

The Explanation of Past Simple in the Uzbek and Turkish Languages

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Abstract: *It is presented some differences of past tense between Uzbek and Turkish. Making use of numerous types of past tense is up to some conditions and situations. And also, this tense is differentiated in both languages in a morphological way. Nevertheless, according to most peculiarities, there are some similarities in past tense because of being the same language family.*

Keywords: *past progressive, past perfect, used to, would, definite past, indefinite past.*

Tense is the best indispensable point in grammar of each language over the world. In this essay we will compare and identify the importance of past tense in both Uzbek and Turkish. There is not only one past tense in Turkish, nor in any language. We'll see different types of past tenses with explanations and examples in the essay. Firstly, it is shown the varieties of past tense in the Turkish language.

1. Simple Past Tense in Turkish:

We must use simple past tense (-DI) to describe an action that happened in the past. Similar to English, Turkish past simple is used to describe things that happened and finished in the past. The suffix of past simple is -di/dı/ti/tı. Different from *miş*-past, *di*-past is used to describe an action that the speaker has witnessed. Conversely, *miş*-past defines the actions that the speaker has only heard but not witnessed.

Simple Past Tense in Turkish – Examples:

Sevmek
to like, to love

Sevdim
I liked/loved

Sevdik
We liked/loved

Bu oyunu çok sevdik
We liked this game a lot

Singular	Ben	Sen	O
Verb+	Dim	din	di
Tara-	Taradim	taradin	taradi
Kir-	Kirdim	kirdin	kirdi
Sev-	Sevdim	sevdin	Sevdi
Plural	Biz	Siz	Onlar
Verb+	Dik	Dinez	diler

Tara-	Taradik	Taradiniz	taradiler
Kir-	Kirdik	Kirdiniz	kirdiler
Sev-	Sevdik	Sevdiniz	sevdiler

The negative form of past simple in Turkish

We need to add the negative suffix -me/ma after the verb root, before the personal pronouns. If the verb root has one of back vowels, we have to add -ma to the verb root. If the verb root has one of front vowels, we have to add -me. After the negative suffix, we add the past tense suffix -DI.

Sevmedim

I didn't like it

Almadım

I didn't take it

Ali bizimle gelmek istemedi

Ali didn't want to come with us

If the action happens in the past over a period of time, we'd rather use Past Continuous Tense.

2. Past Continuous Tense in Turkish:

when describing continuing actions or events in the past (before now), we use past continuous tense. Mainly, to describe an event/action that is interrupted by another event/action, past continuous tense is used (similar to the continuous past of English). To refer to the concept of past continuous in Turkish, we'd call 'geçmiş zamanda süreklilik' or 'sürekli geçmiş zaman'. Let's look into the word 'sürekli'.

Sürmek

to drive, lead, continue

Süre

period, duration

Sürek

drove (of cattle)

Sürekli

continuous, perpetual

Bir süre önce

A while ago

Singular	Ben	Sen	O
Verb+	(i)yordum	(i)yordun	(i)yordu
Tara-	Tariyordum	Tariyordun	Tariyordu
Kir-	Kiriyordum	Kiriyordun	Kiriyordu
Sev-	Seviyordum	seviyordun	seviyordu

Plural	Biz	Siz	Onlar
Verb+	(i)yorduk	(i)yordunuz	(i)yordular/(i)yorlardı
Tara-	Tariyorduk	Tariyordunuz	Tariyorlardı/Tariyordular
Kir-	Kiriyorduk	Kiriyordunuz	Kiriyordular/Kiriyorlardı
Sev-	Seviyorduk	Seviyordunuz	Seviyordular/Seviyorlardı

3. Future in the Past

we use this tense to refer the future from the perspective of past. It is translated to 'was going to'.

Gülmek
to laugh
Güldüm
I laughed
Gelecektim
I was going to come

Gülecektim
I was going laugh
Az kalsın gülecektim
I was about to laugh
Aslında partiye gelecektim ama araba kazası yaptım.
I was going to come to the party but I had a car accident

Singular	Ben	Sen	O
Verb+	Ecektim	ecektin	ecekti
Tara-	tarayacaktım	tarayacaktın	tarayacaktı
Kir-	kıracaktım	kıracaktın	kıracaktı
Sev-	sevecektim	sevecektin	sevecekti

Plural	Biz	Siz	Onlar
Verb+	ecektik	ecektiniz	ecektiler/eceklerdi
Tara-	tarayacaktık	tarayacaktınız	tarayacaklardı/tarayacaktılar
Kir-	kıracaktık	Kıracaktınız	kıracaklardı/kıracaktılar
Sev-	sevecektik	Sevecektiniz	seveceklerdi/sevecektiler

4. Second form of the future-in-the-past

we can translate into English as ‘would’. It’s the same concept but we use one of the suffixes of aorist (-ar/-er/-ır/-ir).

Girerdim
I would enter
Eğer söyleseydin, fakülteye girerdim
I would enter to faculty if you had told me
Eğer söyleseydin, fakülteye girmezdim
I wouldn’t enter to faculty if you had told me

Fakülteye girerdim
I would enter the faculty

5. Necessitative Past in Turkish:

The structure of the necessitative past is translated into English as ‘should have’. In Turkish, necessitative is called as ‘gereklilik kipi’.

Singular	Ben	Sen	O
Verb+	meliydim	meliydin	meliydi
Tara-	taramalıydim	taramalıydın	taramalıydı
Kir-	kırmalıydim	kırmalıydın	kırmalıydı
Sev-	sevmeliydim	sevmeliydin	sevmeliydi

Plural	Biz	Siz	Onlar
Verb+	meliydik	meliydiniz	meliydiler
Tara-	taramalıydık	taramalıydınız	taramalıydılar
Kir-	kırmalıydık	kırmalıydınız	kırmalıydılar
Sev-	sevmeliydik	sevmeliydiniz	sevmeliydiler

Gelmeli
S/he should come

Gelmeliydim

I should have come

Bu soğukta gelmemeliydin

You shouldn't have come in this cold

Gelmeliyim

I should come

Bizimle yürüyüşe gelmeliydin

You should have come to walk with us

6. Turkish Conditional Past Tense in Turkish:

This kind of tense is similar to the 'If only + past participle' of English. We use this structure to express wishes or regrets. As you know -se/-sa suffix is of subjunctive mood (optative), and when used together with -di/-dı/du/dü past tense suffix, it means as followed:

Turkish Conditional Past – Examples:

Olsaydı

If only it had happened

Bilseydin

If only you knew

Olmasaydı, daha iyi olurdu.

If only it hadn't happened, it would be better

Singular	Ben	Sen	O
Verb+	saydım	saydın	saydı
Tara-	tarasaydım	tarasaydın	tarasaydı
Kir-	kırsaydım	kırsaydın	kırsaydı
Sev-	sevseydim	sevseydin	sevseydi

Plural	Biz	Siz	Onlar
Verb+	seydik	seydiniz	seydiler/selerdi
Tara-	tarasaydık	tarasaydınız	tarasaydılar/tarasalardı
Kir-	kırsaydık	kırsaydınız	kırsalardı/kırsaydılar
Sev-	sevseydik	sevseydiniz	sevselelerdi/sevseydiler

7. Turkish Pluperfect:

Pluperfect is described: "denoting an action completed prior to some past point of time specified or implied, formed in English by had and the past participle, as in he had gone by then". That's also valid for Turkish use. We must not get confused with 'miş' before the past tense suffix. It is not of inferential meaning.

Pluperfect in Turkish- Table

Singular	Ben	Sen	O
Verb+	mıştım	Mıştın	mıştı
Tara-	taramıştım	Taramıştın	taramıştı

Kir-	kırmıştım	Kırmıştın	kırmıştı
Sev-	sevmişim	Sevmiştin	sevmişti

Plural	Biz	Siz	Onlar
Verb+	miştik	miştiniz	miştiler/mişlerdi
Tara-	taramıştık	taramıştınız	taramıştılar/taramışlardı
Kir-	kırmıştık	kırmıştınız	kırmıştılar/kırmışlardı
Sev-	sevmiştik	sevmiştiniz	sevmişlerdi/sevmişdiler

Pluperfect in Turkish – Examples

Kalmıştım

Altı gibi çoktan bitirmiştim

I had stayed/failed by then

I had already finished by six

8. Reported Past Tense in Turkish (miş-past)

It is used to describe things that we have not witnessed. This tense type does not exist in the majority of the languages so it's often confused, however, it is very fun and easy. We will explain with an example:

Bugün Selin merdivenlerden düştü

Today Selin fell down the stairs

However, if Emre wants to tell anybody about this action, he'd use miş-past because he has not witnessed of Selin's falling but only heard of it. So, then,

Emre: Bugün Selin merdivenlerden düşmüş.

Reported Past Tense in Turkish (miş-past) – Examples

Evi temizledim

I cleaned the house

Evi temizlemişim

I have forgotten that I have cleaned the house. I realize it now

Evi temizlemişimdir

I must have cleaned the house.

Umarım evi temizlemişimdir.

I hope I have cleaned the house.

TYPES OF PAST TENSE IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

It is given useful information about different meaning of past tense with vivid explanations and examples in Uzbek. They are:

Definite past

in Uzbek: aniq o'tgan zamon fe'li

also called: *preterit*, *simple past*.

The definite past expresses an event or action completed in the past, the event being viewed as a single whole. It occurred at a specific time, and inside the period of time of current relevance to the speaker, usually the recent past, but sometimes in an objectively more remote past. Very

often, the speaker is an eyewitness of the event, and in any case is sure about its actual occurrence.

It is very often a perfect, the results of the event or action being still in effect and relevant to the present situation.

➤ Definite past, with results of the event no longer in effect:

Yakshanba kuni nima qildingiz?

What did you do on Sunday?

Amakimni ko'rgani bordim.

I went to see my uncle.

Men bir soat oldin tushlik qildim.

I had lunch one hour ago.

➤ The event might have taken place also in a more distant past, but still precisely defined:

O'g'lim o'tgan yili universitetni tugatdi.

My son graduated from university last year.

➤ Definite past, with results of the event still in effect:

O'zbekistonga qachon keldingiz?

When did you come in Uzbekistan?

Hasan keldimi?

Ha, keldi, hozirgina ko'rdim.

Did Hasan come?

Yes, he has come, I've just seen him.

➤ Such a perfect may sometimes be translated as a present:

Palovdan yana biroz oling.

Please, take some more plov.

Rahmat, to'ydim.

No thank you, I'm full.

Bu ko'ylak menga yoqdi, olaman.

This shirt pleases me, I take it.

Charchadim.

I'm tired.

Bilmadim.

I don't know / I didn't know.

➤ And sometimes in such cases, *focal present* can be used instead of definite past:

Biz chanqadim / chanqayapmiz.

We are thirsty.

➤ The same event or action in the same context might be construed alternatively as having happened inside the period of time of current relevance to the speaker (definite) or outside (indefinite):

O'g'lim o'tgan yili universitetni tugatdi / tugatgan.

My son graduated / has graduated from university last year.

Bu tezyurar avtobusmi?

Yo'q. U avtobus o'n minut oldin ketdi / ketgan.

Is it the express bus?

No. That bus left / has left ten minutes ago.

➤ The use of *bo'l-* in its definite past form as a predicate for the nominal statives (names, adjectives, *bor*, *yo'q*, *kerak*, *mumkin*, etc.) indicates that a change of state has

occurred, which may or may not be still relevant at present time (a perfect). Note: the difference with *edi* is that the latter implies a view where the state is seen as being continuous (imperfective).

Kechirasiz, soat necha bo'ldi?

Excuse me, what time is it?

Kech bo'ldi. Biz boraylik.

It's late, we are going.

Qishda sovuq bo'ldimi?

Did it become / was it cold in summer?

Siz qaysi shaharlarda bo'ldingiz?

Which town have you been to? (for instance, during your last trip)

- Performative modality: The definite past is often used at the 1st person to make known a decision which has been just made, (so with a perfect meaning) and whose effect is now relevant for near future action.

That action can then be considered itself as virtually done.

Ketdik.

We are going now.

Qani, ketdik, yigitlar.

Come on, we are now leaving, guys.

Indefinite past

in Uzbek: yaqin o'tgan zamon fe'li

The indefinite past expresses an event or action completed in the past but at a time not specified, or if specified, still outside of the period of time of current relevance to the speaker, even if objectively in the near past.

It is very often a perfect, the results of the event or action being still in effect, and relevant to the present situation.

It may also mark an event or action as already experienced by the agent.

- Indefinite past, with results of the event no longer in effect:

Alisher Navoiy 1441-yili tug'ilgan.

Alisher Navaiy is born in 1441.

Kelgan.

He has come (and may have gone back as well)

- Indefinite past, with results of the event still in effect:

Men uylanganman.

I am married.

Oliy ma'lumotni qayerda olgansiz?

Where did you get your degree in higher education?

Mana bu paxtadan qilingan.

This one is made of cotton.

Ulug'bek rasadxonasi Samarqandga joylashgan.

The Ulughbek observatory is located in Samarkand.

Ko'p asrlardan beri o'zbeklar va qozoqlar yonma-yon yashaganlar.

Uzbeks and Kazaks have been living side by side for centuries.

- As an experience:

Bu kitobni men o'qigan.

I have once read this book.

Farg'onada oldin ham bo'lganmisiz?

Have you already been in Ferghana?

- The event might have taken place in the very near (and specific) past:

Bu tezyurar avtobusmi?

Is it the express bus?

Yo'q. U avtobus o'n minut oldin ketgan.

No. That bus has left ten minutes ago.

- The use of bo'l- in its indefinite past form as a predicate for the nominal statives (names, adjectives, bor, yo'q, kerak, mumkin, etc.) indicates that a change of state had or has occurred, resulting in a situation relevant either in the past or currently. It might be translated either as 'had become', or 'has become', or 'has been' or 'is':

Men o'quvchi bo'lganman.

I have been a student.

O'rta asrlarda Buxoroda juda katta kutubxona bo'lgan.

In the middle age, there used to be a big library in Bukhara.

Qanday qilib yozuvchi bo'lgansiz?

How did you become a writer?

- The same state of thing can be either construed as the result of a transformation effective in the past (bo'lgan) or as a state during for a given period of time in the past(imperfective edi).

Compare:

Samarqand 1925-1930 yillari O'zbekistonning poytaxti bo'lgan.

Samarkand has been the capital of Uzbekistan during the years 1925 to 1930.

Samarqand Amir Temur saltanatining poytaxti edi.

Samarkand was the capital of Amir Temur's sultanate.

Imperfect

in Uzbek: o'tgan zamon davom fe'li

also called: past continuous tense

The imperfect expresses states, events or actions occurring habitually or repetitively for some time in the past ('used to'). Events or actions are then envisaged within their limits, i.e. after their beginning and before their end.

- Habitual imperfect, in a continuous mode:

Men biznes bilan shug'ullanar edim.

I used to be engaged in business.

Markaz qishloqlarda kichik korxonalar qurishni hech o'ylamas edi.

The Centre was not paying any attention to the small businesses.

Biz musiqaga qiziqar edik.

We were interested in music.

Bilmas edilar.

They did not know.

- Repetitive imperfect, in a discontinuous mode:

U biznikiga har hafta kelar edi.

She came to our house every week.

Ular bir partada o'tirishar, birga dars tayyorlashar edi.

They used to sit at the same table, and to prepare together their lessons.

Focal past

in Uzbek: o'tgan zamon davom fe'li

also called: continuous past

Focal past expresses a state, event or action which was taking place during a past period of reference previously set in the discourse. It corresponds to the English past progressive. The duration of the event is short enough to be felt as contained during that reference period of time.

A less used tense with similar meanings is progressive past.

- Progressive past, in a continuous mode:

Karim kirganda, men xat yozayotgan edim.

When Karim entered, I was writing a letter.

Gapirayotgan edimmi?

Was I talking? (at that moment)

- Sometimes, the same event or action in the same context might be construed alternatively as happening specifically inside the scope of focal temporal reference (focal past) or inside a broader period of time (imperfect):

So'ng kichik korxonada ishlar edim /
ishlayotgandim.

After, I used to work in a small company.

Progressive past

It is a variant of the focal past, denoting an action in the past which began some time before a time of reference in the past and continued for some time after it, in a progression.

It is used mostly in written language, and is typical of a factual or newspaper style.

- Progressive past, in a discontinuous mode:

Ular yo'lda ketar ekan, turli qushlarning
ovozi eshitilib turmoqda edi.

While they were going their way, the voices
of all sorts of birds were heard.

O'quvchi bo'lmoqda edilar.

They used to be student. (at that time)

Pluperfect

in Uzbek: uzoq o'tgan zamon fe'li

Also called: distant past.

The pluperfect expresses an event or action completed either in a distant past or at a time anterior to a time of reference, the latter having been previously set in the course of the discourse, and situated in the past (pluperfect).

It may also mark an event or action which had already been experienced by the agent.

- When expressing distant past, it may still imply an implicit time of reference in the past:

Biz o'tgan yili musobaqada qatnashgan edik.

Last year, we took part to the competition.

Ular yozuvchi bo'lgan emas edilar.

They had not become writers.

- As a pluperfect, the event or action is set to a time anterior to a time of reference, itself in the past:

Avval qovun yegan edim. Keyin sovuq suv ichgan edim.

Shundan keyin qornim og'ridi.

O'shanda sanoatimiz rivojlangan yo'q edi.

Men Moskvaga bundan ikki hafta avval borgan edim.

Men to'yni kichikroq qilamiz deb o'ylagandim.

➤ That past time of reference may sometimes be situated in the very near past:

Kechirasiz, Anvar aka bormilar?

Yo'q, universitetga ketgan edilar.

First, I ate melon, and then I drank cold water.

And after that, my tommy hurt.

At that time, our industry was not developed.

I had gone to Moscow two weeks before.

I had thought that we would have a smaller wedding party.

Excuse me, is Anvar there?

No, he has left to the university.

Taking into consideration, past tense in both Turkish and Uzbek is somehow similar to each other due to being the same language family. In this article it is shown some differences and similarities of past tense in the Uzbek and Turkish languages. Uzbek language has a lot of loan words from Arabic, Persian and Russian. The words and sentences in Uzbek, as in any other Turkic language, are formed by help of suffixes that are added to morphemes, a process called agglutination. Turkish is also an agglutinative language. Because tenses in both Turkish and Uzbek are made by different suffixes. This is one of the peculiarities to be similar to each other.

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