

Semantic Features of the Uzbek Analytical Verb Form - (i)b edi and Its Chinese Equivalents

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Abstract: This article examines the grammatical and semantic features of the Uzbek analytical verb form formed with the auxiliary construction -(i)b edi, as well as the ways of its translation into Chinese. The study analyzes the expression of past tense, modal attitude, and temporal meanings through illustrative examples. It is revealed that the principal Chinese equivalents of this form are the suffixes 了 (le), 过 (guò), and several grammatical constructions. The analysis demonstrates that the -(i)b edi form is semantically close to the -gan edi form, although they differ in stylistic and modal nuances.

Keywords: Analytical form, past tense, -(i)b edi, Chinese language, grammatical equivalent, modality, temporal meaning.

Introduction: In the Uzbek language, verb forms expressing past tense constitute a complex grammatical and semantic system. One of such forms is the analytical construction formed with -(i)b edi. In Uzbek linguistics, this form has been interpreted differently and referred to by various terms such as “remote past tense” and “narrative past tense verb.”

For instance, S. Usmonov defined this form as a “narrative past tense verb,” whereas U. Tursunov and J. Muxtorov applied the same term to both -gan edi and -(i)b edi constructions. According to A. A. Koklyanova, the main function of this form is to denote an action that occurred prior to another action, and it is predominantly used in colloquial speech and folklore.

Indeed, in spoken Uzbek, the -(i)b edi construction undergoes phonetic changes. For example, forms such as olib edi and aytib edi are pronounced as oluvdi and aytuvdi. Since this phenomenon is widespread across dialects, such forms are also actively employed in literary texts.

Semantic Features of the -(i)b edi Form

Analytical verb forms formed with -(i)b edi differ

semantically from other forms expressing past tense. This construction frequently denotes an action that occurred in the past but whose result is uncertain, incomplete, or prolonged. In some contexts, it also conveys remoteness, indefiniteness, or repetitiveness of the action.

For example:

Urush tugasa, biznikiga mehmonga borasiz, o’shanda ayamning qanaqaligini ko’rasiz, deb edi.

他说过：战争结束后，你会来看望我们，那时你会认识我的母亲。

Tā shuōguò: zhànzhēng jiéshù hòu, nǐ huì lái kànwàng wǒmen, nà shí nǐ huì rènshí wǒ de mǔqīn.

In this sentence, the Uzbek form deb edi is translated into Chinese with the suffix 过 (guò), which indicates an action experienced or completed in the remote past. Thus, the Uzbek -(i)b edi form often corresponds to the Chinese experiential marker 过 (guò).

Meaning of Repeated Action

The -(i)b edi form may also indicate repeated actions.

In such cases, Chinese translations usually employ the suffix 过 (guò) together with quantitative expressions.

For example:

Rahmatullaga aytuvdim-a tog'angning qizini ol...

我跟儿子说过好几次，让他跟他的表妹结婚。

Wǒ gēn érzi shuōguò hǎojǐ cì...

Here, the phrase 好几次 (hǎojǐ cì, "several times") expresses the repeated occurrence of the action. This demonstrates that, similarly to Uzbek, Chinese also utilizes counting expressions to indicate the frequency of actions.

Similarity Between -(i)b edi and -gan edi

The analysis shows that the -(i)b edi form is semantically very close to the -gan edi construction. Both forms may express remote past tense.

For example:

Hasan, esingdami, oyim bilan bir qishloqqa boruvdik.

哈桑，你还记得吗，我和妈妈去了一个村庄。

Hāsāng, nǐ hái jìdé ma, wǒ hé māmā qùle yīgè cūnzhuāng.

In this sentence, the form boruvdik may be replaced by borgan edik without changing the meaning. In Chinese, the suffix 了 (le) marks the completed nature of the action.

Definiteness and Indefiniteness of Past Actions

The past tense meaning expressed through -(i)b edi may be either definite or indefinite. When temporal markers are present in the sentence, the time reference becomes more explicit.

For example:

Armiyaga keta turib iltimos qilgan edim, shu suratni beruvdi.

我参军前就让她给我张照片，她给了我。

Wǒ cānjūn qián jiù ràng tā gěi wǒ zhāng zhàopiàn, tā gěile wǒ.

In this example, the adverb 前 (qián, "before") clarifies the temporal reference. Consequently, the Chinese translation employs the perfective suffix 了 (le).

Grammatical Constructions in Chinese

The meanings conveyed by the Uzbek -(i)b edi

construction are often rendered in Chinese through fixed grammatical patterns. One of the most common models is:

Verb₁ + 了 (le) + 就 (jiù) + Verb₂

This construction indicates the sequential occurrence of actions.

For example:

我上了课就去医院了。

Wǒ shàngle kè jiù qù yīyuàn le.

This sentence means: "After finishing the class, I went to the hospital." The double occurrence of the suffix 了 (le) gives the entire sentence a past tense interpretation.

Modal and Subjective Meanings

The -(i)b edi form may also express the speaker's subjective attitude toward the event. In such cases, the sentence may convey regret, uncertainty, desire, or dissatisfaction.

For example:

Baraka toping, anchadan buyon shunaqasini orzu qilib yuruvdim.

谢谢你呀！我很想买这样的。

Xièxie nǐ ya! Wǒ hěn xiǎng mǎi zhèyàng de.

Biluvdim, topib kelishingizni biluvdim.

我感受到了你肯定能找到我。

Wǒ gǎnjué dào le nǐ kěndìng néng zhǎodào wǒ.

In these examples, modal meanings are conveyed through lexical means such as 很想 (hěn xiǎng, "strongly wish") and 肯定 (kěndìng, "certainly").

Temporal Meaning

Like the -gan edi construction, the analytical form -(i)b edi may also express temporal relations and function in subordinate clauses of time.

For example:

U yoq-bu yoqqa yurib ko'ruvdi, kavushi g'archillab ketdi.

她试了一试，走时鞋子呱呱作响。

Tā shìle yī shì, zǒushí xiézi guāguā zuòxiǎng.

In this sentence, the Chinese construction 时 (shí,

“while/when”) serves to express the temporal relation conveyed by the Uzbek form.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that the Uzbek analytical form -(i)b edi possesses broad semantic potential and actively expresses past tense, modality, repetition, and temporal relations. Although it is semantically close to the -gan edi form, it differs in stylistic and expressive features.

In Chinese translations, the primary grammatical equivalents of this construction are the suffixes 了 (le) and 过 (guò), as well as grammatical constructions involving 就 (jiù) and 时 (shí). During translation, such factors as definiteness or indefiniteness of the action, repetitiveness, and the speaker’s modal attitude play an essential role.

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