



PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF VERB TYPES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK (ON THE EXAMPLE OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK LITERARY WORKS)

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Abstract: This article explores the pragmatic features of verb types in English and Uzbek, with a particular focus on the interaction between action and stative verbs in literary discourse. Drawing on selected English and Uzbek literary works, the study analyzes how verb choice shapes communicative intent, contextual meaning, character depiction, and narrative dynamics. The comparative approach identifies structural, functional, and pragmatic parallels and divergences between the two languages. The findings demonstrate that verbs not only express action or state, but also play a crucial role in constructing social relationships, expressing modality, indicating evidentiality, and managing discourse.

Keywords: pragmatics, English verbs, Uzbek verbs, action verbs, stative verbs, literary discourse, discourse analysis, modality, pragmatolinguistics, cross-linguistic comparison.

Verbs as a grammatical category carry significant semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic weight in any language. In both English and Uzbek, verbs function not merely as indicators of action, process, or state, but also as essential pragmatic tools for organizing discourse, expressing speaker stance, encoding politeness strategies, and shaping narrative flow. The analysis of verb types particularly action and stative verbs within literary texts provides insight into how authors construct meanings beyond the literal linguistic forms.

Existing linguistic research has discussed verb classification, aspectual distinctions, and functional-semantic categories in both languages. However, the pragmatic dimension of verb usage how verb forms and types contribute to communicative goals, character portrayal, emotional tone, and interpersonal relations remains insufficiently explored. This article addresses this gap by analyzing verb types in English and Uzbek literary works, focusing on their pragmatic functions.

Pragmatics examines how meaning is shaped by context, speaker intentions, and interpretive processes. Verbs contribute to pragmatic meaning through:

- **Illocutionary force** (e.g., ordering, requesting, promising)
- **Modality and stance** (e.g., certainty, doubt, obligation)
- **Speech act formation**



- **Evidentiality** (e.g., source of information, reliability)
- **Discourse management** (e.g., topic shifts, narrative progression)

In both English and Uzbek literature, action verbs drive the plot, create dynamism, and reveal characters' physical and psychological behavior.

English Example (from Charles Dickens): “He rushed to the window and gazed into the darkness”. → The verbs *rushed* and *gazed* intensify urgency and emotional tension.

Uzbek Example (from O‘. Hoshimov): “U chopib chiqdi va uzoqqa tikildi”.

→ The action verbs *chopib chiqdi* and *tikildi* likewise emphasize haste and contemplation.

In both languages, action verbs pragmatically function to:

- increase narrative pace
- foreground characters' agency
- create tension and anticipation

2. Stative Verbs and Psychological Depth

Stative verbs reveal inner states, emotions, beliefs, and relationships.

English Example: “She understood his silence”. → A stative verb (*understood*) conveys empathy.

Uzbek Example: “U uning sukunatini his qildi”. → The verb *his qildi* carries emotional resonance.

Pragmatically, stative verbs:

- deepen psychological portrayal
- establish emotional atmosphere
- highlight interpersonal dynamics

English expresses modality primarily through modal verbs (*can, must, may*), whereas Uzbek frequently employs verbal affixes and auxiliary constructions.

English: “He must leave.” **Uzbek:** “U ketishi kerak.”

Evidentiality in Uzbek is explicit in forms such as *-mish* (hearsay), while English relies on adverbials or context.

Uzbek: “U ketibdi.” (reported speech) **English:** “They say he has left.”

These verb forms pragmatically:

- show the speaker's epistemic stance
- mark reliability and source of information
- influence reader interpretation of events

In both languages, verbs play a central role in speech act formulation.

English request: “Could you help me?” **Uzbek request:** “Yordam bera olasizmi?”

Verb morphology, especially in Uzbek, encodes levels of respect (*-ingiz, -ing*), making it pragmatically richer.



English uses aspect (progressive, perfect) to provide nuance, while Uzbek uses derivational suffixes.

English: “He was thinking.” **Uzbek:** “U o‘ylab turardi.”

Aspect pragmatically indicates:

continuity

temporariness

emotional tone

Uzbek literary works often use evidential forms to maintain cultural narrative patterns, giving stories a communal or folkloric feel. English narratives rely on descriptive stative verbs to establish atmosphere. Verb choices reflect cultural norms: Uzbek narratives frequently encode respect through verb forms, while English depends more on modal verbs and indirectness.

Verb types serve narrative, interpersonal, and cultural functions, beyond their grammatical roles.

1. **Uzbek verbs exhibit higher morphological pragmatization**, including respect, evidentiality, and aspect.
2. **English verbs rely on syntactic constructions** for pragmatic nuance.
3. Literary analysis demonstrates that authors use action and stative verbs to:
 - depict emotions and psychological states
 - organize plot dynamics
 - convey cultural values and social hierarchies
4. Cross-linguistic patterns highlight both universal and language-specific pragmatic behaviors.

The study demonstrates that verb types in English and Uzbek carry significant pragmatic functions in literary discourse. Action verbs energize the narrative, while stative verbs construct emotional depth and interpersonal relations. Morphological richness in Uzbek provides subtle pragmatic cues, whereas English employs syntactic and lexical strategies. Comparative analysis reveals that verb usage in both languages reflects cultural values, narrative traditions, and communicative preferences. Further research may analyze corpus-based data or examine modern digital narratives to explore evolving pragmatic patterns.

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