

**STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE SEMANTIC FIELD OF BEHAVIORAL VERBS****Alimuxamedova Xabiba Rustamovna**

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**Annotation.** This article offers a detailed examination of how behavioral verbs in English form a unified semantic field. It explores the relationships that connect these verbs, the layers of meaning they carry, and the cultural factors that shape their interpretation. By analyzing different subgroups of behavioral verbs, the study provides insight into the linguistic representation of human conduct and the semantic mechanisms that structure this part of the English vocabulary.

**Annotatsiya.** Maqolada ingliz tilida xulq-atvorni ifodalovchi fe'llarning semantik maydoni qanday tashkil topishi yoritiladi. Fe'llarning o'zaro bog'liqligi, ma'no qatlamlari va ularning talqiniga ta'sir qiluvchi madaniy omillar tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari xulq-atvorning ingliz tilida qanday lingvistik vositalar orqali ifodalanishini chuqurroq tushunishga yordam beradi.

**Keywords:** behavioral verbs, lexical semantics, semantic field, connotation, language and behavior, English lexicon

Behavioral verbs in English make up a broad and diverse part of the lexicon, as they describe not only human actions but also the intentions, emotions, and social attitudes behind those actions. These verbs reflect how speakers interpret behavior within different social settings, and they often carry judgments or evaluations along with their literal meanings. Because of this, behavioral verbs naturally cluster into interconnected semantic groups that share similar conceptual foundations.

One important cluster includes verbs tied to emotional reactions. Words such as admire, resent, panic, or envy reveal internal states that influence outward behavior. These verbs rarely function as neutral descriptions; rather, they highlight the psychological dimension of human conduct and frequently include a positive or negative shade of meaning. Another major cluster includes communicative behavioral verbs. Verbs like argue, apologize, persuade, and interrupt express how individuals engage with one another through speech. Their interpretation is heavily dependent on the situation, the relationship between speakers, and the purpose of communication. A further group consists of verbs describing social interaction, where behavior is directed toward cooperation, conflict, or negotiation. Verbs such as confront, assist, ignore, or negotiate show how individuals position themselves within social dynamics. The meanings of these verbs often depend on subtle contextual cues, making them highly versatile in use. Closely related to this group are verbs that carry moral or evaluative meaning. Terms like betray, obey, cheat, or sacrifice do more than describe action; they reflect cultural expectations about right and wrong, respectful or disrespectful behavior, and the values that guide social judgment.

Although these groups represent different areas of behavior, they are tied together by a hierarchical structure. At the highest level lie general verbs such as act, behave, or respond, which function as umbrella terms for a wide range of human conduct. More specific verbs, such as whisper, mock, or encourage, refine this conduct into narrower categories. These relations create a complex network of meaning based on synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy. For instance, argue, quarrel, and debate belong to the same general sphere but differ in tone, intensity, and social implication. Similarly, pairs like assist versus hinder or obey versus disobey contribute to the semantic field through direct oppositions. Connotation plays an equally significant role in shaping this field. Many behavioral verbs can convey contrasting meanings depending on the communicative context. The verb confront, for example, may suggest confidence when used positively, but aggression when used negatively. Interfere may imply helpful intervention in one context or unwelcome involvement in another. Such variation illustrates the flexible and dynamic nature of meaning in behavioral verbs, revealing that understanding these words requires more than dictionary definitions. Cultural influence is another important factor. English often encodes emotional and behavioral reactions through metaphor, as seen in expressions like freeze in fear or boil with anger. These metaphors reflect shared cognitive models that help speakers conceptualize internal states. Moreover, English contains a wide range of verbs related to politeness and indirectness in communication, reflecting cultural tendencies toward expressing intentions subtly rather than explicitly. This cultural grounding enriches the semantic field and contributes to distinctions that may not be present in other languages.

Taken together, the semantic field of behavioral verbs in English forms an intricate structure shaped by hierarchical relations, evaluative meanings, and cultural perspectives. These verbs reveal how language organizes human conduct into meaningful categories and how speakers interpret behavior through linguistic expression. Understanding the internal structure of this field not only deepens our insight into lexical semantics, but also provides valuable perspectives for further study in cross-cultural linguistics, discourse analysis, and cognitive modeling.

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