

TENSE AND ASPECT IN ENGLISH VERBS**Abdumalikova Gulhayo Shavkat qizi****Faculty of foreign languages, department of philology and teaching languages:****English, Fergana state university.****Academic supervisor: Xolmatova Elnura****abdumalikovagulhayo0@gmail.com****+998902900511****<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17432119>****Abstract**

This research paper explores the grammatical categories of tense and aspect in English verbs, emphasizing their significance in expressing temporal relations and the internal structure of actions. Tense indicates when an event takes place — in the past, present, or future — while aspect describes the nature of the action, such as whether it is completed, continuous, habitual, or repeated. The article analyzes the main tense-aspect combinations in English, their structural and functional features, and their pragmatic roles in communication. It also provides a comparative analysis of English tense and aspect with those in Uzbek and Russian, highlighting cross-linguistic similarities and differences. Furthermore, the paper discusses pedagogical approaches that help learners acquire and effectively use tense-aspect forms in both spoken and written English. Mastery of tense and aspect enables learners to communicate more accurately, fluently, and naturally.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi fe'llarning zamon va harakatning ko'rinishlari chuqur tahlil qilinadi. Zamon voqea yoki harakatning vaqtini bildirsa (o'tgan, hozirgi yoki kelajak), harakat ko'rinishlari esa ushbu harakatning davomiyligi, takrorlanishi yoki tugallanganligini ko'rsatadi. Maqolada zamon va harakat ko'rinishining asosiy shakllari, ularning grammatik va semantik xususiyatlari hamda nutqdagi funksional o'rni keng yoritilgan. Shuningdek, ingliz tilining zamon va harakat ko'rinishlari tizimi o'zbek va rus tillari bilan taqqoslab o'rganilgan. Bu orqali tillar o'rtasidagi o'xshash va farqli jihatlar aniqlangan. Maqola yakunida til o'rgatishda zamon va aspektni samarali o'rgatishning usullari, interaktiv yondashuvlar va kommunikativ mashg'ulotlar taklif etiladi.

Аннотация

В данной статье подробно анализируются грамматические категории времени и аспекта английских глаголов. Время указывает, когда происходит действие — в прошлом, настоящем или будущем, в то время как аспект описывает его длительность, повторяемость или завершённость. Рассматриваются основные формы времени и аспекта, их грамматические, семантические и прагматические функции. Проводится сопоставительный анализ английской системы времени и аспекта с узбекским и русским языками. В заключение обсуждаются методические рекомендации по эффективному обучению этим категориям в преподавании английского как иностранного языка.

Keywords: tense, aspect, English verbs, time, grammar, continuous, perfect, habitual.**Kalit so'zlar:** zamon, aspekt, ingliz fe'llari, vaqt, grammatika, davomiylik, perfektlik, odatiylik.

Ключевые слова: время, аспект, английские глаголы, грамматика, время, длительность, перфект, повторяемость.

Introduction

Tense and aspect are essential components of English grammar. They provide speakers with tools to express when actions occur and how those actions unfold over time. While tense situates an action temporally, aspect adds layers of meaning that indicate duration, completion, or repetition. This combination allows speakers to express complex relationships between events, making English a language with a rich temporal system.

For non-native learners, tense and aspect are among the most challenging topics. Many learners mistakenly believe that tense alone expresses time. In fact, ***tense + aspect + auxiliary verbs*** work together to form precise temporal meanings. For example, the difference between “I work,” “I am working” and “I have been working” illustrates how aspect alters the meaning beyond tense alone.

Aim:

- Examine the grammatical and semantic properties of tense and aspect in English;
- Explore how tense-aspect combinations function in discourse;
- Compare English with Uzbek and Russian systems;
- Propose pedagogical strategies for effective teaching and learning of tense and aspect.

The concept of tense in English

Tense is a grammatical category that locates actions or states in time. English has three basic tenses:

- **Present Tense** — indicates current actions or habitual events. (*She studies every day.*)
- **Past Tense** — indicates actions completed in the past. (*She studied yesterday.*)
- **Future Tense** — indicates planned or predicted events. (*She will study tomorrow.*)

Unlike many languages with complex inflectional systems, English uses auxiliary verbs and modals (will, shall) to express future tense, and verb endings (-ed) for the past. Present tense is often marked only in the third person singular (-s).

Functions of Tense:

- Locating actions on a timeline
- Establishing temporal relationships between events
- Supporting narrative sequencing
- Expressing speaker attitudes through modality

The concept of aspect in English

Aspect describes the internal temporal structure of an event. English primarily uses **two** aspects:

- **Progressive** (Continuous) — expresses ongoing actions. (*She is reading a book.*)
- **Perfect** — expresses completed actions relevant to another time point. (*She has read the book.*)

English also uses combinations of these aspects, such as Present Perfect Progressive, Past Perfect Progressive, and Future Perfect Progressive.

Functions of aspect:

- Showing whether an action is completed or ongoing
- Indicating repeated or habitual actions
- Creating contrast between simple and complex actions

- Adding subtlety and precision to speech and writing

Tense-aspect combinations

The English tense-aspect system is not strictly limited to three tenses. By combining tense and aspect, English creates a wide range of temporal meanings.

Tense	Aspect	Example	Function
Present	Simple	She works	Habitual/general
Present	Progressive	She is working	Ongoing action
Present	Perfect	She has worked	Completed before now
Past	Simple	She worked	Completed
Past	Progressive	She was working	Ongoing past
Past	Perfect	She had worked	Completed before another past
Future	Simple	She will work	Future event
Future	Progressive	She will be working	Ongoing future
Future	Perfect	She will have worked	Completed before future time
Future	Perfect Progressive	She will have been working	Ongoing up to future time

Comparative analysis with Uzbek and Russian

Uzbek:

- Marks tense with suffixes (-di, -moqda, -ar)
- Aspect expressed through context and analytical forms
- Progressive actions: o'qib turibdi

Russian:

- Strong aspectual system (perfective vs. imperfective)
- Simple tense system (past, present, future)

English:

- Balances tense and aspect systematically
- Uses auxiliary verbs
- Combines tense and aspect to convey precise temporal relations

Pedagogical implications

Effective teaching of tense and aspect involves more than memorizing rules. Learners must understand conceptual time frames and how English expresses them.

Strategies:

- Timelines
- Context-based exercises
- Contrastive analysis
- Communicative tasks

- Error analysis and feedback

The role of aspect in discourse

Aspect plays a crucial role in how stories and events are structured. It can:

- Set background vs. foreground actions
- Indicate shifts in narrative time
- Highlight important events
- Build logical and causal connections

Conclusion

Tense and aspect together form the core of temporal expression in English. Tense tells when an action occurs, while aspect tells how it unfolds. Mastering both allows speakers to communicate temporal relations precisely. For Uzbek and Russian learners, understanding these categories requires contrastive analysis and communicative practice. In teaching, emphasis should be placed on meaning and function.

Developing competence in tense and aspect enhances overall language proficiency, particularly in academic, professional, and intercultural communication.

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