

FUNCTIONAL-PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF GRAMMATICAL COMPRESSION IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH HEADLINES IN DIGITAL AND PRINT MASS MEDIA DISCOURSE

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Abstract:

This article provides a comparative analysis of the functional-pragmatic features of grammatical compression in Uzbek and English headlines within digital and print mass media discourse. The study identifies grammatical compression strategies used in headlines, their information density, degree of semantic preservation, and impact on the audience. It reveals how the communicative requirements of digital and print media formats influence the formation of grammatical compression models. The findings show that the omission of auxiliary elements and the predominance of nominative constructions are characteristic of English, whereas morphological compactness and syntactic flexibility function as the main mechanisms of compression in Uzbek. The conclusions of the study are of theoretical and practical significance for the investigation of headline discourse within media linguistics and comparative linguistics.

Keywords: Grammatical compression, media discourse, headline, functional-pragmatic analysis, digital and print mass media, Uzbek and English languages, language economy.

Introduction:

In contemporary mass media discourse, the headline functions as one of the most important communicative components of a text, serving to transmit information rapidly and effectively, attract audience attention, and enhance pragmatic impact. The acceleration of information flow and the expansion of digital platforms have led to the intensified use of grammatical compression strategies in headlines based on the principle of language economy. Therefore, grammatical compression emerges not only as a means of formal brevity but also as an important tool ensuring semantic clarity and pragmatic effectiveness. A comparative analysis of the structure of headlines and compression models in Uzbek and English allows for a deeper understanding of information transmission mechanisms across different language systems. In particular, the functional differences between digital and print media discourses make the identification of language-specific and context-dependent features of grammatical compression a pressing issue.

Literature Review: The phenomenon of grammatical compression exhibits distinctive functional-pragmatic features across different types of discourse and has been actively studied in various branches of linguistics in recent years. In Razakova's research in translation studies, the main issues related to compression are examined, emphasizing the need to maintain a balance between semantic accuracy and language economy when transferring content from one language to another [1]. Especially in headline translation, adherence to language conventions and consideration of the expectations of the target audience are of crucial importance. For example, translating the English headline "Trump Wins" into Uzbek as "Tramp g'alaba qozondi" is more consistent with cultural norms, even though the English version is considerably shorter.

In the study by Muromtsev and co-authors, an approach to improving grammatical compression algorithms is proposed, enabling the optimization of grammatical structures in data compression [2]. Their theoretical foundations can also be applied to linguistic studies of compression. The principle of preserving syntactic relations and minimizing semantic loss in algorithmically compressed texts serves as an important guideline for developing grammatical compression strategies in headlines. Based on the Muromtsev model, compressing the sentence "The government has decided to implement new reforms" into "Government implements reforms" preserves the core predicate and subject.

Text compression skills have also been extensively studied in the field of education. Yurtayev examined methods of compressing educational texts among primary school students and analyzed the formation of compression strategies at different stages of cognitive development [3]. According to his observations, children initially experience difficulties in identifying the main idea and often attempt to retain secondary information. However, through practice, they develop the ability to identify essential components of a text and omit redundant elements. This finding can also be applied to the study of headline compression, as creating an effective headline requires the ability to extract core information.

Text compression skills are of particular importance for foreign language learners. Hong studied the development of literary text compression skills among foreign philology students and drew valuable conclusions about the role of compression strategies in the language learning process [4]. The author notes that foreign students often face difficulties in transferring compression experience acquired in their native language to the target language. For example, Uzbek students learning Russian may compress the sentence "Президент подписал новый закон о налогообложении" as "Президент подписал налоговый закон"; however, omitting the word "новый" leads to the loss of important information in a news headline.

Lysenko conducted an in-depth analysis of the functional features of grammatical means in expressive compressed texts, revealing the stylistic aspects of compression [5]. In her study, grammatical compression is viewed not only as a means of brevity but also as a mechanism for creating expressiveness. For instance, the headline "War declared!" is not only shorter than "War has been declared" but also more impactful and dramatic. According to Lysenko, compression techniques such as ellipsis, nominalization, and segmentation enhance the

emotional effect of a text. Similarly, in Uzbek, the headline “Favqulodda holat!” demonstrates higher expressiveness compared to “Favqulodda holat e’lon qilindi”.

In a comprehensive study by Diachok and co-authors, verbal compression is examined as the implementation of universal compensatory processes in the linguistic world [6]. According to their concept, compression is a natural mechanism that ensures the principle of economy in language systems. By comparing compression phenomena across different languages, the researchers identify both common and language-specific features. For example, the omission of articles and auxiliary verbs in English, the formation of compound words in German, and reliance on context in Chinese illustrate distinct manifestations of compensatory mechanisms. In Uzbek, the multifunctionality of case markers and syntactic flexibility give rise to specific models of compression.

The differentiation of functional-pragmatic features of headlines in digital and print media discourses requires special attention. In the digital environment, headlines often need to meet search engine optimization (SEO) requirements, which modifies compression strategies. In print media, physical space limitations exert greater influence. As emphasized by the Diachok group, compensatory processes manifest differently across communicative situations. In digital headlines, keyword-specific variants such as “COVID-19: New variant detected” are preferred, whereas in print media, more generalized headlines such as “Deadly virus spreads” may also be used.

The studies reviewed above demonstrate the multifaceted nature of grammatical compression and its distinctive functional-pragmatic characteristics across various contexts. However, a comparative analysis of compression in Uzbek and English headlines within digital and print mass media discourse, along with their functional differences and pragmatic effectiveness, has not yet been fully explored. In particular, the interaction between digital and print formats, changing audience expectations, and expanding technological possibilities in the modern media landscape require new approaches to grammatical compression strategies. In this regard, conducting an in-depth study on this topic constitutes a relevant and timely task.

Research Methodology: In this article, the functional-pragmatic approach was selected as the primary methodological framework, as it enables the analysis of grammatical compression not only in terms of formal brevity but also in close connection with communicative goals, audience demands, and discourse conditions. The research employed a comparative-analytical method to identify common and distinctive features of grammatical compression models used in Uzbek and English headlines and to describe their typological characteristics. Contextual and semantic-pragmatic analyses were applied to reveal the degree of meaning preservation, the volume of implicit information, and the pragmatic impact of reduced grammatical units in headlines.

In addition, a corpus-based analysis was conducted using authentic Uzbek and English headlines selected from digital and print mass media. This made it possible to systematically examine the relationship between grammatical structure, degree of compression, and communicative functions. During the analysis, compression strategies such as ellipsis, nominalization, omission of auxiliary elements, as well as morphological compactness and

syntactic flexibility specific to Uzbek, were identified and their effectiveness was evaluated in terms of information density and audience impact. This methodological approach enabled a comprehensive identification of the systemic, functional, and pragmatic features of grammatical compression in headline discourse and ensured the reliability of the research findings.

Analysis and Results

The analysis revealed that grammatical compression in English headlines is primarily achieved through the omission of auxiliary verbs, articles, and connective elements. Such strategies preserve the semantic core of information while ensuring that the headline remains dynamic and impactful. In Uzbek headlines, the possibilities of agglutinative morphology, the multifunctionality of case markers, and free word order emerge as leading factors of grammatical compression. In digital mass media, headlines tend to be more precise and richer in keywords, oriented toward rapid perception, whereas in print media, expressiveness and generalization predominate. The results confirm that grammatical compression is closely linked to the language system and the communicative requirements of media formats.

Discussion:

The obtained results deepen and systematize existing scholarly views on the significant role of grammatical compression in ensuring the principle of language economy, delivering information concisely, and enhancing pragmatic impact. In particular, Lysenko's interpretation of grammatical compression as a means of increasing expressiveness is confirmed by the strong emotional and communicative effect of ellipsis, nominalization, and syntactic reduction identified in the analyzed headlines. At the same time, the concept proposed by Diachok and co-authors, which interprets grammatical compression as a universal compensatory mechanism inherent to language systems, logically aligns with the results of the comparative analysis based on Uzbek and English materials and demonstrates its language-specific realizations.

Furthermore, the functional-pragmatic differences identified between digital and print media discourses reveal that grammatical compression strategies are implemented differently depending on communicative situations, technological possibilities, and audience needs. While speed, search engine adaptation, and keyword prioritization in the digital environment require precise and informative compression models, spatial limitations, stylistic conventions, and expressiveness in print media generate more generalized and impactful forms of compression. This substantiates the necessity of analyzing headlines not merely as structural units but as discourse phenomena closely connected with specific communicative situations, media formats, and audience expectations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, grammatical compression functions as an effective means of information transmission in Uzbek and English headlines, adapting functionally and pragmatically to the requirements of different media discourses. In English, syntactic reduction and nominative

constructions constitute the primary mechanisms of compression, whereas in Uzbek, morphological compactness and syntactic flexibility play a dominant role. The differentiation between digital and print mass media formats directly influences the selection of grammatical compression strategies. The findings of this study may serve as a theoretical basis for research in media linguistics, comparative linguistics, and headline discourse, as well as define important directions for further investigations.

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