

# COMPARATIVE STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF VISUAL COGNITIVE VERBS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH: MORPHOLOGICAL, SYNTACTIC, AND SEMANTIC PERSPECTIVES

Karimjonova Shahlo Ravshanjonovna

Fergana State University,

Senior Lecturer, Department of Practical English,

Doctor of Philosophy in Philology (PhD)

shahloxonkarimjonova@gmail.com

## Abstract

This study provides a comparative analysis of the structural features of visual cognitive verbs in Uzbek and English languages. The morphological, syntactic, and semantic aspects of these verbs are examined, identifying similarities and differences in expressing visual perception. In Uzbek, verbs take various grammatical forms through suffixes and represent different processes related to vision. In English, visual cognitive verbs exist in regular and irregular forms, reflecting various aspects of vision as well. Additionally, the process of seeing in both languages encompasses not only physical perception but also cognitive processes such as knowing, understanding, and awareness. The study also considers the metaphorical meanings of these verbs and how they reflect cognitive processes in linguistics.

**Keywords:** Visual cognitive verbs, Uzbek language, English language, semantic analysis, morphological features, syntactic structure, cognitive linguistics, perception, visual process, comparative analysis, polysemy, metaphor.

## Introduction

Today, cognitive linguistics continues to explore how language relates to cognition, incorporating insights from psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy. Key research areas include conceptual metaphor theory, mental spaces, frame semantics, construction grammar, and cognitive grammar. The field aims to understand not only how language operates within the mind but also how it shapes our understanding of the world. Cognitive linguistics is a modern school of thought within linguistics that emerged in the early 1970s as a reaction against the formalist approaches to language, such as generative grammar. These formal approaches were seen as inadequate for explaining the relationship between language and human cognition. Cognitive linguistics instead emphasizes the interconnection between language, mind, and experience, focusing on how language reflects mental processes and conceptual structures.

The roots of cognitive linguistics lie in the rise of cognitive science during the 1960s and 1970s, a period marked by interdisciplinary interest in understanding the mind. Key influences came from research on categorization, which challenged the fixed boundaries between concepts proposed by classical theories, as well as from Gestalt psychology, which highlighted the

importance of holistic perception and organization in mental processes. These early influences shaped cognitive linguistics' approach to language as a flexible, experience-based system rather than a fixed set of abstract rules (Safarov Sh., 2006).

During the 1970s and 1980s, cognitive linguistics was primarily developed by a small group of linguists who questioned prevailing ideas. Researchers such as George Lakoff, Ronald Langacker, and Leonard Talmy conducted pioneering studies on how meaning, thought, and language interact. This work laid the foundation for key concepts in the field, including conceptual metaphor theory, image schemas, and cognitive grammar, which focus on how language reflects human perception and categorization.

The early 1990s saw rapid growth in the field, with more linguists adopting cognitive perspectives and identifying as "cognitive linguists." This growth was formalized in 1989-1990 with the founding of the International Cognitive Linguistics Society and the launch of the journal *Cognitive Linguistics*, signaling the establishment of cognitive linguistics as a recognized and cohesive discipline. Ronald Langacker, a prominent figure in the field, viewed these developments as marking the formation of cognitive linguistics into a broad-based, self-aware intellectual movement (Evans V., 2006).

**Classification of Cognitive Verbs:** Cognitive verbs denote specific situations or processes and reflect cognitive processes such as knowing, thinking, and understanding. These verbs can be categorized as follows:

Intellectual verbs – verbs like "to think," "to know," "to understand" that reflect human intellectual activity.

Emotional cognitive verbs – verbs like "to love," "to fear," "to be happy" that express emotional states.

Perceptual verbs – verbs like "to see," "to hear," "to sense" that denote processes perceived through sensory organs.

### **Methodology:**

This classification aids in analyzing how cognitive processes are expressed in language.

**Cultural and Linguistic Characteristics of Visual Cognitive Verbs.** Visual cognitive verbs are associated with sensory and visual processes, and their linguistic-cultural characteristics may vary across languages. For example, the verb "to see" in Uzbek not only indicates the act of seeing but can also mean to understand or accept something. In some cultures, seeing and knowing are expressed in closely related terms.

In this section, the following topics are addressed:

1. Metaphors related to vision – The process of seeing is often used metaphorically to indicate gaining knowledge, understanding, or observation.
2. Connection between language and culture – How cultural factors influence the expression of visual cognitive verbs in each language.

These topics allow for an in-depth analysis of cognitive linguistics and visual cognitive verbs.

The semantic fields of visual cognitive verbs refer to networks or groups of meanings associated with words related to vision. These fields help in understanding the meanings of verbs in various directions and contexts.

1. Verbs that express different levels of vision – Verbs related to vision express different levels of intensity, duration, or engagement:

"To see" – represents a general act of seeing, broad and general in meaning.

"To glance" – a brief look, a superficial view.

"To observe" – watching something attentively over time or analyzing it.

"To gaze" – looking intently at a point, with less analytical elements.

"To examine" – looking closely with the intention of evaluating or checking something.

These verbs represent various states of the vision process, with intensity or duration as primary components of their semantic fields.

2. Emotional and Subjective Expressions Related to the Vision Process: The semantic field of visual cognitive verbs also includes expressions of emotional states or subjective evaluations during the vision process:

"To stare in wonder" – indicates astonishment or amazement resulting from seeing something.

"To look with disgust" – conveys a negative feeling toward something seen.

"To look with interest" – shows curiosity in what is being observed.

These verbs reflect the subjective and emotional aspects of the vision process, encompassing the internal experiences linked with vision.

### Research:

In some languages, the process of seeing is also used to express the process of acquiring knowledge or understanding. For example, in Uzbek, the word "ko'rmoq" (to see) is used not only for physical seeing but also in the sense of realizing or understanding:

**Anglab yetmoq** – the process of seeing and understanding something.

**Sezmoq** – to know or understand through the process of seeing.

**Tushunmoq** – to comprehend something through seeing.

These verbs strongly reflect the cognitive aspect of the process of seeing in their semantic field, linking the processes of seeing and knowing.

At the end of the seeing process, a person reaches a conclusion or discovers something. Verbs that describe this process reflect the knowledge or understanding derived from the result of seeing:

**Aniqlamoq** – to know something precisely through seeing.

**Topmoq** – to discover new information by seeing something.

**Tushunmoq** – to comprehend something as a result of seeing.

These verbs' semantic field reflects the outcome of the seeing process and the new knowledge or understanding that emerges as a result.

Sometimes verbs related to seeing are also used metaphorically. These verbs are used outside of the physiological seeing process to describe other cognitive processes:

**Ko‘zi ochilmoq** – to realize or understand the truth.

**Ko‘zi tushmoq** – to accidentally notice something or develop an interest in something.

**Ko‘zda tutmoq** – to imply a goal, indicating not seeing but rather planning.

The semantic field of metaphorical seeing verbs reflects the deep meanings and cognitive processes in language.

The semantic fields of visual cognitive verbs encompass various levels of the seeing process, emotional and subjective expressions, the connection between seeing and knowing, the outcomes of seeing, and metaphorical meanings. These fields show the richness of language and cultural characteristics.

In Uzbek and English, comparative analysis of perception verbs refers to comparing the systems of meanings of verbs that express sensory and perception processes in these languages. Perception verbs typically cover verbs related to sensory organs that help people acquire information from their environment (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching).

Main Characteristics of Perception Verbs in Uzbek and English

### 1. Perception Verbs Related to Seeing

In Uzbek:

**Ko‘rmoq** – indicates a general process of seeing. This verb can express both physical seeing and metaphorical meanings of knowing and understanding.

**Nigoh tashlamoq** – to glance briefly.

**Kuzatmoq** – to see and analyze over time.

**Termulmoq** – to stare at a point for a long time.

In English:

To see – indicates a general process of seeing; in English, this verb can also be used in the sense of understanding (“I see” – I understand).

To glance – to cast a brief look.

To observe – to watch attentively for a long time and analyze.

To stare – to look at a point for a long time.

Comparative analysis: In both languages, “ko‘rmoq” and “to see” express the general seeing process, but these verbs can also be used metaphorically to mean knowing and understanding in both languages. The Uzbek verb “kuzatmoq” and the English verb “to observe” represent attentive seeing, which includes an analytical process.

### 2. Perception Verbs Related to Hearing

In Uzbek:

**Eshitmoq** – indicates the hearing process, representing both simple reception of sounds and attentive information gathering.

**Tinglamoq** – to listen attentively, a purposeful listening process.

In English:

To hear – indicates the general process of hearing.

To listen – attentive listening, focusing on something with intent.

Comparative analysis: The Uzbek verb “eshitmoq” and the English “to hear” represent the general hearing process. However, “tinglamoq” in Uzbek denotes attentive listening, which

corresponds to the English verb “to listen.” Thus, both languages differentiate the passive and active aspects of the hearing process.

### 3. Perception Verbs Related to Smelling

In Uzbek:

Hidlamog – to sense a smell intentionally.

In English:

To smell – the process of detecting a smell, either intentionally or accidentally. This verb can represent both general and intentional smelling.

Comparative analysis: The Uzbek “hidlamog” and English “to smell” verbs represent the smelling process. In English, “to smell” can convey both general and intentional smelling, whereas Uzbek often uses a specific verb for each meaning. Both languages express the smelling process at a similar semantic level.

### 4. Perception Verbs Related to Tasting

In Uzbek:

Ta'm bilmoq – to perceive the taste of something.

Tatib ko'rmoq – to intentionally taste, to sample.

In English:

To taste – the process of tasting, either intentionally or accidentally.

Comparative analysis: The Uzbek “ta'm bilmoq” represents general taste perception, while the English “to taste” fully corresponds to this meaning. Uzbek's “tatib ko'rmoq” expresses intentional tasting, reflecting another level of meaning in “to taste” in English.

### 5. Perception Verbs Related to Touching

In Uzbek:

Sezmoq – indicates a general perception process, covering not only touching but also sensory perceptions.

Tegmoq – to physically touch something.

In English:

To feel – indicates a general perception process, expressing both touch and emotions.

To touch – indicates physical contact.

### Comparative Analysis:

The Uzbek “sezmoq” and English “to feel” verbs convey perception and sensory processes. In both languages, these verbs express not only physical contact but also emotional experiences. “Tegmoq” and “to touch” represent physical contact only.

In both Uzbek and English, perception verbs describe information obtained through different sensory organs. Both languages have similar semantic structures for perception verbs related to seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. Some English verbs can combine multiple meanings (e.g., “to see” for seeing and understanding), whereas Uzbek tends to have distinct and contextual meanings. Both languages distinguish between active and passive forms of perception verbs.



The structural features of visual cognitive verbs in Uzbek and English involve a comparison of morphological, syntactic, and semantic characteristics of verbs representing seeing and knowing processes. Both languages have a unique verb system to express visual perception, with structural features reflecting various levels of the seeing process.

Below, we will examine the structural characteristics of visual cognitive verbs in these languages:

**Morphological Aspects.** In Uzbek: In Uzbek, verbs, including visual cognitive verbs, acquire various grammatical meanings through affixes:

**Verb base:** The primary verb related to seeing in Uzbek is “ko‘rmoq” (to see). This verb can take on many meanings, such as:

Ko‘z tashlamoq (to take a brief look).

Nigoh tashlamoq (to look attentively at something).

Kuzatmoq (to observe closely over time).

**Affixes:** In Uzbek, verbs change their grammatical aspects, such as tense, person, and voice, through affixes. For example:

Ko‘r-di (past tense),

Ko‘r (present tense),

Ko‘r-ar (present continuous tense).

**In English:** In English, visual cognitive verbs are generally regular or irregular verbs, and their morphological characteristics often depend on verb tense.

**Verb base:** The primary verb related to seeing is “to see,” along with several synonyms:

To glance (to look quickly).

To stare (to look for an extended time).

To observe (to watch attentively).

**Verb changes:** In English, verbs change based on tense and person. For example:

See-saw-seen – (present, past, and past participle forms).

Glance-glanced-glanced – (regular verb change).

**Syntactic Aspects.** In Uzbek: In Uzbek, verbs, including visual cognitive verbs, can be flexible in their position in a sentence. Usually, the verb comes at the end of the sentence:

Men kitobni ko‘rdim – (active construction).

Kitob ko‘rildi – (passive voice).

**Polysemy and Contextual Meanings.** In Uzbek: In Uzbek, visual cognitive verbs often have multiple meanings. For example:

Ko‘rmoq – not only means physical perception but also understanding and acceptance: “Men uni ko‘rdim” (physically seeing) and “Men nima qilayotganingni ko‘ryapman” (understanding).

Ko‘zi ochilmoq – signifies spiritual or intellectual awakening.

**In English:** Many verbs in English also display polysemy:

To see – used not only for physical seeing but also for understanding: “I see” (I understand).

To look – can mean to look, search, or observe.

Metaphorical and Abstract Usage. In both languages, visual cognitive verbs are used metaphorically and in abstract senses. This allows for the cognitive process of seeing to be associated with knowing and understanding.

In Uzbek: The verb ko‘rmoq is often used metaphorically in relation to understanding and comprehension.

In English: To see not only signifies seeing but also understanding.

### Conclusion:

The structural characteristics of visual cognitive verbs in Uzbek and English show significant similarities and differences in terms of morphology, syntax, and semantics. In both languages, these verbs not only represent the physical process of seeing but also encompass cognitive processes such as understanding and comprehension. In Uzbek, verbs primarily change through affixes, while in English, morphological changes are more dependent on tense and person. A comparative approach reveals the unique semantic structures, distinctive features of verbs related to visual perception and cognition in both languages. The cognitive significance of verbs related to seeing in Uzbek and English, their perspectives on perception, and methods of expression have been analyzed, identifying linguistic and cognitive differences. Consequently, the unique cultural and mental aspects of each language are reflected in these verbs. The article serves as a valuable resource for study in the fields of linguistics and cognitive linguistics.

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