_____

"LEXICAL-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF VERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS"

Makhamadiyeva Makhliyo Erali qizi

Master's student at Karshi International University, Kashkadarya, Uzbekistan

Abstract: *This study investigates the lexical-semantic classification of verbs in English and Uzbek, focusing on semantic categories, morphological mechanisms, and cross-linguistic contrasts. Using a contrastive linguistic approach, the research analyzes how each language encodes actions, states, processes, perception, communication, and causation. English, as an Indo-European language, predominantly relies on syntactic constructions and auxiliary verbs to express aspect and causativity, whereas Uzbek, a Turkic agglutinative language, employs rich derivational and inflectional morphology to convey subtle semantic distinctions. The study identifies both universal semantic categories and language-specific features, highlighting differences in morphological marking, aspectual expression, and semantic granularity. These findings have significant implications for translation studies, second-language teaching, and computational linguistics, providing a framework for understanding cross-linguistic verb correspondences and divergences.*

Keywords: *lexical semantics, verb classification, English verbs, Uzbek verbs, contrastive linguistics, causativity, aspect*

Verbs constitute a central component of linguistic structure, functioning as primary carriers of actions, states, and processes. From a lexical-semantic perspective, verbs encode cognitive and cultural representations of reality (Levin, 1993). Classification of verbs according to semantic properties provides insight into the conceptual organization of language, allowing linguists to identify both universal principles and language-specific patterns. Comparing English and Uzbek is particularly informative because of their typological differences: English relies on syntactic and analytic constructions, while Uzbek, as an agglutinative Turkic language, uses derivational and inflectional morphology to encode causation, reciprocity, and aspectual distinctions (Karimov, 2015; Rakhmonov, 2018).

English verbs are traditionally categorized into several lexical-semantic classes, including action verbs (run, write, think), state verbs (know, believe, exist), process/change verbs (grow, melt, develop), perception/emotion verbs (see, hear, feel), communication verbs (say, whisper, announce), and causative verbs (make, enable, force) (Levin, 1993; Quirk et al., 1985). Action verbs typically denote physical or mental activity and often allow causative constructions. State verbs describe static or continuous conditions and are usually non-

_____

progressive. Process verbs represent dynamic changes over time and often have an inherent endpoint. Perception and communication verbs involve experiencers, speakers, or listeners, reflecting relational roles in the event structure. Causative verbs encode that one participant causes another to act or undergo a state. Many English verbs are polysemous; for instance, run may denote physical activity (He runs daily), a process (The engine runs smoothly), or metaphorical extension (The company runs efficiently), demonstrating the importance of context in semantic classification (Cruse, 2004).

Uzbek verbs display similar semantic categories but rely heavily on morphological marking. Action verbs (harakat fe'llari, e.g., yugurmoq – "to run", o'qimoq – "to study") describe physical or cognitive activities. State verbs (hol fe'llari, e.g., bilmoq – "to know", sezmoq – "to feel") describe conditions or states. Process/change verbs (o'zgarish fe'llari, e.g., o'smoq – "to grow", erimoq – "to melt") express dynamic transformations. Perception and emotion verbs (tuyg'u fe'llari, e.g., ko'rmoq – "to see", xursand bo'lmoq – "to feel happy") encode both sensory and affective experiences. Communication verbs (so'zlashish fe'llari, e.g., aytmoq – "to say", shivirlamoq – "to whisper") denote verbal acts, and causative verbs (sababchi fe'llari, e.g., o'qitmoq – "to teach", yuvtirmoq – "to make wash") indicate that an action causes a change in another participant (Karimov, 2015; Rakhmonov, 2018).

Uzbek employs agglutinative morphology to generate subtle semantic distinctions. Causativity is marked through derivational suffixes (yuvmoq → yuvtirmoq), passivity is expressed morphologically (yuvmoq → yuvilmoq), and reciprocity is indicated via derivational forms (ko'rmoq → ko'rishmoq). This morphological richness allows a single verb root to produce multiple semantically related verbs, contrasting with English, which relies primarily on syntactic and auxiliary constructions.

To illustrate these cross-linguistic correspondences, Table 1 presents examples of English and Uzbek verbs across the major lexical-semantic categories, highlighting morphological mechanisms and semantic nuances.

Table 1: Comparative Examples of English and Uzbek Verbs by Semantic Category

Semantic Category	English Verb	Uzbek Verb	Notes on Morphology / Usage
Action	run	yugurmoq	Physical action; root + -moq infinitive
Action	study	o'qimoq	Cognitive action; infinitive suffix -moq
State	know	bilmoq	Static state; non-progressive
State	believe	ishonmoq	Mental state; simple verb morphology
Process / Change	grow	o'smoq	Development/change; aspect expressed morphologically
Process / Change	melt	erimoq	Physical transformation; durative aspect

Perception / Emotion   see   koʻrmoq   Sensory   perception;   can   form reciprocal/causative (koʻrishmoq)

Perception / Emotion   feel happy   xursand boʻlmoq   Emotional experience; merges perception and affect

Communication   say   aytmoq   Speech   act;   derivational   suffixes   for causative/iterative forms

Communication   whisper   shivirlamoq Speech act; aspect and intensity indicated morphologically

Causative make yuvtirmoq   Causative action; derivational suffix -tirmoq

Causative teach oʻqitmoq   Causative; suffix -itmoq marks causation

The table demonstrates that while English and Uzbek share broad semantic categories, the strategies for encoding meaning differ. Uzbek relies on derivational morphology to express causativity, reciprocity, and aspect, whereas English employs periphrastic or auxiliary constructions. These differences are particularly relevant for translation, second-language acquisition, and computational modeling of verbs.

Cross-linguistic comparison highlights that Uzbek perception and emotion verbs often combine sensory and affective meanings, whereas English tends to separate them. Similarly, causative verbs in Uzbek are morphologically marked, allowing a single root to produce multiple derivational forms, whereas English requires separate lexical items or auxiliary constructions.

These findings provide a framework for understanding cross-linguistic verb semantics and illustrate the interplay between typology, morphology, and meaning. Future research may incorporate corpus-based analysis to quantify semantic correspondences, further informing translation studies, computational linguistics, and second-language pedagogy.

References

1. Cruse, D. A. (2004). Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

2. Fillmore, C. J. (1968). The case for case. In E. Bach & R. Harms (Eds.), Universals in linguistic theory (pp. 1–88). Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

3. Karimov, A. (2015). Uzbek verb morphology and semantics. Tashkent University Press.

4. Levin, B. (1993). English verb classes and alternations: A preliminary investigation. University of Chicago Press.

_____

5.   Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). A comprehensive grammar of the English language. Longman.

6.   Rakhmonov, S. (2018). Derivational processes in Uzbek verbs: Morphosyntactic and semantic analysis. Tashkent Linguistic Journal, 5(2), 45–62.

7.   Talmy, L. (2000). Toward a cognitive semantics: Volume 1, Concept structuring systems. MIT Press.

8.   Vendler, Z. (1967). Linguistics in philosophy. Cornell University Press.