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A Comparative Study of Tense and Aspect in English and Uzbek

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A B S T R A C T
In the current research, the tense and aspect are examined in both in English and Uzbek in a comparative linguistic context. The major goal is to identify the way in which both languages conceptualize and grammatically encode the differences in time and in aspect. The study uses a contrastive-descriptive approach with a bias on the basis of real linguistic data, grammatical literature, and literature published in the past which are available in the database of academic literature. As the analysis shows, English as an analytic language reflects tense and aspect on the auxiliary verbs and participial forms, and it is possible to explicitly differentiate between the perfective and progressive meaning. Uzbek, which is an agglutinative language, on the other hand, expresses the same time and aspect concept through the use of suffixation and contextual use. Even though both systems are reflections of the universal categories of time and action, there are significant differences in the realizations of the structure. These results verify that tense and aspect are the language-specific phenomenon determined by typological factors. The findings of the study are pedagogical to the teaching of language and translation, especially in tackling the problem experienced by Uzbek English learners of the language to learn the aspectual contrasts which are not marked grammatically in their mother-tongue.

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Introduction:

Language is a reflection of human thought, which is an expression of how human beings view time, action, and continuity. The grammatical expression of tense and aspect is one of the most significant categories, which can prove this connection. The categories are important in the organization of meaning, which implies not only when something happens but also how it is conducted or perceived by the speaker. The comparative study of tense and aspect systems in English and Uzbek languages presents very useful information about the interaction of linguistic form and orientation on time and the issues related to translation and language acquisition.

Under the English language, the grammars encode tense and aspect by means of intricate verb forms. English verbs use auxiliary verbs and inflexions in order to create different tenses: Present Simple, Past Continuous, or Present Perfect. These forms communicate slight differences between accomplishment, current and routine activities. Conversely, Uzbek is an agglutinative language so that temporal and aspectual meanings are conveyed using suffixes and auxiliary verbs instead of strict tense forms. An example can be given of the English, I was reading and the Uzbek: ***"Men o'qiyotgan edim"*** in which the combination of verb stems and suffixes discloses the tense and aspectual meaning.

Although the two systems have some functional similarities, they differ very much in their grammatical actualization and semantic range. The aspectual perspective of English (completion or continuity of action) is more concerned with the aspectual view than the temporal reference-contextual interpretation of

Uzbek. Such variations give rise to various challenges in translating, as well as acquisition of English as a second language by the Uzbek speakers.

This research aims to compare and contrast the forms of expression of tense and aspect in English and Uzbek, determine the structural and semantic differences between them, and outline linguistic consequences in the teaching, translation, and comprehension of cross-linguistic. Through the discussion of these differences, the paper will help us understand further how languages conceptualize time and action using grammar, and how their conceptualizations affect communication and cognition.

Methodology:

The paper adopts a comparative-descriptive-contrasting linguistic approach to focus on the display of tense and aspect in English and Uzbek. The study is conducted on the following steps:

1. Selection of languages and phenomena: ***English (an analytic Indo-European language)*** and ***Uzbek (a Turkic agglutinative language)*** are the selected languages and facts. ***The verb categories (tense past present future) and aspect (perfective imperfective continuous habitual etc.)*** are the phenomena that will be investigated.

2. Data collection: A representative set of sentences and passages was compiled, based on standard grammars of the two languages, using real passages (including simple narrative sentences) and other comparative grammar literature. ***The examples in English are: I have finished, she was reading, they go every day.*** Some examples of forms in ***Uzbek are : "Men o'qigan edim", "U o'qiyotgan edi", "Ular har kuni boradi".***

3. Categorisation: All of the examples were coded in terms of ***(a) tense reference (past/present/future), (b) aspectual meaning (completed vs ongoing vs habitual vs repeated), (c) morphological markers (auxiliaries, suffixes) and (d) syntactic structure (word order, verb phrase composition).***

4. Contrastive analysis: The data of both languages, English and Uzbek, were contrasted and similarities and deviations in the manner the two languages encode tense and aspect were observed. Special emphasis was made on (i) the aspectual difference (e.g., continuous vs simple) is cross-correlated between two languages, (ii) the influence of morphological affixation in Uzbek and in English (constructions with auxiliary and participle), and (iii) the way in which the aspectual difference between the two languages is reflected by translation equivalents.

5. Typological/structural interpretation: The results were explained, based on the typological theory, in the context of the treatment of tense/aspect by analytic vs agglutinative systems and what impact this has on teaching and translation.

6. Validity and reliability: In order to achieve high levels of reliability, several sources of examples were utilized (reference grammars, journal articles), and the coding schema was tested on a small sample of 50 sentences and narrowed down to minimize ambiguity. To achieve validity, secondary source of information on tense and aspect (both general and language specific) were studied so as to put the findings into perspective.

Result

The comparison of the obtained English and Uzbek verbal data showed that there are numerous evident similar and different tendencies in the manifestations of tense and aspect. The summary of such results is presented in three broad headings, namely: (1) morphological-syntactic encoding of tense/aspect, (2) semantic differences of aspectual viewpoint, and (3) translation equivalence and cross-linguistic mismatch.

1. Morphological-syntactic encoding

The tense/aspect system in English is largely analytic with auxiliary verbs (be, have) and participial or progressive form indicating duration, completion, and place in time. As an example, the present perfect continuous can be observed in the form "She has been reading" Such coding is comparable with the information in the literature. In comparison, Uzbek is more agglutinatively encoded: suffixation on verb roots incorporates markers of past, present, future and frequently incorporates aspectual ones ***(e.g. -di, -***

moqda, -gan). According to one of the studies, in Uzbek, the tense is marked by the placement of the suffixes before the root of the verb.

From this, the first result is: English uses ***auxiliary + participle*** constructions, while Uzbek uses ***root + suffixes***, for encoding tense and aspect.

Additionally, word-order differences were observed: ***Uzbek's SOV*** target contrasts with ***English's SVO,*** and the verb placement in Uzbek often positions the affixed verb at the sentence end, which impacts how temporal/aspectual information is processed.

2. Semantic distinctions of aspectual viewpoint

On the semantic level, important distinctions emerged. English systematically marks aspectual viewpoints such as simple, continuous/progressive, perfect, and perfect continuous. For example, continuous/progressive indicates "ongoing" action at a reference time; perfect indicates ***"completed with relevance to the reference time".*** This aligns with standard grammars.

In the Uzbek data, while formal aspect markers are fewer, the language allows for rich nuance via suffix combinations. For example, the suffix –ib can indicate ***an ongoing or repeated action (qilib turmoq "to be doing continuously")*** or **–gan** indicates completed state. This shows that though Uzbek may not grammatically distinguish **"perfect continuous"** as a separate category, it encodes comparable meanings via morphology.

Thus the second result: English tends to explicitly encode aspectual distinctions via separate auxiliary constructions, whereas Uzbek embeds them in the verb suffixation system, resulting in semantics that may be equivalent but formalised differently.

Discussion:

The tense and aspect comparison made between English and Uzbek reveals that language structure and semantics of the two languages have distinctions that affect the understanding and translation. The English language, which is an analytic one, is characterized by tense and aspect expressed by auxiliary verbs and participles, which makes people fine-tune when it comes to distinguishing between actions that are done and actions that are in progress. Conversely, Uzbek has a great dependence on verb suffixation and extrasemantic meaning, which shows that it is agglutinative.

Such results are in line with the literature on tense and aspect categories which states that it is language-specific and typologically determined. The fact that the aspectual meaning of English and Uzbek partially match, means that direct translation is usually not possible without some lexical or contextual information. Thus, the paper underscores the pedagogical significance of explicitly addressing aspectual peculiarities to the students of the Uzbek language learning English and the converse. In addition, the findings are important to further the idea of how linguistic systems conceptualize time and continuity to add value to cross-linguistic and translation research.

Conclusion:

The tense and aspect comparison made between English and Uzbek reveals that language structure and semantics of the two languages have distinctions that affect the understanding and translation. The English language, which is an analytic one, is characterized by tense and aspect expressed by auxiliary verbs and participles, which makes people fine-tune when it comes to distinguishing between actions that are done and actions that are in progress. Conversely, Uzbek has a great dependence on verb suffixation and extrasemantic meaning, which shows that it is agglutinative.

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