

MOTION VERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COGNITIVE AND  
LINGUACULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

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**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqola ingliz tili va o'zbek tilidagi harakat fe'llarining qiyosiy tahlilini kognitiv lingvistika va lingvistik madaniyat nuqtai nazaridan tahlil qiladi. Maqolaning asosiy maqsadi ingliz tilidagi harakat fe'llarining tilshunoslik jihatlari asosan harakatning usuli va jarayonini, o'zbek tilidagi fe'llarning esa yo'nalish va natijaga urg'u berishini taqqoslashga qaratilgan. Shuningdek, ingliz va o'zbek tilidagi harakat fenomenalarining shakllanish usullari bu tillarning tipologik xususiyatlari bilan birga, ularning madaniy tafakkur jarayonlarini ham aks ettiradi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *harakat fe'llari, kognitiv lingvistika, lingvistik madaniyat, leksikizatsiya, kontseptualizatsiya, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili.*

**Abstract:** *This article analyzes the comparative analysis of action verbs in English and Uzbek from the perspective of cognitive linguistics and linguistic culture. The main purpose of the article is to compare the linguistic aspects of action verbs in English, which mainly emphasize the method and process of action, and the emphasis of verbs in Uzbek on the direction and result. Also, the methods of formation of action phenomena in English and Uzbek reflect the typological characteristics of these languages, as well as their cultural processes of thought.*

**Keywords:** *verbs of action, cognitive linguistics, linguistic culture, lexicization, conceptualization, English, Uzbek.*

**Аннотация:** *В данной статье проводится сравнительный анализ глаголов действия в английском и узбекском языках с точки зрения когнитивной лингвистики и языковой культуры. Основная цель статьи – сравнение языковых аспектов глаголов действия в английском языке, которые в основном акцентируют внимание на методе и процессе действия, и акцента глаголов в узбекском языке на направлении и результате. Также рассматривается, что методы формирования явлений действия в английском и узбекском языках отражают типологические особенности этих языков, а также их культурные процессы мышления.*

**Ключевые слова:** *глаголы действия, когнитивная лингвистика, языковая культура, лексикизация, концептуализация, английский язык, узбекский язык.*

## INTRODUCTION

Action verbs are regarded as one of the most essential and universal elements of human experience, facilitating the linguistic representation of spatial perception, direction, and movement. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, these verbs function not merely as grammatical units but also as cognitive instruments that embody the conceptual frameworks established in human cognition [1;150]. The methods of articulating action verbs in both English and Uzbek are intricately linked to the typological characteristics of these languages and the cultural modes of thought.

The primary objective of this article is to examine action verbs in English and Uzbek through a cognitive and linguocultural lens, aiming to uncover their methods of lexicalization and conceptual foundations.

#### Cognitive model of motion event

In the field of cognitive linguistics, a motion event is considered a foundational mechanism through which individuals conceptualize and articulate their perceptions of space and movement via language. Talmy interprets motion event as a universal cognitive structure, dividing it into several main semantic components: Figure (moving object), Ground (supporting object against which movement occurs), Path (way or direction), and Manner (method of movement). [1; 210]

For example,

The child ran into the room.

In this sentence, the child - Figure, the room - Ground, into - Path, and ran represents the Manner component of the action [1;225]. English has a manner-framed language feature, where the method of action is expressed by a verb, and the direction is expressed by prepositions.

In Uzbek, the situation is different:

Bola xonaga yugurib kirdi.

Here, the main verb *kirdi* indicates the direction, and *yugurib* indicates the method of action. [6;30] Thus, in Uzbek, the direction takes on a central semantic load in the verb structure, which reflects the path-framed feature of the language.

#### Cognitive categorization and conceptual models

As Lakoff noted, humans perceive existence through language based on conceptual models that exist in their minds [2;120]. Action verbs also acquire meaning through these models. For example, the English verbs "go forward in life" or "move on after failure" express abstract processes in addition to physical action [2;320].

In Uzbek, there are metaphorical extensions: "hayot yo'lidan borish", "oldinga qadam qo'ymoq", "orqada qolib ketmoq" [6;55]. These examples show the conceptualization of social and mental experience through action verbs.

According to Lakoff's ICM theory, categories do not have strict boundaries, but are formed on the basis of prototypes [2;330]. For example, the Uzbek verb *yurmoq* can express not only the action of walking, but also the duration of the process (*ish yurib ketdi*), the result or success (*gap yurmay qoldi*).

#### Constructional and typological approach

According to Goldberg's [3;45] theory of constructional grammar, the meaning of a verb is formed not independently, but with the construction of the sentence in which it participates. Example:

She walked him to the door.

In this sentence, the verb walk denotes causal action [3;210].

In Uzbek:

U bolani eshikkacha obil bordi.

In this sentence, the verb action reflects causal action between the subject and the object [2; 42].

Filipović analyzed the lexicalization patterns of action verbs in different languages, highlighting the primacy of the manner component in English and the path component in Uzbek [5;50]. For example:

English: He ran across the street. (method is primary)

Uzbek: I ko'chadan o'tib ketdi. (direction and result are primary)

Typological differences are also significant from a linguocultural perspective, as they reflect the ways in which the two peoples perceive and value reality. [5;110]

Cognitive-semantic analysis of action verbs in English

In cognitive linguistics, English action verbs are among the primary tools for encoding the procedural and dynamic aspects of actions. As Leonard Talmy observes, English belongs to the satellite-framed languages, where the verb conveys the manner of the action and the path is expressed through satellites—prepositions and particles. For instance, verbs such as run, walk, slide, and crawl clearly signal how the action is performed. [1;150–180]

In English, in examples such as She ran into the room, The boy crawled under the table, the verb expresses the intensity and manner of the action, while the spatial direction is given by independent grammatical means. This situation shows that the cognitive model of the action phenomenon in English is process-centered. [1; 220–240]

In addition, verbs of action in English have a wide metaphorical potential. Such combinations as move forward in life, fall behind, climb the career ladder show the transfer of spatial concepts of action to abstract areas. According to Lakoff, such metaphors enable the understanding of social and psychological processes through spatial experience in human cognition. [2; 120–150]

Semantic-structural features of action verbs in Uzbek language

In Uzbek language, action verbs are expressed through a cognitive model based more on consequentialism and directionality. According to M. Yuldashev's research, in Uzbek, verbs such as kirdi, chiqdi, bordi, o'tdi, yetib keldi embody the main semantic load of action. [6; 20–45] The manner of motion is most often expressed through additional adverbial participles or adverbial modifiers, as in U xonaga yugurib kirdi ('He entered the room running') and U sekin yurib chiqdi ('He went out walking slowly'). In this way, path and the completion of motion occupy a semantically central

role in Uzbek, while details of the motion process itself function as secondary information.

For example, in the sentence *U sinfga yugurib kirdi* ('He entered the classroom running'), the direction of motion and the endpoint are encoded within the verb itself, whereas the manner of motion is realized as an additional, non-central element. This distribution of semantic components clearly demonstrates the classification of Uzbek as a verb-framed language, in which path and result are linguistically prioritized over the process of motion [1; 170–200]. Moreover, the metaphorical extension of motion verbs in Uzbek reveals a strong interaction between linguistic structure and linguacultural conceptualization. Expressions such as *hayot yo'lidan borish* ('to follow the path of life'), *yo'ldan chiqmaslik* ('not to deviate from the path'), and *peshqadam bo'lish* ('to be at the forefront') do not merely describe movement but encode culturally grounded notions of social regulation, moral conduct, and collective orientation. These patterns indicate that motion-based metaphors in Uzbek are shaped by shared cultural values and social norms rather than by individual experience alone. [6; 70–85]

#### Comparative and Linguistic-Cultural Analysis

The semantic and syntactic modes of action verbs in English and Uzbek show significant differences in terms of cognitive typology and linguistic culture. In English, action verbs often focus on the process and manner of action, i.e., they exhibit a characteristic of the manner-framed system [1; 250].

For example, in the sentence "The child ran across the street" the verb *ran* reflects the manner and speed of the action, while the direction is expressed by the preposition (*across the street*). Thus, in English, the details of the action, how fast, slow, active, or passive it is performed, play a central role in cognitive conceptualization.

However, the situation is different in Uzbek. This indicates that motion verbs foreground path and result, which reflects characteristics typical of a path-framed system. [6;38] For example, in the sentences *U ko'chadan o'tib ketdi* ('He passed across the street') and *Bola maktabga yetib bordi* ('The child reached the school'), the verbs *o'tib ketdi* and *yetib bordi* encode the direction of motion and its resultant endpoint.

In both languages, verbs of action are conceptualized through metaphorical and extended meanings. Verbs in English, not only describe bodily actions but also express social meaning and abstract activity. For example: *he ran the company efficiently*, and *she accompanied him home* [3; 220]. In Uzbek, verbs create metaphorical meanings that reflect personal and social experiences: *oldinga qadam qo'ymoq*, *orqada qolib ketmoq*, *hayot yo'lidan borish* [6; 60].

In this way, comparative analysis reveals the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural characteristics of the two languages. While in English, verbs of action emphasize details and the process itself, in Uzbek, the result and direction play a key role. The distinction manifests not only in semantic and syntactic organization but also in the cultural and cognitive understanding of actions.

### Conclusion

The results of the study show that the semantic and cognitive properties of action verbs in English and Uzbek are closely related to language typology and linguacultural factors. English tends to conceptualize actions as processes and methods, whereas Uzbek centers on direction and outcome.

These differences reflect the distinct cognitive strategies that speakers of the two languages use when perceiving space and action. The findings have theoretical implications for cognitive linguistics, comparative linguistics, and translation studies.

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