

Development of Concepts of the Category of Time in Linguistics

Boltakulova Gulnoza Farruxovna

Associated professor of SamSIFL, Samarkand city, Uzbekistan

Jahongirov Shamsiddin Hotamkulovich

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), at Tajik Pedagogical Institute in Panjakent

ABSTRACT

The article investigates representation of temporal categories in language. Nowadays this topic of great interest in linguistics. Temporal expressions play a crucial role in conveying information about time and help individuals situate events and actions within a specific temporal context. This study aims to explore the cognitive and linguistic characteristics of language units expressing time.

KEYWORDS: *temporal categories, linguistic units, concept of time, the category of time, actions, time-expressions.*

The representation of temporal categories in language is a topic of great interest in linguistics. Temporal expressions play a crucial role in conveying information about time and help individuals situate events and actions within a specific temporal context. In the field of cognitive science, understanding how humans perceive and organize time is of great importance. Considering time is one of the fundamental domains in human experience it has been a broad topic in a broad array of disciplines, such as physics, philosophy, and even in linguistics, due to its crucial role in building communication as a tool of individuals to express their thoughts, emotions, and provide information to others. And in this field, the notion of time is described with temporal expressions to indicate relationships between time and events enabling effective understanding and organization of events in discourse.

The fundamental question standing at hand is to clarify what temporal categories mean in linguistics and its usage in sentences. When the timing of an action is important, there appears a need to use temporal adverbs. Actually, temporal categories in linguistics refer to the grammatical expression and categorization of time in a given language representing how languages encode and conceptualize temporal relationships and events (e.g., “yesterday,” “now,” “tomorrow”). This particular field, temporal categories of adverb, is considered the most discussed part of linguistics. Many scholars investigated and are still investigating this element of adverb to understand and describe its nature of usage in languages.

For instance, A.N. Gvozdev, a Russian linguist and semiotician, proposed a typology of temporal categories in language. According to him, temporal categories can be classified into three main groups (Gvozdev, 1973, p.350):

1. Absolute Temporal Categories: These categories are the most basic and universal concepts of time that exist independent of any specific linguistic or cultural context. They are linked to the physical properties of time, such as the distinction between past, present, and future. Absolute temporal categories are usually expressed in language through tense markers (e.g., past tense, present tense, future tense). Examples:

1. Immediate future: "soon", "shortly", "in a while"

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

Example: "I will be there soon."

2. Near future: "tomorrow", "next week", "next month"

Example: "I have a meeting tomorrow."

3. Simple future: "eventually", "eventually", "in the future"

Example: "She will eventually finish her project."

4. Immediate past: "just", "recently", "a moment ago"

Example: "I have just finished my homework."

5. Near past: "yesterday", "last week", "last month"

Example: "We went on vacation last month."

6. Simple past: "previously", "before", "earlier"

Example: "He previously worked at a different company."

7. Present habit: "always", "usually", "often"

Example: "She always arrives late to class."

8. Present continuous: "currently", "at the moment", "right now"

Example: "I am currently studying for my exam."

9. Present definite duration: "for an hour", "for a month", "for a year"

Example: "They have been traveling for a year."

10. Present indefinite duration: "for a while", "for a long time", "for ages"

Example: "He has been waiting for a while."

2. Relative Temporal Categories: These categories are constructed through the relationship between two or more temporal points. They rely on the speaker's perception of time and can vary across languages and cultures. Relative temporal categories include concepts like simultaneity, posteriority (what comes after), and anteriority (what comes before). They are expressed through markers such as adverbial phrases or verb forms. Examples:

✓ After: Fish and guests smell after three days (Speake, 2003, p.195).

✓ Before: Business before pleasure (Speake, 2003, p.76).

3. Modal Temporal Categories: These categories indicate the speaker's attitude or perspective towards the temporal situation rather than focusing on the objective flow of time. Modal temporal categories encompass concepts like habituality, necessity, intentionality, potentiality, and contingency. They are expressed through modal verbs, adverbs, mood markers, or other modal particles.

Another one of the leading scholars who did noteworthy works in the current discussed subject area is Randolph Quirk. His explanations on temporal adverbs mainly revolve around their usage and meaning in language. And he defined temporal adverbs as words or phrases that indicate the time or frequency of an action or event (Quirk et al., 1982, p. 124).

One of the key points in Quirk's explanations is the distinction between adverbs of definite time and adverbs of indefinite time. In his explanation, adverbs of definite time specify exact moments, such as "yesterday," "tomorrow," or "at 3 o'clock." These adverbs provide a definite temporal reference to an action or event.

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

On the other hand, adverbs of indefinite time express more general time frames or frequency, such as "often," "sometimes," or "rarely." These adverbs do not pinpoint a specific time but rather describe how often or how rarely an action or event occurs.

Quirk's works also emphasizes the importance of context when using temporal adverbs. The choice of a specific adverb can depend on various factors, such as the verb tense used, the overall narrative, or the intended meaning. For example, using the adverb "currently" implies that an action is happening right now, while "usually" suggests a regular or habitual occurrence.

Quirk further discusses the adverbial phrases that can be used to express temporal relationships, such as "in the morning," "during the night," or "for years." These phrases provide additional details about when or for how long an action or event takes place.

In above analysed statements one may understand that while Gvozdev's typology of temporal categories helps in analysing how speakers perceive and conceptualize time, leading to a better understanding of how different languages represent and convey temporal information, Quirk's explanations on temporal adverbs provide insights into their usage and meaning in language, highlighting the importance of both definite and indefinite time expressions and considering contextual factors when choosing the appropriate adverbial form.

Overall, cognitive means of temporal categories in linguistics involve how speakers mentally organize and convey time through various linguistic devices, including tense, aspect, and temporal expressions.

Scholar in linguistics have explored various aspects of temporal expressions, including the grammatical structure, vocabulary, and discourse strategies used to talk about time. In this part of the current work, word construction and discourse analysis of temporal expressions in English and Uzbek languages will be conducted to understand implication of those expressions in each language.

Uzbek Language:

1. Vocabulary: Uzbek language has specific words for different time-related expressions such as "soat" for "hour," "hafta" for "week," "oy" for "month," and "yil" for "year."
2. Grammatical Structure: Uzbek language uses suffixes and particles to indicate time-related information. For instance, the suffix "-da" is used to express the concept of "in, on, at" when specifying a particular time or period, as in "bahorda(fasl)" (in Spring), "bugun" (today), or "shu kunlarda" (daily).

English Language:

1. Vocabulary: English has a wide range of words and phrases to express temporal concepts. For example, words like "hour," "day," "week," "month," and "year" are used to specify different time intervals.
2. Grammatical Structure: English relies on prepositions and adverbs to indicate temporal relationships. Prepositions like "in," "on," and "at" are used to specify specific times or periods, as in "in the morning," "on Monday," or "at noon." Adverbs like "today," "tomorrow," or "yesterday" are used to denote relative time.

Cultural Influences:

1. Uzbek: The cultural context in Uzbekistan plays an important role in the expression of time. For instance, Uzbek society values punctuality, and temporal expressions are considered as important markers for social interaction and planning and this factor has found its reflection mainly in phraseological and paremiological units of Uzbek language.

For instance:

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

- Phraseological unit: Hash-pash → deguncha in a short time (Rakhmatullayev, 1992, p.308)
- Paremiological unit: Avval o'yla, keyin so'yla



Look before you leap (Collis, 1992, p.23)

2. English: Like Uzbek, English language's temporal expressions are influenced by cultural practices and traditions. For example, English-speaking countries often consider time as a precious resource and value promptness, resulting in a variety of idioms and phrases related to time management.

In conclusion, a comprehensive analysis of temporal expressions in Uzbek and English languages requires examining vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural influences. Understanding how each language represents and describes time provides insight into the cultural perspectives and practices related to timekeeping and organization.

REFERENCE LIST

1. Gvozdev, A.N. (1970). *Sovremenniy russkiy literaturniy yazik*. Moskva: Prosvesheniya.
2. Murad, T. (1994). *Fields left by my father*. General Publishing House of Sharq Publishing and Printing Concern Tashkent.
3. Petrash, N.V. (1978). On temporal syntaxemes in the English sentence // "Systematic semantic relations in the language (study on Romano-Germanic linguistics) .
4. Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, J., & Svartvik, J. (1982). *A university grammar of English*.