

Patient Valency of Phraseological Units (Based on The Stories of Isajon Sulton)

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Received: 24 February 2026 Accepted: 20 March 2026 Published: 08 April 2026

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the issue of the formation and expansion of patient valency through the causative form of verbs within Uzbek phraseological units. It is shown that in the semantic structure of causative verbs, it is not the agent as the direct performer of the action, but rather the lexeme in the form of a direct object that appears as a mediating or causative element bringing about the action. As a result, a mismatch arises between the syntactic object and the semantic role, which leads to the activation of patient valency. On the example of the phraseological unit *ko'z oldiga kelmoq* from the text *Hazrat Majoz*, the mechanism by which the causative voice transforms agent valency into patient valency is revealed.

Keywords: Phraseological unit, causative voice, patient valency, agent valency, semantic role, syntactic object, mediating function.

INTRODUCTION

In modern linguistics, the study of lexical-semantic units and the identification of their place and function in language are taking shape as a distinct scholarly direction. In particular, phraseological units occupy a special position as a reflection of the richness of language, national-cultural thinking, and figurative expressiveness. Phraseological units are widely used to express the emotional, expressive, and cultural layers of language, and their functional potential is directly connected with the grammatical system.

Phraseological units are syntactically stable and semantically integral, and they perform specific functions within a sentence. Their grammatical role in sentence structure and their ability to connect with other units are related to the concept of valency. In linguistics, the term valency was first introduced by the German linguist L. Tesnière and began to be used as a term denoting the syntactic force of a verb, that is, its capacity to govern and connect other units. In analyzing sentence structure, he

took the verb as the basis of the sentence. This originated from the verbocentric theory, according to which the predicate expressed by the verb determines sentence structure. He divided all sentence elements into dependent and free parts according to their relation to the valency of the verbal predicate.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

Although the theory of valency initially dealt only with the combinatory possibilities of lexical units, later it came to encompass units of other language levels as well. The concept of valency also began to be applied to morphemic and syntactic level units [1]. Phraseological units, like lexemes, occupy a similar position within the system of language. Therefore, they too participate in valency relations like lexemes. During the years of independence, as in all branches of linguistics, increased attention was paid to the study of phraseology, and the issue of phraseological valency also began to attract the attention of researchers. In particular, Sh. Rahmatullayev conducted

research on the combinability of verbal phraseological units [2], while Q.Hakimov studied the combinability of phraseological units.

In linguistics, phraseological valency is understood as the grammatical and semantic potential of phraseological units to connect with other language units in a sentence, that is, their syntactic position, semantic roles, and contextual adaptability. This concept is an application of the general theory of valency to phraseological units and is directly related to what sentence components phraseological units combine with, what syntactic function they perform, and in what contexts they are used [3].

Phraseological units usually consist of fixed structures, and the relations among their constituents are solidified within the internal structure. However, these expressions also participate in the general sentence structure in a particular syntactic role. Therefore, their valency properties — that is, the components with which they may combine — are determined on the basis of grammatical compatibility and semantic requirements.

For example, the phraseological unit *tili uzun* may function in a predicative position and combine with a subject: *Uning tili uzun* (“He/She is sharp-tongued”). In this case, the phraseological unit appears as a monovalent unit, that is, a structural unit requiring one participant. In other cases, for example, the expression *ko‘ngli tog‘dek* may be bivalent: *Onaning ko‘ngli tog‘dek edi* (“The mother’s heart was as vast as a mountain”). Here, the expression forms a semantic connection between the possessor (whose?) and the predicative part (in what state?) [4].

A specific feature of phraseological valency is that, despite their internal structural integrity, phraseological units are capable of adapting to external context within a sentence. When they participate as sentence elements, they reveal their positional possibilities: for example, they may function as subject, object, predicate, attribute, or adverbial modifier. In such cases, phraseological units meet valency requirements through morphological form, word order, and syntactic integration.

RESULTS

The patient valency of phraseological units emerges through the addition of a causative marker to the verb within the phraseological unit. The semantic structure of a verb in the causative form possesses a specific valency

model in which it is not the agent — the direct performer of the action — but rather the lexeme in the form of a direct object that serves as a mediating person or object in bringing about the action. In this case, the direct object does not appear as a traditional syntactic object; instead, it functions as an instrument or causative element in the realization of the action. Therefore, in causative verbs, the potential for filling patient valency is broader than that for filling agent valency, and the mediating function acquires primary importance in the semantic structure of the verb.

In other words, the causative form grammatically sidelines the external causer of the action (the agent), while the actual realization of the action is actualized through the person or object functioning as the complement. This leads to an incomplete correspondence between syntactic role and semantic role, that is, the formal object becomes semantically shaped as an instrument, causer, or action-triggering element. As a result, causative verbs require an additional semantic position — a mediating function — in their valency potential, thereby creating the basis for the expansion of patient valency.

Consider the following example:

Vaholanki, aql uning fotosintez jarayoni uchun zarur xlorofill moddasi tufayli yashil tusga ega ekanini, karbonat angidridan nafas olishini va kislorod chiqarishini, unda titrab turgan tomchi aslida ikkita vodorod va bitta kislorod atomining g‘ayrioddiy qudrat ila birlashuvidan iboratligini hamda o‘simlik hujayralari ichida sodir bo‘layotgan boshqa turli-tuman jarayonlarning barini ko‘z oldimizga keltirib qo‘ysa-da, u hosil qiladigan ma‘no adabiyot hosil qiladigan ma‘nodan anchayin zaifdir. (Hazrat Majoz)

In this passage, the phraseological unit *ko‘z oldiga kelmoq* (“to come before one’s eyes / to come to mind”) is used, and its agent valency is filled by the word *aql* (“mind”), while its patient valency is filled through the word *barini* (“all of it”). In this case, the shift of the phraseological verb from the simple voice to the causative voice transforms agent valency into patient valency.

CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that causative verbs within phraseological units alter the traditional agent–patient relationship by bringing the direct object into the central semantic position in the realization of the action. As a result, a unit that appears formally as an object becomes

semantically a mediator, a causer, or a participant actualizing the action.

It was determined that the causative form weakens agent valency in phraseological units and expands patient valency, while also bringing the dominance of the mediating function to the forefront of the verb's semantic structure. This confirms that there is not always a full correspondence between syntactic roles and semantic roles, and that valency relations in phraseological units are more complex than in ordinary verbal combinations.

On the example of the phraseological unit *ko'z oldiga kelmoq* in *Hazrat Majoz*, it was proven that the causative verb transforms an action oriented toward the agent into a cognitive process realized through the patient. This demonstrates that the category of voice in phraseological units is not merely a grammatical phenomenon but also carries a deep semantic and pragmatic load.

In general, the activation of patient valency through the causative form in phraseological units expands the semantic-syntactic possibilities of the Uzbek phraseological system and provides an important scholarly basis for the integration of valency theory with phraseology.

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