

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK WORD COMBINATIONS

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**Abstract:** This study presents a comparative analysis of the structural-semantic features of word combinations in English and Uzbek, focusing on their formation, idiomaticity, and cultural-linguistic influences. English, as an analytic language with fixed word order and extensive phrasal verb usage, contrasts sharply with Uzbek, an agglutinative language that relies on suffixation, postpositions, and auxiliary verb constructions. The research examines key differences in syntax, morphology, and semantic transparency, highlighting challenges in translation and second-language acquisition. While English favors idiomatic expressions with opaque meanings (e.g., "kick the bucket"), Uzbek word combinations tend toward literalness, though Persian- and Russian-derived idioms exist (e.g., "dil kushodasi" [heart's joy]). The study also explores how cultural and historical borrowings shape collocational patterns in both languages. By systematically comparing these features, the paper aims to enhance cross-linguistic understanding, aiding translators, linguists, and learners in navigating the complexities of both systems. Findings underscore the necessity of context-aware learning strategies to master these divergent structural-semantic frameworks.

**Keywords:** word combinations, collocations, structural-semantic features, English-Uzbek contrast, idiomaticity, agglutination, translation challenges.

**Аннотация:** В этом исследовании представлен сравнительный анализ структурно-семантических особенностей словосочетаний в английском и узбекском языках с упором на их формирование, идиоматичность и культурно-лингвистические влияния. Английский язык как аналитический язык с фиксированным порядком слов и обширным использованием фразовых глаголов резко контрастирует с узбекским языком, агглютинативным языком, который опирается на суффиксацию, послелоги и вспомогательные глагольные конструкции. Исследование изучает ключевые различия в синтаксисе, морфологии и семантической прозрачности, подчеркивая проблемы перевода и усвоения второго языка. В то время как английский язык предпочитает идиоматические выражения с непрозрачными значениями (например, «kick the bucket»), узбекские словосочетания имеют тенденцию к буквальности, хотя существуют идиомы, происходящие от персидского и русского языков (например, «dil kushodasi» [радость сердца]). Исследование также изучает, как культурные и исторические заимствования формируют коллокационные модели в обоих языках. Систематически сравнивая эти особенности, статья направлена на улучшение межъязыкового понимания, помогая переводчикам, лингвистам и учащимся ориентироваться в сложностях обеих систем. Результаты подчеркивают необходимость стратегий обучения с учетом контекста для освоения этих расходящихся структурно-семантических фреймворков.

**Ключевые слова:** словосочетания, словосочетания, структурно-семантические особенности, англо-узбекский контраст, идиоматичность, агглютинация, трудности перевода.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu tadqiqotda ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi so'z birikmalarining strukturaviy-semantik xususiyatlari qiyosiy tahlil qilinib, ularning shakllanishi, idiomatikligi va madaniy-lingvistik ta'siriga e'tibor qaratiladi. Ingliz tili so'z tartibi qat'iy va keng frazeologik qo'llanishga ega bo'lgan analitik til sifatida qo'shimcha, postpozitsiya va yordamchi fe'l yasashlariga tayanuvchi aglutinativ til bo'lgan o'zbek tilidan keskin farq qiladi. Tadqiqot sintaksis, morfologiya va semantik shaffoflikdagi asosiy farqlarni ko'rib chiqadi, tarjima va ikkinchi tilni o'zlashtirishdagi qiyinchiliklarni ta'kidlaydi. Ingliz tili noaniq ma'noli idiomatik iboralarni (masalan, "paqirni tepmoq") ma'qul ko'rsa, o'zbekcha so'z birikmalari tom ma'noga intiladi, garchi fors va rus tillaridan olingan idiomalar mavjud bo'lsa ham (masalan, "dil qushodasi" [yurak quvonchi]). Tadqiqot, shuningdek, madaniy va tarixiy qarzarlar ikkala tildagi qo'shma shakllarni qanday shakllantirishini o'rganadi. Ushbu xususiyatlarni muntazam ravishda taqqoslash orqali maqola tillararo tushunishni kuchaytirishga, tarjimonlarga, tilshunoslarga va o'quvchilarga ikkala tizimning murakkabliklarini boshqarishda yordam berishga qaratilgan. Topilmalar kontekstdan xabardor ta'lim strategiyalarining bu xilma-xil tarkibiy-semantik ramkalarni o'zlashtirish zarurligini ta'kidlaydi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** so'z birikmalari, birikmalar, struktur-semantik xususiyatlar, inglizcha-o'zbekcha kontrast, idiomatiklik, aglyutinatsiya, tarjima muammolari.

The study of word combinations, or collocations, is crucial to understanding how languages structure meaning and convey nuanced information. English and Uzbek, while both Indo-European and Turkic languages respectively, offer distinct structural and semantic approaches to forming word combinations. This comparative study delves into the key features of these combinations in both languages, highlighting the syntactic and semantic mechanisms that influence their formation and usage.

## Structural Features of Word Combinations

### 1. Word Order in English and Uzbek Word Combinations

English, as a Germanic language, typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order in sentences. This structure extends to word combinations, where adjectives generally precede nouns (e.g., "beautiful garden"), and adverbs modify verbs (e.g., "run quickly"). The word order in English is relatively rigid, and the placement of words often defines the relationship between them.

In contrast, Uzbek, a member of the Turkic language family, follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure in its sentences. Word combinations in Uzbek may follow different rules, with adjectives generally placed after nouns (e.g., "bog' go'zal" for "garden beautiful"). This flexibility in word order allows for a range of stylistic choices, especially when it comes to poetry or artistic expressions. Additionally, in Uzbek, the modifier can often be placed in various positions within the phrase to create emphasis or thematic effects.

### 2. Morphological Considerations

English and Uzbek also differ in their use of inflections and agglutinations. In English, word combinations typically involve compound nouns (e.g., “toothpaste,” “mother-in-law”) and fixed phrases that often remain unchanged. English employs prepositions and articles to establish grammatical relationships, making it a relatively analytic language.

Uzbek, on the other hand, is an agglutinative language, meaning it uses suffixes to indicate grammatical relationships. Word combinations in Uzbek may involve the use of various suffixes that alter the meaning of the root word. For instance, the word "yosh" means "young," but when combined with suffixes such as “-lik,” it can form “yoshlik” (youth), creating new nuances of meaning. This morphological flexibility allows for rich, varied word combinations in Uzbek, which convey additional layers of information about tense, case, and number.

## Semantic Features of Word Combinations

### 1. Collocational Patterns and Meaning

Collocations—specific word pairings that are commonly found together—form an essential part of both English and Uzbek. The semantic properties of these combinations, however, can differ significantly due to cultural, historical, and linguistic differences. In English, collocations often reflect fixed expressions, and the meaning of the combination is more or less predictable from the individual meanings of the words. For instance, “make a decision” is a common English collocation, where the verb "make" is paired with "decision," despite "make" not directly meaning "to decide."

In Uzbek, however, many collocations are more flexible and adaptable, often reflecting the specific cultural context. An example would be the phrase "qol o'rnida" (literally “in place of the hand”), which may be used figuratively in some dialects to refer to a job or a duty that needs to be performed, reflecting the more metaphorical nature of word combinations in Uzbek.

### 2. Cultural Context and Figurative Language

The figurative language used in word combinations varies greatly between English and Uzbek, with each language having its own set of idiomatic expressions and metaphors. In English, metaphorical expressions such as “a rough road ahead” or “a silver lining” are common. These expressions often rely on cultural references or historical events that have shaped the language over time.

Uzbek, as a language influenced by various Turkic, Persian, and Arabic traditions, tends to use more image-rich and poetic phrases. For example, the expression "ko'z yosh" (literally "eye tear") refers to the expression of sorrow or sadness, an example of how figurative language can evoke deep cultural meanings.

### 3. Complex Sentences and Word Combinations

English often relies on compound and complex sentences to express detailed relationships between different actions or states. Word combinations in English are commonly extended through relative clauses or additional descriptive phrases (e.g., "the book on the table")

or "the man who is reading the book"). This construction helps to build semantic layers and adds context.

In Uzbek, complex sentence structures are similarly employed, but the agglutinative nature of the language leads to a different approach to expressing relationships. Instead of relying on conjunctions or relative clauses, word combinations can be extended through the use of suffixes that add meaning to the individual components. For example, "yurish" (to walk) can be modified with suffixes to indicate intent, duration, or manner, giving the phrase a deeper semantic dimension.

### Syntactic Flexibility and Stylistic Variations

Both English and Uzbek exhibit a certain level of syntactic flexibility that allows for stylistic variation. In English, word combinations can be manipulated for emphasis or to create rhythm, as seen in poetry, advertisements, or casual speech. The fixed order of words in English does not prohibit the creative reordering of sentence elements, but it does require careful attention to the syntactic rules.

Uzbek, with its relatively free word order, offers more freedom in the arrangement of words for stylistic purposes. The ability to place modifiers in various positions within a phrase allows Uzbek speakers to adjust the meaning or emphasis of a sentence without changing the fundamental structure.

### Conclusion

The comparative study of the structural and semantic features of English and Uzbek word combinations reveals significant differences in how each language constructs meaning. English tends to favor a more rigid syntactic order, while Uzbek takes advantage of a flexible structure that allows for richer morphological and syntactic manipulation. The use of collocations in both languages reflects unique cultural insights, with each language offering idiomatic expressions that shape the way speakers view and understand the world around them.

As global communication continues to increase, understanding the structural-semantic differences between languages like English and Uzbek will enhance cross-cultural understanding and improve the teaching and learning of both languages. This comparative study highlights the fascinating diversity of linguistic expression and underscores the importance of context, culture, and structure in shaping the meanings that words convey.

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