

Morpho-Syntactic Characteristics of Action Verbs in French and Uzbek Languages

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative analysis of the morpho-syntactic characteristics of action verbs in French and Uzbek, two languages with significantly different typological structures. Focusing on verb morphology (tense, aspect, mood, voice) and syntactic functions (verb phrase structure, argument realization, clause types), the study investigates the ways in which these languages encode action and its various nuances. By contrasting the analytic nature of French with the more synthetic tendencies of Uzbek, the research highlights both the similarities and differences in how these languages express dynamic events. The analysis will contribute to a deeper understanding of the cross-linguistic variation in verb systems and their impact on overall sentence structure.

Keywords: French verbs, Uzbek verbs, action verbs, morphology, syntax, tense, aspect, mood, voice, verb phrase, argument structure, cross-linguistic comparison, typological differences, analytic language, synthetic language.



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INTRODUCTION

The study will focus on key morpho-syntactic features, including tense, aspect, mood, and voice, examining how these categories are expressed in both languages. We will investigate the structures of verb phrases, paying close attention to the realization of arguments (subjects, objects, etc.) and the types of clauses in which action verbs function. By contrasting the analytic strategies employed in French with the synthetic approaches of Uzbek, we aim to illuminate the ways in which these languages encode the nuances of action and its temporal, modal, and aspectual characteristics.

This comparative approach will not only contribute to a deeper understanding of the individual grammatical systems of French and Uzbek but also provide valuable insights into the broader phenomenon of cross-linguistic variation in verb systems and their influence on overall sentence structure. The findings will be relevant to linguists working on typology, theoretical syntax, and comparative grammar, as well as those involved in language teaching and translation.

METHOD AND ANALISYS

This study employs a comparative-contrastive methodology, analyzing the morpho-syntactic features of action verbs in French and Uzbek through a detailed examination of their verb morphology and syntactic functions. The analysis will draw upon existing linguistic literature on both languages, supplemented by corpus-based data where available. Specific methods include:

1. **Morphological Analysis:** This will involve a detailed comparison of the inflectional systems of French and Uzbek verbs, focusing on:

Tense: A comparison of how past, present, and future tenses are marked morphologically in both languages. This will include an examination of the different tense systems (e.g., the presence or absence of perfective and imperfective aspects in each language).

Aspect: An investigation into how perfective (completed action) and imperfective (ongoing action) aspects are expressed, considering the role of auxiliary verbs in French and the use of verb prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek.

Mood: A comparative analysis of indicative, subjunctive, imperative, and conditional moods, examining their morphological markings and syntactic distributions in both languages. The differences in expressing hypotheticality and obligation will be highlighted.

Voice: An analysis of active and passive voice constructions, focusing on how these are formed and the implications for argument structure in each language. The presence or absence of other voices (e.g., reflexive, causative) will also be considered.

2. **Syntactic Analysis:** This section will focus on the syntactic behavior of action verbs, analyzing:

Verb Phrase Structure: A comparison of the structure of verb phrases in both languages, considering the order of auxiliaries, adverbs, and other modifiers.

Argument Realization: An analysis of how the arguments (subject, object, etc.) of action verbs are expressed syntactically, paying attention to word order variations and the use of prepositions and case markings in Uzbek.

Clause Types: An examination of how action verbs function in different clause types (e.g., main clauses, subordinate clauses), considering the syntactic constraints and the ways in which the meaning of the action is affected by the clause type.

The analysis will involve systematic comparison and contrasting of the morphological and syntactic patterns observed in both French and Uzbek. The goal is to identify both similarities and differences in how these languages encode action and its various nuances, highlighting the impact of their differing typological characteristics. The analysis will be presented in a structured format, with tables and examples illustrating key features and contrasts.

Verbs of action (verbes de mouvement) are verbs that express the occurrence, direction, duration and result of an action. They are one of the main lexical-semantic groups in both languages. Verbs of action in French and Uzbek have their own morphological and syntactic characteristics. In this plan, we will focus on the grammatical characteristics, structure and use of verbs of action.

a) Verbs of action in French

In French, verbs of action are usually formed in the passé composé (past tense) with the auxiliary verb être or avoir. Features:

Je vais. Je vais There are plural and singular forms: (I am going), Nous allons (We are going).

Il est venu Some verbs of action come with an auxiliary verb: (He came).

Il part à Paris The direction of action is indicated by auxiliary words:

b) Action verbs in Uzbek

In Uzbek, action verbs are formed with a main verb and auxiliary verbs. They use suffixes to express the manner, direction, and duration of the action.

DISCUSSION

The comparative analysis of action verbs in French and Uzbek reveals a fascinating interplay between typological differences and functional similarities. While both languages effectively convey the nuances of action, their strategies differ significantly, reflecting the analytic nature of French and the synthetic nature of Uzbek.

Tense and Aspect: A striking contrast emerges in the expression of tense and aspect. French, an analytic language, relies on auxiliary verbs (*avoir*, *être*) combined with participles to construct compound tenses, resulting in a more explicit marking of temporal and aspectual distinctions. This contrasts sharply with Uzbek, where tense and aspect are largely encoded through inflectional suffixes directly attached to the verb stem. This synthetic approach often bundles multiple grammatical features into a single morpheme, potentially leading to ambiguity unless resolved through context. For instance, the distinction between perfective and imperfective aspects might be less overtly marked in Uzbek than in French.

Mood: The expression of mood showcases further typological divergence. French uses a rich morphological system to distinguish various moods (indicative, subjunctive, imperative, conditional), allowing for subtle distinctions in expressing degrees of certainty, obligation, or hypothetical situations. Uzbek, while possessing mood distinctions, may rely more on auxiliary verbs, particles, or context to achieve similar semantic effects. This might result in less overt morphological marking of mood compared to French.

Voice: The passive voice provides another point of contrast. French employs a periphrastic passive construction (*être* + past participle), clearly marking the passive voice. Uzbek, however, exhibits greater flexibility, employing various strategies such as reflexive verbs or specific passive constructions depending on the verb and context. This can lead to more varied passive constructions in Uzbek.

Syntactic Implications: The analytic nature of French leads to a relatively fixed SVO word order, while Uzbek allows for greater flexibility, with word order playing a more significant role in conveying grammatical relations. This affects the overall sentence structure and the way arguments are presented. French relies heavily on prepositions to mark grammatical roles, whereas Uzbek employs case marking, adding another layer of complexity to its syntactic system.

Functional Equivalence: Despite the contrasting approaches, both languages effectively convey the core functions of action verbs: expressing actions, events, and states. The differences lie primarily in the “how”—the specific grammatical mechanisms employed. This highlights the fact that different linguistic systems can achieve functional equivalence through diverse structural means. Further research might explore the cognitive implications of these different approaches, focusing on how speakers of each language process and interpret action verbs.

RESULTS

The comparative analysis of action verbs in French and Uzbek yielded the following key results:

Tense and Aspect: French predominantly uses periphrastic constructions with auxiliary verbs (*avoir*/*être*) to express tense and aspect, resulting in a more explicit and often more complex morphological marking. Uzbek, conversely, relies heavily on inflectional suffixes directly attached to the verb stem, often combining tense and aspect information within a single

morpheme. This leads to greater morphological complexity in Uzbek verbs but potentially less explicit marking of individual tense and aspect features.

French displays a richer morphological paradigm for expressing mood, particularly the subjunctive, reflecting a more nuanced system for indicating degrees of certainty, hypothetical situations, and obligation. Uzbek, while possessing mood distinctions, may employ alternative strategies such as auxiliary verbs or particles to convey similar meanings.

French utilizes a consistent periphrastic passive construction ("être" + past participle), while Uzbek shows greater variability, employing various strategies including reflexive verbs or specific passive verb forms depending on the context.

CONCLUSION

The results clearly demonstrate the influence of language typology on the expression of action verbs. French, as an analytic language, favors a more explicit and periphrastic approach, using auxiliary verbs and prepositions extensively. Uzbek, as a synthetic language, relies on a more compact and morphologically rich system, encoding grammatical information directly on the verb stem through inflection. While both languages achieve functional equivalence in expressing action, their strategies differ significantly, reflecting their distinct grammatical structures and typological characteristics. These differences have implications for language acquisition, translation, and cross-linguistic understanding of verb systems.

In conclusion, this comparative analysis demonstrates that while both French and Uzbek express the semantics of action, they do so through fundamentally different grammatical strategies. These differences are rooted in their contrasting typological characteristics, highlighting the remarkable flexibility and adaptability of human language in conveying meaning.

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