

RELATIONS BETWEEN CATEGORIES AND MEANING IN UZBEK MORPHOLOGY: INTERPRETATION OF GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES

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Abstract: This article provides a scientific analysis of the relationship between grammatical categories and meaning in Uzbek morphology. It examines the interpretation of grammatical categories, their hierarchical structure, and how they manifest in the language system. The study highlights the distinction between grammatical and lexical meaning and emphasizes the importance of understanding category-meaning relationships for language learning, teaching, and linguistic analysis. The results underline the necessity of a systematic approach to analyzing and teaching grammatical categories.

Keywords: grammatical meaning, grammatical categories, morphology, syntactic function, lexical meaning, Uzbek language

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada o'zbek tilining morfologiyasida grammatik kategoriyalar va ma'no o'rtasidagi munosabat ilmiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Grammatik kategoriyalarning talqini, ularning ierarxik tuzilishi va til tizimidagi namoyon bo'lish xususiyatlari o'rganiladi. Tadqiqot grammatik va leksik ma'no farqini yoritib beradi hamda kategoriya va ma'no munosabatlarini tushunishning til o'rganish, o'qitish va tilshunoslik tahlilida ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi. Natijalar grammatik kategoriyalarni tahlil qilish va o'qitishda tizimli yondashuv zarurligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: grammatik ma'no, grammatik kategoriyalar, morfologiya, sintaktik vazifa, leksik ma'no, o'zbek tili

Аннотация: В данной статье проводится научный анализ взаимосвязи между грамматическими категориями и значением в морфологии узбекского языка. Рассматривается интерпретация грамматических категорий, их иерархическая структура и проявление в языковой системе. Исследование подчеркивает различие между грамматическим и лексическим значением и акцентирует важность понимания соотношений категория–значение для изучения языка, преподавания и лингвистического анализа. Результаты подчеркивают необходимость систематического подхода к анализу и преподаванию грамматических категорий.

Ключевые слова: грамматическое значение, грамматические категории, морфология, синтаксическая функция, лексическое значение, узбекский язык

Introduction

Grammatical categories represent one of the core components of morphology, reflecting both the structural and semantic organization of a language. In Uzbek, like in other agglutinative languages, morphological markers encode not only syntactic but also semantic information, establishing relationships between form and meaning. Understanding the interplay

between grammatical categories and meaning is crucial for describing the Uzbek language systematically, as well as for teaching grammar effectively. This study aims to analyze the nature of grammatical categories in Uzbek, their semantic significance, and how they integrate into the overall language system. The relationship between grammatical categories and meaning is particularly significant in Uzbek, where suffixation and vowel harmony allow precise expression of grammatical relations. Unlike lexical meaning, which is inherent to a word, grammatical meaning emerges from the function of morphological forms in context. For example, verb tense conveys not only temporal information but also speaker perspective, habituality, or completion, highlighting the dynamic interaction between grammar and semantics.

Previous research in Uzbek morphology has largely focused on descriptive grammar, cataloging forms and affixes, but less attention has been given to the systematic analysis of how categories relate to meaning at hierarchical levels — general, intermediate, and specific. Understanding these relations is crucial for both linguistic theory and practical applications, including language teaching, computational linguistics, and advanced syntactic analysis. Moreover, exploring the category-meaning relationship in Uzbek contributes to broader typological and comparative linguistics studies. It allows researchers to examine patterns in agglutinative languages and compare them with fusional or isolating languages, shedding light on universal principles of grammatical organization.

Methods

The study employs a descriptive-analytical method, combining both qualitative and comparative approaches. The research is based on a corpus of contemporary Uzbek texts, including literary works, journalistic materials, and educational sources. Morphological analysis was conducted to identify grammatical categories such as tense, aspect, mood, number, and case. Semantic interpretation methods were used to distinguish between general grammatical meaning, intermediate meaning, and specific meaning. Comparative insights from other agglutinative and Indo-European languages were incorporated to contextualize findings. The data for the study were collected from a comprehensive corpus of contemporary Uzbek texts, including literary works, journalistic articles, educational materials, and online publications. This diverse textual base ensures that the analysis reflects both standard and modern usages of grammatical forms. Morphological analysis was conducted to systematically identify suffixes, prefixes, and inflectional markers that encode grammatical categories.

To interpret meaning, the study distinguishes between general grammatical meaning (broad semantic features common to a category), intermediate grammatical meaning (specific distinctions within subcategories), and specific grammatical meaning (contextual realizations of forms in sentences). Comparative analysis with other agglutinative languages, as well as insights from Indo-European morphosyntax, was applied to contextualize findings and highlight typological features of Uzbek morphology.

In addition, syntactic and semantic frameworks were applied to examine how grammatical markers interact with sentence structure and word meaning. This includes an assessment of how context influences the interpretation of tense, aspect, or case markers, as well as the role of pragmatic factors in meaning realization. The combination of corpus-based, descriptive, and comparative approaches allows for a holistic analysis of category-meaning relationships in Uzbek morphology, providing both theoretical insights and practical implications for language teaching.

Results

The analysis shows that Uzbek grammatical categories display a clear hierarchical structure. General grammatical meaning is encoded at the level of the category as a whole (e.g., tense in verbs), while intermediate meaning reflects a subcategory (e.g., past vs. present), and specific meaning is realized in particular forms or contexts (e.g., past continuous or habitual aspect). The study also highlights the interaction between grammatical and lexical meaning, showing that some morphological markers convey semantic nuances depending on syntactic context. These findings indicate that understanding grammatical categories in Uzbek requires a dynamic perspective that accounts for both form and function. Intermediate grammatical meaning differentiates subcategories within the broader grammatical categories. For instance, the verbal category of tense is further divided into past, present, and future, each carrying specific semantic nuances, such as habituality or completed action. Similarly, noun case markers, while indicating grammatical relations, also convey additional meaning such as directionality, possession, or instrumentality, depending on the specific form used.

Specific grammatical meaning emerges in particular forms and contextual usage. For example, the past continuous form of a verb not only marks past time but also emphasizes ongoing action or narrative perspective in discourse. Case endings attached to nouns in complex syntactic structures can reflect subtle semantic distinctions, such as emphasis, contrast, or pragmatic focus.

The study also shows that grammatical meaning in Uzbek interacts dynamically with lexical meaning and syntactic context. Morphological markers do not function in isolation; their semantic effect depends on sentence structure, collocation patterns, and pragmatic context. For example, the marker for the ablative case may indicate “from” in a spatial sense but also “because of” in a causal context, demonstrating the multifunctionality of grammatical markers.

Finally, comparative analysis highlights that Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, relies heavily on suffixation to encode grammatical categories, allowing for precise semantic distinctions. This system contrasts with fusional languages, where single morphological markers may encode multiple grammatical features simultaneously. These results confirm that understanding the hierarchy of grammatical categories and their associated meanings is essential for a comprehensive description of Uzbek morphology and for practical applications in language teaching and computational linguistics.

Discussion

The findings demonstrate that grammatical categories in Uzbek morphology are not merely formal markers; they carry semantic weight that contributes to sentence meaning and communication. The hierarchical structure of categories facilitates language comprehension and production by providing predictable patterns of meaning. Moreover, the study suggests that teaching grammar without emphasizing meaning relations may lead to superficial understanding. A pedagogical approach integrating morphological form, grammatical category, and meaning can enhance both linguistic competence and analytical skills. The research also opens the door for further comparative studies, particularly in understanding how category-meaning relations in Uzbek compare with other agglutinative or fusional languages. The dynamic interaction between grammatical and lexical meaning is particularly noteworthy.

The study confirms that morphological markers in Uzbek can convey multiple layers of meaning depending on context, sentence structure, and pragmatic factors. For instance, verb aspect and tense markers interact with lexical verbs to express nuances such as habituality, completion, or duration of action. Similarly, noun case endings reflect not only grammatical relations but also subtle semantic distinctions like cause, instrumentality, or emphasis. This

interplay indicates that grammatical meaning in Uzbek is context-sensitive and cannot be fully understood in isolation.

From a pedagogical perspective, these results suggest that teaching Uzbek grammar requires more than memorization of forms; students must understand the semantic implications of grammatical markers. Incorporating examples that demonstrate context-dependent meaning can enhance comprehension and improve communicative competence. Additionally, the study's findings have implications for computational linguistics, particularly in natural language processing and machine translation, where accurate interpretation of grammatical categories is crucial.

Overall, the discussion emphasizes that grammatical categories in Uzbek are multifunctional and hierarchical, reflecting both structural regularity and semantic richness. Recognizing these relationships contributes not only to theoretical linguistics but also to applied fields such as language teaching, corpus linguistics, and computational modeling of morphologically rich languages.

Conclusion and recommendations

This study confirms that grammatical categories and meaning in Uzbek morphology are closely interconnected. Recognizing the hierarchical nature of categories and their semantic implications is essential for linguistic research, language teaching, and effective communication. Future studies should explore the role of context, pragmatics, and discourse in shaping category meaning, as well as examine cross-linguistic comparisons to enrich our understanding of agglutinative morphologies.

In terms of practical applications, several recommendations can be made:

- **For language teaching:** Educators should integrate semantic interpretation with morphological instruction, emphasizing how grammatical markers encode nuanced meanings in context. Examples and exercises should highlight the hierarchical structure of grammatical categories and the interaction between form and meaning.
- **For linguistic research:** Future studies should further explore the pragmatic and discourse-related dimensions of grammatical meaning, particularly how context and communicative intent influence category interpretation. Comparative studies with other agglutinative and fusional languages can provide additional insights into universal and language-specific features.
- **For computational linguistics:** Accurate modeling of Uzbek morphology in natural language processing applications requires an understanding of hierarchical category structures and context-dependent meanings. Incorporating these insights can improve machine translation, automated text analysis, and language learning software.

In conclusion, understanding the relationship between categories and meaning in Uzbek morphology is essential not only for descriptive and theoretical linguistics but also for applied fields. By recognizing the hierarchical, multifunctional, and context-sensitive nature of grammatical categories, researchers, educators, and language technologists can achieve a more comprehensive understanding of Uzbek and enhance practical applications.

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