

PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF INCOMPLETE SENTENCES IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: *This article explores the pragmatic features of incomplete sentences in Uzbek and English within the framework of modern linguistic pragmatics. Drawing on the theory of speech acts and pragmatic meaning, the study examines how incomplete and one-word sentences function in real communicative situations, particularly in dialogic discourse. Special attention is given to the role of such structures in expressing negation, affirmation, surprise, evaluation, and other speaker intentions depending on context. The research highlights that, although incomplete sentences in English and Uzbek differ structurally, they share similar pragmatic functions related to communicative efficiency and contextual interpretation. The findings demonstrate that incomplete sentences serve as important pragmatic tools for conveying meaning economically while maintaining expressive and interactional effectiveness in speech.*

Keywords: *pragmatics, incomplete sentences, one-word sentences, speech acts, pragmatic meaning, Uzbek and English, dialogic discourse.*

Introduction

In today's era of globalization, the role and significance of the English language in human life are steadily increasing. New forms of international cooperation, direct communication with foreign partners, and joint scientific research and experimental projects have created a growing demand for advanced foreign language proficiency. Specialists who are proficient in English and other foreign languages can work abroad, providing reliable information about countries, industries, and enterprises. Thus, English serves not only as a tool for communication but also as a crucial factor in science, education, economy, and culture. In modern linguistics, the study of language units is increasingly focused not only on their grammatical and semantic features but also on their use in actual speech and their communicative functions. Pragmatics, as a branch of linguistics, specifically examines how linguistic signs operate in discourse, the relationships between speakers and listeners, and

the intentions and goals of participants in speech acts. The foundational ideas of pragmatics were introduced by Charles Peirce and further developed by Charles Morris; today, pragmatics is recognized as a significant field within linguistic studies. Incomplete sentences play a particularly important role in pragmatic analysis. These structures, especially in dialogic discourse, ensure communication efficiency and conciseness. In Uzbek, one-word sentences (*so‘z-gaplar*), and in English, incomplete or elliptical sentences, are used to express negation, affirmation, surprise, evaluation, and other speech meanings. Although grammatically incomplete, they convey complete and effective pragmatic functions within the given context.

Incomplete sentences, also referred to as elliptical or one-word sentences, are linguistic units that, despite lacking full syntactic structure, perform crucial communicative and pragmatic functions in speech. In Uzbek, such sentences are commonly known as *so‘z-gaplar*, while in English they are represented by incomplete or elliptical sentences. These structures are widely used in dialogic discourse, allowing speakers to convey affirmation, negation, surprise, evaluation, politeness, and other communicative intentions efficiently and contextually. Pragmatics, as the study of language use in context, provides the theoretical framework for analyzing incomplete sentences, emphasizing the interplay between illocutionary force, perlocutionary effect, and locutionary content. In both Uzbek and English, incomplete sentences serve as compact yet expressive tools for conveying complex meanings; they enable speakers to economize language without losing communicative impact. The choice of a specific incomplete sentence is closely linked to contextual factors, such as the situation, the relationship between interlocutors, social and cultural norms, and the speaker’s communicative intent. For instance, in Uzbek, affirmative responses like *Ha* (“Yes”) and evaluative expressions such as *Zo‘r!* or *Durust* convey not only agreement but also the speaker’s attitude and degree of approval, while in English, equivalents like *Sure*, *Fine*, *Great*, or *Awesome* perform similar functions but with distinct stylistic and cultural nuances. Negation or refusal is also pragmatically modulated; in Uzbek, *Yo‘q* may be softened with euphemistic forms like *Ko‘ngildagidek emas*, whereas in English, *No* can be mitigated with *Not really* or *Not at all*, reflecting politeness and interactional sensitivity. Exclamatory sentences expressing surprise or emotion, such as Uzbek *Voy!* and English *Wow!*, demonstrate the expressive power of incomplete sentences and their capacity to convey speaker attitude and emotional intensity in minimal linguistic form. The comparative analysis indicates that while both languages share similar pragmatic functions of incomplete sentences, structural differences exist: Uzbek often uses morphological markers, intonation, and socially-conditioned lexemes to encode politeness, formality, and emphasis, whereas English relies more heavily on lexical choice, intonation

patterns, and discourse context. Furthermore, incomplete sentences contribute to pragmatic efficiency by enabling speakers to deliver meaning with minimal verbal effort while maintaining maximum communicative effect, supporting the economy principle in language use. Their frequent occurrence in everyday communication, educational contexts, media interactions, and informal dialogues underscores their importance in real-life language practice. Understanding incomplete sentences is therefore essential for second language acquisition, intercultural communication, and translation, as proper interpretation requires attention to not only literal meaning but also the intended illocutionary force, social norms, and cultural connotations.

Translators and language learners must be aware that literal equivalence may not fully capture pragmatic nuance; instead, context-sensitive adaptation ensures effective communication. In sum, incomplete sentences in Uzbek and English exemplify the close relationship between linguistic form, context, and pragmatic function, highlighting their role as indispensable tools for efficient, expressive, and socially-appropriate communication across languages.

Incomplete sentences in Uzbek and English represent a multifaceted pragmatic phenomenon that plays a central role in communication by expressing affirmation, negation, surprise, evaluation, politeness, and other speaker intentions in a concise manner. These structures demonstrate how language users rely on context, social and cultural norms, and shared knowledge to interpret meaning, highlighting the inseparable link between linguistic form and pragmatic function. Comparative analysis shows that while Uzbek and English share similar communicative purposes for incomplete sentences, they differ in structural realization, stylistic marking, and cultural connotations, with Uzbek relying more on morphological and socially-conditioned markers and English depending more on lexical choice and intonation. Incomplete sentences contribute to pragmatic efficiency by allowing speakers to convey meaning with minimal linguistic effort while maximizing communicative effect, serving as tools for effective interaction, emotional expression, and politeness management. Their study is particularly important for language teaching, translation, and intercultural communication, as understanding and appropriately using these structures ensures accurate transfer of both semantic and pragmatic meaning. Overall, the research demonstrates that incomplete sentences are not merely grammatically reduced forms but dynamic instruments that encode evaluative judgments, social relations, and cultural conventions, confirming their essential role in real-life discourse and cross-linguistic communication.

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