



THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE GRAMMATICAL SEMANTICS OF THE VERB IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

Kaneva Nazira Mahmadmurodovna

Assistant at the Department of Languages, Levakant International Institute, International
University of Tourism and Entrepreneurship E-mail: nazirakhonkaneva@gmail.com

Abstract: *This article examines the theoretical aspects of the grammatical meaning of the verb in modern linguistics. The author analyzes the grammatical and semantic features of the verb, its main categories, and its role in sentence formation and the expression of semantic relations. The relationship between the lexical and grammatical meanings of the verb within the framework of modern linguistic studies is also discussed. It is emphasized that the verb, as the semantic center of the sentence, plays an important role in expressing thought and organizing speech communication.*

Keywords: *verb, grammatical meaning, linguistics, grammatical category, semantics, tense, person, number, mood, sentence.*

In modern linguistics, the study of parts of speech is considered one of the most important areas of scientific research. Among all parts of speech, the verb occupies a special position because it expresses action, movement, state, and process, and serves as the semantic core of a sentence. The grammatical meaning of the verb is manifested through various grammatical forms that reflect temporal, personal, and modal relations.

The study of the grammatical meaning of the verb is of both theoretical and practical importance for understanding the structure and system of language. In linguistics, the issue of the relationship between the lexical and grammatical meanings of the verb has always attracted the attention of researchers. Therefore, the investigation of works belonging to different genres and historical periods is of considerable value. In order to identify the distinctive features of verb usage from the perspective of morphological characteristics, the verb was comprehensively analyzed with regard to the grammatical categories of aspect, voice, tense, and mood [7, p. 76].

The Tajik scholar S. Halimov notes: "The verb, as a large grammatical class, differs from other parts of speech in the richness of its grammatical categories (morphological features). As an independent class of words, the verb denotes actions, activities, movements, and states of people, animals, and other objects: 'The man stood up from his place' [6, p. 5].

The grammatical categories of verbs in the Tajik and English languages have been the subject of numerous scholarly studies. These investigations focus on both the common and language-specific grammatical features of verbs, as well as on the theoretical and historical aspects of grammatical structure. The study of such categories makes it possible not only to understand the rules governing the use and forms of verbs in each language but also to examine the processes of grammatical development and their relationship with language structure, as well as the formation of semantic and syntactic systems. It should be noted that grammar, as a scientific discipline, deals with the systematic study of



languages and includes their comparison from syntactic and morphological perspectives while taking semantic aspects into account. In linguistics, the term "morphology," introduced in 1859, investigates phenomena related to word inflection and word-formation processes. In English linguistics, morphology is interpreted as the "science of form" and as a system of general principles governing grammatical structure [12, pp. 15-16].

Grammar is one of the fundamental components of language, and without it language cannot be fully understood. It determines the rules according to which meanings and expressions are constructed. For example, the correct use of grammar is essential in academic writing and formal speech because it regulates language use in both written and spoken communication. Syntax, in turn, determines the arrangement of words and phrases in order to form grammatically correct sentences and helps explain how language functions. Therefore, this study focuses on the syntactic analysis of subject and verb usage in writing [8, p. 39]. Syntax concerns the factors that determine how words are combined to form meaningful sentences. For example, in English, the sentence "the boy sees the girl" conveys a meaning different from that of "the girl sees the boy," whereas an expression such as "the the boy girl sees" is not considered a sentence because its structure is incorrect.

In his typological studies, L. Talmy determines whether an element belongs to grammar or lexicon on the basis of whether it belongs to an open or closed class. The second type (constituting the grammatical subsystem) includes inflections, word-forming elements, articles, prepositions, particles, conjunctions, syntactic structures, word order, and intonational contours. A common principle underlying the distinction between "grammatical monemes" (morphemes) and "lexical monemes" (lexemes) is assumed. A. Martinet argues that lexemes belong to an unlimited inventory, whereas grammatical monemes occupy specific positions and combine with only a relatively small number of other monemes [2].

Regarding this issue, Yu. Maslov states: "If a semantic distinction in a language is grammaticalized into a grammatical category, the language cannot fail to express it by some means. In all cases we must use the grammatical categories associated with the relevant words, that is, we must choose one of the grammemes of the category even when the distinction between the relevant meanings is not significant for the content being expressed" [3].

In contemporary linguistics, considerable attention is paid to the study of the verb because it is one of the most important and grammatically and semantically complex parts of speech. As a central component of language and a key element of the sentence, the verb can be investigated from various perspectives, including syntax, morphology, and semantics.

In this study, the verb is considered as a linguistic unit within which semantic and cognitive processes take place and through which meaning is modified. These processes are examined through the framework of Construction Grammar (CxG) and the theory of semantic predicate types. Within these approaches, the predicate is viewed as a grammatical and semantic structure in which cognitive mechanisms operate and



determine new word meanings. In modern linguistics, Construction Grammar is regarded as part of the cognitive linguistic approach [9].

In the teaching of the native language, special attention is given to grammar, which constitutes the structural framework and foundation of language. Grammar develops over time in accordance with the evolution of language itself. Throughout different historical periods, prominent scholars have devoted particular attention to grammar, emphasized adherence to its rules, and sought to improve certain aspects of its system.

N. Ma'sumi classified the system of Tajik verbs as follows: two voices (active and passive), two aspects (simple and continuous), four moods (indicative, conditional-desiderative, imperative, and presumptive), three tenses (past, present, and future), three persons (first, second, and third), and two numbers (singular and plural). However, in the grammatical sketches of the Tajik language, certain differences regarding mood are observed. The author distinguishes three moods-indicative, imperative, and conditional-desiderative-and argues that the presumptive mood does not exist in the Tajik verbal system [5, p. 7]. Consequently, differences are also evident in the category of voice. According to the author, Tajik verbs have four voices rather than two. He additionally includes direct and indirect voices within the category of voice [5, p. 8]. In the grammatical sketches of the Tajik language, most researchers regard direct and indirect voices as subtypes of the passive voice. In other words, they treat these two voices as special forms of action realization within the Tajik verbal system and focus on their functional characteristics, syntactic relations within sentences, and lexical meanings. This approach allows for a more comprehensive grammatical and semantic analysis of verb usage in the Tajik language.

The English linguist R. Robins points out that verb theory is closely connected with the grammatical category of the verb, which forms the basis of sentence structure. It is argued that differences among verb forms at various grammatical levels arise from grammatical rules and from the methods used in verb analysis [11, p. 178]. Consequently, the verb is regarded as an independent lexical class characterized by specific morphological and syntactic features and is therefore classified among the traditional parts of speech [10, p. 636].

The use of grammatical means in the nominal morphological categories in the works of S. Ayni demonstrates a style that combines the general traditions of the living and literary language with the author's own distinctive stylistic features. The same principle and tendency can be observed in his use of verbs [4, p. 248].

In the language of *The Death of the Usurer* (Margi Sudkhur), the frequent use of verbs formed with the prefixes *bar-*, *dar-*, *boz-*, *fur-* and others is characteristic: *bargardondan* (to return), *barkhostan* (to rise), *bozistodan* (to stop), etc. Such verbal forms are commonly used in modern Tajik. At the same time, S. Ayni occasionally employs classical patterns in derived verb forms that were once widespread in the literary language but are no longer common in contemporary usage. This phenomenon is mainly associated with the prefixes *bar-* and *dar-*. Previously, in all verbs formed with these prefixes, they appeared before the verbal particles *na-* and *me-*. For example: "*sadoe barnaomad*" ("no sound was heard"); "*ba tabaqchae ki nazdi ust, barmedorad*" ("he takes from the small



plate beside him"); and "charo onro ba khittai tasarruf darnameovarand" ("why do they not bring it under their control") [1].

Thus, the grammatical meaning of the verb is one of the most important issues in modern linguistics. As the central element of the sentence, the verb serves to express temporal, personal, and semantic relations. The grammatical categories of the verb constitute a primary means of thought formation and linguistic communication. The theoretical study of the verb is therefore of great significance for the development of grammar and contemporary linguistic research.

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