

Structural Characteristics Of Verb Phraseological Units

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Abstract: This article is devoted to a comparative structural-semantic and linguocultural analysis of verbal phraseological units in Uzbek, Russian, and English. The primary aim of the study is to identify the dominant structural models of verbal phraseological units, examine their component composition, and determine their degree of grammatical stability. The research employs structural-semantic analysis, comparative-typological, descriptive, and contextual methods. The findings demonstrate that verbal phraseological units in each language are characterized by language-specific structural patterns, multi-layered semantics, and a high degree of cultural markedness.

Keywords: Verb phraseological units, structural-semantic analysis, linguocultural approach, comparative linguistics, phraseological models, national mentality, cultural codes, phraseological competence.

Introduction: In contemporary linguistics, the systematic investigation of phraseological units—particularly the structural characteristics of verb phraseological units—has emerged as a significant area of scholarly inquiry. Phraseological units constitute a stable, semantically cohesive, and structurally fixed layer of language, serving as a linguistic repository of national mentality, historical experience, and culturally embedded values. Within this system, verb phraseological units occupy a prominent position due to their ability to encode action, process, and state through conventionalized and figurative linguistic patterns. The structural organization of verb phraseological units is a fundamental parameter determining their lexico-grammatical status. These units are typically organized around a verb core and are composed of multiple components that function as an inseparable semantic and syntactic whole. Their internal structure may involve nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns, which together form recurrent and stable syntactic configurations. For example, the Uzbek expression “ko’z yumib qaramoq”, the Russian phrase “терять голову”, and the English idiom “break the ice” exemplify verb phraseological units characterized by fixed structural patterns. Unlike free word combinations, such units display a high degree of componential stability and semantic non-compositionality.

From a theoretical perspective, the identification and analysis of the structural features of verb phraseological units are crucial for establishing their semantic integrity, degree of stability, and functional potential in discourse. Structural analysis facilitates the classification of verb phraseological units into distinct structural models, enables the assessment of their grammatical variability, and provides clear criteria for distinguishing phraseological units from free syntactic constructions. Consequently, the problem of structural classification occupies a central position within phraseological theory and remains a focus of ongoing scholarly debate [2; 5; 7]. Recent research adopting a structural-semantic framework has underscored the necessity of examining verb phraseological units not only in terms of their semantic content but also with regard to their internal grammatical organization, inter-component relations, and underlying syntactic models. The structural realization of verb phraseological units across languages is closely linked to typological characteristics, resulting in observable differences between analytic and synthetic languages in their phraseological patterns and structural constraints [3; 6; 9].

The relevance of the present study is further enhanced by its interdisciplinary and applied implications. An in-depth examination of the structural features of verb phraseological units is essential for advancing

theoretical linguistics as well as for addressing practical issues in translation studies, foreign language instruction, and linguocultural analysis. The identification of recurrent structural models and the evaluation of their stability contribute directly to the development of phraseological competence and to more effective intercultural communication [1; 4; 8].

This article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the structural characteristics of verb phraseological units by identifying their dominant structural models, component composition, and degrees of grammatical stability. The findings of the study offer a systematic account of the structural specificity of verb phraseological units and substantiate their position within the phraseological system from a theoretical and applied linguistic perspective.

METHODOLOGY

The study of phraseological units has a long-established tradition in linguistics, encompassing a wide range of fundamental and applied research. The formation and subsequent development of phraseological theory are closely associated with the scholarly contributions of such linguists as V. V. Vinogradov, A. V. Kunin, and N. M. Shansky, whose works have played a pivotal role in shaping the theoretical foundations of phraseology [4; 9; 10]. In particular, V. V. Vinogradov proposed a classification of phraseological units based on semantic integrity and component stability, thereby establishing clear criteria for distinguishing phraseological units from free word combinations [9]. Drawing on English-language material, A. V. Kunin conducted a systematic analysis of the structural and semantic features of phraseological units, with particular emphasis on their lexico-grammatical nature [4].

Within Russian linguistics, N. M. Shansky examined the structural and functional characteristics of phraseological units, characterizing them as ready-made units of speech operating within the language system [10]. In addition, the studies by A. I. Mokienko and M. I. Starnikova are of considerable significance for the identification of structural models of phraseological units, the analysis of inter-component relations, and the exploration of their comparative dimensions [6].

In Uzbek linguistics, the study of phraseological units is associated with the works of Sh. Shoabdurahmonov, Sh. Rahmatullayev, and A. Madvaliyev. Sh. Rahmatullayev carried out an in-depth analysis of the grammatical features of phraseological units and provided a scientific justification for their status as ready-made units within the lexical system of the language [7]. A. Madvaliyev, in turn, examined the structural and semantic characteristics of Uzbek phraseological units and determined their degree of

stability [8]. B. Jorayeva analyzed the relationship between proverbs and idiomatic expressions, emphasizing that the connection between phraseological units and free word combinations in the process of their formation is of a conditional nature [2].

During the years of independence, scholarly interest in the structural-semantic and comparative investigation of phraseological units has intensified. Research in this period has increasingly focused on component analysis, factors of combinability, and the functional use of phraseological units in discourse [5; 6]. A. Mamatov, in particular, highlights the context-dependent semantic variability of phraseological units [5]. From a linguocultural perspective, the works of A. N. G'ulomov merit special attention, as they reveal the cultural and spiritual foundations underlying phraseological units in the Uzbek language [1]. In the study of English verb phraseological units, the research conducted by A. V. Kunin and I. V. Arnold is regarded as especially influential [4; 11].

The primary objective of the present study is to identify and analyze the structural features of verb phraseological units. The methodological framework of the research is based on the following approaches: structural-semantic analysis, employed to determine the internal structure and component composition of verbal phraseological units; the comparative-typological method, used to compare structural models of verbal phraseological units across different languages; the descriptive method, applied to characterize the functional use of phraseological units in discourse; and contextual analysis, aimed at identifying the functional and pragmatic potential of phraseological units.

The research material comprises verb phraseological units selected from phraseological dictionaries, literary texts, and scholarly sources in Uzbek, Russian, and English. On the basis of the applied methods, the principal structural models of verb phraseological units were identified, and their grammatical stability and position within the phraseological system were substantiated on a scientific basis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study indicate that verb phraseological units in each language are formed on the basis of language-specific structural models that are closely associated with typological, grammatical, and cultural characteristics. The comparative structural analysis revealed both shared features and systematic differences in the formation of verb phraseological units in Uzbek, Russian, and English. These differences are primarily determined by the syntactic environments in which verbs operate, the types of

components they combine with, and the semantic load contributed by those components.

In Uzbek, verb phraseological units are predominantly organized around a verbal nucleus and typically occur in combination with nouns, adverbs, or auxiliary nouns. Expressions such as *ko'z tikmoq* (to set one's eyes on), *quloq solmoq* (to listen attentively), *ko'nglini olish* (to please or console someone), *yuragiga yetmoq* (to affect deeply), and *ko'ziga ko'rinmoq* (to appear) exemplify the verb + noun structural model. These units convey goal-oriented actions as well as emotional and psychological states. In verb + adverb constructions, including *chuqur o'ylamoq* (to think deeply), *jimgina ketmoq* (to leave quietly), and *tezda chiqib ketmoq* (to leave quickly), the manner, intensity, or temporal characteristics of the action are foregrounded. In addition, some verb phraseological units are formed through the incorporation of auxiliary nouns, resulting in analytic constructions such as *so'ziga quloq solmoq* (to heed someone's words), *gapiga e'tibor bermoq* (to pay attention to someone's speech), and *fikriga quloq tutmoq* (to listen to someone's opinion). These constructions enhance semantic precision and contribute to the figurative and expressive potential of Uzbek discourse.

Russian verb phraseological units exhibit a comparatively more complex structural organization and are frequently formed with the participation of nouns, prepositions, and particles. Units such as *держать слово* (to keep one's word), *бросать тень* (to cast a shadow), and *терять голову* (to lose one's head) follow the verb + noun model, whereas expressions like *взять под контроль* (to take under control), *попасть впросак* (to get into an awkward situation), and *выйти из себя* (to lose one's temper) are structured according to the verb + preposition + noun pattern. Moreover, Russian makes extensive use of phraseological units derived from particle verbs, including *уйти в себя* (to withdraw into oneself), *идти на поводу* (to be led by someone), and *выйти из игры* (to drop out). These units are particularly effective in expressing psychological states, social positioning, and behavioral patterns, underscoring the significant role of prepositions and particles in semantic differentiation within the Russian language.

In English, the most productive stratum of verb phraseological units consists of phrasal verbs, that is, combinations of verbs with particles. Examples such as *give up*, *take off*, *look into*, *carry on*, and *put up with* are widely used across both informal and formal registers. Although these constructions are grammatically simple, they are semantically complex, as particles substantially modify or completely transform the core meaning of the verb. In addition,

the verb + noun model (*make a decision*, *take a risk*, *pay attention*, *lose hope*) is particularly frequent in neutral and formal discourse. Fully idiomatic expressions, including *pull someone's leg*, *beat around the bush*, *hit the nail on the head*, and *kick the bucket*, contribute a high degree of imagery, emotional coloration, and expressive force.

The semantic analysis demonstrates that verb phraseological units can be classified into several major thematic groups. These include units denoting action and activity (*ishga qo'l urmoq*, *get the ball rolling*, *брать быка за рога*), psychological states (*ko'ngli cho'kmoq*, *lose heart*, *терять голову*), social relations (*gapga qolmaslik*, *keep one's word*, *держать слово*), and concepts related to time and speed (*ko'z ochib yulguncha*, *in the blink of an eye*, *в мгновение ока*). This thematic classification confirms that verb phraseological units possess not only linguistic relevance but also cognitive and cultural significance.

From a linguocultural perspective, verb phraseological units function not merely as structural or semantic entities, but also as cultural codes that reflect national mentality and value systems. In Uzbek, expressions such as *peshonasiga yozilgan* (destined), *ko'z ochib yulguncha* (in no time), and *tosh otmoq* (to accuse or attack) foreground the cultural salience of fate, temporality, and social relations.

In Russian, phraseological units such as *вешать лапшу на уши* (to deceive), *бить баклуши* (to idle), and *пасть в грязь лицом* (to lose face) serve to evaluate social behavior and moral norms. In English, expressions like *spill the beans*, *hit the sack*, *get the ball rolling*, and *jump the gun* reflect an action-oriented, pragmatic worldview and emphasize initiative and individual agency. Furthermore, the findings demonstrate that verb phraseological units play a crucial role in encoding moral and social values. Uzbek expressions such as *ko'nglini ovlamoq* (to comfort someone), *gapga qolmaslik* (to avoid reproach), and *yuz ko'rmas bo'lish* (to be ashamed to face someone) embody notions of respect, modesty, and social balance. Russian units including *держать слово* (to keep one's word), *не лезть не в своё дело* (to mind one's own business), and *пасть в грязь лицом* (to lose one's dignity) are associated with responsibility and reputation. English expressions such as *keep your word*, *mind your own business*, and *save face* emphasize personal responsibility, social boundaries, and the maintenance of social status. Overall, the results confirm that verb phraseological units constitute a structurally stable, semantically multi-layered, and linguoculturally rich system. Their comprehensive and comparative analysis is of substantial theoretical and practical significance for understanding the internal mechanisms of

language, identifying adequate equivalents in translation, and fostering phraseological competence in foreign language education.

CONCLUSION

The comparative structural-semantic and linguocultural analysis of verb phraseological units in Uzbek, Russian, and English has enabled a more comprehensive understanding not only of their grammatical and semantic properties, but also of the national mentality, cultural values, and social consciousness encoded within these units. The findings confirm that verb phraseological units constitute a significant component of the language system, functioning as stable, multi-layered, and culturally marked linguistic formations. The analysis further demonstrates that, despite the existence of language-specific structural models and grammatical patterns, the core function of verb phraseological units across languages lies in their capacity to provide an imagery-based representation of human experience, including emotional states, patterns of behavior, and social relations. At the same time, the semantic structure of these units is inherently complex and multidimensional, encompassing not only denotative meaning but also connotative, emotional, and context-dependent layers of interpretation.

From a linguocultural perspective, the study has revealed a direct and systematic relationship between verb phraseological units and folklore traditions, national imagery, and culturally salient symbols. Each phraseological unit encapsulates the historical experience, moral norms, traditions, and collective mentality of a particular linguistic community, a feature that significantly complicates their direct translation into other languages. Consequently, the accurate interpretation and appropriate use of verb phraseological units presuppose a high level of intercultural awareness and linguocultural competence.

The results of the present study are of substantial theoretical and practical relevance for language learning, translation studies, intercultural communication, and linguodidactics. A systematic and comparative approach to the study of verb phraseological units contributes to the development of phraseological competence in foreign language education, supports the selection of functionally and culturally adequate translation equivalents, and facilitates effective communication between representatives of different linguistic and cultural communities.

In sum, verb phraseological units in Uzbek, Russian, and English may be regarded as complex and stable

linguistic entities that reflect the cultural identity, mentality, and structural organization of each language [1; 4; 6; 7]. Through these units, the interaction between national specificity and linguistic universality becomes particularly evident, rendering them a valuable resource for cross-linguistic and intercultural research [3; 5; 11].

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