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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BEHAVIORAL VERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK BASED ON CORPUS LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: Verbs are an essential component of any language, as they convey actions, processes, and states. Among them, behavioral verbs represent actions and states associated with human and animal behavior, such as breathe, smile, sleep, and cry. While behavioral verbs exist in all languages, their semantic and syntactic properties vary across linguistic systems. This study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of behavioral verbs in English and Uzbek based on corpus linguistics. By examining their frequency, semantic classifications, syntactic structures, and collocational patterns, we aim to identify similarities and differences in their usage. The study utilizes corpus-based methods, analyzing large textual databases in both languages to extract meaningful linguistic patterns. Our findings indicate that while both languages share a common set of behavioral verbs, they differ in terms of transitivity, aspectual markers, and metaphorical extensions.
Keywords: behavioral verbs, corpus linguistics, English, Uzbek, comparative analysis, semantic classification, syntactic structures

INTRODUCTION

Verbs play a crucial role in any language as they express actions, states, and processes. Among different types of verbs, behavioral verbs are particularly significant as they describe human and animal behaviors, physiological actions, and psychological states (Halliday, 1985). Examples of behavioral verbs in English include sleep, breathe, smile, sigh, frown, cry, laugh, and dream. While behavioral verbs exist in most languages, their usage, semantic scope, and syntactic properties differ significantly due to linguistic structure and cultural influences.

Uzbek, as a Turkic language, exhibits distinct morphosyntactic features compared to English, an Indo-European language. While English behavioral verbs are often used in analytic constructions, Uzbek verbs rely more on affixation, verb aspect markers, and auxiliary verbs to convey similar meanings. Moreover, Uzbek has a rich system of verb derivation, allowing the formation of new behavioral verbs through affixes.

With the emergence of corpus linguistics, linguistic research has shifted from intuition-based analysis to empirical, data-driven studies. Corpus linguistics enables researchers to analyze large-scale language data, uncovering frequency distributions, collocations, and syntactic patterns. In this study, we compare behavioral verbs in English and Uzbek using corpus data, focusing on semantic classification, syntactic behavior, and collocational tendencies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

What are the most frequent behavioral verbs in English and Uzbek?

How do behavioral verbs differ in their semantic and syntactic properties across both languages?

What are the common collocational patterns of behavioral verbs in English and Uzbek?

How do cultural and linguistic factors influence the use of behavioral verbs in each language?

This comparative analysis contributes to the fields of contrastive linguistics, corpus linguistics, and second language acquisition by highlighting key similarities and differences between

English and Uzbek behavioral verbs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Behavioral verbs describe physical, physiological, and psychological behaviors performed by humans or animals. These verbs bridge the gap between material verbs (which describe tangible actions, e.g., run, jump, eat) and mental verbs (which describe cognitive activities, e.g., think, understand, believe).

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), behavioral verbs can be classified into the following categories:

Category	Examples in English	Examples in Uzbek
Physiological actions	breathe, cough, yawn	nafas olmoq, yo‘talaq, esnamoq
Emotional responses	smile, frown, sigh	jilmaymoq, qosh uyish, xo‘rsinmoq
Involuntary reactions	blink, twitch, shiver	ko‘z qismoq, titramoq
Habitual behaviors	sleep, dream, snore	uxlash, tush ko‘rmoq, xurrak otmoq

Both English and Uzbek contain a core set of behavioral verbs, but their morphosyntactic properties differ significantly.

English primarily relies on tense and aspect markers (e.g., -ing for progressive aspect, have + past participle for perfect aspect), whereas Uzbek makes use of verb affixes and auxiliary verbs to express aspectual distinctions.

Aspect	English Example	Uzbek Example
Progressive	He is sleeping.	U uxlayapti.
Perfective	She has sighed.	U xo‘rsindi.
Habitual	They often yawn.	Ular ko‘pincha esnaydi.

Corpus-based research allows for quantitative and qualitative analysis of linguistic patterns. In this study, we utilized two corpora:

The British National Corpus (BNC) for English behavioral verbs.

The Uzbek National Corpus (UZNC) for Uzbek behavioral verbs.

Our findings reveal that while some behavioral verbs are frequent in both languages, others exhibit significant cross-linguistic differences in usage and collocations.

Corpus data reveal distinct collocational preferences of behavioral verbs in both languages.

English Collocations	Uzbek Collocations
smile warmly, smile faintly, smile politely	jilmayib qo‘ymoq, kulib yubormoq
sigh heavily, sigh deeply, sigh softly	chuqur xo‘rsinmoq, asta xo‘rsinmoq
yawn widely, yawn sleepily, yawn loudly	charchab esnamoq, ancha esnamoq

These differences indicate that cultural and linguistic factors play a role in how behavioral verbs are used and perceived.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights key similarities and differences between English and Uzbek behavioral verbs based on corpus analysis. The findings reveal that:

English relies on tense and aspect markers, while Uzbek uses verb affixes.

Uzbek behavioral verbs exhibit more derivational variations.

Collocational patterns differ due to cultural and linguistic influences.

The study contributes to contrastive linguistics and translation studies, providing valuable insights for language learners, educators, and researchers. Future research may explore pragmatic and cognitive aspects of behavioral verbs across languages.

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