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Reciprocity Of Zeugma In German And Uzbek

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates zeugma as a syntactic and semantic phenomenon in German and Uzbek from a contrastive perspective, with particular attention to its interaction with reciprocity. The traditional description of zeugma exists as a stylistic device which links incompatible meanings through a grammatically correct sentence structure. The research shows that Uzbek zeugma functions through grammaticalized reciprocity and collective action but German zeugma operates through valency conflicts and lexical-semantic distinctions. The research demonstrates that Uzbek zeugmatic constructions use plural and reciprocal morphological markers to create predicate compression and valency expansion through structural-semantic and contrastive and corpus-based analysis methods.

Keywords: Zeugma; reciprocity; syntactic compression; valency; contrastive linguistics; German language; Uzbek language; typology.

INTRODUCTION

Zeugma functions as a particular syntactic structure which linguists study because it brings together elements that share grammatical form while showing different meanings. The classical interpretation of zeugma appears in English and Russian stylistic studies through its definition as a semantic mismatch within a single correct grammatical structure. The two different standards create a situation which leads to "defeated expectancy" and semantic illogicality. N.M.Razinkina explains this concept through her analysis of zeugma which shows how a verb's literal and figurative meanings collide with different semantic fields inside a single syntactic structure.[1,139.] Through these examples it becomes evident that zeugma serves two purposes: it condenses meaning and adds extra practical value to the text.

The Uzbek language presents zeugma through syntactic structures which appear in a highly intricate form. B.N.Turniyazov conducted an analysis which reveals that

zeugma interacts with reciprocity and causativity within the Uzbek linguistic system to produce complex multi-layered structures. The structures combine zeugmatic elements with reciprocal and causative meanings through the use of specific morphological operators including -lar (collectivity), -tir (causativity), and bir-biri (reciprocity).[2,69.] The researcher states that these constructions show both syntactic and derivational complexity because they combine predicate reduction with valency expansion and multiple functional-semantic categories. The processes enable scholars to analyze Uzbek zeugma as both a stylistic device and a fundamental element of syntactic derivation.

Against this background, a comparative analysis of German and Uzbek is of particular scholarly interest. The European linguistic tradition shows that German zeugma mainly occurs through syntactic structures which unite similar sentence elements yet create different semantic interpretations while following standard grammatical

patterns. Uzbek zeugma functions through an agglutinative morphological system which enables it to perform various operations by creating hybrid constructions that combine multiple grammatical categories at once. The two languages exhibit different approaches to zeugma which produces equivalent semantic differences and emerges from unique word-formation processes that base on their specific language structures.

Theoretical Framework of the Study

Zeugma functions as a distinct syntactic compression method which allows one predicate or grammatical component to control multiple syntactically similar but meaningfully different elements. The traditional understanding of this phenomenon views it as a semantic conflict that arises from a properly constructed formal system. The coordinated elements exist in semantic opposition which does not break grammatical rules but creates a sense of semantic friction and multiple possible interpretations.

In German and English, zeugma most frequently manifests itself as a valency conflict, whereby a verb extends its meaning from one complement to another with which it is semantically incompatible. The verb *öffnen* appears in “*Er öffnete das Fenster und seine Gefühle*” to express both its basic and symbolic meanings at once. The sentence “*Sie verlor ihren Regenschirm und die Hoffnung*” shows how one concrete object and one abstract concept fall under the same verb. The sentence “*Der Direktor begrüßte die Gäste und die Möglichkeit zur Zusammenarbeit*” contains a zeugmatic effect because the verb *begrüßen* which usually requires living beings to be present extends its meaning to include an abstract concept. The core function of zeugma operates as a stylistic device which uses semantic contradictions within a fixed syntactic structure.

In Uzbek, zeugma is likewise based on predicate compression; however, it exhibits a number of distinctive features determined by the language’s agglutinative morphological structure. Plural suffixes such as *-lar* and reciprocal constructions (*bir-biriga*, *o‘zaro*) play a crucial role in the formation of reciprocal zeugmatic structures, in which multiple participants are involved in a distributed or mutually oriented action. For instance, in *Talabalar bir-biriga tabassum qilishdi va umid ulashishdi*, reciprocity is created through the shared subject group performing two partially non-equivalent actions within a single predicative framework. In *Hammaniz birgalikda fikr bildirdik va*

xonani ilqlikka to‘ldirdik, reciprocity and collectivity are expressed through the plural marker *-miz*, and the action is conceptually dispersed among the participants. Another example, *Do‘stlar bir-birini qo‘llab-quvvatlab, vaqtdan va shubhalardan voz kechishdi*, illustrates zeugma through the coordination of a literal complement (*shubhalardan* ‘from doubts’) with a contextually metaphorical one (*vaqtdan* ‘from time’).

The German language uses zeugma mostly for expressive stylistic purposes yet Uzbek employs the device to link with reciprocal and collective constructions which gives it both stylistic and structural-semantic functions. The collective and mutual action framework in Uzbek zeugma shapes its derivational mechanisms which enables scholars to study its underlying syntactic and morphological processes beyond its rhetorical function.

Methodology

The methodology of this study integrates syntactic, semantic, and contrastive approaches, with a primary focus on examining the interaction between zeugma and reciprocity.[3,35.] Structural–semantic analysis is applied to identify the predicate that governs multiple dependent elements, to assess the degree of semantic compatibility among these elements, to reveal mechanisms that produce semantic incongruity or meaning shift, and to diagnose the presence of reciprocal markers, such as *bir-biriga*, *o‘zaro*, and plural morphemes (*-lar*) in Uzbek. For example, in the German sentence *Er trug Verantwortung und einen schweren Koffer*, the verb *tragen* is semantically compatible with *Koffer* but metaphorically extended to *Verantwortung*, resulting in a zeugmatic effect, while in Uzbek *O‘quvchilar bir-birini tinglab, darsga va kelajaklariga jiddiy qaradilar* reciprocity is combined with a cognitively oriented action, and semantic heterogeneity arises from the abstract object *kelajaklariga*.

The analysis of reciprocity focuses on the role of morphological and syntactic markers in Uzbek, including plural and collective suffixes (*-lar*, *-miz*) and reciprocal constructions (*bir-biri*, *o‘zaro*), as well as on the ways in which reciprocal action leads to an expansion of predicate valency and becomes integrated into zeugmatic structures. This interaction is illustrated by examples such as *Ular bir-biriga qarab kulishdi va qo‘rqvni unutishdi*, where reciprocity is overtly marked and the predicate *unutishdi* is extended to an abstract object, producing semantic compression.

In German the study of reciprocity emerges through constructions that use *sich gegenseitig* together with *einander* and *miteinander* to explore how reciprocal relationships determine the distribution of a single predicate among multiple objects as shown in *Die Kollegen halfen einander und fanden Geduld* where reciprocal action co-occurs with a semantically shifted complement.

The comparison between German and Uzbek languages requires the use of the contrastive method to study their typological differences which shows that German zeugma functions through syntactic valency conflicts while Uzbek zeugma operates through syntactic-morphological mechanisms which appear primarily in reciprocal constructions.[4,201.] The study of these languages allows researchers to understand how reciprocity affects valency expansion and what triggers zeugma in each language and which structures belong to their specific typological categories.

Empirical validation is ensured through corpus-based analysis drawing on German corpora such as DWDS and DeReKo and Uzbek resources including the Uzbek National Corpus, UzCorpus, and a manually compiled dataset, allowing for the identification of recurrent patterns of zeugmatic usage.

The analysis of each construction focuses on four main aspects: the specific kind of semantic contradiction present, whether reciprocal markers exist or not, the level of predicate compression through derivation, and the differentiation between stylistic and non-stylistic functions.

Comparative Analysis of Zeugmatic and Reciprocal Structures in German and Uzbek

The study of zeugmatic constructions between German and Uzbek reveals two main findings about how these languages create this construction and how their linguistic systems shape its meaning. The main difference between the two languages exists in how they use reciprocity because Uzbek incorporates it as a grammatical element which helps create zeugma while German shows it through words and sentence structure but does not use it as a fundamental grammatical element.

Semantic Nature of Zeugma in the Two Languages

The primary basis for zeugma in German emerges from the combination of valency mismatches and semantic contradictions which occur when multiple objects share one predicate. The construction operates independently of grammatical markers for reciprocity because it establishes reciprocal meaning through lexical-semantic opposition inside a standard syntactic arrangement. The sentence “*Er trug Verantwortung und einen schweren Koffer*” demonstrates how the predicate *tragen* connects a physical item to an abstract concept which creates semantic tension. The text “*Sie öffnete das Fenster und eine neue Perspektive*” uses the same process to transform a physical action into a metaphorical meaning and “*Der Lehrer erklärte die Regel und seinen Unmut*” combines an intellectual object with an emotional state. The stylistic device of zeugma appears in all these examples to create semantic contrasts while preserving the original grammatical structure.

In Uzbek, by contrast, zeugma frequently arises in contexts of collective or reciprocal action, where multiple participants jointly perform actions that are conceptually heterogeneous but unified by a single predicative complex. Plural markers and reciprocal constructions significantly influence predicate structure and often lead to valency expansion. In *Talabalar bir-biriga qarab kulishdi va tashvishlarni unutishdi*, the reciprocal marker *bir-biriga* encodes mutual interaction, while the predicate *unutishdi* is extended to an abstract object, creating a zeugmatic effect. Similarly, in *Mehmonlar birgalikda suhbatlashib, xona va kayfiyatni yorita boshlashdi*, the coordination of a concrete complement (*xona* ‘room’) and a metaphorical one (*kayfiyat* ‘mood’) within a collective action frame results in semantic heterogeneity that is structurally supported by the language’s agglutinative morphology.

The German version of zeugma bases its structure on lexical-semantic differences which create stylistic effects for expressive purposes. The Uzbek version of zeugma emerges from grammaticalized reciprocity and collectivity which results in an advanced structural-semantic organization. The two languages demonstrate different ways to use zeugma because of their linguistic structures.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that in German zeugma functions predominantly as a stylistic device, exploiting semantic incongruity within a stable syntactic structure. In Uzbek, by contrast, zeugma also operates as a structural

component of reciprocal and collective action, interacting with grammatical mechanisms that shape predicate structure and valency.

German expresses reciprocity through lexical elements and syntactic structures which include *einander* and *sich gegenseitig* and *miteinander*. The expression of reciprocity in German lacks influence on verbal valency and it creates only minimal effects when used with zeugmatic structures. The Uzbek language incorporates reciprocity into its grammar system which produces zeugma structures that serve both stylistic and structural-semantic purposes within sentence construction.

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