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SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF VERBS EXPRESSING HUMAN
BEHAVIOR

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Abstract. *Verbs expressing human behavior play a significant role in language as they describe actions, states, and processes related to human activity, emotions, and psychological conditions. These verbs, which include smile, cry, laugh, frown, sigh, tremble, and shiver, exhibit unique syntactic behaviors across different languages. This study explores the syntactic features of human behavior verbs in English and Uzbek, focusing on their transitivity, argument structure, aspectual variations, and syntactic environments. Using corpus-based methods, we analyze how these verbs function in different sentence structures, their valency patterns, and their collocational tendencies in both languages. The findings reveal that while English behavior verbs often participate in both active and passive constructions, Uzbek behavior verbs frequently undergo affixation and aspectual modifications rather than passive transformation. Additionally, auxiliary verbs and modal constructions contribute to the syntactic diversity of behavior verbs in Uzbek.*

Keywords: *syntactic features, behavioral verbs, English, Uzbek, transitivity, aspect, valency, corpus linguistics, passive constructions, contrastive analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Verbs are the central elements of sentence structure as they determine the argument structure, syntactic behavior, and aspectual meaning of a clause. Among different categories of verbs, verbs expressing human behavior are particularly important as they describe volitional and involuntary actions, physiological responses, emotional expressions, and habitual behaviors. These verbs, which include smile, sigh, cry, laugh, frown, tremble, and shiver, are found across languages, yet they exhibit language-specific syntactic patterns and morphosyntactic modifications.

The syntactic features of behavior verbs are crucial for understanding how they interact with sentence elements, including subjects, objects, adverbials, and auxiliary verbs. While English behavior verbs often function both transitively and intransitively, Uzbek behavior verbs rely more on aspectual affixes, verb derivation, and auxiliary verb constructions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Behavioral verbs refer to actions or states associated with human emotions, physiological activities, and involuntary reactions. These verbs function at the





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intersection of material processes (physical actions) and mental processes (cognitive and emotional states) [2].

Common behavior verbs in English and Uzbek include:

Category	English Examples	Uzbek Examples
Emotional actions	grin, grimace, sob	jilmaymoq, yuz burmoq, ho'ngrab yig'lamoq
Physiological actions	hiccup, sneeze, blink	hiqichiq tutmoq, aksirmoq, ko'z qisib qo'ymoq
Involuntary reactions	flinch, wince, twitch	orqaga tislamoq, qaltiramoq, qiltillamoq
Habitual behaviors	oversleep, doze off, snore	uxlab qolmoq, mudrab qolmoq, xurrak otmoq

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Behavioral verbs exhibit unique syntactic behaviors, which differ based on language typology. The main syntactic features analyzed in this study include:

Transitivity and argument structure

Verb valency and required complements

Aspectual and modal modifications

Passive constructions and auxiliary verb use

The next section provides a comparative analysis of these syntactic properties in English and Uzbek.

Verb valency refers to the number of arguments a verb requires in a sentence. Behavioral verbs vary in valency across languages.

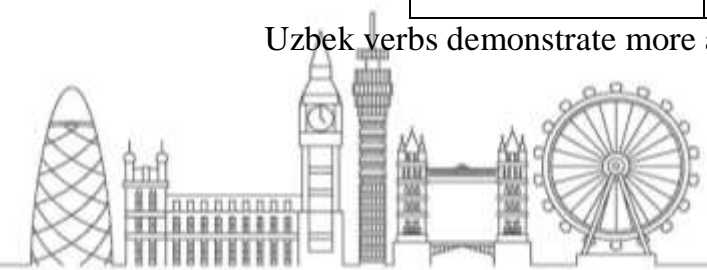
Valency Type	English Example	Uzbek Example
Monovalent (1 argument)	He slept.	U uxladi.
Bivalent (2 arguments)	She sighed with relief.	U yengil tortib xo'rsindi.
Trivalent (3 arguments)	He told her a story and laughed.	U unga hikoya aytib kuldi.

Uzbek behavior verbs frequently employ postpositional phrases and aspectual suffixes to modify meaning, whereas English allows more flexibility in valency shifts.

Uzbek verbs express aspect primarily through suffixes and auxiliary verbs, whereas English relies on progressive (-ing) and perfective (have + past participle) forms.

Aspect	English Example	Uzbek Example
Progressive	She is smiling.	U jilmayapti.
Perfective	He has sighed.	U xo'rsindi.
Habitual	They often yawn.	Ular tez-tez esnaydi.

Uzbek verbs demonstrate more aspectual affixation compared to English.





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English behavioral verbs often appear in passive voice, while Uzbek prefers affixal modifications.

Passive Example	Active Equivalent
He was laughed at.	They laughed at him.
The joke was sighed over.	They sighed over the joke.

Uzbek rarely employs passivization for behavioral verbs. Instead, reflexive and causative forms modify the meaning.

CONCLUSION

This comparative syntactic analysis reveals key differences in the transitivity, valency, aspectual structures, and passivization of behavioral verbs in English and Uzbek.

English behavior verbs exhibit greater flexibility in transitivity and valency, while Uzbek verbs often remain intransitive with aspectual and auxiliary modifications.

Uzbek employs affixal derivation, whereas English uses modal and aspectual markers to express additional meanings.

Passivization is more common in English, while Uzbek uses reflexive and causative verb forms instead.

These findings contribute to contrastive linguistics, syntax research, and language education, helping learners understand cross-linguistic verb structures.

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