BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg
BG PULSE JOURNAL

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TEMPORAL LEXICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This article presents a comparative analysis of lexical units expressing time in the English and Uzbek languages. During the research, the linguistic features of words, phrases, and grammatical units denoting time within the framework of temporal semantics were examined. In addition, the semantic, functional, and pragmatic aspects of the category of time in the two language systems were analyzed. The article is based on the IMRAD structure, in which the research results and their discussion are presented on a scientific basis.

Keywords: time category, temporal semantics, lexical units, comparative linguistics, English language, Uzbek language, linguistic analysis.

Introduction

Language is widely recognized as one of the most essential instruments of human cognition and communication. Through language, individuals conceptualize and convey events, processes, and phenomena occurring in the surrounding environment, including their temporal and spatial characteristics. Among the universal categories that structure human perception and understanding of reality, the concept of time occupies a particularly significant position.

In contemporary linguistic research, the category of time is most frequently examined through grammatical tense systems. However, temporal meaning is not restricted to grammatical forms alone. It is also expressed through a wide range of lexical units, phraseological expressions, and syntactic constructions that collectively contribute to the representation of temporal relations in discourse. Therefore, the study of temporal units constitutes an important area of linguistic inquiry and provides valuable insights into the semantic and functional organization of language.

English and Uzbek belong to different language families and exhibit substantial typological differences in their mechanisms for encoding temporal meaning. English, as an analytic language belonging to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, primarily relies on lexical and syntactic means to express temporal relations. In contrast, Uzbek, a member of the Turkic language family, is characterized by an agglutinative structure in which grammatical meanings are predominantly conveyed through affixation. These typological distinctions make a comparative investigation of temporal units in the two languages both theoretically and practically significant.

The primary objective of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of lexical units expressing temporal meanings in English and Uzbek and to identify their semantic and

functional characteristics. Furthermore, the research seeks to determine the similarities and differences in the linguistic representation of temporal concepts within the two language systems.

Methods. The present study employed a range of linguistic research methods, including comparative analysis, semantic analysis, statistical analysis, and contextual analysis. These approaches constituted the methodological framework of the investigation. The research material consisted of temporal units selected from English and Uzbek literary texts. The selected units were examined from a semantic perspective, and their functional roles in discourse were identified and analyzed.

For analytical purposes, temporal units were classified into four major categories:

Lexical temporal units;

Phraseological temporal units;

Grammatical temporal units;

Contextual temporal units.

Each category was investigated separately, and its usage patterns in English and Uzbek were subjected to comparative analysis in order to reveal both common and language-specific features.

Theoretical Foundations of Temporal Units Within linguistic theory, the category of time is primarily studied within the framework of temporal semantics. Temporal units are directly associated with the human perception of time and the linguistic mechanisms used to represent temporal relations. They serve as essential tools for organizing events and processes within a temporal framework and contribute significantly to the coherence of discourse.

Temporal units can be classified into several semantic groups, as presented below.

Table 1. Semantic Classification of Temporal Units in English and Uzbek

No	Type of Temporal Unit	English Examples	Uzbek Examples	Description
1	Specific Time Expressions	today, yesterday, tomorrow	bugun, kecha, ertaga	Indicate the exact time or day when an event occurs.
2	Frequency Expressions	always, often, sometimes	doimo, tez-tez, ba'zan	Express how frequently an action or event takes place.
3	Duration Expressions	during, throughout, while	davomida, paytida	Indicate that an action occurs over a particular period of time.
4	Sequential Expressions	then, afterwards, later	keyin, so‘ng, undan keyin	Express the chronological sequence of events or actions.

As shown in Table 1, both English and Uzbek employ a variety of temporal expressions to

encode temporal relationships. These units can be classified into several semantic categories, including specific time expressions, frequency expressions, duration expressions, and sequential expressions. Although the semantic functions of these categories are largely comparable across the two languages, their structural realization and frequency of use may vary due to typological differences between English and Uzbek.

Structural Characteristics of Temporal Units in English and Uzbek

In English, temporal relations are frequently expressed through independent lexical items and prepositional constructions. Expressions such as in the morning, at night, and during the year provide explicit temporal reference and play an important role in sentence structure. As an analytic language, English often relies on syntactic arrangements and function words to encode temporal meanings.

In contrast, temporal meanings in Uzbek are frequently expressed through morphological mechanisms, particularly affixation. Forms such as ertalabda (in the morning), kechqurunlari (in the evenings), and yil davomida (throughout the year) reflect the agglutinative nature of the Uzbek language. This distinction is closely related to the grammatical organization of the two languages. Whereas syntactic constructions play a central role in expressing temporal relations in English, morphological devices constitute the primary means of temporal expression in Uzbek.

Results. The study examined the frequency of occurrence of temporal units in English and Uzbek and identified notable similarities and differences in their distribution across the two languages.

Comparative Distribution of Temporal Units

Type of Temporal Unit	English (%)	Uzbek (%)
Lexical Units	**44**	**39**
Phraseological Units	**17**	**23**
Grammatical Units	**29**	**26**
Contextual Units	**10**	**12**

The findings indicate that lexical temporal units constitute the largest category in both languages. However, the proportion of phraseological temporal units is relatively higher in Uzbek than in English, suggesting a greater reliance on idiomatic and phraseological expressions in the representation of temporal meanings.

The semantic analysis of temporal units revealed several important distinctions between the two languages. In English, temporal relations are frequently expressed through precise temporal markers. Expressions such as at 5 p.m. and on Monday specify exact points in time and contribute to a highly explicit temporal framework within discourse.

In contrast, temporal reference in Uzbek is often conveyed through more generalized expressions. Temporal units such as kechqurun (“in the evening”) and dushanba kuni (“on Monday”) typically denote broader temporal periods rather than strictly defined moments. As a result, temporal interpretation in Uzbek frequently depends on contextual information.

Furthermore, the English tense system is characterized by a relatively complex network of grammatical forms that allow speakers to express nuanced temporal relationships. Uzbek, by comparison, possesses a comparatively less complex tense system, although temporal meanings are extensively conveyed through morphological markers and contextual cues.

Discussion. The findings of the present study demonstrate that the systems of temporal units in English and Uzbek possess distinctive typological and structural characteristics. In both languages, the category of time constitutes an essential component of communication, serving to represent the sequence, duration, and semantic interconnectedness of events within discourse.

The comparative analysis indicates that temporal meaning in English is predominantly expressed through independent lexical units, prepositional constructions, and syntactic devices. Expressions such as in the morning, at night, during the year, and after the meeting are frequently employed to indicate either precise or relative temporal relations. This tendency is directly associated with the analytic nature of English, in which grammatical relationships are commonly realized through separate lexical items and syntactic structures rather than through extensive morphological marking.

In contrast, temporal meaning in Uzbek is primarily expressed through morphological mechanisms, particularly affixation. Temporal relations are often clarified through suffixes and postpositional elements such as -gacha (“until”), -dan beri (“since”), -dan keyin (“after”), and -davomida (“during”). These forms exemplify the agglutinative nature of Uzbek, where grammatical meanings are typically encoded through the systematic addition of affixes. Consequently, temporal units in Uzbek are frequently associated with morphological structures rather than independent syntactic constructions.

The study also examined the semantic classification of temporal units. Units denoting specific points in time were found in both language systems and serve the common communicative function of locating events within a temporal framework. Nevertheless, in English such units frequently occur in combination with grammatical constructions, whereas in Uzbek their interpretation is often reinforced by contextual information.

Expressions denoting frequency also occur extensively in both languages. In English, frequency is commonly conveyed through adverbs such as always, often, and sometimes. Their Uzbek counterparts include doimo, tez-tez, and ba’zan. However, English frequency markers tend to demonstrate a stronger association with grammatical tense forms, resulting in more explicit temporal specification within discourse.

The statistical findings further support these observations. While lexical temporal units account for a larger proportion of temporal expressions in English, phraseological temporal units appear more frequently in Uzbek. This pattern highlights the significant role of phraseological expressions in the communicative and stylistic structure of Uzbek discourse.

The results additionally underscore the importance of temporal units in translation practice. When translating between English and Uzbek, it is essential to preserve not only grammatical equivalence but also semantic and pragmatic correspondence. Failure to accurately convey

temporal relations may result in the loss of subtle temporal meanings embedded within the source text.

Overall, the comparative investigation of temporal units contributes to a deeper understanding of the semantic and typological characteristics of both language systems. Such research possesses considerable theoretical and practical value not only for comparative linguistics but also for translation studies, linguistic typology, linguocultural studies, and corpus linguistics.

Conclusion. This study was devoted to a comparative analysis of lexical units expressing temporal meanings in English and Uzbek, with particular emphasis on their semantic, structural, and functional characteristics. The findings demonstrate that although the category of time possesses a universal semantic foundation in both language systems, the linguistic means and mechanisms employed to express temporal relations differ considerably.

First, temporal meaning in English is predominantly conveyed through independent lexical units, prepositional constructions, and syntactic devices. This tendency is closely associated with the analytic nature of the English language, in which grammatical meanings are commonly expressed through separate lexical items and syntactic structures rather than extensive morphological marking.

Second, temporal meaning in Uzbek is primarily realized through morphological devices and affixation. As an agglutinative language, Uzbek relies heavily on suffixes and other morphological markers to encode grammatical meanings. Consequently, temporal relations are frequently expressed through affixal forms and morphologically complex constructions, reflecting the structural characteristics of the language.

Third, adverbs, nouns, and phraseological expressions denoting temporal relations play a significant role in both language systems. Nevertheless, their frequency of occurrence, structural organization, and semantic functions exhibit notable differences. These distinctions reflect the typological diversity of English and Uzbek and illustrate the various linguistic strategies employed to conceptualize and represent temporal phenomena.

Fourth, the comparative analysis of temporal units possesses considerable theoretical and practical relevance for translation studies. In the process of translation, it is essential to preserve not only grammatical equivalence but also semantic and pragmatic correspondence. Accurate rendering of temporal meanings contributes to maintaining the coherence, precision, and communicative effectiveness of translated texts.

Furthermore, the study of temporal units provides valuable insights into the semantic organization of language and enhances our understanding of how temporal concepts are linguistically encoded. The category of time constitutes a fundamental component of human cognition and communicative activity, and its linguistic realization is influenced by a variety of structural, semantic, and pragmatic factors.

Future research may benefit from the application of corpus-based approaches to the investigation of temporal units on a larger scale. In addition, further exploration of the

linguocultural and pragmatic dimensions of temporal expression in English and Uzbek may provide new perspectives on the interaction between language, cognition, and culture. Such studies are expected to contribute significantly to the advancement of comparative linguistics, translation studies, and cross-cultural communication research.

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