

SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AUXILIARY VERBS IN THE KOREAN LANGUAGE (USING THE EXAMPLE OF THE VERBS 가다 [GADA] AND 오다 [ODA])

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Abstract

This article explores the usage and semantic features of the auxiliary verbs 가다 [gada] and 오다 [oda] in Korean, analyzing their semantic functions. Examples are provided to illustrate the usage of these auxiliary verbs. The grammatical meanings of these auxiliary verbs in sentences, as well as the continuation of actions indicated 가다 [gada] and 오다 [oda], which express a process, are examined. The analysis also considers the differences in how these verbs express the direction of actions and how their usage in context varies. Additionally, the semantic equivalents of these auxiliary action verbs are presented and their differences are discussed.

Keywords

leading verb, auxiliary verb, basis, semantic characteristics, progress

1. INTRODUCTION

In Korean, verbs are classified into two categories: leading verbs and auxiliary verbs based on their function and position in a sentence. A leading verb expresses the lexical meaning and appears before the auxiliary verb, while an auxiliary verb comes after the leading verb and expresses grammatical meanings like modality, tense, and aspect. In Korean, auxiliary verbs express various meanings, including impossibility, negation, purpose, passivity, and emphasis on action [5,p. 158-162].

Various studies on auxiliary verbs have been conducted in global and Uzbek linguistics. Researchers such as Kim Hyo Sin [3], Mok Jong Su [7], Li Nam [6], Kim Yun Shin [4], Yu Yong [9], and others have explored the topic of auxiliary verbs. In Uzbek linguistics, A. Hojiyev [1] was one of the first scholars to study auxiliary verbs.

2. THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

In Korean, the auxiliary verb “-아/어 가다” [a/o gada] combines with the root of the verb to express the continuation of an action or state. In Uzbek it is translated as “-ib bormoq” (to continue doing something). Let us now explore how the auxiliary verb “-아/어 가다” is used in sentences in Korean.

Below, we examine how the auxiliary verb 가다 [gada] combines with the verb 되다 [tveda]. The verb root 되다 [tveda] combines with the auxiliary verb 가다 [gada] using the affixes -아/어/여 [a/o/yo].

되다 + -어 가다 = 되어 가다

(to become + to go = to continue becoming)

The auxiliary verb “아/어 가다” [a/o gada] combines with the root verb using the affix -아/어/여 [a/o/yo] and translates as “to continue going” or “to go while” in Uzbek. The usage of the auxiliary verb 아/어 가다 in a sentence depends on the context.

Here are some example sentences using the auxiliary verb 아/어 가다 [a/o gada]:

책을 다 읽어 간다.

I am almost done reading the book.

방이 식어 가는데 불 좀 올려라.

The room is getting cold, so please turn up the heat.

하는 일은 잘돼 가나?

Is the work you're doing progressing well?

좀 쉬어 가며 일해라.

Take some breaks as you work.

날이 더워서 꽃이 시들어 간다.

The weather is hot, so the flowers are gradually wilting.

경제가 회복되어 간다 [8].

The economy is gradually recovering.

According to the book “Korean grammar and Expressions for Foreigners”, the auxiliary verb 가다 [gada] is used to express that an action is continuing towards a specific goal. In this case, the verb 가다 [gada] By itself, it means ‘to go’, but when combined with a leading verb, it indicates the future or present continuous nature of the action expressed by the leading verb [10, p. 231].

처음부터 하나씩 천천히 배워 가겠습니다.

I will learn slowly, one by one, from the beginning.

잘 바뀔 것 같지 않던 왕밍 씨가 이제 조금씩 바뀌어 가고 있어요 [10, p. 231].

Mr. Wangming, who didn't seem like he would change, is now slowly changing.

Here, 가다 [gada] combines with the leading verb 배우다 [peuda] (to learn), expressing the continuation of the action from one point in time to another.

Another example is:

배우다 + -어 가다 = 배워 가다

(to learn + to go = to continue learning)

먹다 + -어 가다 = 먹어 가다

(to eat + to go = to continue eating)

In this case, “먹어 가다” is translated into Uzbek as “yeb kelmoq”, which implies the continuation of eating over time.

The auxiliary verb 가다 [gada] shares semantic similarities with -고 있다 [go itda] and indicates an ongoing action. However, 가다 is used to show an action that is continuing towards a specific goal or future event, while -고 있다 merely expresses an action in progress at the current moment.[10, p. 234].

In his study *A Contrastive Study on Korean Auxiliary Predicates and Their Corresponding Expressions in Chinese*, Li Nam categorizes "continuity" into three types: past continuous action, present continuous action, and future continuous action. He emphasizes that the continuous aspect expressed by the auxiliary verb ‘(-고 있다 can appear in all three tenses [6, p.8].

In the following section, we will focus on the past continuous form.

‘그리고 나를 지그시 바라보며 했던 아버지의 말 한마디가 마음 깊은 곳에서부터 나를 무너뜨리고 있었다’ [2, p. 32].

“And just one word from my father, as he looked at me with gentle eyes, was tearing me apart from deep inside”.

In the example above, the construction ‘(-고) 있다’ conveys the continuity of an action in the past tense. This suggests that it exhibits an aspectual similarity to the auxiliary verb *아/어 가다*, which also denotes ongoing or continuous action.

The auxiliary verb *아/어 오다* [a/o o'da] is used to express actions or states that have been continuing from an unspecified point in the past up until the present moment [10, p. 285]. It is translated as “-ib kelmoq” in Uzbek.

Example:

민수는 이 대학교에서 10년간 일해 왔다.

Minsu has been working at this university for 10 years.

일하다 + -여 오다 = 일해 오다

(to work + to come = to have been working)

The auxiliary verb *아/어 오다* [a/o o'da] can also be used with “계속” (continuously) or “-부터 - 왔다” (since the start) to indicate the duration of an ongoing action[10a, p. 287].

Example:

수미는 이사한 이후로 계속 고양이를 키워 오고 있다.

Sumi has been raising a cat continuously since moving.

그 편의점은 두 달 전부터 일해 왔다 [10a, p. 287].

That convenience store has been operating for two months.

CONCLUSION

This article examined the meanings and usage of the auxiliary verbs *아/어 가다* [a/o gada] and *아/어 오다* [a/o o'da]. The auxiliary verb *아/어 가다* adds a meaning to the leading verb, indicating the continuation of an action, the occurrence of an event in the future, or the movement from one point to another. In contrast, *아/어 오다* expresses an action that has been completed from an unspecified starting point until the present moment. Both auxiliary verbs express the ongoing nature and direction of actions in different ways.

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