

On Syncretic and Polyfunctional Properties of Uzbek and English Participles



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ABSTRACT: This research aims at studying syncretic properties of participles, and exploring their polyfunctional realization. It is a comparative study of participles in Uzbek and English languages, that belong to different language families, the Altaic and the Indo-European correspondingly, and perhaps, therefore, the studied units in Uzbek are contextually oriented, and in English, they are inherently oriented. The research employs a qualitative method using comparative and componential analyses. The samples in the study are taken from written sources. The findings of the research proves that participles, as being non-finite forms of the verb and therefore considered syncretic units, perform various functions depending on the context they occur. This polyfunctional realization is characteristic to the both languages, although, several functions of participles in the one language are different from participles in the other language.

KEY WORDS: Syncretism, Polyfunctional, Non-Finite, Deranked, A Participle, A Converb, An Absolute Tense, A Relative Tense, A Present Participle, A Past Participle, A Future Participle.

INTRODUCTION

In linguistics, syncretism and polyfunctionality associate with the integrity of form+meaning+function that any language unit contains. Syncretism of linguistic units is related to the semantic structure, and it is the realization of several semes by means of the same form. Polyfunctionality is the result of realization of one or another property of a certain syncretic linguistic unit in the process of speech, or a semantic context.

A participle, a functional form of the verb, modifies a noun or a noun phrase and syntactically functions as an attribute or a predicative of the sentence as an adjective. It is known that the difference between this non-finite form and the adjective is the participle modifies a noun from the viewpoint of a process or a state as the verb and the adjective modifies from the viewpoint of a property.

As it is known, non-finite forms of the verbs are such units of a language, which possess properties of verbs, and of other certain word classes, for instance, infinitives have properties of verbs and nouns, participles have features of verbs and adjectives. It means that these units are syncretic and therefore, they perform more than one function in different contexts.

Participles possess a relative tense and an absolute tense of the clause refers to the predicate of this clause. It means that in a sentence with a past predicate we can use past, present and future participles in Uzbek and past and present ones in English. Moreover, these forms can be used in sentences with present or future predicates.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Participle and its types

According to *Glossary of Linguistics Terms*, a participle is a lexical item, derived from a verb, that has some of the characteristics and functions of both verbs and adjectives. Crystal (2008:351) defines a participle in the following way: "A traditional grammatical term referring to a word derived from a verb and used as an adjective". Haspelmath (1994:152) refers to the earlier work of Crystal and outlines the term as following: "Participles are best defined as verbal adjectives, i.e. words behave like adjectives with respect to morphology and external syntax, but regularly derived from verbs". Shagal, who studies participles typologically as a dissertation, states that participles are morphosyntactically deranked verb forms that can be employed for adnominal modification (Shagal, 2017:1). The Russian encyclopaedic linguistic dictionary (1990:399) gives the definition of a participle: "a non-finite form of the verb denoting a feature of names (of a person, an object) related to an action and used as an attribute". Giniyatullina et al (2017:1278) state: "Participle is a non-finite form of the verb which expresses characteristics of a subject according to its action." According to Mengliev (1996:16), functions of a participle are conjugating a verb to a noun (sometimes to another verb) and giving this verb a property of an adjective.

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A participle functions as an attribute in the sentence. Participles function like adjectives in that they modify the head noun with which they are combined (Haspelmath, 1994:153). The participle form of the verb is a lexeme-form proper to an adjectivised word and linked with a noun (Rahmatullaev, 2010:25).

Moreover, the term “participle” is used instead of the term “converb” as it given by several Western researchers (Fox, 1983; König&van der Auwera, 1990) because in some languages participles are used as adverbs.

According to Haspelmath (he states that it was adopted from Lehmann 1984:152), there are inherently oriented participles, i.e. the participle marker specifies its orientation, and contextually oriented participles, which their orientation is clear only from their syntactic context (1994:154). Shagal (2017:39) utters that inherently oriented participles are participles whose each form can be used to modify only one particular participant of the verb. Contextually oriented participles are the same participial form functioning for relativizing several participants of the verb. He also affirms that participles of the European type are inherently oriented. In Mongolic, Turkic, Nakh-Daghestanian and Dravidian languages, participles can be contextually oriented (Shagal, 2017:17).

In the Uzbek language, there are different opinions on classifying types of participles. Although several researches claim that participles are divided into three types according to their tense: a past participle, a present participle and a future participle (Mirzaev et al, 1962; Rahmatullaev, 2010:192); there are studies stating that these tenses are not absolute, but relative (Hojiev, 1973; Rahmatullaev, 2010)

In many researches, a word form, which is called a present participle, is considered to be made up by an affix *-yotgan*. This affix is originated from the combination a converb ending *-a/y* and an independent word *yotgan* which denoted the present tense and it became a dependent morpheme (Rahmatullaev, 2010:192).

There are such viewpoints about a future or present-future tense ending *-digan* in the Uzbek language. This ending also arose from the combination of a converb ending *-a/y* and an independent word *turgan*. Consequently, one dependent unit and one independent unit integrated and became to function as one dependent morpheme

In the English language a participle is divided into two types in accordance with its tense: a present participle and a past participle (Quirk et al., 1972:39; The American Heritage Book of English Usage: 24). Mingazova et al (2018:271) compare English and Arabic participles and state: “English possesses two participles – Participle I and Participle II, which are characterized by the following features: voice (active and passive), aspect (indefinite and perfect), tense (present and past); they comply with direct and indirect objects, are modified by adverbs”. However, the researchers Comrie and Thompson (2007) argue that any non-finite form of a verb has a relative tense depending on the tense of the whole clause in which the tense is considered absolute.

Haspelmath also differentiates two types of participles: active and passive participles (1994:153).

Syncretism and Polyfunctionality

In linguistics, there are several researches that study syncretism and polyfunctionality in different aspects and of various units. Gvishiani (1979) investigates polyfunctional words in language and speech. Reformatskiy (1996) explores polyfunctionality comparing it to its similar phenomenon syncretism. Ganieva (2011, 2018, 2019) also studies syncretism and polyfunctionality comparatively. Shapa and Mardarenko (2009), investigating polyfunctionality of participles, state that polyfunctionality, due to the expansion of compatibility options, as well as morphological and syntactic changes, leads to certain semantic shifts, to a change in the volume of the semantic structure of lexical units. Minca (2010) studies functions and context differences of the *-ing* participle and the gerund. Kabanova (2011) highlights that because of polyfunctionality of participles, in a clause, they function as different parts of sentence from verbs and adjectives. Machova (2015) explores polyfunctionality of English modals from the diachronic perspective. Ganieva (2016) studies syncretism in phraseological units. Shagal (2017) emphasizes that in many languages, forms employed for adnominal modification and traditionally referred to as participles appear to be extremely polyfunctional. Dobroradnykh (2018) states that her “...study is aimed at revealing how *-ing* forms behave in the media and how their polyfunctional nature is used for fulfilling tasks of the discourse in question.” Iskandarova and Ashurov (2020) discuss syncretic characteristics of phrasemes from the viewpoint of linguaculturology.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The samples for this research are taken from the works of the present-day English and Uzbek authors, also, there are several ones from the web. The methodology of the study is qualitative, including comparative and functional-componential analyses.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Despite the fact that the suffixes *-ing* and *-ed* are considered as the participle endings, the *-ed* is used to form a past participle of regular verbs only, a different rule applies for irregular verbs: their past participle is formed by altering the root of the word:

- (1) By the way, since you are interested in these little problems, and since you are good enough to chronicle one or two of my trifling experiences, you may be interested in this. (A.C.Doyle)
- (2) Tiresome old red-nosed imbecile! (J.Joyce)

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- (3) Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike; he had a pleasant countenance, and easy, unaffected manners (J.Austin)

A participle formed by *-ing* ending functions as a lexeme, which modifies a word following it:

- (4) Hence, you see, my double deduction that you had been out in vile weather, and that you had a particularly malignant boot-slitting specimen of the London slavey. (A.C.Doyle)
- (5) And his sisters are charming women. (J.Austin)

In the above sentences the words *boot-slitting* and *charming* modify the nouns specimen and women that follow them respectively.

Moreover, a participle denoting a property of the subject can be substantivised:

- (6) I remarked, "the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process (A.C.Doyle)
- (7) In understanding, Darcy was the superior. (J.Austin)

There are such adjectives with the *-ing* ending in Modern English although they originated from verbs etymologically and are in the form of a participle, the contemporary English considers them as adjectives:

- (8) I have nothing to say against him; he is a most interesting young man; and if he had the fortune he ought to have, I should think you could not do better. (J.Austin)
- (9) "I think you will find," said Sherlock Holmes, "that you will play for a higher stake to-night than you have ever done yet, and that the play will be more exciting. (A.C.Doyle)

In these sentences, the property of a verb of the words *exciting* and *interesting* and the property of an adjective fused and though the roots of such words had been verbs, at present they are acknowledged as adjectives.

Moreover, although participles with this ending are used as a naming unit and modify the nouns following them, differ functionally:

- (10) Mrs. Honeychurch left her letter on the writing table and moved towards her young acquaintance. (E.Forster)

The word combination *writing table* in the sentence above should mean a table which is writing, however, the modifier of the word combination received the naming function and the combination means a table for writing.

- (11) Then something resembling a little grey snake, about the thickness of a walking stick, coiled up out of the writhing middle, and wriggled in the air towards me and then another. (G.Wells)

In this sentence, the word combination *walking stick* does not mean a stick that is walking, but a stick for walking.

Furthermore, a participle formed by the *-ing* ending can be used as a relative clause after a noun and functions as an attribute in the sentence:

- (12) I have an inspector and two officers waiting at the front door (A.C.Doyle)

The word *waiting* in the sentence above is modifying noun-word combinations an inspector and two officers.

The participle form being investigated can have a similar function in forms of the phrase **there+to be**:

- (13) There are three men waiting for him at the door," said Holmes (A.C.Doyle)

Another function peculiar to a participle with *-ing* ending is that it makes up continuous forms of the verb with the help of auxiliary verbs. In this case, the auxiliary verb preceding a present participle determines the tense of a sentence or clause:

- (14) O, I am thinking about that song, The Lass of Auldhrim (J.Joyce)
- (15) Lydia—the humiliation, the misery she was bringing on them all, soon swallowed up every private care. (J.Austin)
- (16) You will be having a charming mother-in-law, indeed; and, of course, she will always be at Pemberley with you (J.Austin)
- (17) In September, she will have been living in France for a year.

Moreover, an *-ing* participle is used with verbs of perception as *see, hear, feel, listen to, look at, notice, observe, overhear, perceive, smell, spot, watch* and expresses a perceived action:

- (18) And she was afterwards seen walking into Hyde Park in company with Flora Millar. (A.C.Doyle)
- (19) Mr. Collins, however, was not discouraged from speaking again, and Mr. Darcy's contempt seemed abundantly increasing with the length of his second speech (J.Austin)
- (20) P. Dunne, railway porter, stated that as the train was about to start he observed a woman attempting to cross the lines. (J.Joyce)

Furthermore, as it was stated above¹, there are participles that function as converbs in English. There are various views in this issue, in many researches and web sites purposing teaching the English language *-ing* forms used in contexts as the followings are considered participles:

- (21) "Yes," he continued, glancing out of the window (A.C.Doyle)

¹Haspelmath, 1994. Passive Participles across Languages. In *Typological studies in language*. P.153.

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In this sentence, it is considered that the word *glancing* is a participle, because it is connected to the subject *he*. However, this word with the *-ing* ending is regarded as a modifier of the verb (continued) in languages claiming that a converb exists. We can observe such an attitude in the Uzbek equivalent of this sentence:

(22) “Ha”, derazadan tashqariga qaragancha davom etdi u.

Although in the sentence above the word *qaragancha* is the translation form of *glancing*, it is considered as a converb because of its ending *-gancha* which is one of the endings that form converbs in the Uzbek language.

Another type of a participle in English is formed by the ending *-ed* in regular verbs and by changing a root in irregular verbs and therefore it is preferred by the author to generally call it a **past participle**.

Like adjectives, a past participle denotes an attribute of a following noun:

(23) They attacked him in various ways—with **barefaced** questions, ingenious suppositions, and distant surmises. (J.Austin)

(24) At his fall the guardsmen took to their heels in one direction and the loungers in the other, while a number of **better-dressed** people, who had watched the scuffle without taking part in it, crowded into help the lady and to attend to the injured man. (A.C.Doyle)

Furthermore, in some cases, a noun following this participle may be omitted and functions of being an attribute and an object (or a person) are integrated, a function of being an object may become primary, in other words, this participle may become substantivized:

(25) There’s little doubt that **The Chosen** will soon become one of the most well-known and celebrated pieces of Christian media in history. (From the Web).

Moreover, there are several past participles, which have become adjectives in the Modern English because of certain changes in the language development:

(26) These were the condemned men, due to be hanged within the next week or two. (Orwell)

The word *condemned* in the sentence is originated from the verb *condemn* etymologically, contemporary English dictionaries present it as an adjective:

“**condemned** adjective. A condemned is someone who is going to be killed, especially as a punishment for having committed a very serious crime, such as murder.” (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/condemned>)

(27) Holmes twisted himself round upon the sofa to get a fairer view of the man’s excited face. (A.C.Doyle)

Although the root of the word *excited* is formerly the verb *excite*, it is determined as an adjective by modern English dictionaries:

“ex·cit·ed (ĭk-sī’tĭd)adj.

1. Being in a state of excitement; emotionally aroused; stirred.

2. Physics Being at an energy level higher than the ground state.” (<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/excited>)

Another function of a past participle is that it is used instead of a subordinate clause after a noun within a compound sentence and functions as a determiner-attribute:

(28) And that was how a great scandal threatened to affect the kingdom of Bohemia, and how the best plans of Mr.Sherlock Holmes were beaten by a woman’s wit. (A.C.Doyle)

In this sentence, the participle *threatened* interprets a preceding noun construction with the word *scandal*.

The ending *-ed* functions to make up perfect tense forms when it is used after an auxiliary verb to **have** and one can find out the tense of a clause according to the tense of a **have** form:

(29) Not handsome enough to dance with! I wish you had been there, my dear, to have given him one of your set-downs. I quite detest the man. (J.Austin)

(30) For the years, he felt, had not quenched his soul or hers. (J.Joyce)

(31) By the time that their sailing-ship reaches Savannah the mail-boat will have carried this letter. (A.C.Doyle)

Furthermore, a past participle is considered a form to assist on making up passive forms of verbs:

(32) Miss Bennet was therefore established as a sweet girl, and their brother felt authorized by such commendation to think of her as he chose. (J.Austin)

(33) The blinds would be drawn down and Aunt Kate would be sitting beside him, crying and blowing her nose and telling him how Julia had died. (J.Joyce)

Like a present participle, this form of a participle is also used as a converb in the Uzbek language:

(34) As he spoke, he left the room, fatigued with the raptures of his wife. (J.Austin)

An article presented in the website thoughtco.com discusses a past participle and can indicate past, present, and future meanings referring to "Essentials of English: A Practical Handbook Covering All the Rules of English Grammar and Writing Style." These samples also show that a tense in participle forms is not absolute, but relative:

(35) Thus deceived, he will be outraged. [Both actions are in the future]

(36) Baffled by your attitude, I cannot help you. [Both actions are in the present]

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(37) Baffled by your attitude, I could not help you. [Both actions in the past] (<https://www.thoughtco.com/past-participle-1691592>)

The aforementioned cases indicate that past participles in the English language are polyfunctional.

The ending *-gan* is the most productive affix in the Uzbek language. Semantically, it combines senses of a property and a tense and distinctly manifests one of them within a context. Moreover, this affix possesses the meaning of past tense relatively. In other words, *-gan* functions as making up a past participle form in Uzbek.

(38) Keyin shipillagan qadam tovushlarini eshitib, boshini ko'tardi (U.Hoshimov)

In (38) the participle *shipillagan* integrates the senses of property and tense, however, the sense of property is realized more distinctly. The sense of tense is very weak, not obvious.

(39) Hozirgi yoshlar faqat uzi tanlagan qizga uylanadi (Kh.Tukhtaboev)

In (39) the participle *tanlagan* also indicates the meaning of property more obviously; however, here one can notice the sense of past tense from the word.

The sense of participles becomes the primary one when two forms of participles are used in the sentence:

(40) Majlisga oldinroq kelgan qatnashchilar bu yoqqa utishsin, endi keladigan khodimlar esa orqa qatorda utirishadi (D.Abdukodirova)

In (40) the two participles are used which are made up from one verb root plus two affixes denoting two tenses (*kelgan* and *keladigan*). Since they are used together in one sentence, are opposed to each other and this opposition is related to the meaning of tense within these affixes, the participle endings *-gan* and *-digan* function to manifest the sense of tense more distinctly, although they integrate both the sense of property and the sense of the tense.

Additionally, a participle formed by the ending *-gan* receives conjugation affixes and functions to make up a verb form, which is used as a predicate. In such cases the sense of time, that is the past tense, becomes a primary sense, the sense of property completely drops behind:

(41) Egasiga tortganmi, bilmayman! (T.Murod)

(42) Uz yoghida qovrilib yurgan Manzura buni "Uyingizni soghingandirsiz?" degan ma'noda tushunib, yengil seskandi (T.Malik).

In (41) and (42) the verb forms made up by the *-gan* ending (*tortganmi*, *soghingandirsiz*) are finite forms, which are supposed to be a predicate. In such cases, this ending is regarded as a tense indicator.

Besides, the *-gan* affix is used with defective verbs and, also functions as a predicative verb:

(43) Yuragi qaynab turgan ughillarining yashirincha chiqishlarini esa khayoliga ham keltirmagan edi (T.Malik).

Moreover, an affix *-lik* which forms abstract nouns in Uzbek can be added to a participle stem with the *-gan* ending and make up a substantivized noun. In this case, such a derivative is often used with possessive endings:

(44) Yuldoshkhonning ichiga joylashib olgan shayton esa: "Siringni ochma, qayerdan olganligingni aytma...", deb shivirlagan edi. (Kh.Tukhtaboev)

In (44) the word *olganligingni* is formed by adding an abstract noun-forming affix *-lik* and possessive endings to the participle stem *olgan*.

The observed usages of a participle with the *-gan* ending approve that this participle form is a polyfunctional, polysemantic, in other words, syncretic unit in the Uzbek language.

Another type of the participle in the Uzbek language is formed by an ending *-yotgan* and is called a present participle. Like a past participle, it is a syncretic form which integrates the senses of property and tense. If the sense of property leads within participles with the *-gan* ending, both the senses of property and tense are manifested in a mixed state within this participle form and defining which one is leading is rather problematic:

(45) Yuldoshkhon Oysuluv bilan raqs tushayotgan yigitni yomon kurib ketyapti (Kh.Tukhtaboev).

In (45) the participle with the *-yotgan* ending (*tushayotgan*) is used, the finite verb (*yomon kurib ketyapti*) indicates the present tense. If this sentence is compared with the *-gan* participle as follows

(46) Yuldoshkhon Oysuluv bilan raqs tushgan yigitni yomon kurib ketyapti,

there one can realize the action expressed by the *-gan* participle occurs before the action which expressed by the predicative form. It is related to the tense of the finite verb; being in the present tense, this finite verb causes to manifest the senses of property and tense in the integrated way.

A participle with the *-yotgan* ending can be substantivized like all other participles. In this case the participle is declined by case, possessive and plural endings peculiar to nouns, and also syntactically functions as a subject, an object and an adverbial modifier within a sentence:

(47) Uyga yetib olishiga hali fursat bulsa-da, ayriqlik kunlarining tugayotgani uning qalbini quvonch nuri bilan yoritdi (T.Malik).

In (47) the participle *tugayotgani* is substantivized and functions as the subject of the sentence.

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Furthermore, the *-yotgan* affix can serve to form a present tense of the verb. According to “Uzbek tili grammatikasi”: “Only in the following cases a present participle assists in forming a present tense verb:

1) attends to make up a negative form of the present tense with the word *yuq*: *ishlayotgani yuq* (is not working), *kelayotgani yuq* (is not coming);

2) is used when one talks about something he has heard with the defective verb *emish*: *ishlayotgan emish* (as I’ve heard, he is working), *kelayotgan emish* (as I’ve heard, he is coming); 3) is used with the affix *-dir* to talk about a supposed action: *ishlayotgandir* (I suppose he is working), *kelayotgandir* (I suppose he is coming)”. (Uzbek tili grammatikasi: Morfologiya, 1975:513). Thus, the affix *-yotgan*, functioning as composing a participle form, sometimes functions to make up the present tense and also to make the continuous present tense when it is used with defective verbs and these demonstrate to realise the syncretic and polyfunctional characteristics of this ending.

The ending *-digan* is considered to form a future or present-future participle. According to Hojiev, the tense of the participle form with this ending is relative and it can function in different ways (Hojiev, 1973:173).

A participle with *-digan* ending is used with personal endings which are characteristic to conjugated verbs. “This form indicates the present tense (a usual action) or the future tense according to the context:

(48) Uchrashadigan odamingning nomi nima? (Shuhrat)

(49) Sen bilan biz hamma narsani tushunadigan odamlarmiz (B.Kerboboev).” (Hojiev, 1973:173)

In (48) the participle *uchrashadigan* denotes to the future tense and (49) the participle *tushunadigan* denotes to the present tense. Thus, even the name of this ending mentions about its syncretic and polyfunctional nature.

Moreover, any participle is a medium between the verb and the adjective and it is typical to a present-future participle. Therefore, one can observe the mixture of the semes of property and tense within these participles, mostly the seme of tense goes back, and the seme of property becomes a primary one:

(50) Mahallada eshigining tagida velosiped jiringlasa, bir sapchib tushmaydigan odam qolmagan. (U.Hoshmov)

Another function of the participle with the *-digan* ending is characteristic to other participles too. It is the function of becoming substantivized within a context:

(51) Yuldoshkhon, men senga hamisha ochiq gapirganman, sendan yashiradiganim qolmagan. (Kh.Tukhtaboev)

CONCLUSIONS

The study aimed at comparatively exploring participles in English and Uzbek languages. I have found that participles in both languages became syncretic because of several reasons so that there is asymmetry between a form and content of participles.

Classifying participles as present and past in English, and present, past and future in Uzbek refers only a participle itself, it does not indicate a tense of the clause where this participle is used.

All the forms of participles are polyfunctional as they perform several functions and signify several senses according to the context they are in. This occurrence is characteristic to the two languages; however, an Uzbek past participle and an English past participle, for instance, do not function similarly in most cases.

Furthermore, there are some words in English, which originated from certain participles in the development of the language; however, the Modern English considers them adjectives.

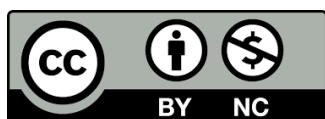
In general, participles, being a non-finite form the verb and possessing a syncretic nature, are polyfunctional in English and Uzbek languages.

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