how languages conceptualize time, aspect, and action. The distinction between stative and dynamic verbs has long been a key issue in aspectual studies (Comrie, 1976; Vendler, 1967). English and Uzbek, belonging to different language families (Indo-European and Turkic respectively), offer an interesting field for analyzing how state and activity are linguistically encoded.

The main objective of this paper is to compare how the category of stativity is realized in English and Uzbek languages. It explores lexical, grammatical, and syntactic means that express static conditions, psychological states, and possession in both systems.

2. The Category of Stativity in English

In English, stative verbs refer to conditions or situations that are relatively stable and not subject to change over time. Examples include know, believe, love, own, be, have, seem. According to Quirk et al. (1985), stative verbs usually describe mental states, emotions, possession, or existence.

For example:

She knows the answer.

He owns a car.

They believe in honesty.

English stative verbs generally do not occur in the progressive aspect (I am knowing ✕), since progressivity implies change or duration, which contradicts the stable nature of stative meaning. However, modern English shows a tendency toward using progressive forms with certain stative verbs, e.g. I'm loving this song (Leech, 2004), which indicates a gradual shift toward subjectivity and emotional emphasis.

From an aspectual point of view, English distinguishes between simple and progressive aspects, but the stative/dynamic contrast is primarily lexical rather than morphological.

3. The Category of Stativity in Uzbek

Unlike English, Uzbek expresses stativity not through a distinct lexical class of verbs but through morphological markers and syntactic constructions. Uzbek stative verbs include bilmoq (to know), yaxshi ko'rmq (to like/love), eslamoq (to remember), bor bo'lmoq (to exist), etc.

Examples:

Men bu odamni bilaman – I know this person.

U bizni yaxshi ko'radi – He loves us.

Uning uyida kitoblar bor – There are books in his house.

Uzbek language lacks a progressive aspect similar to the English -ing form. Instead, temporal distinctions are made by tense suffixes (–yapti, –gan, –ar, etc.) and contextual markers. The stative meaning is usually clear from the semantics of the verb or the context.

Additionally, Uzbek uses copular constructions (U o'qituvchi, “He is a teacher”) and existential markers (bor, yo'q) to express states, possession, and existence. This differs from English, where the verb to be serves multiple syntactic and semantic roles.

4. Comparative Analysis

The comparison of stativity in English and Uzbek demonstrates both typological divergence and conceptual similarity. Although the category of stativity exists in both languages, the ways in which it is linguistically expressed differ

significantly due to structural and historical factors.

In English, stativity is primarily a lexical phenomenon. It is represented through a distinct group of verbs known as stative verbs, such as know, believe, love, own, and seem. These verbs describe mental, emotional, or existential states that are relatively constant over time. Moreover, English marks aspectual distinctions morphologically through the opposition of simple and progressive forms. However, the progressive aspect is generally incompatible with stative verbs, since the concept of progress implies change and duration, which contradicts the notion of a stable state. For instance, sentences like *I am knowing the answer* are considered ungrammatical in standard English. Nevertheless, modern usage occasionally allows the progressive form with certain stative verbs (*I'm loving this song*), indicating a shift toward subjectivity and emotional intensity.

In contrast, Uzbek expresses stativity mainly through morphological and syntactic means, rather than through a specific class of stative verbs. Verbs such as *bilmoq* (to know), *yaxshi ko'rmoq* (to love), and *eslamok* (to remember) denote states by their inherent meaning, while their grammatical behavior depends on tense suffixes and contextual factors. Uzbek does not have a progressive aspect corresponding to the English -ing form. Instead, aspectual distinctions are conveyed through tense and aspect markers such as -yapti, -gan, or -ar. The stative meaning is inferred from context and verb semantics rather than from a specialized grammatical category.

Furthermore, the copular system of the two languages differs considerably. In English, the copular verb *be* functions as a central grammatical device to express identity, existence, and state (*He is a teacher; There is a book*). Uzbek, however, often omits the copula in the present tense (*U o'qituvchi* – “He is a teacher”) and uses existential markers such as *bor* and *yo'q* to indicate presence or absence (*Uning uyida kitoblar bor* – “There are books in his house”). Similarly, possession in English is expressed by the verb *have*, while Uzbek employs the existential construction *bor* (“has”) to denote ownership or possession.

Despite these structural distinctions, both languages share the conceptual

opposition between state and action, suggesting that stativity is a universal cognitive category realized through language-specific mechanisms. English tends to rely on lexical and grammatical markers to indicate whether an event is dynamic or static, whereas Uzbek employs morphological and syntactic strategies to achieve the same communicative function. Both systems demonstrate that the linguistic encoding of stativity reflects deeper cultural and typological patterns within each language.

Thus, while English and Uzbek differ in the formal realization of stativity, they converge in their semantic understanding of what constitutes a state as opposed to an action. This cross-linguistic parallel highlights the universality of human perception in distinguishing between being and doing, stability and change, existence and activity.

5. Conclusion

The comparative study of stativity in English and Uzbek reveals that while both languages conceptualize state and action as distinct categories, they differ in the linguistic means used to encode these notions. English relies primarily on lexical distinctions and aspectual contrast, whereas Uzbek employs morphological and syntactic devices. Understanding these differences is crucial for both linguistic theory and practical language teaching, particularly in translation and ESL contexts where stative and dynamic meanings often cause difficulty for learners.

This research contributes to the broader field of comparative linguistics by demonstrating that cross-linguistic analysis of aspect and stativity helps uncover universal patterns of human cognition and language use.

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