

SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF STATIVE VERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: The semantic classification of verbs plays a fundamental role in understanding the grammatical and lexical systems of languages. Among various verb categories, stative verbs occupy a unique position because they describe conditions, emotions, possession, perception, cognition, and relationships rather than physical actions. This article examines the semantic classification of stative verbs in English and Uzbek through a comparative linguistic perspective. The research identifies major semantic groups of stative verbs and analyzes their similarities and differences in both languages. The study demonstrates that although English and Uzbek share common semantic categories, they differ in grammatical realization, especially in relation to tense, aspect, and progressive constructions. The findings contribute to comparative linguistics and provide useful guidance for English language teaching in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: stative verbs, semantic classification, English language, Uzbek language, comparative linguistics, semantics, grammar, lexical meaning.

Introduction

Verbs are among the most important grammatical categories in every language because they express actions, events, processes, and states. Unlike dynamic verbs, which denote activities or actions performed by an agent, stative verbs describe situations that exist rather than occur. They express psychological conditions, emotions, possession, perception, cognition, and relationships.

The distinction between dynamic and stative verbs is particularly significant in English grammar because it determines whether a verb may occur in progressive constructions. In Uzbek, however, this distinction is mainly semantic rather than grammatical. Consequently, understanding the semantic classification of stative verbs is essential for comparative linguistic studies and for improving foreign language teaching.

This article aims to classify stative verbs semantically in English and Uzbek while identifying similarities and language-specific characteristics.

Literature Review

The concept of stative verbs has received considerable attention in linguistic studies. Quirk et al. (1985) describe stative verbs as verbs that denote relatively

stable situations rather than changing events. Huddleston and Pullum (2002) classify stative verbs into several semantic groups, including verbs of perception, cognition, emotion, possession, and existence.

Biber et al. (1999) note that stative verbs generally avoid progressive forms because they describe permanent or temporary states rather than ongoing actions.

In Uzbek linguistics, semantic classifications of verbs have been discussed by scholars such as A. G'ulomov, Sh. Rahmatullayev, and A. Nurmonov. Uzbek grammarians primarily classify verbs according to lexical meaning and semantic function rather than grammatical aspect.

Semantic Groups of Stative Verbs

Semantic classification allows stative verbs to be grouped according to the meanings they express.

1. Verbs of Cognition

These verbs describe mental activities such as thinking, knowing, remembering, and understanding.

English Examples

- know
- understand
- remember
- believe
- realize
- forget

Uzbek Equivalents

- bilmoq
- tushunmoq
- eslamoq
- ishonmoq
- anglamoq
- unutmok

Example:

English

I know the answer.

Uzbek

Men javobni bilaman.

These verbs usually describe permanent or relatively stable mental states.

2. Verbs of Emotion

These verbs express feelings and emotional attitudes.



English

- love
- hate
- like
- dislike
- prefer
- respect

Uzbek

- sevmiq
- yomon ko‘rmoq
- yoqtirmoq
- afzal ko‘rmoq
- hurmat qilmoq

Example:

She loves her family.

U oilasini sevadi.

Unlike dynamic verbs, emotional states generally continue over time rather than occurring instantaneously.

3. Verbs of Perception

These verbs express sensory experience.

English

- see
- hear
- smell
- taste
- feel

Uzbek

- ko‘rmoq
- eshitmoq
- hidni sezmoq
- ta‘mni sezmoq
- his qilmoq

Example:

I hear music.

Men musiqa eshityapman.

Some perception verbs may function as both stative and dynamic depending on context.



Compare:

I see a bird. (stative)

I am seeing the doctor tomorrow. (dynamic meaning: meeting)

4. Verbs of Possession

These verbs indicate ownership or possession.

English

- have
- own
- possess
- belong

Uzbek

- ega bo'lmoq
- tegishli bo'lmoq
- mulkka ega bo'lmoq

Example

They own a house.

Ular uyga ega.

These verbs generally describe long-term relationships between an owner and an object.

5. Verbs of Existence and Appearance

These verbs describe existence or appearance.

English

- exist
- seem
- appear
- resemble

Uzbek

- mavjud bo'lmoq
- ko'rinmoq
- o'xshamoq

Example

He seems tired.

U charchagandek ko'rinadi.

6. Verbs of Relationship

These verbs express social or logical relationships.

English

- depend
- include



- concern
- involve
- consist

Uzbek

- bog'liq bo'lmoq
- o'z ichiga olmoq
- taalluqli bo'lmoq
- iborat bo'lmoq

Example

Success depends on hard work.

Muvaffaqiyat mehnatga bog'liq.

Comparative Analysis

The semantic systems of English and Uzbek share many similarities.

Similarities

- Both languages classify stative verbs according to meaning.
- Mental, emotional, and perceptual verbs exist in both languages.
- Possession and relationship verbs occur in similar semantic contexts.
- Most stative verbs describe non-changing situations.

Differences

English	Uzbek
Progressive forms are generally impossible with stative verbs.	Progressive restrictions are not strict.
Aspect strongly influences verb usage.	Semantic interpretation is more important than aspect.
Some stative verbs become dynamic in specific contexts.	Such changes occur less frequently.
Grammar determines many restrictions.	Context often determines interpretation.

Teaching Implications

For Uzbek learners of English, stative verbs often present difficulties because direct translation from Uzbek leads to grammatical errors.

Common learner errors include:

- ✗ I am knowing the answer.
- ✗ She is loving chocolate.

Correct forms are:

- ✓ I know the answer.
- ✓ She loves chocolate.

Teachers should emphasize semantic categories rather than memorizing isolated verb lists. Grouping stative verbs by meaning helps students understand their grammatical behavior more effectively.

Conclusion

The semantic classification of stative verbs provides valuable insights into the grammatical and lexical organization of English and Uzbek. Although both languages share common semantic groups such as cognition, emotion, perception, possession, existence, and relationships, English imposes stronger grammatical restrictions, especially regarding progressive constructions. Uzbek relies more heavily on lexical meaning and contextual interpretation. Understanding these similarities and differences benefits language learners, translators, and linguists engaged in comparative research.

Future studies may employ corpus-based methods to investigate the frequency and contextual usage of stative verbs in authentic English and Uzbek texts.

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