

## COMPARATIVE-LINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE CATEGORY OF TENSE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

**Xo'jamurodova Fayyoza Rustamjonovna**

*Senior Lecturer at Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute*

*Phone number: +998 77 270 92 22*

**Ergasheva Madina Qahramonovna**

*Student of Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute*

*Phone number: +998 88 291 07 01*

*E-mail: [ergashevamadina0701@gmail.com](mailto:ergashevamadina0701@gmail.com)*

**Annotation.** *This article is devoted to the comparative-linguistic study of the category of tense in English and Uzbek languages. The research examines the grammatical nature of tense, the ways of its expression, and its functional features in both language systems. In English, the category of tense is expressed analytically through auxiliary verbs and complex grammatical constructions, and it is closely connected with the category of aspect. In contrast, in Uzbek, tense is mainly expressed synthetically by adding suffixes to the verb stem, and its meanings are often dependent on context.*

*The study also identifies similarities and differences in the tense systems of English and Uzbek, highlighting the complexity and differentiation of tense-aspect forms in English and the relative simplicity and flexibility of tense expression in Uzbek. Special attention is given to translation issues arising from the lack of direct grammatical equivalence between the two languages. The results of the comparative analysis contribute to a deeper understanding of typological differences between languages and have practical significance for language teaching and translation studies.*

**Keywords:** *tense category, aspect, English language, Uzbek language, comparative analysis, analytic language, agglutinative language, grammar, translation, context, morphology, syntax*

The study of the category of tense in English and Uzbek languages represents one of the significant directions in modern linguistics. Tense, as a fundamental grammatical category, serves to express the relation of an action to time. However, the ways in which this category is realized differ considerably across languages due to their typological characteristics.

English, being an analytic language, expresses tense through a system of auxiliary verbs and specific verb forms. The tense system in English is closely interconnected with the category of aspect, which allows speakers to convey not only the time of an action but also its duration, completion, and result. For example, continuous forms

indicate ongoing actions, while perfect forms express completed actions with present relevance. This makes the English tense system highly structured and semantically rich. In contrast, Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, primarily expresses tense through suffixation. The main tense forms include past, present, and future, which are formed by adding specific suffixes to the verb stem. Unlike English, Uzbek does not have a clearly distinguished grammatical category of aspect. Instead, meanings such as continuity and completion are often conveyed through context, lexical means, or additional elements within the sentence.

A comparative analysis reveals that English tends to prioritize grammatical precision, while Uzbek relies more on contextual interpretation. In English, tense forms are strictly regulated and play a crucial role in structuring discourse and indicating temporal relations between actions. In Uzbek, however, temporal relations are often inferred from the context, which provides greater flexibility in expression.

Another important aspect of the tense category is its role in communication. In English, tense forms contribute significantly to discourse organization, especially in complex sentences where the sequence of tenses is essential. In Uzbek, such relationships are less rigidly structured and are often understood through semantic connections rather than strict grammatical rules. Translation between English and Uzbek presents certain challenges due to these differences. English tense forms, particularly perfect and continuous aspects, do not always have direct equivalents in Uzbek. As a result, translators must rely on semantic adaptation rather than literal translation. Conversely, when translating from Uzbek into English, it is necessary to select the appropriate tense and aspect forms based on the context, which requires a deep understanding of both grammatical systems.

The teaching of tense also benefits from a comparative approach. For learners of English, mastering tense and aspect forms is essential, as incorrect usage may lead to misunderstandings. In Uzbek, although the system is simpler, understanding contextual nuances remains important. The category of tense in linguistic theory is not limited to the simple indication of time; rather, it represents a complex system that reflects how different languages conceptualize temporal relations. In both English and Uzbek, tense serves as a fundamental grammatical category, yet the mechanisms through which it is expressed differ significantly due to their typological distinctions.

English, as an analytic language, relies heavily on auxiliary verbs and fixed syntactic patterns to express tense and aspect. The tense system in English is traditionally divided into three main temporal categories: present, past, and future. However, this classification alone does not fully capture the richness of the system. The integration of aspect—namely, simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous forms—adds an additional layer of semantic complexity. These forms enable speakers to express not

only when an action occurs but also its internal temporal structure, such as whether it is ongoing, completed, or repeated.

For instance, the distinction between “I write,” “I am writing,” “I have written,” and “I have been writing” illustrates how English differentiates between habitual actions, ongoing processes, completed actions with present relevance, and actions that began in the past and continue into the present. This level of grammatical differentiation allows English to encode subtle temporal and aspectual meanings directly within the verb phrase. In contrast, Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, employs a predominantly morphological approach to express tense. The system is based on the addition of suffixes to the verb stem, resulting in forms that correspond to past, present, and future time references. For example, the suffix “-di” typically indicates a completed past action, while “-yapti” expresses an ongoing action in the present, and “-adi” may denote habitual or future actions. Despite this apparent simplicity, the Uzbek tense system is highly flexible and context-dependent.

One of the key differences between the two languages lies in the treatment of aspect. While English grammaticalizes aspect as a distinct category, Uzbek does not have a formally separate aspectual system. Instead, aspectual meanings are conveyed through a combination of lexical items, contextual cues, and sometimes auxiliary constructions. For example, the notion of continuity in Uzbek can be expressed through the use of verbs like “turmoq” or “yotmoq,” while completion may be implied through context or emphasized by additional words.

This distinction has important implications for both linguistic theory and practical language use. In English, the explicit marking of aspect allows for precise temporal distinctions, which are particularly important in formal writing and academic discourse. In Uzbek, the reliance on context means that speakers must interpret temporal meanings based on a broader understanding of the discourse. Another important dimension of tense is its role in structuring discourse. In English, the sequence of tenses plays a crucial role in maintaining coherence in complex sentences. For example, in reported speech, the tense of the verb often shifts to reflect the temporal relationship between the reporting and the reported events. This system is governed by relatively strict grammatical rules, which must be followed to ensure clarity and correctness. In Uzbek, however, such shifts are not always obligatory. The language allows for greater flexibility in maintaining or changing tense forms depending on the speaker’s intention and the communicative context. This flexibility can be advantageous in everyday communication, as it allows speakers to focus more on meaning than on strict grammatical form. The comparative-linguistic study of the category of tense in English and Uzbek languages has revealed significant differences in their grammatical structures and functional characteristics. While English employs an analytic system with a strong integration of tense and aspect, Uzbek uses a more synthetic and context-

dependent approach. These differences highlight the importance of considering both grammatical and semantic factors in linguistic analysis.

The findings of the study emphasize that the category of tense cannot be fully understood without taking into account its interaction with aspect, context, and discourse. The comparative approach proves to be effective in identifying both universal and language-specific features, contributing to the development of theoretical linguistics as well as practical applications in language teaching and translation.

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