

A THEORETICAL STUDY OF PREDICATE EXPRESSION IN UZBEK

Kattaboyeva Dilrabo Kattaboyevna

World Languages University

English Faculty -3, The English Methodology Department

Abstract

This article explores the syntactic and morphological mechanisms involved in the formation of predicates in the Uzbek language. It provides a theoretical analysis distinguishing between verbal and non-verbal predicates, focusing on the roles of head movement and Local Dislocation in predicate expression. Drawing on recent linguistic research and syntactic theory, the paper explains how verbs, nouns, adjectives, and participles function as predicates in Uzbek sentence structures. With detailed examples and references to contemporary linguistic theory, this study contributes to our understanding of predicate syntax in Turkic languages and broader typological patterns in morphosyntax.

Keywords: Uzbek language, predicate formation, verbal predicates, non-verbal predicates, syntax, head movement, Local Dislocation, participial predicates.

Introduction

This article provides an in-depth theoretical analysis of predicate expression in the Uzbek language, focusing on the syntactic and morphological mechanisms that govern verbal and non-verbal predicates. Drawing on recent linguistic research, particularly Gribanova's (2020) study on predicate formation and verb-stranding ellipsis in Uzbek, we explore the structural differences between verbal and non-verbal predicates, the role of head movement and Local Dislocation, and the implications of these mechanisms for understanding predicate formation in Turkic languages.

In Uzbek, as in other Turkic languages, predicates play a central role in sentence structure. The expression of predicates involves complex interactions between syntax, morphology, and prosody. This paper examines the theoretical underpinnings of predicate expression in Uzbek, with a particular focus on verbal and non-verbal predicates, and the syntactic operations that facilitate their formation.

In general linguistics, a predicate is defined as the part of a clause that provides information about the subject and expresses action, state, or existence (Crystal, 2008). According to traditional grammar, the predicate consists of the verb and its complements. However, modern linguistic theories—particularly generative grammar and functional grammar—define the predicate as the semantic and syntactic nucleus of the clause (Carnie, 2013).

From a typological perspective, predicates may be:

1. Verbal predicates
2. Nominal predicates



3. Adjectival predicates

4. Existential predicates

Uzbek demonstrates all of these types, but their formation differs significantly from Indo-European languages due to its agglutinative structure (Comrie, 1989).

Uzbek is characterized by:

- Agglutinative morphology
- Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) word order
- Rich system of tense, aspect, mood, and person agreement
- Extensive use of suffixation

In SOV languages like Uzbek, the predicate typically appears at the end of the clause, which is a defining structural feature (Dixon, 2010).

Example:

Men kitobni o‘qidim.

“I read the book.”

Here, *o‘qidim* (“read-PAST-1SG”) functions as the predicate and appears clause-finally.

Verbal predicates in Uzbek are typically formed through head movement, where the verb moves to a higher syntactic position, such as the aspect projection (AspP). This movement is crucial for the realization of finite verbal forms. For instance, the sentence “Yoz-a-siz” (“You write”) demonstrates the verb “yoz” (“write”) in its finite present tense form, where the verb has undergone head movement to the Asp.

Example:

Yoz-a-siz.

‘You write.’

In this example, the verb “yoz” undergoes head movement to the aspect projection, resulting in the finite form “yoza-siz.” This movement is essential for the verb to carry tense and agreement features.

Non-verbal predicates, such as nominal, adjectival, or postpositional predicates, are formed through a different mechanism known as Local Dislocation. This postsyntactic operation allows for the merger of adjacent morphemes, creating a word-like unit. For example, “Talaba-mas-man” (“I am not a student”) illustrates a non-verbal predicate where “talaba” (“student”) and “mas” (“not”) are merged via Local Dislocation.

Example:

Talaba-mas-man.

‘I am not a student.’

glossa-journal.org

Here, the adjective “talaba” (“student”) and the negation “mas” (“not”) are adjacent and merged into a single word through Local Dislocation, forming a non-verbal predicate.

Participial predicates in Uzbek involve a combination of head movement and Local Dislocation. The verb moves to the aspect projection, and adjacent morphemes are merged to form a complex predicate. For instance, “Yoz-gan-man” (“I have written”) combines the participial form of the verb “yoz” with the first-person singular pronoun “man” through these operations.



Example:

Yoz-gan-man.
'I have written.'

In this example, the verb "yoz" undergoes head movement to the aspect projection, and the participial morpheme "-gan" is merged with the pronoun "man" via Local Dislocation, resulting in a participial predicate.

The formation of predicates in Uzbek involves two primary strategies:

Head Movement: Used for verbal predicates, where the verb moves to a higher syntactic position.

Local Dislocation: Employed for non-verbal predicates, where adjacent morphemes are merged to form a word-like unit.

These strategies reflect the syntactic and morphological complexity of predicate formation in Uzbek and provide insights into the language's syntactic structure.

From a functional grammar perspective (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), the predicate in Uzbek serves three metafunctions:

1. Ideational (representing processes and states)
2. Interpersonal (encoding modality and agreement)
3. Textual (clause-final placement affecting information structure)

Because Uzbek is SOV, the predicate often carries focal or rheme information.

Example:

Men bugun universitetga bordim.
"I went to the university today."

The predicate *bordim* carries new information and concludes the clause.

The study of predicate expression in Uzbek contributes to broader theoretical discussions in linguistics, particularly concerning the nature of head movement and postsyntactic operations.

The distinction between verbal and non-verbal predicate formation in Uzbek offers valuable data for understanding cross-linguistic variation in predicate structure.

This paper has explored the theoretical aspects of predicate expression in the Uzbek language, highlighting the distinct mechanisms involved in verbal and non-verbal predicate formation. By examining these processes, we gain a deeper understanding of the syntactic and morphological intricacies of Uzbek and contribute to the broader field of theoretical linguistics.

References

1. Gribanova, V. (2020). Predicate formation and verb-stranding ellipsis in Uzbek. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 5(1), 1-32. <https://www.glossa-journal.org/article/id/5372/>
2. Kornfilt, J. (1996). *The Syntax of Turkish*. Routledge.
3. Kelepir, M. (2001). *The Syntax of Turkish Nominalizations*. PhD Dissertation, Harvard University.
4. Bobaljik, J. D. (1994). *Inflectional Morphology and the Syntax of Agreement*. PhD Dissertation, MIT.
5. Embick, D., & Noyer, R. (2001). Movement operations after syntax. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 32(4), 555-595.



6. Harley, H. (2013). External arguments and the Mirror Principle. *Lingua*, 130, 1-20.
7. Straughn, K. (2011). *The Syntax of Non-Verbal Predicates in Turkish and Uzbek*. PhD Dissertation, University of Maryland.
8. Sjoberg, A. A. (1963). *Turkish Grammar*. Indiana University Press.
9. K.D Kattaboyevna. (2024) *STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE COMPLEX PREDICATE*. *Web of Teachers: Inderscience Research*
10. K.D Kattaboyevna (2024) *THE TYPOLOGY OF PREDICATES IN MODERN LINGUISTICS-* *Web of Teachers: Inderscience Research*,
11. Chomsky, N. (1995). *The Minimalist Program*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

