

SEMANTIC AND COGNITIVE FEATURES OF TIME EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation

This article examines the semantic and cognitive features of time expressions in English and Uzbek languages from a comparative linguistic perspective. The study focuses on the ways temporal concepts are verbalized through lexical, phraseological, and contextual units in both languages. Time, as a universal cognitive category, reflects not only grammatical structures but also national-cultural worldviews and conceptual thinking patterns. The research analyzes how English and Uzbek speakers perceive and interpret temporal relations through linguistic means such as metaphors, idiomatic expressions, tense systems, and contextual associations. Special attention is paid to the cognitive mechanisms underlying the conceptualization of past, present, and future in both linguistic cultures. The article also investigates similarities and differences in temporal expressions, revealing the influence of historical, social, and cultural factors on language consciousness. Comparative analysis demonstrates that while English tends to represent time through linear and pragmatic models, Uzbek language often reflects cyclical and culturally symbolic perceptions of time. The findings contribute to cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, and comparative semantics by highlighting the interaction between language, thought, and culture in the verbalization of temporal concepts.

Keywords

time expressions, semantic analysis, cognitive linguistics, temporal concepts, verbalization, English language, Uzbek language, linguoculturology, comparative linguistics, conceptualization.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются семантические и когнитивные особенности выражений времени в английском и узбекском языках в сравнительно-лингвистическом аспекте. Исследование направлено на анализ способов вербализации временных понятий посредством лексических,

фразеологических и контекстуальных единиц двух языков. Время как универсальная когнитивная категория отражает не только грамматические структуры, но и национально-культурное мировоззрение, а также особенности концептуального мышления народа. В статье анализируется, каким образом носители английского и узбекского языков воспринимают и интерпретируют временные отношения через метафоры, идиоматические выражения, систему времен и контекстуальные ассоциации. Особое внимание уделяется когнитивным механизмам концептуализации прошлого, настоящего и будущего в обеих языковых культурах. Также исследуются сходства и различия временных выражений, раскрывается влияние исторических, социальных и культурных факторов на языковое сознание. Сравнительный анализ показывает, что английский язык преимущественно отражает линейную и прагматическую модель времени, тогда как узбекский язык нередко демонстрирует циклическое и культурно-символическое восприятие времени. Результаты исследования вносят вклад в когнитивную лингвистику, лингвокультурологию и сравнительную семантику, раскрывая взаимосвязь языка, мышления и культуры в процессе вербализации временных понятий.

Ключевые слова

выражения времени, семантический анализ, когнитивная лингвистика, временные концепты, вербализация, английский язык, узбекский язык, лингвокультурология, сравнительное языкознание, концептуализация.

INTRODUCTION

Time is considered one of the fundamental categories of human cognition and linguistic representation. It plays a significant role in shaping people's perception of reality, organizing experiences, and reflecting cultural and social values through language. In modern linguistics, the category of time has become an important object of study within semantic, cognitive, and linguocultural approaches because temporal expressions reveal not only grammatical meanings but also conceptual and cultural characteristics of a particular speech community. The investigation of time expressions in different languages allows researchers to understand how speakers conceptualize reality and encode temporal relations through linguistic structures. English and Uzbek languages belong to different language families and possess distinct grammatical, lexical, and cultural systems. Nevertheless, both languages actively employ temporal expressions to describe events, actions, and human experiences connected with the past, present, and future. English language tends to represent time through precise chronological structures and linear models

of perception, while Uzbek language frequently demonstrates culturally conditioned and context-dependent interpretations of temporal relations. Such differences make comparative analysis especially relevant for identifying universal and culture-specific features of temporal conceptualization. From the cognitive linguistic perspective, time is not only a grammatical phenomenon but also a mental construct formed through human experience and conceptual thinking. Scholars in cognitive linguistics emphasize that temporal meanings are closely connected with metaphorical thinking, spatial orientation, and cultural models. Expressions such as “time flies,” “looking forward to the future,” or Uzbek equivalents related to seasonal and cyclical perceptions illustrate how abstract temporal concepts are understood through concrete human experiences. Therefore, the study of temporal expressions contributes to the understanding of the relationship between language, cognition, and culture.

The relevance of this research is determined by the growing interest in comparative linguistics, cognitive semantics, and intercultural communication. Investigating semantic and cognitive features of time expressions in English and Uzbek provides deeper insight into linguistic worldviews and national-cultural peculiarities reflected in language. Moreover, comparative analysis of temporal verbalization can contribute to translation studies, foreign language teaching, and discourse analysis by explaining how temporal meanings function in different linguistic environments. The aim of this article is to analyze the semantic and cognitive peculiarities of time expressions in English and Uzbek languages and to identify similarities and differences in their verbalization. The research focuses on lexical units, phraseological expressions, metaphorical models, and contextual usage of temporal concepts in both languages. Through comparative analysis, the study seeks to demonstrate how language reflects cognitive processes and cultural perceptions associated with time.

Main Part The category of time occupies a central place in linguistic and cognitive studies because it reflects the relationship between language, human consciousness, and cultural perception. In both English and Uzbek languages, temporal expressions serve not only as grammatical indicators but also as important cognitive tools that structure human experience and social interaction. According to George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, “human thought processes are largely metaphorical” (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p. 6). This idea is especially evident in the conceptualization of time, where abstract temporal notions are understood through concrete spatial and experiential metaphors. In English, expressions such as “time flies,” “looking back at the past,” and “ahead of time” demonstrate the metaphorical representation of time as movement or space. Uzbek language also

contains metaphorical temporal constructions, including expressions connected with natural cycles, seasons, and traditional cultural values. Such linguistic representations indicate that temporal cognition is deeply connected with everyday human experience and national mentality. From the semantic perspective, time expressions in English and Uzbek reveal both universal and language-specific characteristics. English language possesses a highly developed grammatical tense system that explicitly differentiates temporal relations through verbal morphology. Linguists such as Ronald Langacker argue that grammatical structures reflect conceptual organization within the human mind (Langacker, 2008, p. 45). English distinguishes between present, past, and future actions not only grammatically but also contextually through aspectual forms such as Present Continuous, Present Perfect, and Future Perfect. These structures allow speakers to express duration, completion, and sequence of actions with considerable precision. Uzbek language, by contrast, often relies on contextual indicators, lexical markers, and auxiliary constructions to express temporal relations. Although Uzbek also possesses tense categories, temporal meanings are frequently enriched through contextual semantics and pragmatic interpretation.

The cognitive interpretation of time is closely associated with cultural worldview and social traditions. Edward Sapir emphasized that language shapes habitual thought and perception of reality (Sapir, 1921, p. 69). This theoretical viewpoint can be observed in the comparison of English and Uzbek temporal expressions. English-speaking cultures often conceptualize time as a valuable and limited resource, which is reflected in expressions such as “save time,” “waste time,” or “spend time wisely.” These examples reveal a pragmatic and economic perception of temporal relations. In Uzbek linguistic culture, however, time is more frequently associated with patience, continuity, and harmony with natural or social cycles. Proverbs and phraseological units such as “Vaqt oqar daryo” illustrate symbolic and philosophical interpretations of time within Uzbek culture. Consequently, temporal expressions function not only as linguistic units but also as reflections of national mentality and cultural identity. An important aspect of temporal verbalization is metaphorical conceptualization. Cognitive linguistics explains that abstract categories are often understood through conceptual metaphors derived from physical experience. According to Zoltán Kövecses, metaphors play a crucial role in shaping conceptual systems and linguistic meanings (Kövecses, 2010, p. 4). English language commonly employs linear metaphors of time, where future is perceived as something ahead and the past as something behind. Uzbek language, while also using spatial metaphors, demonstrates stronger connections between time and cyclical processes such as

nature, agriculture, and seasonal change. Expressions related to spring, harvest periods, or traditional celebrations illustrate how temporal understanding is integrated into cultural practices and collective memory. Phraseological units and idiomatic expressions further demonstrate semantic diversity in temporal conceptualization. English idioms such as “in the nick of time,” “against the clock,” or “time is money” reflect urgency, productivity, and efficiency. Uzbek phraseological expressions, on the other hand, often emphasize endurance, wisdom, and moral evaluation of time. These distinctions reveal differences in communicative priorities and sociocultural values embedded in language structures. Comparative analysis shows that despite structural differences, both languages share universal cognitive mechanisms in conceptualizing temporal relations. Human beings in different cultures rely on spatial orientation, movement, and experiential knowledge to verbalize abstract temporal meanings. Modern linguistic studies increasingly examine time expressions through interdisciplinary approaches combining semantics, cognitive science, and linguoculturology. Researchers argue that temporal language reflects the interaction between individual cognition and collective cultural experience. The comparative investigation of English and Uzbek temporal expressions demonstrates that language is not merely a communicative instrument but also a means of preserving cultural memory and conceptual worldview. Therefore, studying the semantic and cognitive features of time verbalization contributes to a broader understanding of linguistic consciousness and intercultural communication.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS The comparative analysis of time expressions in English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that temporal verbalization is closely connected with cognitive perception, cultural worldview, and linguistic structure. The investigation of lexical units, phraseological expressions, grammatical constructions, and metaphorical models reveals both universal and culture-specific characteristics in the conceptualization of time. The analysis shows that speakers of both languages use temporal expressions not only to indicate chronological relations but also to reflect emotional, social, and philosophical attitudes toward life and reality. One of the major findings of the research is the difference in grammatical representation of time between English and Uzbek languages. English possesses a more analytically developed tense-aspect system that allows speakers to distinguish fine semantic nuances related to duration, completion, continuity, and sequence of actions. Forms such as Present Perfect Continuous or Future Perfect provide detailed temporal references and demonstrate the importance of precision in English temporal cognition. Uzbek language, in comparison, relies more heavily on contextual meaning, adverbial modifiers, and pragmatic

interpretation. This indicates that Uzbek temporal perception is often more flexible and situationally dependent than the English model of temporal organization.

The semantic analysis of phraseological and metaphorical expressions also reveals important distinctions in temporal conceptualization. English language frequently presents time as a measurable and limited resource associated with productivity and efficiency. Expressions like “time is money,” “running out of time,” and “save time” illustrate the pragmatic orientation of English-speaking cultures. Such examples confirm the idea proposed by cognitive linguists that conceptual metaphors shape human understanding of abstract categories through everyday experience. In this case, time is conceptualized through economic and spatial metaphors that reflect industrial and rational patterns of thinking. Uzbek temporal expressions, on the other hand, demonstrate stronger associations with cyclical processes, social harmony, and moral values. Many Uzbek proverbs and idiomatic units interpret time as a natural flow connected with patience, fate, and continuity of life. Expressions related to seasons, traditional customs, and collective experience reveal a culturally symbolic understanding of temporal relations. The analysis indicates that Uzbek linguistic consciousness tends to perceive time not only as a measurable category but also as a philosophical and spiritual phenomenon connected with cultural identity and historical memory.

The cognitive analysis further demonstrates that both languages employ spatial metaphors in the verbalization of temporal concepts. English expressions such as “looking forward to the future” or “behind the times” and Uzbek equivalents referring to approaching or passing events confirm the universal cognitive tendency to understand time through spatial orientation. However, the frequency and contextual usage of such metaphors differ according to cultural and communicative priorities. English discourse generally emphasizes linear progression and future orientation, whereas Uzbek discourse often preserves cyclical and context-dependent interpretations of time.

The results of the study confirm that temporal expressions are shaped by historical development, social traditions, and national mentality. Despite grammatical and semantic differences, English and Uzbek languages share universal cognitive mechanisms in conceptualizing time because human beings rely on similar experiential patterns when interpreting abstract phenomena. At the same time, cultural distinctions influence the symbolic meanings and communicative functions of temporal expressions within each linguistic community. Overall, the research demonstrates that the category of time represents an important intersection of language, cognition, and culture. Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek temporal verbalization contributes to cognitive linguistics,

comparative semantics, and intercultural communication studies by revealing how different linguistic communities conceptualize and interpret temporal reality through language.

CONCLUSION The study of semantic and cognitive features of time expressions in English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that the category of time is not only a grammatical phenomenon but also an important cognitive and cultural construct reflected through language. Comparative analysis shows that temporal verbalization in both languages is deeply connected with human perception, conceptual thinking, and national worldview. Time expressions function as linguistic instruments that organize experience, describe reality, and preserve cultural values within a speech community. The research reveals that English and Uzbek languages possess both universal and culture-specific mechanisms for expressing temporal relations. English language mainly reflects a linear, structured, and pragmatic perception of time through its developed tense-aspect system and metaphorical expressions connected with productivity and efficiency. Uzbek language, in contrast, demonstrates more context-dependent and culturally symbolic interpretations of time associated with continuity, patience, and cyclical processes of life. These distinctions confirm that language reflects not only communicative needs but also social traditions and historical patterns of thought. The cognitive analysis of temporal metaphors and phraseological expressions indicates that speakers of both languages conceptualize abstract temporal notions through concrete human experiences such as movement, space, and natural processes. Spatial metaphors used in English and Uzbek prove the universality of cognitive mechanisms underlying temporal perception. However, differences in metaphorical models and contextual usage illustrate the influence of national mentality and cultural environment on linguistic consciousness.

The findings of the research contribute to the development of cognitive linguistics, comparative semantics, and linguoculturology by highlighting the relationship between language, thought, and culture. The comparative investigation of English and Uzbek temporal expressions expands understanding of intercultural communication and conceptual worldview reflected in linguistic structures. Moreover, the results may be useful for translation studies, foreign language teaching, discourse analysis, and further interdisciplinary research devoted to the interaction of cognition and language. In conclusion, the category of time represents a multidimensional linguistic phenomenon that reflects universal human cognition together with unique cultural interpretations. The verbalization of temporal concepts in English and Uzbek languages confirms that language serves

not only as a means of communication but also as a powerful mechanism for conceptualizing and interpreting reality.

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