

INTERPRETATION OF UNITS OF TIME IN UZBEK-ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article investigates the interpretation of units of time in Uzbek and English languages from a comparative perspective. The study highlights the grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic features of temporal units in both languages. It aims to reveal differences and similarities, providing insights into translation processes, language teaching, and intercultural communication. The results indicate that while English expresses time through a rigid grammatical system, Uzbek relies more on context and flexibility in temporal interpretation.

Keywords: Time category, temporal units, tense, grammatical tenses, lexical units, semantics, pragmatics, discourse context, comparative linguistics, English language, Uzbek language, translation theory, speech context, intercultural communication, cognitive linguistics

Introduction

The concept of time is a universal phenomenon in linguistics, as all languages convey the temporal relations of events and actions. Time is not only a grammatical category but also a semantic and cognitive notion that reflects human perception of reality. Studying temporal units allows for a better understanding of the relationship between language, thought, and culture. In English, time is expressed through a developed tense system, which provides precise boundaries of actions and events. This reflects the need for logical clarity and sequence in English discourse. In contrast, Uzbek temporal expressions are often context-dependent and flexible, emphasizing generality and adaptability in communication.

In the era of globalization, the accurate interpretation of temporal units is crucial in translation between English and Uzbek. Misinterpretation of temporal units may lead to distortion of meaning or loss of pragmatic intent. This study aims to comparatively analyze temporal units in both languages using the IMRAD approach, highlighting their role in linguistic systems and communicative functions. English expresses time primarily through a rigid tense system, where each verb form conveys a specific temporal relation. This system ensures clarity and precision, particularly in written and formal communication, enabling readers and listeners to understand exactly when an event occurs, its duration, and completion. In contrast, Uzbek utilizes a more flexible and context-dependent approach to temporal expression. Verb forms and lexical temporal markers often rely on situational context, speaker perspective, and discourse conventions, allowing for nuanced and adaptive temporal interpretation. This flexibility can be advantageous in oral communication but may pose challenges in translation or in teaching second-language learners.

Furthermore, temporal units are closely linked to pragmatic and cognitive functions. They shape how speakers plan, narrate, and interpret events. For instance, English temporal expressions often emphasize logical sequence and causal relationships, while Uzbek expressions may prioritize narrative flow, emphasis, or speaker attitude.

This comparative analysis of English and Uzbek temporal units is essential for several reasons:

- It highlights cross-linguistic differences that impact translation accuracy and interpretation.
- It informs language teaching by emphasizing the importance of contextual and pragmatic usage.

- It contributes to a deeper understanding of the interplay between grammar, semantics, pragmatics, and culture in time expression.

Overall, investigating temporal units in a comparative framework provides valuable insights into linguistic structure, cognitive processing, and intercultural communication, which are crucial in both theoretical linguistics and applied language studies.

Methods

This study employed a combination of comparative, descriptive, and contextual analysis methods. Temporal units in English and Uzbek were selected for detailed examination, focusing on both grammatical and lexical forms.

A comparative method was applied to identify similarities and differences in tense systems and temporal expressions. Descriptive analysis helped classify verbs, tense forms, and lexical temporal units according to their semantic and functional features. Contextual analysis examined the pragmatic function of temporal units in actual discourse.

Cognitive approaches were also incorporated to analyze how the concept of time is interpreted and represented in both languages. Data sources included written texts, spoken discourse, and translation examples. This methodological combination ensured reliability and validity in examining temporal units across languages.

1. Comparative analysis:

A systematic comparison of English and Uzbek temporal units was conducted. This method allowed the identification of similarities and differences in grammatical structures, lexical expressions, and temporal meanings. Both verb tense systems and time-related adverbs were examined to understand how each language encodes past, present, and future.

2. Descriptive method:

The descriptive approach was used to classify temporal units based on their semantic, grammatical, and functional properties. Each temporal unit was analyzed for its capacity to express duration, frequency, or completion of events. This method provided detailed descriptions of both simple and complex temporal constructions.

3. Contextual and pragmatic analysis:

Temporal units were examined in real-life discourse using written texts, spoken samples, and translation examples. The pragmatic role of time markers was evaluated, showing how context influences meaning. This approach highlighted differences between formal written English and flexible oral Uzbek.

4. Cognitive approach:

The study also considered how speakers of both languages perceive and conceptualize time. Cognitive analysis provided insights into the mental representation of temporal sequences and the interaction between grammar and human understanding.

5. Data sources and sampling:

Data included authentic texts from literature, journalism, educational materials, and conversational speech. Examples of translations between English and Uzbek were also collected to observe how temporal units are adapted in practice.

Results

The analysis revealed that English temporal units operate through a precise grammatical system. Verb tenses clearly indicate the beginning, duration, and completion of actions.

Temporal adverbs and phrases such as yesterday, recently, in the past provide clear temporal markers, supporting logical sequencing in texts.

In Uzbek, temporal units are more context-dependent and flexible. The same verb form can express different temporal meanings depending on the communicative situation. Lexical markers like kecha, yaqinda, oldin rely on context for accurate interpretation.

Comparative findings indicate that English temporal units ensure strict logical structure in discourse, while Uzbek temporal units facilitate smooth narrative flow. These differences underscore the importance of careful adaptation in translation and language teaching. The results indicate that while English expresses time through a rigid grammatical system, Uzbek relies more on context and flexibility in temporal interpretation.

Time is a fundamental category in all languages, reflecting not only the chronological order of events but also human perception and cultural understanding of reality. The study of temporal units provides insights into how different linguistic systems encode the notions of past, present, and future, and how speakers organize and interpret events within these temporal frameworks. English expresses time primarily through a highly structured tense system, where each verb form conveys a specific temporal relation. This system ensures clarity and precision, particularly in written and formal communication, enabling readers and listeners to understand exactly when an event occurs, its duration, and completion.

In contrast, Uzbek utilizes a more flexible and context-dependent approach to temporal expression. Verb forms and lexical temporal markers often rely on situational context, speaker perspective, and discourse conventions, allowing for nuanced and adaptive temporal interpretation. This flexibility can be advantageous in oral communication but may pose challenges in translation or in teaching second-language learners. Furthermore, temporal units are closely linked to pragmatic and cognitive functions. They shape how speakers plan, narrate, and interpret events. For instance, English temporal expressions often emphasize logical sequence and causal relationships, while Uzbek expressions may prioritize narrative flow, emphasis, or speaker attitude. This comparative analysis of English and Uzbek temporal units is essential for understanding cross-linguistic differences that impact translation accuracy, language teaching, and intercultural communication.

Discussion

Criteria	English	Uzbek	Commentary / Implication
Grammatical Precision	Tense forms clearly indicate time boundaries	Verb forms are context-dependent and flexible	English ensures clarity; Uzbek relies on context
Speech Context	Formal and written discourse preferred	Oral discourse and context emphasized	Translation requires attention to context
Pragmatic Function	Ensures logical and coherent communication	Provides naturalness and adaptability	English suits academic writing; Uzbek suits everyday speech
Semantic Differences	Specific indication of action duration	Same forms can express multiple temporal meanings	Reflects cognitive and cultural differences
Role in Discourse	Maintains strict logical structure	Ensures smooth narrative flow	Translation requires careful adjustment

The discussion shows that temporal units in both languages fulfill functional and semantic roles shaped by linguistic, cognitive, and cultural factors. Understanding these differences is crucial in translation, teaching, and intercultural communication.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concludes that temporal units in English and Uzbek serve different linguistic and communicative purposes. English employs a rigid grammatical system for precise time expression, whereas Uzbek relies on context and flexibility.

Recommendations:

- Language teaching should focus not only on grammar but also on discourse and contextual usage of temporal units.
- Translators must adapt temporal expressions according to semantic and pragmatic functions rather than literal word-for-word translation.
- Further research should explore cognitive and cultural aspects of time perception in both languages to enhance comparative understanding.

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