STRUCTURAL AND PRAGMALINGUISTIC FEATURES OF IMPERATIVE SENTENCES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract. Imperative sentences constitute an important grammatical and communicative category in both English and Uzbek. Although imperative constructions in the two languages share the general function of influencing the addressee's behaviour, they differ considerably in their structural organization and pragmatic realization. The present study investigates the structural and pragmalinguistic features of imperative sentences in English and Uzbek from a comparative and contrastive perspective. Particular attention is paid to the formation of affirmative and negative imperatives, the realization or omission of the subject, imperative verb forms, personal and number markers, politeness strategies, and the influence of social and contextual factors.

Keywords: imperative sentence, imperative mood, English, Uzbek, pragmatics, pragmalinguistics, politeness, comparative linguistics, speech act, translation.

Introduction. Imperative sentences represent one of the major sentence types traditionally distinguished according to their communicative purpose. Together with declarative and interrogative sentences, imperatives form an essential part of the grammatical and communicative system of a language. Their primary function is generally associated with influencing the behaviour of the addressee. However, an imperative construction may perform various communicative functions depending on the linguistic form, social relationship between the interlocutors, situational context, intonation, and communicative intention of the speaker.

In English, imperative constructions are generally characterized by the use of the base form of the verb, with the second-person subject you normally omitted. Thus, constructions such as Come here!, Open the door!, and Listen carefully! have an implicit second-person subject. Negative imperatives are commonly formed with do not/don't, as in Don't touch it! or Don't be late! English also possesses constructions with let, particularly let me and let us/let's, which expand the functional range of imperative structures.

Uzbek, in contrast, has a more extensively marked imperative system. Imperative and optative meanings can be expressed through different verbal forms associated with person, number, and degrees of formality. For example, Kel! expresses a direct informal command, whereas Keling! can express a polite or plural form of address. Similarly, Boraylik! corresponds approximately to Let's go! in English. Such morphological distinctions provide Uzbek speakers with grammatical resources for expressing interpersonal relationships and degrees of politeness.

Structural Features of Imperative Sentences in English. English imperative sentences have a relatively simple and stable structural organization. The basic affirmative imperative is normally formed with the base form of the verb:

✓Come here!
✓Open the window!
✓Listen carefully!
✓Take your book!

The subject of the imperative sentence is normally the second-person pronoun you, but it is not overtly expressed. Therefore, Open the door! can be interpreted structurally as "[You] open the door."

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The omission of the subject is a characteristic feature of English imperatives and is closely related to the communicative function of the construction.

The negative imperative has a different structural pattern. It is generally formed with do not or its contracted form don't followed by the base form of the verb:

✓Do not touch the machine.
✓Don't open the window.
✓Don't be late.
✓Don't forget your homework.

The use of don't makes the negative construction particularly frequent in everyday spoken English. In formal contexts, the full form do not may be preferred.

Another important structural pattern is represented by imperative constructions with let. The construction let me + verb is frequently used when the speaker proposes or requests permission to perform an action:

✓Let me help you.
✓Let me explain the problem.

The construction let us, commonly contracted to let's, is used to express a proposal involving the speaker and the addressee:

✓Let's go home.
✓Let's start the lesson.
✓Let's discuss the problem.

Thus, English imperative constructions are not restricted to direct commands. Their grammatical structure allows them to express proposals, invitations, requests, and other communicative intentions.

English also uses additional elements to modify the pragmatic force of an imperative. Words and expressions such as please, just, do, and don't can affect the interpretation of an imperative:

✓Please, open the window.
✓Just wait here.
✓Do be careful.
✓Don't worry.

The presence of please can reduce the directness of a request, although politeness cannot be determined by this marker alone. Context, intonation, social relations, and the degree of imposition also influence the interpretation of the utterance.

English imperatives can therefore be divided into several structural and functional patterns: affirmative imperatives, negative imperatives, let me constructions, let's constructions, and modified imperatives. Despite these variations, the basic syntactic pattern remains relatively stable.

Another important characteristic is the distinction between formal and informal use. English does not possess a grammatical distinction equivalent to the Uzbek sen/siz opposition. Consequently, the same imperative form may be addressed to a friend, a child, a colleague, or a stranger. Formality is usually expressed through lexical and pragmatic devices rather than through a distinct imperative verb form.

For example, the expressions Come in! and Please come in differ mainly in pragmatic force. The second construction is more explicitly marked as polite, although the first can also function politely when used in an appropriate context.

Structural Features of Imperative Sentences in Uzbek. The Uzbek imperative system demonstrates a greater degree of morphological differentiation than English. Imperative meanings can be

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expressed through verbal forms that reflect distinctions in person and number and can contribute to the expression of formality and interpersonal relationships.

The basic informal singular imperative may be represented by the verb stem:

✓Kel! – Come!
✓Bor! – Go!
✓O‘tir! – Sit down!
✓Kut! – Wait!

These forms are generally associated with the second-person singular and may be used in communication between close friends, family members, or when addressing a person of lower age or status. However, the exact pragmatic interpretation depends on context and interpersonal relations.

The negative imperative is commonly formed through the negative marker -ma:

✓Kelma! – Don't come!
✓Borma! – Don't go!
✓Tegma! – Don't touch!
✓Gapirma! – Don't speak!

Thus, a basic distinction can be observed between affirmative and negative imperative constructions:

Verb stem + imperative meaning
Kel! – Come!
Verb stem + -ma + imperative meaning
Kelma! – – Don't come!

One of the important features of Uzbek imperative constructions is the presence of person and number distinctions. Forms such as -ing/-ingiz can be used to express polite or plural forms of address:

✓Keling! – Come!
✓O‘tiring! – Sit down!
✓Kutib turing! – Please wait!
✓Eshikni oching! – Open the door!

At the same time, Uzbek imperative morphology itself can encode a degree of politeness through forms such as -ing/-ingiz.

Social status, age, and interpersonal relationships strongly influence the choice of imperative form in Uzbek. For example, a younger person addressing an older person would generally select a respectful form such as Keling or O‘tiring, whereas close friends may use Kel or O‘tir. English does not grammatically encode this distinction in the imperative verb itself. Speakers therefore rely more heavily on lexical politeness and contextual strategies.

The analysis demonstrates that imperative sentences constitute an important grammatical and pragmalinguistic category in both English and Uzbek. Although the two languages share the fundamental communicative function of influencing the addressee's actions, their imperative systems differ in structural organization and pragmatic realization.

English imperative constructions are characterized by a relatively stable syntactic pattern based on the base form of the verb. The second-person subject is normally omitted, while negative imperatives are formed with do not/don't. The constructions let me and let's provide additional structural possibilities for expressing requests, proposals, and joint actions. English does not grammatically distinguish between singular and plural or formal and informal addressees through the imperative verb itself.

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Uzbek imperatives demonstrate a more developed morphological system. Person, number, and formality can be reflected in imperative verb forms. The distinction between forms such as kel and keling provides speakers with an important grammatical resource for expressing interpersonal relations. Negative imperatives are commonly formed with -ma, while forms such as -gin, -ing, -sin, and -aylik contribute to the expression of different imperative meanings.

From the pragmalinguistic perspective, imperatives in both languages perform a wide range of functions, including commands, requests, advice, warnings, prohibitions, invitations, encouragement, instructions, and appeals. The communicative force of an imperative depends on contextual factors, including the relationship between the participants, social status, age, degree of familiarity, communicative setting, intonation, and the speaker's intention.

The comparison also indicates that English tends to express politeness through lexical, syntactic, and indirect strategies, whereas Uzbek has an additional grammatical resource for marking politeness through imperative forms. Nevertheless, both languages employ direct and indirect strategies, and in both systems context plays a decisive role in determining pragmatic meaning.

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