

Economy and Redundancy in English and Uzbek language development: A cognitive Perspective

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Abstract:

Language development is shaped by the dynamic interplay of two opposing yet complementary forces: economy and redundancy. While economy minimizes linguistic effort and enhances communicative efficiency, redundancy reinforces semantic clarity and cognitive accessibility. This study investigates how these forces operate in English and Uzbek languages, using cognitive linguistic frameworks—specifically prototype theory and frame semantics—to explore their structural and conceptual manifestations.

A qualitative, comparative linguistic approach was employed. The study analyzed literary texts, lexical choices, and syntactic patterns in English and Uzbek, focusing on how cognitive mechanisms influence language structure and use. Prototype theory was applied to examine how typical lexical representations guide communicative efficiency, while frame semantics provided insight into how redundancy supports meaning construction within conceptual frameworks.

Findings reveal that English tends to exhibit syntactic redundancy, particularly in literary and formal discourse, enhancing stylistic depth and clarity. Uzbek, on the other hand, demonstrates morphological economy through agglutinative structures that reduce syntactic complexity. In both languages, speakers prefer prototypical lexical items for their cognitive accessibility, promoting ease of communication. Examples from both modern and classical texts illustrate how redundancy serves rhetorical and cognitive functions, while economy simplifies interaction.

The study concludes that economy and redundancy function as vital cognitive strategies that shape the evolution of English and Uzbek. Prototype-driven lexical selection and frame-based semantic

reinforcement reflect deep cognitive adaptations within each language. Understanding this interplay provides a more nuanced view of how languages develop communicative precision while preserving richness of expression.

Keywords: Language Economy, Redundancy, Cognitive Linguistics, Prototype Theory, Frame Semantics, Uzbek, English

Introduction

Language development is a process marked by competing forces—economy and redundancy. Economy, the principle of minimizing linguistic effort, drives syntactic and lexical efficiency, while redundancy ensures clarity and cognitive accessibility. In English and Uzbek, these forces manifest distinctly, influenced by cognitive models such as prototype theory and frame semantics [1]. Prototype theory explains how language users categorize and retrieve words based on typical representations of concepts. Frame semantics, introduced by Fillmore, suggests that words gain meaning within structured conceptual frameworks. The interplay of these cognitive principles shapes economy and redundancy in both languages, affecting vocabulary structure, grammatical preferences, and stylistic tendencies in literary texts. This paper explores how cognitive mechanisms influence English and Uzbek language evolution, integrating insights from linguistic studies and literature to illustrate how speakers navigate efficiency and expressive richness in communication [2].

Methods

Linguistic economy and redundancy serve distinct yet complementary roles in language evolution. Economy fosters efficiency in communication, reducing unnecessary elements to streamline meaning. Redundancy, on the other hand, enhances cognitive accessibility, aiding comprehension by reinforcing meaning through repetition, synonyms, and syntactic structures [3]. The cognitive balance between these forces plays a crucial role in shaping English and Uzbek language development.

Prototype theory suggests that humans categorize words based on central, highly representative examples rather than strict definitional boundaries. This principle influences lexical economy in both English and Uzbek, as speakers tend to favor prototypical words over peripheral alternatives. For instance, in English, the word *bird* is often associated with common species like robins or sparrows, while rarer birds like penguins are seen as exceptions despite belonging to the same category [4]. Uzbek similarly employs prototypical lexemes to enhance communicative efficiency. The word *gul* (flower) is primarily linked to roses or tulips, whereas more exotic plants are described with additional qualifiers to clarify meaning. Musinovna highlights how prototype theory influences Uzbek language development, noting that speakers naturally adopt the most cognitively accessible terms in daily communication [5]. This aligns with Budagov's assertion that language economy is not merely a structural phenomenon but a cognitive adaptation that simplifies interaction. For example, speakers tend to select words that are most cognitively accessible, favoring frequent or prototypical terms rather than rarer, complex alternatives [6]. In English, for example the term *car* is more commonly used than *automobile*, even though both words describe the same concept. The shorter, more frequent word minimizes cognitive effort during communication [7-8]. Whereas, in Uzbek the word *kitob* (book) is preferred over more specific descriptors like *ensiklopediya* (encyclopedia), simplifying interaction by using a broadly understood term.

Results and Discussion

Redundancy in language is often perceived as unnecessary repetition, yet cognitive linguistics highlights its vital function in literary and everyday discourse. Frame semantics, developed by Fillmore, explains how meaning arises within conceptual structures—frames—where lexical

redundancy aids comprehension. For example, in classical English literature, Shakespeare frequently employs redundant phrasing to reinforce emotional depth [9-10]. In "Romeo and Juliet", the phrase "O happy dagger!" employs lexical repetition to enhance dramatic intensity [11-12]. Uzbek literature similarly utilizes redundancy for stylistic richness, particularly in poetry, where synonymous pairs are used to create rhythm and emphasize meaning. Both English and Uzbek exhibit varying degrees of economy and redundancy at the morphological and syntactic levels. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, utilizes suffixation to convey meaning compactly, exemplifying morphological economy. English, on the other hand, often relies on phrasal structures, which can introduce redundancy while maintaining clarity [13-14].

According to Eshkobilova, Uzbek morphology streamlines meaning through suffixation, minimizing the need for auxiliary words. The verb *kelmoqda* (is coming) encapsulates tense and aspect within a single word, reducing syntactic complexity. Similarly, Rasulov argues that Uzbek's morphologically economical approach facilitates cognitive processing, aligning with the principle of linguistic economy in language evolution [15].

English syntax frequently demonstrates redundancy, particularly in formal and literary contexts. Polivanov discusses how auxiliary verbs and determiners increase linguistic clarity but introduce repetition. For instance, *I will go* requires an auxiliary verb that could be omitted in an economy-driven system. Literary texts also highlight syntactic redundancy for rhetorical effect. Shakespeare's *Hamlet* uses extended clauses and repetition to reinforce themes, illustrating Filippova's assertion that redundancy serves stylistic and cognitive functions in discourse.

Conclusion

The dynamic interplay between economy and redundancy in English and Uzbek language development underscores the intricate balance between linguistic efficiency and cognitive accessibility. Prototype theory illustrates how lexical economy facilitates categorization and retrieval, while frame semantics highlights redundancy's role in reinforcing meaning within structured conceptual frames. From morphological economy in Uzbek to syntactic redundancy in English, both languages reveal distinct cognitive adaptations that shape linguistic evolution. Literary examples further demonstrate how redundancy enriches expression, supporting stylistic and cognitive depth. As language continues to evolve, understanding these mechanisms through cognitive linguistic frameworks offers valuable insights into communication efficiency and meaning construction.

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