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The Realization Of Uzbek Verb Predicates In The Aspectual Functional-Semantic Field

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Abstract: This article explores the semantic-functional domain of aspect in Uzbek and analyzes how verb predicates express aspectual nuances through morphology, lexical semantics, auxiliary constructions, and contextual factors. Aspect is one of the most essential grammatical-semantic categories in the world's languages, reflecting how an action, event, or state unfolds in time. Unlike tense-which situates an event within chronological time—aspect characterizes its internal temporal structure, such as completeness, continuity, repetition, or inception. In the Uzbek language, aspect is not encoded by a single grammatical category.

Introduction: At the center of this field are verb predicates, which carry the core semantic load of expressing action and state. The study of how Uzbek verb predicates realize aspectual meanings is crucial for understanding the typology of Uzbek, its morphosyntactic mechanisms, and the interaction between grammar and semantics.

1. The Functional-Semantic Field of Aspect in Uzbek

The concept of the functional-semantic field (FSF) in linguistics describes a system in which a meaning is expressed not through one exclusive category, but through a network of grammatical and lexical means that collectively construct a semantic domain. From this perspective, aspect in Uzbek relies on:

1. Morphological markers

2. Lexical aspect (Aktionsart)

3. Auxiliary verbs

4. Adverbial modifiers

5. Syntactic structures

6. Contextual and pragmatic elements

Thus, the Uzbek aspectual FSF is multi-layered and gradual, with verb predicates functioning at the core. The verb stem, combined with derivational affixes and auxiliary verbs, determines whether the action is completed, ongoing, iterative, momentary, progressive, habitual, or potential.

2. Morphological Expression of Aspect in Uzbek Verb Predicates

Although Uzbek does not have a strictly grammaticalized aspect system like Russian, it possesses various derivational and inflectional morphemes that modify the action's temporal nature.

2.1. Derivational affixes are certain affixes encode lexical-aspectual meanings (Aktionsarten) within the verb stem: -ib / -ab / -b qoʻy-: delimitative or tentative aspect. Oʻtirib qoʻydi – "he sat (for a short while)".

-la-, -lash-: iterative or distributive aspect. Urishib ketdi – "they kept quarreling". -in- / -n- / -il-: reflexive or passive, often signaling change of state. Ochildi – "it opened (became open)".

-qol-, -ket-, -yubor-: sudden or unexpected aspect aytib yubordi – "he blurted out"

These derivational morphemes modify the inherent temporal profile of the predicate, creating nuances of spontaneity, intensity, repetition, or boundary.

2.2. Inflectional aspectual forms

Some verbal suffixes carry aspect-related features:

-yapti / -moqda: progressive aspect

o'qiyapti – "he is reading"

-gan / -di: perfective, resultative, or evidential meanings depending on context

kelgan – "he has arrived / he (was found to have) arrived".

-ar / -adi: habitual or gnomic aspect ertalab yuguradi – "he runs in the mornings"

While these endings are not purely aspectual, they strongly contribute to the FSF by indicating whether an action is completed, in progress, or habitual.

3. Lexical Aspect (Aktionsart) of Uzbek Verb Predicates.

Lexical aspect refers to the inherent temporal characteristics of the verb itself, independent of morphology. Uzbek verb predicates can be divided into several lexical-aspectual classes:

3.1. States (durative, homogeneous)

o'tir- (sit), yot- (lie), tur- (stand)

These denote stable conditions. They naturally align with imperfective readings.

3.2. Activities (unbounded processes)

yugur- (run), o'q- (read), ishla- (work)

These actions typically require progressive or habitual markers for specification.

3.3. Accomplishments (process + endpoint)

qur- (build), yoz- (write), pishir- (cook)

These verbs encode both duration and natural completion.

3.4. Achievements (instantaneous change of state)

topil- (be found), sin- (break), o'ldir- (kill)

These inherently highlight perfective and resultative aspects.

3.5. Momentary or semelfactive verbs. Qaq- (knock), ur- (hit).

Aspectual interpretation often shifts with iterative constructions.

The lexical nature of the predicate contributes significantly to how aspectual markers apply. For instance, yuguryapti (running) naturally expresses durative progress, while sinib ketdi (suddenly broke) conveys a completion.

4. Auxiliary Verb Constructions and Their Aspectual Functions.

A highly productive mechanism in Uzbek aspectual expression is the use of light verbs or auxiliary verbs, which combine with the main verb to create complex predicates.

4.1. Auxiliary verbs expressing aspect:

• -yapti / -moqda – progressive

ishlab turibdi – "he is working"

• -ketdi – swift, sudden inception

yugurib ketdi – "he suddenly started running"

• -qol- – unexpected or irreversible completion

o'tirib qoldi – "he ended up sitting / remained seated"

• -yubor- – abrupt, unplanned action

aytib yubordi – "he suddenly said (blurted out)"

• -ol- – potential aspect

yeta oldi – "he managed to arrive"

These auxiliaries contribute clear aspectual nuances, especially in spoken Uzbek where distinctions between intentionality, suddenness, and boundedness are highly relevant.

4.2. Periphrastic progressive structures

Uzbek forms progressive meaning also through verb + auxiliary patterns:

• bor-yapti – "is going (progressively)"

• yozib turibdi – "is writing (continuously)"

• ko'rib o'tiribdi – "is watching (at the moment)"

These structures express ongoing, temporary, or continuous action depending on the auxiliary.

5. Adverbials and Contextual Aspectualization

Adverbials in Uzbek strongly shape aspectual interpretation:

• frequency adverbs

har kuni, tez-tez, ba'zan – habitual or iterative aspects

• duration adverbials

bir soat davomida – durative aspect

• boundary adverbs

birdan, to'satdan – sudden inception or achievement

• result-oriented expressions

oxiri, nihoyat – completion

Verb predicates interact with these modifiers to express a full spectrum of aspectual meanings. For example:

• tez-tez uchraydi – "he meets (someone) often" → iterative

• birdan o'rnidan turdi – "he suddenly stood up" → inchoative

• ikki soat yugurdi – "he ran for two hours" → durative, telic or atelic depending on verb class.

6. Syntactic Structures and Aspectual Meaning

Syntax also plays a crucial role in the aspectual FSF.

6.1. Serial and converb constructions

Converb forms such as -ib, -a, -gancha, -guncha convey sequential, simultaneous, or preparatory actions:

• o'ylab ko'rdi – "he tried by thinking" → tentative

• yig'lab yubordi – "he burst into tears" → inchoative

• kutib turib – "having waited, (he then…)" → anteriority

6.2. Repetition and plurality in syntax

Reduplication:

• ura-ura charchadi – "he got tired from repeated hitting"

→ iterative, cumulative aspect

Complement clauses:

• Boshlashni xohladi – "he wanted to start"

→ prospective aspect

7. Interaction of Grammatical and Lexical Means in the Aspectual Field

Uzbek aspect is not realized by a single device but through interaction of multiple components. For example: • ketib qoldi

combines a converb (ketib) with an auxiliary (qoldi) to express sudden departure and unexpectedness. • yozib turardi

expresses a habitual-progressive action through the combination of a converb, auxiliary, and past tense. • o'qiyverdi uses derivational morphology to express continued repetition or persistence.This layered structure demonstrates the functional-semantic field's nature: all parts contribute to the core meaning, but verb predicates remain the semantic center.

CONCLUSION

Uzbek verb predicates realize aspect through a rich and varied functional-semantic field that integrates morphology, lexical semantics, auxiliary constructions, adverbials, and syntactic patterns. Unlike languages with grammatically rigid aspect categories, Uzbek distributes aspect across multiple linguistic levels, making it a flexible and dynamic system. Verb predicates—through their stems, derivational affixes, and combinability with auxiliaries—form the core of the aspectual FSF, defining whether an action is ongoing, completed, repeated, sudden, habitual, or potential. The interplay of lexical aspect and grammatical markers enriches the expressive capacity of Uzbek and highlights its typological uniqueness among Turkic languages. The study of aspectual realization in Uzbek verb predicates not only deepens our understanding of Uzbek grammar but also contributes to broader theoretical discussions on how languages encode temporal structure through diverse functional-semantic means.

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