

Comparative Analysis of Verbs of Perception in English and Turkish

Amirova Nigora Saidgani kizi

PhD student, Tashkent state university of oriental studies

Abstract: the article is devoted to the comparative studies of structural and typological peculiarities of verbs of perceptive semantics of the English and Turkish languages representing the basic means of perception. On the base of the five types of perception: visual, auditory, gustatory and tactile, there are three groups of verbs of perception – active, passive and copulative ones in lexical-semantic field of perception.

Key words: perception, verb, method of perception, analytical constructions, language universal.

Introduction

Among the processes involved in the working of information, a significant place belongs to the sense perception, which provides the person with basic information about the world around him. According to Sekuler and Blake, perception is a biological process wherein the brain derives descriptions of objects and events in the world, using information gathered by the senses [1, p.152].

Verb is the most complicated unity of lexical system of language, its dominant and central figure. Every language has a way of referring to basic sources of sensory perception: through sight, through hearing, through smell, through taste and through touch. Verbs of perception denote the reflection by the human consciousness of the external environment, properties and objects of the external world [2, p.124]. Ruzin defines them as perceptual modi [3, p.54].

The Main Results and Findings

It is necessary to distinguish: perception as a real fact, compatible with speech; perception as a real fact incompatible with speech; perception as a memory; perception as imagination [4, p.18]. The kernel of the field of perception is made up of verbs that designate perception as a real fact compatible and incompatible with speech.

According to Muraveva, «the main criterion for classifying verbs as perceptual is not the ability to designate - the fact of observation, but the ability to be used in the reproductive register of speech, that is, in the actual process time» [5, p. 16].

Mustajoki divides the verbs of perception into active (*to listen, to see, to smell / dinlemek, bakmak, koklamak*) and passive (*to hear, to see, to feel / işitmek, görmek, kokmak*). «Only active verbs can indicate the extraction of information» [6, p.159].

Viberg adds to the third group of verbs of perception named copulative verbs [7, p.139]. The paradigm of basic perception verbs that makes the object of our study is exemplified below, using Oxford English Dictionary [8, 6400 p.] and The Big Turkish Dictionary [9, 2523 p.] as the source for our research.

The process of perception is dual process, involving both the act of perception itself (*to look*) and its result (*to see*). In the first case, the value of the object of perception is sometimes irrelevant. In the synchronous realization of the process of perception lies its main difference. It is extremely rare to see, but to see nothing. This dual nature of the process of perception is reflected in the level of all modes of perception and is a language universal. The third universal (copulative) could recognize the presence of a verb characterizing the action of an object emitting its own signals for the perceptor.

Visual perception	
to look	bakmak
to glance	göz atmak
to notice	fark etmek
to make out, to discern	ayırt etmek
to peep	dikizlemek
to survey	muayene etmek
to see	görmek
to watch, to see, to observe	gözetlemek

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to look around	bakınmak
to contemplate	seyretmek
to stare	gözünü dikmek
to look	görünmek

In both languages there are three kernel verbs of visual perception. In English, verbs of visual perception are separate lexemes, whereas in Turkish one can speak of two types of verbal analytic structures: 1) verbal nouns with a noun indicating the organ of sight *göz / eye* creating idioms *göz atmak, gözünü dikmek*; 2) verb-infinitive forms which are composed of the related words to the organ of sight such as *bakış/glance, görüş/sight, dikiz/peek, gözetim/supervision* adding suffixes of extended stems (-*ış, -dir, -ir, -it, -in*) [10, pp. 143-157] or suffixes that attach to nominal to form verbs [11, pp. 56-57] (*eylem yapan ekler*) [12, pp.300-304]; 3) verbal phrases consisting of the nouns which means function of the organ of sight – *muayene/inspection, seyir/watching, fark/difference, ayırt/distinction* and the auxiliary verb *etmek*.

Hearing perception	
to hear	işitmek
to catch	duymak
to listen	dinlemek
to overhear	kulak misafiri olmak
to catch, to pick up, to locate	duymak
to listen	dinlemek
to heed	kulak vermek
to know	öğrenmek
to sound	duyulmak
to be heard	sesi gelmek
to ring out	çalmak

In both languages, auditory perception expresses full-valued kernel lexemes. Verbs of auditory perception figure in the English language, and in the Turkish language, besides these kind of verbs (*işitmek, dinlemek*), there are verbal nouns with a noun indicating the organ of hearing *kulak / ear* and the perceptual signal word of hearing *ses / sound* creating idioms *kulak misafiri olmak, kulak vermek, sesi gelmek*. Moreover, there are the verbs formed from the nouns (*duyu/sense, duyu/sensation=duymak, öğ(akıl) / mind(intelligence)=öğrenmek*) which are not directly connected to the organ of hearing [13, p. 248].

Olfactory perception	
to sniff, to smell	koklamak
to inhale	nefes çekmek
to inhale	içine çekmek
to smell	kokusunu almak
to feel	(burnu) koku almak
to partake of	(tadını) tatmak
to smell	kokmak
to be fragrant	hoş bir koku neşretmek
to smell, to scent	koklamak
to breathe	esmek
to reek (of), to stink (of)	pis kokmak
to exhale	nefes vermek

In English, the verb *to smell* can mean: *koklamak, kokusunu almak, kokmak*, i.e. there is no distinction between the action of perception and the act of perception itself. In the Turkish language, such differentiation is possible due to verbal noun constructions with a noun denoting the generic concept of the perceptual signal *koku/odour* creating compound verbs and the verbal types formed from this noun. There are also the compounds consisting of the noun which defines the action of breathe – *nefes/ breath* and regular verbs creating idioms.

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Tactile perception	
to feel, to palpate, to grope	ellemek
to touch	değmek, dokunmak
to feel	duymak, hissetmek
to have sensation	hissetmek
to sense	duymak
to feel	duyulmak

In English, the verb *to feel* can mean: ellemek, duymak, hissetmek, duyulmak, express the action of perception and the very act of perception. In English, the verbs of kinesthetic perception are separate lexemes to palpate, to feel, whereas in the Turkish language, the main part of tactile verbs consist of the word which means the perceptual signal – *duyu/sense* and *his/feeling*. However, the active verb is composed from the organ of touching – *el/hand* adding suffix that attach to nominal to form verbs.

Gustatory perception	
to taste, to try, to sample	tadına bakmak, denemek
to taste, to try, to partake	(tadını) tatmak
to taste, to degustate, to degust	gurme yapmak, çeşniye bakmak
to taste	tat almak
to taste	tadı olmak

In English, the verb *to taste* can mean: tatmak, tadına bakmak, tat almak, tadı olmak i.e. the range of its meanings includes both perception actions, the act of perception itself, and the emission of the corresponding perceptual signals. In English, individual verbs express different aspects of taste perception.

In the Turkish language there are also 90% of gustatory verbs made of the taste signal word *tat/taste* creating idioms with regular verbs.

To sum up, there are the kernel lexemes of verbs of perception illustrated on the following table:

Sensory modality	Passive	Active	Copulative
<i>Vision</i>	see	look/watch	look
	görmek	bakmak	görünmek
<i>Hearing</i>	hear	listen	sound
	işitmek	dinlemek	duyulmak
<i>Olfactory</i>	smell	smell	smell
	kokusunu almak	koklamak	kokmak
<i>Tactile</i>	feel	feel/touch	feel
	duymak/hissetmek	ellemek/dokunmak	duyulmak
<i>Gustatory</i>	taste	taste	taste
	tat almak	tadına bakmak	tadı olmak

Thus, the isomorphism of two languages consists in the presence of verbal means of representation of the triple nature of the process of perception. In addition, there is the verb (*feel/duymak*) in both languages, which can be used not only among its own type of verbs of perception (*tactile perception*) but also in another type: in English, *feel* might be used for olfactory (*feel – burnu koku almak*) whereas, in Turkish, it could mean hearing perception (*duymak – catch*). Allomorphism of languages is explained by their structural and typological features.

Conclusion

English is characterized by the presence of full-valued verbal lexemes, polyfunctional polysemy which allows the expression of various aspects of the process of perception of one token depending on the context. In conclusion, all types of verbs of perception are '*bidirectional*' (Rojo and Valenzuela used this term to verbs of perception in Spanish) besides *hearing*. Moreover, three of them, *olfactory*, *tactile* (partly) and *gustatory* perception, are '*tridirectional*' [14, p.483].

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The Turkish language abounds with verbal-nominal and verbal-gerundial constructions, in which there are nouns that designate the generic concepts of the perceptual signal *duyu/sense*, *tat/taste*, *koku/odour* or organ of perception *göz/eye*, *kulak/ear*. Differentiation of the aspects of perception is often due to the semantics of the suffixes of extended stems and the suffixes that attach to nominal to form verbs, in addition, combined with the auxiliary verb *etmek* or regular verbs.

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