

Functional and Stylistic Features of Nominative Sentences in English and Uzbek Discourse

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Abstract

This article examines the functional and stylistic features of nominative sentences in English and Uzbek discourse. The study focuses on how nominal one-member constructions operate as stylistic re-sources rather than treating them merely as structurally reduced sentences. A comparative qualitative analysis is applied to representative examples from literary, journalistic, conversational, official and advertising discourse. The analysis demonstrates that nominative sentences may perform several related functions: scene-setting, foregrounding, informational compression, descriptive visualization, emotional intensification, rhythmic organization, headline-style condensation and discourse segmentation. Their stylistic effect is closely connected with discourse position, lexical choice, expansion of the nominal nucleus, punctuation, repetition and surrounding context. English and Uzbek share a broad functional potential, but its realization differs because of their grammatical and discourse-organizational resources. English makes extensive use of determiners, fixed constituent patterns and punctuation, while Uzbek permits greater nominal flexibility and uses agglutinative morphology to encode relations within expanded nominal structures. The article argues that the stylistic interpretation of nominative sentences should be based on the interaction of structural form, discourse type and communicative context.

Keywords: Nominative sentence, nominal sentence, one-member sentence, stylistics, discourse, functional style, foregrounding, compression, expressiveness, English, Uzbek, comparative analysis.

Introduction

ФУНКЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ И СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ НОМИНАТИВНЫХ ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЙ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ДИСКУРСЕ

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Аннотация

В статье исследуются функциональные и стилистические особенности назывных предложений в английском и узбекском дискурсе. Назывные конструкции рассматриваются не только как структурно неполные или безглагольные образования, но и как самостоятельные стилистические средства. На материале репрезентативных примеров из художественного, публицистического, разговорного, официального и рекламного дискурса проводится качественный сопоставительный анализ. Установлено, что назывные предложения выполняют функции создания фона и сцены, выдвижения информации, компрессии, образной характеристики, эмоционального усиления, ритмической организации, заголовочной конденсации и членения дискурса. Английский и узбекский языки обладают сходным функциональным потенциалом, однако способы его реализации различаются вследствие особенностей грамматического строя и организации дискурса.

Ключевые слова: назывное предложение, именное предложение, односоставное предложение, стилистика, дискурс, функциональный стиль, выдвижение, компрессия, экспрессивность, английский язык, узбекский язык, сопоставительный анализ.

INGLIZ VA O‘ZBEK DISKURSIDA ATOV GAPLARNING FUNKSIONAL VA STILISTIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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Annotatsiya

Maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek diskursida atov gaplarning funksional va stilistik xususiyatlari tadqiq etiladi. Atov gaplar faqat struktur jihatdan qisqargan yoki fe‘lsiz birliklar sifatida emas, balki mustaqil stilistik vosita sifatida tahlil qilinadi. Badiiy, publitsistik, so‘zlashuv, rasmiy va reklama diskurslaridan olingan reprezentativ misollar asosida qiyosiy sifat tahlili amalga oshiriladi. Tahlil atov gaplarning manzara va vaziyatni yaratish, axborotni oldinga chiqarish, informatsiyani ixchamlashtirish, tasviriylikni kuchaytirish, emotsional ta’sirni oshirish, ritmik tashkil etish, sarlavha mazmunini kondensatsiyalash hamda diskursni qismlarga ajratish kabi vazifalarni bajarishini ko‘rsatadi. Har ikki tilda funksional imkoniyatlar umumiy bo‘lsa-da, ularning yuzaga chiqish usullari grammatik va diskursiv xususiyatlarga ko‘ra farqlanadi.

Kalit so‘zlar. atov gap, nominativ gap, bir bosh bo‘lakli gap, stilistika, diskurs, funksional uslub, aktualizatsiya, ixchamlik, ekspressivlik, ingliz tili, o‘zbek tili, qiyosiy tahlil.

INTRODUCTION

Nominative sentences are among the most economical syntactic forms used in discourse. A nominal unit such as “Night.”, “Silence.” or “An empty street.” may occupy the position of a complete utterance and produce a communicative effect that is not reducible to the lexical meaning of the noun itself. In literary writing, such constructions can open a scene, interrupt a narrative sequence, create a pause or foreground a perceptual detail. In journalism they can condense

information, while in advertising they can increase memorability and visual impact. Their stylistic significance therefore depends on the interaction between grammatical form and discourse function.

In Uzbek, *atov gaplar* are traditionally described as one-member sentences whose principal component is a noun or substantivized unit naming an object, phenomenon, time, place or state. In English-language research, related phenomena are discussed under terms such as nominative sentence, nominal sentence, verbless sentence and verbless clause. The terminological field is broader in English because not every verbless construction is equivalent to an Uzbek *atov gap*. A functional-stylistic study consequently requires a restricted operational definition and attention to context.

Existing research supports the stylistic relevance of verbless and nominative constructions. A recent study of modern English describes nominative sentences as independent one-member units and associates them with linguistic economy, sensory immediacy and emotional emphasis in literary, journalistic, conversational and advertising discourse [8]. Earlier research has also examined verbless clauses as stylistic markers in literary texts [9] and as devices of condensation, particularly in written language [10]. Comparative work on English and Uzbek verbless constructions reports similar communicative functions alongside differences in structural realization [11].

The purpose of this article is to identify the principal functional and stylistic roles of nominative sentences in English and Uzbek discourse and to compare the means by which these roles are realized. The study addresses four questions: what discourse functions are associated with nominative sentences; how does their stylistic effect vary across discourse types; which formal features strengthen their stylistic impact; and what similarities and differences emerge between English and Uzbek?

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The analysis is grounded in the functional view of language, according to which grammatical choices are connected with the organization of experience, information and interaction. Halliday and Matthiessen emphasize that linguistic form cannot be fully interpreted without considering the functions it performs in context [4]. From a stylistic perspective, Leech and Short treat foregrounding, deviation, parallelism and other formal choices as resources through which texts create distinctive effects [5]. These principles are applicable to nominative sentences because their stylistic value frequently arises from a deliberate shift from ordinary finite clauses to nominal structures.

Foregrounding is especially useful for analysis. When a text shifts from ordinary finite clauses to a sequence of nominal sentences, the change in syntactic pattern itself becomes perceptually salient. Compare the neutral sequence “The street was empty. It was silent. It was dark.” with “An empty street. Silence. Darkness.” The second pattern reduces explicit predication but increases segmentation and visual immediacy. The reader is invited to perceive separate details as discrete units.

Not every noun phrase should be classified as a nominative sentence. English contains verbless clauses dependent on a larger clause, while headlines and labels may have special discourse conventions [1–3]. The present study therefore focuses on nominal constructions that function

independently in their local discourse context and are interpreted as complete communicative units.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs comparative, descriptive, functional-stylistic and contextual methods. The data are treated qualitatively. Representative English and Uzbek examples are organized according to literary, journalistic, conversational, official/institutional and advertising discourse. These categories are used to reveal recurring functional tendencies rather than to establish numerical frequency.

The analysis considers five stylistic parameters: discourse position, degree of nominal expansion, lexical-semantic content, repetition and parallelism, and punctuation/graphic segmentation. For each example, the formal pattern is identified first; its discourse function is then described; finally, its stylistic effect is interpreted in relation to the surrounding context. The same procedure is applied to English and Uzbek examples.

The examples are illustrative analytical examples rather than a statistically balanced corpus. They demonstrate functional tendencies and are not used to make quantitative claims about frequency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. SCENE-SETTING AND DESCRIPTIVE VISUALIZATION

One of the most recognizable functions of nominative sentences is the establishment of a scene. A nominal construction can present a setting before the narrative action begins: "A deserted station. A cold platform. No passengers." The sequence presents visual details successively and creates pauses between them. The reader receives the scene as a series of perceptual units.

A comparable effect is available in Uzbek: "Kimsasiz bekat. Sovuq platforma. Hech kim yo'q." ("A deserted station. A cold platform. Nobody there.") The first two nominative units establish spatial and visual coordinates. In both languages, the descriptive function is strengthened when nominal units are arranged in a chain. This can contribute to atmosphere, suspense or emotional distance.

2. INFORMATIONAL COMPRESSION AND ECONOMY

Nominative sentences can compress information by removing repeated predicative material. Instead of "There was a long queue. There was a broken ticket machine. There was a security guard at the entrance," a text may use "A long queue. A broken ticket machine. A security guard at the entrance." The nominal sequence preserves referential content while eliminating repetitive grammatical material.

The same mechanism can operate in Uzbek: "Uzun navbat. Ishlamayotgan chipta apparati. Kirishda qo'riqchi." ("A long queue. A ticket machine that was not working. A guard at the entrance.") The stylistic effect is connected with economy and information density. Compression also changes rhythm and can increase the perceptual weight of individual details.

3. FOREGROUNDING AND EMPHASIS

Nominative sentences can foreground an element by isolating it syntactically. Consider: "The meeting ended. Silence." The second sentence gives the state of silence independent textual space.

A corresponding Uzbek sequence is “Majlis tugadi. Sukunat.” In both cases, the nominal sentence becomes prominent because it is separated from the preceding clause and receives its own prosodic and graphic boundary.

Foregrounding is particularly strong when a noun with high semantic salience is isolated after a longer sentence: “They waited for hours in the corridor, listening for footsteps. Footsteps.” A comparable Uzbek pattern is “Ular yo‘lakda soatlab kutishdi. Qadam tovushlari.” Context determines whether the isolated noun is neutral or emphatic.

4. EMOTIONAL AND EXPRESSIVE FUNCTIONS

Nominal sentences can intensify emotional expression because they reduce the distance between perception and linguistic representation. “A storm. Again.” contains less explicit grammatical information than “There was another storm,” but the compressed pattern can sound more immediate. Uzbek can employ a comparable pattern: “Yana bo‘ron.” or “Bo‘ron. Yana bo‘ron.” The exact emotion—surprise, frustration, fear or anticipation—depends on context.

Expressiveness is also strengthened by lexical selection. Concrete nouns such as “darkness,” “silence,” “fire,” “snow” and their Uzbek equivalents may acquire strong stylistic force when isolated. This is not an inherent property of the grammatical category but an interaction between lexical semantics, discourse position and syntactic presentation.

5. RHYTHM, PARALLELISM AND TEXTUAL SEGMENTATION

A sequence of nominative sentences can create a rhythmic pattern through repetition of a similar syntactic structure: “Morning. Coffee. Emails. Meetings.” Uzbek allows an analogous sequence: “Tong. Qahva. Elektron xatlar. Yig‘ilishlar.” The parallel one-word units produce a compressed rhythm and can represent routine or repeated activity.

Longer parallel structures can intensify the effect: “A crowded room. A restless audience. A difficult question.” / “Gavjum xona. Bezovta auditoriya. Murakkab savol.” Repeated nominal patterns create cohesion without conjunctions. Punctuation is part of this organization: full stops create stronger separation than commas, while dashes can signal a more abrupt shift.

6. FUNCTIONAL-STYLISTIC DISTRIBUTION ACROSS DISCOURSE TYPES

Table 1. Functional-stylistic distribution of nominative sentences in English and Uzbek discourse

Discourse type	Typical function	English example	Uzbek example
Literary	Scene-setting, atmosphere, foregrounding	A dark room. Silence.	Qorong‘i xona. Sukunat.
Journalistic	Compression, headline-style focus	Election day. High turnout.	Saylov kuni. Yuqori faollik.
Conversational	Immediate naming, reaction, emphasis	What a mess. Monday.	Qanday tartibsizlik. Dushanba.
Official/institutional	Categorization, sectioning, labels	Application deadline. 30 June.	Ariza topshirish muddati. 30-iyun.
Advertising	Memorability, emphasis, brevity	Fresh taste. Every morning.	Yangi ta‘m. Har tong.

The table shows that the same formal construction can serve different stylistic purposes depending on discourse type. In literary discourse, scene-setting and foregrounding are prominent. In journalism, compression and information focus are useful. Conversation favors immediacy and reaction, while official discourse can use nominal forms for headings, categories and document labels. Advertising exploits brevity, repetition and memorability. These are functional tendencies rather than exclusive rules.

English and Uzbek display comparable functional ranges, but their formal realization is not identical. English often relies on articles, determiner contrasts and relatively stable noun-phrase patterns. Uzbek can express dense nominal relations through agglutinative morphology and can organize attributes within flexible nominal structures. The stylistic function therefore emerges from the interaction of a shared communicative strategy with language-specific grammar.

7. EXPANSION, REPETITION AND STYLISTIC INTENSITY

The stylistic force of a nominative sentence is affected by its degree of expansion. A bare noun produces maximal formal economy: "Silence." An expanded phrase gives greater descriptive specificity: "Complete silence in the empty hall." A sequence can combine density with intensity: "A silent hall. Empty chairs. Cold light." The effect is created by accumulation of nominal structures.

Repetition provides another resource. "Rain. Rain everywhere." or "Sukunat. Hamma joyda sukunat." repeats the semantic nucleus while altering its scope. Such repetition may signal persistence or intensification. Parallelism can likewise create cohesion: "A difficult morning. A difficult decision. A difficult goodbye." / "Og'ir tong. Og'ir qaror. Og'ir xayrlashuv."

8. CROSS-LINGUISTIC SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

The comparison indicates four major shared features: English and Uzbek use nominative sentences to foreground referents; both exploit nominal constructions for scene-setting and descriptive economy; repetition and parallelism can increase rhythmic and expressive effects; and interpretation depends substantially on discourse context.

Differences mainly concern the grammatical resources through which stylistic effects are realized. English makes frequent use of articles, determiner contrasts, relatively stable noun-phrase order and punctuation. Uzbek lacks an article system equivalent to English and can use case and possessive morphology inside expanded nominal structures. Uzbek word order also permits discourse-sensitive variation.

Another difference concerns the boundary between nominative sentences and other verbless forms. English has a large set of verbless clauses that may be dependent on a main clause, whereas Uzbek grammatical description more directly identifies *atov gaplar* as a one-member sentence type. Comparative analysis must preserve language-specific category boundaries while comparing shared functional effects.

Table 2. Major functional and stylistic correspondences

Stylistic function	English realization	Uzbek realization
Scene-setting	Nominal sequence + punctuation	Nominal sequence + contextual ordering
Compression	Determined/expanded noun phrases	Expanded nominal groups with morphological marking
Foregrounding	Isolation, repetition, full stops	Isolation, repetition, full stops
Expressiveness	Lexical salience + short units	Lexical salience + short units
Rhythm	Parallel noun phrases	Parallel noun phrases
Headline/label effect	Condensed noun phrases	Condensed noun phrases

CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that nominative sentences in English and Uzbek have substantial functional and stylistic potential. Their contribution to discourse is not limited to naming an entity. Depending on context, they can establish a scene, compress information, foreground a referent, intensify emotion, organize rhythm, create parallelism and segment a text into perceptually salient units.

The comparison demonstrates that stylistic function is produced through the interaction of syntactic form, lexical choice, discourse position, punctuation and repetition. English and Uzbek share broad stylistic mechanisms, but their realization is conditioned by the grammatical resources of each language. English relies strongly on determiner systems, noun-phrase organization and punctuation, while Uzbek makes greater use of morphological marking and discourse-sensitive nominal organization.

A central methodological conclusion is that the stylistic value of an atov gap cannot be determined from form alone. The same nominal structure can be neutral in one context and highly expressive in another. Future research can therefore combine structural analysis with discourse context and, where possible, corpus-based quantitative evidence.

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