

**THEORETICAL ESSENCE OF POLIFUNCTIONAL FEATURES OF WORD  
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**Annotation:** The article examines the linguistic nature of the word combination and clarifies its status within the hierarchical structure of language units. In particular, the discussion focuses on the position of the phrase in relation to both lower-level units (such as the word and morpheme) and higher-level units (such as the clause, sentence, and text). A central issue addressed in the study is the question: “For what purpose is the word combination singled out and studied as a separate linguistic unit?” Closely related to this is another key question: “Which specific features of the word combination are manifested when it enters into larger syntactic and communicative units?”

The essence of the word combination cannot be fully understood without providing theoretically grounded answers to these questions. While a single word primarily performs a nominative function, a word combination expands this function by specifying and detailing the meaning of the named object, action, or attribute. Thus, the phrase introduces semantic refinement, contributing to the clarity and precision of expression. On the other hand, when included in higher-level linguistic structures such as sentences and texts, the word combination acquires a communicative value: it becomes part of the process of conveying information, forming coherent statements, and organizing discourse.

**Key words:** word, word combination, nominative function, communicative function, informative function, aesthetic function.

**Introduction:** In contemporary linguistics, the word combination (phrase), like other autonomous units of the language system, is recognized as a polyfunctional phenomenon. That is, a phrase does not merely perform the act of naming, but also fulfills a range of additional functions such as describing, specifying semantic relations, clarifying communicative meaning, and organizing logical coherence within discourse. At the same time, scholars emphasize that the phrase occupies a distinct place in the linguistic hierarchy and performs a specific structural and functional role in the system of language.

It is well known that linguistic units are organized in an hierarchical structure: from the smallest units such as phonemes, followed by morphemes, words, phrases (word combinations), sentences, and finally text. In this system, the word primarily functions as a nominative unit, while higher-level units such as the sentence and the text predominantly carry communicative function, serving as means of expressing thought in the process of interaction. The phrase, therefore, occupies an intermediary position between nomination and communication, linking the lexical and syntactic levels of language.

For smaller linguistic units to acquire functional significance, they must enter into various syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations within larger structures. It is precisely through these

relationships that linguistic units achieve a harmonious unity of form and meaning, revealing their semantic-functional essence. Words and phrases, as integral components of the sentence, not only name objects, attributes, and actions but also provide specific, context-driven informational content.

Thus, the phrase forms the semantic foundation of the sentence and text. The overall meaning of a sentence is shaped through attributive, predicative, or complementive relations expressed within its phrase structure. When interacting with one another in discourse, phrases contribute to the formation of a communicative unit – the communiceme, playing an active role in the expression and transmission of information.

**Material and methods:** This study is grounded in a descriptive and comparative linguistic approach, aimed at identifying the structural and functional characteristics of word combinations within the modern Uzbek language, and, where appropriate, in relation to English. The research materials consist of authentic examples drawn from contemporary Uzbek literary works, journalistic texts, and spoken language samples, as well as explanatory and academic dictionaries and fundamental theoretical sources in syntax and functional linguistics. Alongside Uzbek material, selected English phrase structure models were considered to highlight universal and language-specific aspects of phrase formation and usage.

In the course of the research, several methodological procedures were employed. First, the descriptive method was used to observe and characterize the grammatical and semantic features of word combinations as they appear in natural discourse. Second, componential analysis allowed for the identification of semantic relations between the elements of a phrase and the distribution of meaning across its structure. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic analysis was applied to examine how phrase components interact in linear order and how they may substitute for one another within the lexical-grammatical system of the language. Additionally, the comparative method was utilized to draw parallels between Uzbek and English linguistic patterns, with the aim of determining shared and distinctive functional features. Finally, contextual analysis was used to interpret the communicative value of word combinations within sentences and larger textual environments, demonstrating how meaning is shaped by context and discourse conditions.

The reliability of the findings was ensured through the examination of a sufficiently broad empirical corpus, cross-verification of linguistic data using multiple analytical methods, and reliance on authoritative academic sources. The integration of theoretical frameworks with real language usage provided a solid foundation for the validity of the conclusions drawn in this study.

In a phrase, the head word and the dependent word are connected through a grammatical relation that determines the overall semantic meaning.

Phrase	Structural Relation	Semantic Function
<i>new book</i>	attribute + noun	denotes a property of the object
<i>read a book</i>	complement + verbal base	expresses the direction/object of an action
<i>speak quickly</i>	adverbial modifier + verb	indicates the manner of the action

In each case, the dependent element expands, specifies, or modifies the semantic scope of the head word. This shows that the phrase functions as a meaning-enriching and meaning-specifying unit in discourse. Within the sentence, a phrase assumes communicative value by

clarifying informational content. Example:

“The student is reading a new book.”

*the student* — subject

*a new book* — semantically specified object

*is reading* — central action

Here, *a new book* contributes additional information about which book is meant.

Without the descriptive phrase, *The student is reading a book*, the message becomes general and less informative.

Thus, the phrase ensures **precision and completeness of communication** within the communicative unit (communiceme).

The meaning of a phrase may **shift, broaden, or narrow** depending on the context. Example:

1. *white day* – literal color meaning (denotative)

2. *a white day will come* – symbolic meaning of happiness or prosperity (connotative)

Hence, phrases can develop figurative, emotional, and cultural meanings when placed in broader discourse contexts.

#### Comparative Analysis (Uzbek vs. English)

Uzbek	English	Means of Expression
<i>yangi kitob</i>	<i>new book</i>	English relies on fixed word order; Uzbek word order is flexible
<i>kitob o'qimoq</i>	<i>to read a book</i>	English uses articles and prepositions; Uzbek uses affixes
<i>tez gapirmoq</i>	<i>to speak quickly</i>	English uses independent adverbs; Uzbek uses derivative adverbs

Although both languages use phrases to structure meaning, their realization mechanisms differ due to typological distinctions: Uzbek is agglutinative, English is analytic.

**Result and discussion:** The findings of the research demonstrate that word combinations in Uzbek function as intermediary linguistic units that bridge the gap between lexical items and sentence-level communication. The analysis shows that phrases do not merely serve as naming structures; rather, they play an essential role in specifying, detailing, and contextualizing meaning in communication. The semantic relations observed between phrase components reveal that attributive, objective, and adverbial types of word combinations form the core of syntactic structuring in the Uzbek language. These relations contribute to the formation of the sentence's logical and communicative orientation, indicating that the phrase is central to the construction of coherent discourse.

The study further indicates that the polyfunctional nature of word combinations is reflected in their ability to participate in both nominative and communicative processes. While the word retains its primary function of naming, the phrase organizes additional semantic nuances by clarifying properties, relations, and situational meanings. This supports the view that the phrase is not merely a syntactic pattern but a functional-semantic unit that contributes to the expression of concrete informational content.

The comparative analysis with English phrase structure shows that, despite typological differences between Uzbek (an agglutinative language) and English (an analytical language), both languages rely on phrases as essential means of structuring meaning. However, Uzbek phrases more frequently depend on morphological markers to express grammatical relations,

whereas English relies primarily on word order and prepositional structures. This distinction highlights the language-specific realization of universal syntactic principles.

Contextual analysis demonstrated that the communicative value of a phrase becomes fully evident only when it is integrated into the sentence and text. It is within discourse that phrase components reveal their dynamic functional behavior, adapting meaning in accordance with communicative intent, stylistic environment, and pragmatic goals. Thus, the phrase contributes not only to the semantic completeness of the sentence but also to the cohesion and coherence of the entire text.

Overall, the results confirm that word combinations constitute a crucial level of linguistic organization, ensuring the transition from lexical meaning to communicatively structured utterance. Their role in shaping syntactic, semantic, and discourse coherence highlights the necessity of examining them not only as grammatical constructs but also as meaningful communicative units.

**Conclusion:** The study has shown that word combinations function as an essential intermediate level of the language system, linking the lexical and syntactic units into coherent communicative structures. While individual words perform primarily a nominative function, phrases expand this function by specifying, detailing, and clarifying meaning, thereby contributing to the formation of complete and contextually relevant information in speech and writing. The analysis demonstrated that phrases play a significant role in shaping the semantic and communicative structure of the sentence and text; they ensure logical coherence, semantic precision, and informational completeness.

The data also revealed that the polyfunctional nature of word combinations becomes fully evident only within discourse, where contextual factors influence their meaning and communicative load. The comparative observations showed that although Uzbek and English differ typologically in expressing structural relations within phrases, both languages recognize the phrase as a fundamental organizational unit of grammar and meaning.

Overall, the findings confirm that word combinations should be regarded not merely as syntactic patterns but as functional-semantic units that actively contribute to the construction, interpretation, and transmission of meaning in communication. Their central role in structuring sentences and linking ideas in text underscores their importance for linguistic analysis, language teaching, and discourse comprehension.

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