

The Interaction Of Grammatical And Lexical Collocations: A Structural-Semantic Study In English And Uzbek Literary Discourse

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Abstract: This article examines the structural-semantic characteristics of grammatical and lexical collocations and their interaction in English and Uzbek literary discourse. Uzbek manifests a stronger tendency toward grammatical collocations influenced by agglutinative morphology and postpositional constructions. The findings contribute to contrastive linguistics, translation studies, and pedagogical approaches for language teaching, highlighting the importance of understanding collocation patterns for effective cross-linguistic communication and literary translation.

Keywords: Collocations, grammatical collocations, lexical collocations, contrastive analysis, literary discourse, English-Uzbek comparison, structural-semantic analysis.

Introduction: One of the universal yet one of the most complicated phenomena for linguistic research, collocations form the basis for natural language production and comprehension. The study of collocations has gathered momentum in recent linguistics, chiefly in corpus linguistics, translation studies, and language pedagogy. Collocations represent the habitual co-occurrence of lexical items in a language; collocation patterns go deeper than random word combinations and serve as representations of the inherent structural and semantic properties of linguistic systems [1]. The distinction between grammatical collocations-a strong word followed by grammatical elements such as prepositions or infinitive and lexical collocations-the mixing of content words-has proved to be of central importance for seeing language-specific patterns and the cross-linguistic variation [2].

In literary discourse, collocations acquire particular significance for stylistic effects, semantic density, and the overall artistic finish of texts. Meanwhile, a comparative evaluation of collocation patterns in typologically distant languages, such as English and Uzbek, helps reveal universal and language-specific

features of collocation formation and use. English, as opposed to Uzbek-a Turkic agglutinative language that employs extensive suffixation, postpositions, and flexible word order-is an analytical language with a relatively fixed word order and a heavy use of prepositions. Such a typological diversity should affect collocation patterns in an angling way to create different structural and semantic adaptations in literary discourse. Research in this regard is scant, though, and, while being of great theoretical and practical importance, remains underexplored-the study of the interaction between grammatical and lexical collocations in English and Uzbek literary texts is generally the forte of researchers concerned either with monolingual descriptions or with pedagogical implications rather than of those involved in systematic comparative structural-semantic analysis.

METHODOLOGY

The methodological framework of this study integrates descriptive-analytical and comparative approaches, drawing primarily on literature analysis and textual examination of representative literary works in both English and Uzbek. The pioneering work of Firth on meaning and collocation established the conceptual

basis for understanding word combinations as meaningful linguistic units beyond individual lexemes [3].

Their typology recognizes grammatical collocations as structures where a dominant word requires specific grammatical elements, such as verbs requiring particular prepositions or nouns requiring specific infinitive constructions. Lexical collocations, conversely, consist of combinations of content words including verb-noun, adjective-noun, verb-adverb, and noun-verb patterns. Research on English collocations has demonstrated their significance in achieving native-like fluency and their role in semantic prosody, where collocations carry positive or negative connotations beyond their literal meanings [4].

Uzbek linguistics has developed its own rich tradition of phraseological and collocation research, though the terminology and conceptual frameworks differ somewhat from Anglo-American approaches. Uzbek scholars have examined word combinations within the broader context of phraseology, distinguishing between free word combinations, stable phrases, and idiomatic expressions [5]. The agglutinative nature of Uzbek significantly influences collocation patterns, as grammatical relationships expressed through prepositions in English are often conveyed through case suffixes and postpositions in Uzbek. Research on Uzbek literary language has highlighted the importance of traditional poetic devices and conventional expressions that function as collocations within literary contexts [6].

The interaction between Persian-Arabic borrowings and native Turkic vocabulary in Uzbek creates distinctive collocation patterns, particularly in formal and literary registers. Comparative studies examining English and Uzbek have primarily focused on translation challenges and pedagogical applications, identifying collocation as a major source of interference and error in second language learning [7].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The structural-semantic analysis of grammatical and lexical collocations in English and Uzbek literary discourse reveals substantial typological differences that reflect the fundamental characteristics of each language system while also demonstrating universal tendencies in how collocations function to create meaning and literary effect. In English literary discourse, grammatical collocations manifest predominantly through verb-preposition, adjective-preposition, and noun-preposition combinations, where the choice of preposition is largely arbitrary and must be learned as conventional patterns rather than derived from logical principles [1]. Examples such as

"depend on," "afraid of," and "reason for" illustrate how English employs prepositions as grammatical markers that complete the meaning of the dominant word. These grammatical collocations interact with lexical collocations to create complex semantic structures; for instance, the grammatical collocation "depend on" frequently combines with noun phrases to form extended collocation chains like "depend heavily on," where the adverb "heavily" represents a lexical collocation with the verb "depend." Literary authors exploit these patterns for stylistic purposes, sometimes violating conventional collocations to create semantic tension or fresh imagery.

The analysis of contemporary English literary texts demonstrates how writers manipulate collocation expectations to achieve defamiliarization effects, using unexpected adjective-noun or verb-object combinations that force readers to process meaning more deliberately. Lexical collocations in English literary discourse show strong preferences for particular combinations that carry semantic prosody and stylistic register markers. Verb-noun collocations such as "harbor resentment," "nurture ambition," or "betray confidence" not only convey specific meanings but also signal formality levels and emotional tones [4].

Uzbek literary discourse exhibits distinctive collocation patterns shaped by the language's agglutinative morphology and SOV word order preferences. Grammatical collocations in Uzbek frequently involve case-marked nouns with specific verbs or postpositional phrases that function similarly to English prepositional phrases but with different structural realization [6]. For example, the dative case suffix combined with particular verbs creates grammatical collocations that express semantic relationships analogous to English preposition-verb combinations but through morphological rather than syntactic means. The extensive use of converbs and participles in Uzbek creates grammatical collocation patterns without direct English equivalents, allowing for complex embedding of clauses and semantic relationships expressed through verbal morphology. Traditional literary Uzbek, particularly in poetry and elevated prose, employs conventional collocations derived from classical Persian-Uzbek literary traditions, while modern prose incorporates colloquial patterns and Russian borrowings that create distinct collocation environments [5].

The semantic dimension of collocation interaction in both languages demonstrates both universal and language-specific patterns. Semantic compatibility constraints operate in both English and Uzbek, where collocations must satisfy selectional restrictions based on semantic features of component words, but the

specific patterns of what constitutes natural or conventional combinations differ significantly between languages [8]. The analysis of parallel texts and translations between English and Uzbek reveals that collocation patterns represent one of the most challenging aspects of literary translation, as direct equivalents rarely exist and translators must navigate between preserving semantic content, maintaining stylistic register, and producing natural-sounding target language collocations [9]. The interaction between grammatical and lexical collocations in literary discourse serves multiple functions beyond basic semantic communication, including establishing narrative tone, characterizing speakers through their linguistic choices, creating cohesion through collocation chains across texts, and signaling intertextual relationships through shared collocation patterns [10].

CONCLUSION

This structural-semantic study of grammatical and lexical collocations in English and Uzbek literary discourse has demonstrated that collocation patterns represent a crucial interface between grammatical structure, lexical semantics, and literary stylistics, with significant typological variation between these languages reflecting their fundamental structural differences. The research reveals that English and Uzbek employ distinct structural mechanisms to realize collocation relationships, with English relying primarily on syntactic positioning and function words while Uzbek utilizes morphological marking and postpositional constructions, yet both languages demonstrate similar functional roles for collocations in creating literary meaning and effect.

The interaction between grammatical and lexical collocations in both languages proves more complex than simple combination, involving dynamic semantic relationships, stylistic constraints, and pragmatic considerations that authors manipulate to achieve literary purposes. Understanding these patterns has practical implications for multiple fields, including second language pedagogy, where explicit instruction in collocation patterns can significantly improve learners' productive competence and natural-sounding language use; translation studies, where recognition of structural and functional collocation differences enables more effective cross-linguistic transfer of literary texts; and contrastive linguistics, where collocation analysis provides insights into deeper typological characteristics and cultural-cognitive frameworks embedded in language structure.

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