

COGNITIVE AND LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF EVENTIVE REALIZATION THROUGH ASSERTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article investigates the cognitive and linguistic features involved in the realization of eventive information through assertive speech acts in English and Uzbek discourse. By examining how speakers structure and convey events, the study highlights both cross-linguistic similarities and differences. The research employs comparative linguistic and cognitive analysis to explore the semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic dimensions of assertive acts. Findings indicate that cultural, grammatical, and cognitive factors significantly influence the expression of events in both languages, providing insights into effective cross-cultural communication.

Keywords: assertive speech acts, eventive realization, cognitive factors, linguistic structures, discourse, English, Uzbek, cross-linguistic analysis

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola ingliz va o'zbek tilidagi assertiv nutqiy aktlar orqali voqealantiruvchi ma'lumotlarning amalga oshirilishidagi kognitiv va lingvistik xususiyatlarni o'rganadi. Nutqchilar voqealarni qanday tuzishi va yetkazishini tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot tillararo o'xshashliklar va farqlarni yoritadi. Tadqiqot assertiv aktlarning semantik, sintaktik va pragmatik o'lchamlarini o'rganish uchun taqqoslashli lingvistik va kognitiv tahlildan foydalanadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, madaniy, grammatik va kognitiv omillar voqealarni ifodalashga sezilarli ta'sir ko'rsatadi va samarali tillararo muloqot bo'yicha tushuncha beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: assertiv nutqiy aktlar, voqealantiruvchi realizatsiya, kognitiv omillar, lingvistik tuzilmalar, diskurs, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili, tillararo tahlil

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуются когнитивные и лингвистические особенности реализации событийной информации через утверждающие речевые акты в английском и узбекском дискурсе. Анализируя, как говорящие структурируют и передают события, исследование выявляет как сходства, так и различия между языками. В исследовании используется сравнительный лингвистический и когнитивный анализ для изучения семантических, синтаксических и прагматических аспектов утверждающих актов. Результаты показывают, что культурные, грамматические и когнитивные факторы значительно влияют на выражение событий в обоих языках, предоставляя ценную информацию для эффективной межкультурной коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: утверждающие речевые акты, событийная реализация, когнитивные факторы, лингвистические структуры, дискурс, английский язык, узбекский язык, сравнительный анализ

Introduction

Assertive speech acts, which are statements or claims that speakers use to present information as true, play a central role in human communication. These acts often carry eventive information, referring to actions, occurrences, or situations that can be cognitively represented by both speaker and listener. English and Uzbek, despite belonging to different language families, exhibit both shared and distinct mechanisms for conveying such information. Understanding these mechanisms requires examining the interplay between linguistic structures (syntax, semantics, pragmatics) and cognitive processing (conceptualization of events, temporal sequencing, salience). Previous research has emphasized either the linguistic or the cognitive

aspects of assertive acts separately, but few studies integrate both in a cross-linguistic framework. This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing eventive realization in English and Uzbek assertive speech acts.

The study of eventive realization in assertive speech acts requires attention to both linguistic and cognitive dimensions. Linguistically, different languages have distinct grammatical mechanisms, such as tense, aspect, mood, and syntactic structures, that encode temporal and causal information. Cognitively, speakers organize events using mental representations that include temporal sequencing, causal relations, and salience of information. English and Uzbek, despite belonging to different language families—Indo-European and Turkic respectively—demonstrate comparable cognitive strategies for structuring events but employ different linguistic tools for their realization.

Previous research has largely focused on either the linguistic encoding of speech acts or the cognitive conceptualization of events in isolation. For example, studies on English assertives emphasize the role of tense-aspect systems and evidential markers, whereas research on Uzbek highlights verbal morphology and particle placement in conveying eventive meaning. However, few studies have simultaneously examined both the linguistic and cognitive aspects of eventive realization across languages.

This study aims to bridge this gap by analyzing assertive speech acts in English and Uzbek, focusing on how eventive factors are semantically, syntactically, and pragmatically realized. By comparing these two languages, the research seeks to identify universal cognitive patterns, language-specific strategies, and the interaction between culture, grammar, and cognition in the communication of events. This approach provides deeper insights into cross-linguistic discourse practices and informs applications in language teaching, translation, and intercultural communication.

Methods

The study employs a comparative, descriptive, and analytical approach. A corpus of naturally occurring assertive speech acts was compiled from English and Uzbek media texts, dialogues, and literary excerpts. Each speech act was analyzed for:

1. **Semantic features** – the way events are represented and categorized;
 2. **Syntactic structures** – verb forms, tense-aspect marking, and sentence construction;
 3. **Pragmatic markers** – elements indicating speaker certainty, evidentiality, and information focus;
 4. **Cognitive aspects** – how events are temporally and causally structured in the discourse.
- Data were coded and compared across languages to identify recurring patterns, divergences, and strategies used by speakers to realize eventive information.

Data Collection: The primary data were collected from authentic spoken and written sources. English data were drawn from recorded conversations, interviews, and selected texts from corpora such as the British National Corpus (BNC). Uzbek data were obtained from recorded dialogues, formal speeches, and written texts, including newspaper articles, literary excerpts, and online discourse platforms. A total of 200 examples of assertive speech acts (100 from each language) were selected to ensure diversity in context, register, and genre.

Analytical Framework: The study applies a linguistic-cognitive framework, focusing on both syntactic and semantic features of eventive realization. The following aspects were analyzed: tense, aspect, mood, modality, evidentiality, and thematic roles. Additionally, cognitive features such as temporal sequencing, causality, agentivity, and event salience were examined to understand how speakers organize and communicate eventive information.

Procedures: Each utterance was first categorized as an assertive speech act according to Searle's (1969) classification. Then, the eventive factors within each utterance were identified and analyzed for their linguistic encoding and cognitive representation. Cross-linguistic comparison was conducted to identify similarities, differences, and patterns in the realization of events in English and Uzbek. Frequency analysis and semantic mapping were employed to visualize the distribution and structure of eventive elements across both languages.

Reliability and Validity: To ensure reliability, all examples were independently coded by two trained linguists. Inter-coder agreement was calculated using Cohen's kappa, yielding a high agreement rate of 0.87. Validity was reinforced through triangulation of multiple data sources and the integration of both linguistic and cognitive analysis.

This methodology allows for a detailed understanding of how assertive speech acts convey eventive information, providing insights into cross-linguistic patterns and cognitive-linguistic strategies in English and Uzbek discourse.

Results

Analysis revealed several key findings:

- In English, assertive acts frequently employ past tense, aspect markers, and temporal adverbs to situate events clearly within a cognitive timeline.
- In Uzbek, verbal morphology (perfective vs. imperfective aspect) and post-verbal particles serve similar functions, but the order of constituents often emphasizes the agent or the event outcome differently than in English.
- Both languages show pragmatic markers signaling speaker certainty or evidentiality, though the forms and frequency differ.
- Cognitive representation of events, including causal sequencing and salience of outcomes, influences syntactic choices in both languages.

These results demonstrate that while linguistic realizations differ due to grammatical and cultural factors, underlying cognitive strategies for organizing events remain comparable.

In English, eventive realization frequently relies on explicit verbal morphology and auxiliary constructions to situate events in time. Speakers commonly employ past tense and aspectual distinctions (e.g., *present perfect*, *simple past*) to indicate whether an event has occurred, is ongoing, or is complete. This pattern supports the cognitive structuring of events with clear temporal boundaries, which facilitates comprehension of factual claims within discourse. Additionally, pragmatic markers such as epistemic adverbs (*apparently*, *certainly*) serve to signal speaker certainty and reinforce the assertive stance. These features are consistent with findings in cross-linguistic pragmatics showing how linguistic structures shape speech act realization and cognitive interpretation in English-type languages. Overall, the results demonstrate that eventive realization in assertive speech acts is language-specific yet cognitively grounded, illustrating both shared communicative functions and divergent linguistic strategies between English and Uzbek.

Discussion

The findings suggest that eventive realization in assertive speech acts is a product of both cognitive structuring and linguistic encoding. English speakers rely heavily on tense-aspect combinations and explicit temporal markers, reflecting a linear perception of events. Uzbek speakers, in contrast, utilize aspectual contrasts and particle placement to convey similar eventive meanings, highlighting a more flexible structuring of information. Cross-linguistic differences are therefore largely shaped by grammatical conventions, whereas cognitive organization of events shows universal tendencies. These insights have practical implications

for language teaching, translation studies, and intercultural communication, particularly in helping learners and professionals accurately convey eventive information across languages.

In English, the use of auxiliary verbs, tense, and aspectual distinctions provides explicit temporal structuring of events, which aligns with the cognitive preference for clear sequencing and logical ordering in discourse. Epistemic markers such as *certainly*, *apparently*, or modal auxiliaries like *must* and *might* reflect the speaker's attitude toward the truth-value of the proposition, signaling levels of certainty and credibility. This aligns with theories in cognitive linguistics suggesting that linguistic structures guide mental representation of events, allowing listeners to process information efficiently and predict outcomes.

Uzbek, by contrast, integrates morphological markers and particles to encode similar eventive and epistemic nuances. Perfective and imperfective suffixes, combined with evidential particles, allow speakers to implicitly signal event completion and reliability of information without relying on auxiliary verbs. This morphological richness demonstrates how language-specific cognitive patterns shape event conceptualization, reflecting Uzbek's typological preference for compact, morphologically driven expression of meaning. Cultural norms also influence these structures; Uzbek discourse often emphasizes community-oriented perspectives and contextual cues, which can affect how assertive acts are performed and interpreted.

The cross-linguistic comparison underscores that assertive speech acts are not only linguistic but also cognitive phenomena, where grammar, morphology, and pragmatic markers interact to support effective communication. Despite differences, both languages rely on shared cognitive strategies such as temporal sequencing, epistemic evaluation, and event segmentation, which are fundamental to human understanding of events. These findings have implications for cross-cultural communication, language teaching, and translation, highlighting the importance of understanding both surface linguistic forms and underlying cognitive patterns.

Furthermore, this study confirms previous research emphasizing that eventive realization is context-dependent. English speakers often foreground linear temporal information, while Uzbek speakers embed temporal and evidential cues morphologically. This difference can lead to subtle misinterpretations in bilingual or cross-cultural communication if learners or translators are unaware of these structural and cognitive nuances.

In conclusion, the discussion highlights that assertive speech acts, while universally aimed at conveying factual information, are shaped by both cognitive universals and language-specific conventions, emphasizing the intertwined nature of language, thought, and culture.

Conclusion and recommendations:

The study confirms that both cognitive and linguistic factors are crucial in the realization of eventive information through assertive speech acts. The study of assertive speech acts in English and Uzbek discourse demonstrates that eventive realization is influenced by a combination of linguistic, cognitive, and cultural factors. English relies heavily on auxiliary verbs, tense, and aspectual distinctions to organize events and signal epistemic certainty, whereas Uzbek utilizes morphological markers and evidential particles to convey similar information. These differences reflect not only language-specific grammatical structures but also deeper cognitive and cultural patterns in how events are conceptualized and communicated.

The research confirms that assertive speech acts are both universal and language-specific phenomena. Universal cognitive strategies, such as temporal sequencing, event segmentation, and evaluation of factuality, underlie eventive realization across languages. However, the form and surface realization of these strategies vary according to linguistic typology, cultural norms, and pragmatic conventions. Awareness of these patterns is essential for effective cross-linguistic communication, translation, and language learning, as failure to recognize structural

and cognitive differences can lead to misinterpretation or loss of intended meaning.. English and Uzbek display different strategies shaped by grammatical and cultural norms, yet they share similar cognitive mechanisms for conceptualizing events. Recommendations include:

- Language teaching should emphasize both linguistic forms and cognitive strategies in understanding events.
- Translators should consider not only lexical equivalence but also eventive structuring and pragmatic cues.
- Further research could explore other speech act types and additional languages to broaden understanding of cross-linguistic eventive realization.

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