

**GRAMMATICAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING PROHIBITION IN
ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

This thesis explores the grammatical means of expressing prohibition in English and Uzbek languages. Prohibition, as a directive speech act, plays an essential role in regulating interpersonal communication. While both languages employ grammatical, lexical, and pragmatic tools to convey prohibitions, the structure, degree of directness, and cultural underpinnings differ significantly. This study focuses on grammatical markers, modal verbs, and negative constructions in both languages, illustrating similarities and differences through authentic examples.

Introduction

Prohibition is one of the most fundamental communicative functions in human interaction. It serves as a tool to prevent certain actions, behaviors, or situations, ensuring social norms and rules are followed. From everyday conversations to official regulations, prohibitions are embedded in language through various grammatical devices. In linguistic terms, prohibition is generally categorized under directive speech acts (Searle, 1979), which aim to influence the actions of the interlocutor. This study investigates the grammatical strategies used to express prohibition in English and Uzbek, providing a comparative perspective that also reflects cultural and pragmatic differences.

Prohibition in English

In English, prohibition is typically conveyed through modal verbs, imperatives, and negative constructions. Common grammatical structures include:

Modal verb + not + base verb:

“You must not enter.”

“Children may not play here.”

Imperative + Do Not / Don't:

“Do not touch the glass.”

“Don't cross the street here.”

Negative periphrastic forms:

“You are not allowed to smoke here.”

“It is forbidden to park in this area.”



The choice of structure often depends on the level of formality and the speaker's authority. For example, legal and official documents prefer “must not” or “may not,” while casual speech more often uses “don’t.”

Prohibition in Uzbek

In Uzbek, prohibition is expressed through specific negative particles, imperative forms, and modal constructions. Key grammatical markers include:

Negative imperative with “-ma/-me”:

“Gapirma!” (Don’t speak!)

“Borma!” (Don’t go!)

Negative particles + modal verbs:

“Bunday qilish lozim emas.” (You shouldn’t do this.)

“Kirish mumkin emas” (It is not allowed to enter.)

Lexicalized prohibitive expressions:

“Ta’qiqlanadi” (It is forbidden)

“Ruxsat etilmaydi” (Not permitted)

Compared to English, Uzbek prohibitions are often more direct in imperative forms, but official contexts also rely heavily on modal and nominalized expressions.

Comparative perspective

Both English and Uzbek employ modal verbs, imperatives, and negation to express prohibition. However, differences emerge in:

Directness: Uzbek frequently uses direct imperatives in spoken language, while English prefers modal verbs in formal contexts.

Morphological marking: Uzbek attaches negative markers directly to verbs, whereas English uses auxiliary verbs or separate negators.

Cultural pragmatics: In Uzbek, direct prohibitions can still be considered polite in certain contexts, while English often softens prohibitions to maintain politeness.

Conclusion

The grammatical means of expressing prohibition in English and Uzbek reveal both structural and cultural distinctions. While the core communicative function remains the same, the linguistic forms reflect different approaches to authority, politeness, and social interaction. A deeper understanding of these differences is valuable for translation studies, intercultural communication, and language teaching.





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