



COMPARATIVE TYPOLOGY OF GRAMMATICAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING TIME IN RUSSIAN AND UZBEK: EVIDENCE FROM PROFESSIONAL TEXTS IN THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the grammatical means of expressing time in Russian and Uzbek, drawing on professional texts from the transport industry. Its significance lies in the identification of structural and semantic differences between the temporal systems of the two languages, which enhances our understanding of the specifics of industry discourse and the mechanisms of translation interpretation.

Keywords: Typology, grammatical tense, aspect, Uzbek language, Russian language, transport industry, professional text, evidentiality

Introduction

Temporal expression is one of the fundamental grammatical categories that organizes the semantic structure of a text. Investigating temporal models in a bilingual comparison not only clarifies typological parameters of languages with different grammatical structures but also illuminates the genre-specific features of instructional, reporting, and regulatory texts. Functional grammar emphasizes that temporality is closely connected with verbal aspect, utterance aspectuality, and the pragmatic orientation of a text [Maslov 1984: 55–58], making its study in professional sublanguages particularly important.

In Russian linguistics, the aspect-centered nature of the verbal system is well documented, with the interaction between perfective and imperfective aspects playing a more decisive role in interpreting tense than mere chronological placement [Bondarko 1991: 102–115]. Accordingly, in professional transport texts, the Russian





present tense is often used as an atemporal, prescriptive form: for instance, “the operator turns on the pump” or “the dispatcher conducts the check,” which express normative actions rather than specific temporal reference [Tolstaya 2002: 64–66]. In reporting documents, the past tense of the perfective aspect predominates, signaling completed events: “the train stopped” or “power outage occurred.” The future tense is mostly found in regulations, describing planned or prescribed procedures. Functional grammar studies further emphasize that it is verbal aspect, rather than tense alone, that determines the degree of event resultativity in official and business discourse [Levin 1998: 40–49].

Uzbek, in contrast, belongs to the agglutinative type and exhibits strongly marked morphological temporality. Researchers of Uzbek grammar stress that temporal meanings are largely formed through affixation and include a developed system of evidentiality, distinguishing between firsthand and indirect knowledge [Rakhmatullaev 1996: 120–129; Khozhiev 2010: 73–80]. For example, the past tense suffix –di indicates factual occurrence, while –kan and –mish encode information obtained from other sources, which is particularly relevant in incident reports: “nosozlik yuz bergan ekan” – “as reported, a malfunction occurred.” The present tense with the affix –(i)ladi is commonly used in instructions and technical descriptions, conveying the permanent normative character of an action: “mashina ishga tushiriladi.” Unlike Russian, where aspect plays a central role, Uzbek employs analytical constructions of repetition and duration, such as –a turadi and –ib turadi, to partially fulfill the aspectual function [Nurmonov 2001: 55–60].

Genre-specific conventions strongly influence the distribution of tense forms, giving rise to what may be described as a secondary grammar of genre. For example, instructional texts in both languages favor the present tense as a normative marker; however, in Russian, it functions as an atemporal present, whereas in Uzbek, it is morphologically marked with –iladi, reinforcing its procedural-passive meaning. In reporting texts, Russian past perfect forms structure chronological sequences, while Uzbek –di and –kan/–mish forms simultaneously indicate the reliability of information. Both languages employ the future tense in regulations, but in Uzbek, it is expressed affixally (–adi / –iladi) and signals formal, obligatory procedures [Turdaliev 2015: 31–35; Abdulloev 2019: 45–53].

Translation presents specific challenges. When translating from Russian into Uzbek, conveying aspectual resultativity is crucial. For instance, the Russian sentence “the system was turned off” must differentiate between the result of the action and agentive passivity, requiring a choice between o‘chdi and o‘chirildi. Conversely, translating from Uzbek into Russian requires representing evidential nuances, as





Russian lacks a grammaticalized evidential category; translators must therefore rely on lexical compensation, using expressions such as “as reported,” “according to available data,” or “according to witnesses.”

Translation challenges:

Aspect transfer (Rus. → Uzb.)

- Russian: the system was turned off
- Uzbek: conveys resultativity either as *sistema o‘chdi* (result) or *o‘chirildi* (agentive passivity)

Evidentiality transfer (Uzb. → Rus.)

- Uzbek: *nosozlik yuz bergan ekan*
- Russian: as reported, a malfunction occurred

The analysis demonstrates that the differences between the two systems are structural:

- Russian is a system with strong aspectual features, where tense and aspect interact;
- Uzbek is a system with pronounced morphological temporality and marked evidentiality.

Genre influence is so significant that a “secondary grammar of genre” emerges: the same tense forms are consistently used with pragmatic functions. This aligns with observations that transferring grammatical meanings from an agglutinative language to a synthetic one necessitates semantic adaptation [Makhmudov 2010: 22–27].

The research corpus includes:

- Operating instructions for transport equipment (Russian/Uzbek);
- Traffic safety regulations (Russian/Uzbek);
- Reports on incidents and accidents;
- Technical descriptions and standards;
- Educational industry manuals.

Methods used:

1. Functional-typological analysis of tense and aspect categories.
2. Corpus analysis with annotation of temporal forms.
3. Contextual analysis of the genre functions of temporal forms.
4. Comparative analysis of translation correspondences.





For each verb, the following were recorded:

- Grammatical tense;
- Aspect (for Russian);
- Evidentiality (for Uzbek);
- Genre function (instruction / report / description / regulation);
- Pragmatic function (prescription, statement of fact, result fixation, description of state).

Results:

Russian language: aspect-temporal perspective

The Russian corpus revealed the following features:

1. The present tense is used in instructions as a “timeless” actual value:
The operator turns on the pump...
Here, the verb expresses a normative action rather than temporal localization [5].
2. The past tense of perfective aspect dominates in reports:
The train stopped... Power outage occurred... It marks the completion of the event.
3. The future tense is rarely used and almost always appears in regulations when a planned procedure is described.
4. The choice of aspect determines the interpretation of the result more strongly than tense itself.

Uzbek language: temporal-morphological model

The Uzbek corpus shows significant differences:

1. Hozirgi zamon (present tense) is used in instructions:
Mashina ishga tushiriladi — “The machine is put into operation.”
The passive form –iladi carries a nuance of normativity [6].
2. O‘tgan zamon (past tense) distinguishes:
 - –di (factive past): marks an event that actually occurred.
 - –kan / –mish (evidential): used in reports when the information is obtained from witnesses [7].
3. Kelasi zamon (future tense) is used in planned documents:
Tekshiruv o‘tkaziladi — “A check will be conducted.”
4. In Uzbek, there is no aspectual opposition, but its function is partially fulfilled by:
 - Lexical means;
 - Iterative affixes –a turadi, –ib turadi;
 - Analytical forms.



The comparative analysis reveals that temporal system differences between Russian and Uzbek are systemic and become particularly evident in professional transport discourse. Russian functions as an aspectually oriented system, where tense and aspect form a functional unity that determines action interpretation. Uzbek, on the other hand, demonstrates morphological temporality and developed evidentiality, enabling high differentiation of information sources. Thus, text genre establishes stable patterns for tense usage, independent of the typological features of the language.

Genre-specific differences:

Genre	Russian	Uzbek
Instructions	Atemporal present	Present –(i)ladi
Reports	Past perfect	Factive –di, Evidential –kan/–mish
Regulations	Future	Future –adi / –iladi
Technical description	Descriptive present	Descriptive present

The practical significance of this study lies in its potential to improve translation quality of industry texts, support the development of specialized corpora, refine machine translation algorithms, and enhance bilingual documentation standards.

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