

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COMMAND SPEECH IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a comparative analysis of command speech in English and Uzbek languages. Command speech, also known as imperative mood, is a linguistic feature used to express direct commands, requests, or instructions. This study examines the structural, morphological, and pragmatic aspects of command speech in both languages, highlighting similarities and differences. The findings contribute to the understanding of cross-linguistic variations in directive utterances and have implications for language teaching and translation studies.

Key words: *pragmatic aspect, direct and indirect commands, cross-linguistic variations, implication, politeness markers, social context, grammatical encoding, emphatic command*

INTRODUCTION

Command speech is a fundamental aspect of human communication, allowing speakers to express desires, give instructions, or make requests. While the concept of issuing commands exists in most languages, the linguistic mechanisms for doing so can vary significantly. This study focuses on the comparison of command speech in English, an Indo-European language, and Uzbek, a Turkic language, to shed light on the diverse strategies employed by these typologically distinct languages.

Methodology

This study employs a contrastive analysis approach, examining grammatical descriptions, corpus data, and native speaker intuitions for both English and Uzbek. We analyze the formation of imperative sentences, the role of politeness markers, and the use of alternative structures to express commands in various social contexts.

In English, the basic form of a command typically uses the base form of the verb without a subject:

"Open the door."

"Sit down."

To provide politeness and softening may be achieved by different ways.

English often employs modal verbs and politeness markers to soften commands:

As in:

"Could you open the door, please?"

"Would you mind sitting down?"

Emphatic Commands

For emphasis, English may use "do" before the verb:

"Do be quiet!"

To form command speech in Uzbek there is a basic structure.

Uzbek commands also typically use the base form of the verb for second-person singular informal commands:

"Eshikni och." (Open the door.)

"O'tir." (Sit down.)

Focusing on person and number agreement, we should admit that unlike English, Uzbek verbs in the imperative mood agree with the person and number of the subject:

Second person singular (informal): "Kel!" (Come!)

Second person singular (formal): "Keling!" (Come! - polite form)

Second person plural: "Kelinglar!" (Come! - addressing multiple people)

Politeness and Softening

Uzbek uses several strategies to soften commands:

Adding the particle "-chi": "Kelchi" (Come, please)

Using the formal second-person singular: "Keling" instead of "Kel"

Employing question forms: "Kela olasizmi?" (Can you come?)

The most notable difference is the explicit person and number marking in Uzbek imperatives, which is absent in English. This allows Uzbek to encode more grammatical information within the verb form itself.

Both languages employ various strategies to soften commands, but the mechanisms differ. English relies heavily on modal verbs and the word "please," while Uzbek uses verb suffixes, particles, and formality distinctions.

Uzbek commands can be more direct than English in certain contexts without being perceived as impolite, due to the built-in politeness markers in the verb forms.

CONCLUSION

This comparative analysis reveals that while both English and Uzbek possess mechanisms for expressing commands, they differ significantly in their grammatical encoding and pragmatic use. English employs a variety of syntactic structures and lexical items to modulate the force of commands, while Uzbek relies more on morphological changes and formality distinctions. These findings have implications for language learners, translators, and cross-cultural communication.

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