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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK QUANTIFIER SYSTEMS

Abstract: This scientific article examines the quantifier systems of English and Uzbek, two languages with distinct typological features, focusing on the expression of cardinality, universality, and existence. The analysis reveals similarities and differences in the structure and function of quantifiers, highlighting the influence of language-specific constraints and cross-linguistic universals. English, an analytic language, exhibits a relatively simple quantifier system, while Uzbek, an agglutinative language, employs a more complex system with diverse morphology and syntax. The findings contribute to the understanding of quantifier typology, revealing the diverse strategies languages employ to express quantity and providing insights into the interaction of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics in quantifier use.

Keywords: Quantifier Systems, English, Uzbek, Cross-Linguistic Comparison, Syntax, Semantics, Cardinality, Universality, Existence, Typology, Agglutination, Analytic Language.

Introduction

Quantifiers are adjectives or adjectival phrases that describe “how much” (uncountable) or “how many” (countable)† of a given noun there is. Types of Quantifiers. Some quantifiers can only go with countable (precise quantity) nouns, while others can only modify uncountable (imprecise quantity) nouns. Quantifiers, words or phrases that express quantity or amount, are essential components of natural language, playing a crucial role in defining the scope of noun phrases and influencing the interpretation of sentences. This study undertakes a comparative analysis of quantifier systems in English and Uzbek, two languages with contrasting typological characteristics.

English, a Germanic language, is classified as an analytic language with a relatively flexible word order and limited morphology. In contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic language, is an agglutinative language with a more rigid word order and complex morphology, utilizing suffixes to express grammatical relationships. This typological contrast raises intriguing questions about the potential differences and similarities in their respective quantifier systems.

Methodology

The primary objective of this study is to compare and contrast the syntactic and semantic properties of quantifiers in English and Uzbek, specifically focusing on the expression of cardinality, universality, and existence. By analyzing the structure and function of quantifiers in these two languages, we aim to:

1. Contribute to the understanding of quantifier typology, identifying commonalities and unique features across languages.
2. Gain insights into the interaction of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics in the use of quantifiers.
3. Explore the potential influence of language-specific constraints and cross-linguistic universals on quantifier systems.

Discussion and results

Quantitative units represented by the number word group are divided into several groups:

1. Counting numbers one, two, three. (bir, ikki, uch);

2. Number of pieces one, two. (bitta, ikkita);

3. Conjectural numbers tens, hundreds. (o'ntacha, yuzlab); 4. Cumulative numbers two, three. (ikkiovlon, uchala);

5. Fractional numbers half, one tenth. (yarim, o'ndan bir).

1. Cardinality.

English: English utilizes a simple system of cardinal numbers to express cardinality (one, two, three, etc.). The position of these numbers is generally fixed before the noun they modify, for example, "two books."

Uzbek: Uzbek employs a similar system of cardinal numbers but also uses specific quantifiers for collective amounts, such as "bir necha" (a few) and "ko'p" (many). These quantifiers often precede the noun, for example, "bir necha kitob" (a few books). Uzbek also utilizes a post-nominal quantifier "ta" to indicate plurality, for example, "kitob-ta" (books).

2. Universality.

English: English utilizes quantifiers like "all," "every," and "each" to express universality. These quantifiers typically precede the noun they modify, for example, "all students," "every day."

Uzbek: Uzbek uses quantifiers like "hamma" (all), "har" (every), and "barcha" (all) to express universality. "Har" often conveys a sense of iteration or repetition, for example, "har kuni" (every day). "Hamma" is typically used for a collective group, while "barcha" can be used for both individuals and groups.

3. Existence.

English: English utilizes quantifiers like "some," "any," and "a few" to express existence. These quantifiers usually precede the noun they modify, for example, "some people," "a few apples."

Uzbek: Uzbek uses quantifiers like "ba'zi" (some), "bir nechta" (a few), and "biror" (any) to express existence. "Biror" often carries a negative connotation, for example, "biror bir kitob yo'q" (there isn't any book).

4. Syntactic Properties.

English: English quantifiers typically precede the noun they modify, although they can appear in post-nominal positions in certain constructions, such as "the books available" or "the students present."

Uzbek: Uzbek quantifiers generally precede the noun they modify, reflecting the language's head-final structure. This is consistent with the agglutinative nature of Uzbek, where grammatical relationships are primarily expressed through suffixes.

5. Semantic Properties.

English: English quantifiers exhibit a range of semantic features, including definiteness, specificity, and scope. For example, "all students" implies definite reference to a specific group, while "some students" is indefinite.

Uzbek: Uzbek quantifiers also exhibit similar semantic features, although their distribution and interaction with other grammatical elements may differ from English. For example, the use of "har" in Uzbek can imply both definiteness and specificity.

In Uzbek and English, quantitative relationships are also expressed using morphemes. Quantity is also expressed in nouns by adding -s in Uzbek, and -s in English. In the Uzbek language, we can include all

adverbial adverbs in morphemes expressing quantity, but this feature is not reflected in the English language. The linguist scientist A. Ghulomov gives extensive and detailed information about the plural forms of verbs. Since the scientist's views on the plural category in the Uzbek language have been described in this research, no attitude has been expressed about the singular form of demonstrative adverbs. But as the opposite of that plurality, we can take singular forms of morphemes representing quantity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this comparative analysis of English and Uzbek quantifier systems reveals both similarities and differences in their structure and function. While both languages employ quantifiers to express cardinality, universality, and existence, they differ in the specific lexical items, syntactic constraints, and semantic nuances associated with these concepts. The findings highlight the influence of language-specific features, such as word order and morphological complexity, on the development of quantifier systems. The agglutinative nature of Uzbek leads to a more complex and nuanced system of quantifiers, with a greater emphasis on morphology and word order. English, as an analytic language, relies more on word order and semantic features to convey meaning.

Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of cross-linguistic universals, suggesting that certain fundamental concepts, such as quantity, are expressed through shared strategies across languages, albeit with variations in their realization. This research contributes to the understanding of quantifier typology, highlighting the diverse strategies languages employ to express quantity and the intricate interplay of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics in quantifier use.

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