

**PREDICATIVITY AND SEMANTIC EXPANSION IN TRANSFORMED UZBEK PHRASEOLOGISMS****NISHONOVA ADIBA ADXAMJON KIZI**

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**ANNOTATION:** This article explores the grammatical transformation of phraseological units in literary context, focusing on the morphological and syntactic modifications occurring during their contextual adaptation. The study analyzes transformed variants of common expressions such as *qo‘l tekkizmoq*, *qasam ichmoq*, and *xayollariga g‘arq bo‘lmoq*. Particular attention is paid to the modal-semantic function of the affix *-guday*, the pragmatic intensification introduced by participial forms, and the aspectual meaning created by the auxiliary verb *ketmoq*. The research demonstrates that grammatical transformation complicates the predicative structure of phraseologisms and enriches them with conditional, potential, and emotive meanings, thereby expanding their stylistic and pragmatic functions in literary discourse.

**Keywords:** transformation, grammatical transformation, usual (*uzual*) form, predicativity, internal predicativity, external predicativity.

**INTRODUCTION**

Phraseological units, which constitute an essential layer of the language system, stand out not only for their lexical-semantic features but also for their grammatical and structural characteristics. In literary texts, these units frequently appear not in their usual, fixed forms but in grammatically transformed variants, which reveal expanded semantic and pragmatic possibilities. The process of grammatical transformation involves the application of morphological and syntactic modifications to the structural components of phraseological units, affecting their predicative properties, modal-semantic interpretation, and expressive-stylistic functions.

In linguistics, transformation theory plays a significant role in explaining the mechanisms underlying the alteration of phraseological units. Changes in verbal categories such as tense, mood, and voice; the strengthening of noun forms through possessive or case markers; the addition of auxiliary verbs; and the emergence of participial forms all contribute to the acquisition of new semantic shades within context. As a result, phraseological units, differing from their usual forms, become enriched with additional emotive, modal, evaluative, or even threatening meanings.

One of the crucial aspects of grammatical transformation is the complication of predicativity. Transformed phraseological units often embody both internal and external predicative layers, functioning as compound predicative structures within the text. This expansion of syntactic capacity allows phraseologisms to be integrated into complex conditional, potential, or aspectual constructions, thus enhancing their functional versatility.

This article analyzes the grammatical transformation of several phraseological units—such as *qo‘l tekkizmoq*, *qasam ichmoq*, and *xayollariga g‘arq bo‘lmoq*—based on examples extracted from literary texts. It examines the modal-semantic features of the affix *-guday*, the attributive and evaluative functions of participial forms, and the aspectual strengthening introduced by auxiliary verbs. Furthermore, the study elucidates the emergence of complex predicativity, semantic intensification, pragmatic expressiveness, and heightened stylistic effect resulting from transformation.

Thus, the article aims to demonstrate how grammatical transformation expands the stylistic, semantic, and pragmatic potential of phraseological units in literary discourse, offering valuable theoretical and practical insights for contemporary phraseology and stylistics.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Phraseologisms, as recurrent linguistic units, possess fixed meanings along with stable structural and compositional features. Although the use of phraseological units is governed by the linguistic norms of the Uzbek language, partial deviations from these norms or authorial modifications arising from individual creativity are frequently encountered in both written and oral discourse. In literary texts, transformed phraseologisms occupy a particularly significant place. Such modifications play an essential role in expressing the author's unique artistic style and individual cognitive framework. At times, conventional phraseological combinations do not fully correspond to the expressive or stylistic needs of a given textual environment. In such cases, authors modify phraseologisms, resulting in a renewal or intensification of their meanings. Deviations from standard forms and the creation of individualized variants are widely observed in Uzbek literature as well.

The issue of transforming or varying phraseological units has been the subject of extensive scholarly interest. According to D.O. Dobrovolskij and Yu.N. Karaulov, "the variability and transformations of phraseological units ... are not only characteristic of their contextual usage but are also inherent in the very nature of how speakers acquire and internalize these units." [1] This view suggests that the transformation of phraseologisms is influenced not only by contextual factors, but also by the speaker's linguistic intuition, creative orientation, and communicative competence. Such an approach enables researchers to conceptualize phraseologisms not as static or rigid formations, but as semi-productive linguistic structures open to creative reinterpretation and capable of functioning dynamically within discourse.

## RESEARCH FINDING

Phraseological units are expressions characterized by stable semantic and grammatical structures. However, depending on contextual demands, poetic intention, or stylistic requirements, they may undergo various grammatical transformations. This process is referred to as grammatical transformation. Such changes occur through the renewal or modification of the grammatical form of the expression while preserving its core semantic meaning.

Grammatical transformation involves changes in the part of speech of the components of a phraseological unit, alterations in the grammatical categories of verbs—such as tense, mood, or voice—or morphosyntactic restructuring at the level of syntactic components.

For example:

**Usual form:** qo'l tekkizmoq

**Transformed form:** qo'lingni tekkizguday bo'lsang

"You will never raise a sword against him. If you even dare touch him, I will curse you for the rest of my life, Yadg'u. You know well that a widow's curse never misses its mark..." (Xun)

In this instance, the basic verb form (tekkizmoq) is transformed into a participial form with the -guday suffix, resulting in a grammatical modification while preserving the semantic content of the phrase. This transformation reflects a shift in the verb form and is associated with syntactic conversion, signaling functional reorganization of syntactic components. The usual phrase qo'l tekkizmoq consists of two core elements—a noun and a verb—indicating the performance of an action. In the text, however, the transformed form qo'lingni tekkizguday bo'lsang appears.

In its original form, the phrase represents a simple control-based construction: qo'l (noun) + tekkizmoq (verb). In the transformed form, an expansion of morphological structure is observed:

- qo'l → qo'lingni: the addition of possessive and accusative markers intensifies the sense of agency and direction of the action;
- tekkizmoq → tekkizguday: the suffix -guday introduces a comparative/potential meaning, giving the phrase a modal nuance of probability, threat, or warning.

Through this suffix, the expression acquires conditional-modality: it implies "if you touch him," adding layers of warning, threat, and emotional intensity that are absent in the usual form. As a result, the pragmatic function of the phrase broadens, and the widow's curse is expressed with heightened force and urgency.

Additionally, the transformation generates **complex predicativity**. The phrase qo'lingni tekkizguday bo'lsang embodies two levels of predication:

1. **Internal predicativity** – the potential meaning within the participial verb tekkizguday;
2. **External predicativity** – the conditional predicate bo'lsang.

This dual predicative structure expands the syntactic boundaries of the usual phrase qo'l tekkizmoq, enabling it to function as a constituent of a complex conditional sentence. Consequently, the phraseological unit attains the capacity to operate within a more sophisticated syntactic environment.

Semantically, the transformed form exhibits several shifts:

- in the usual form, the action refers to a possible physical act;
- in the transformed form, it becomes a potential, conditional, and threatening act;
- the emotive-semantic load of the phrase is significantly intensified.

Thus, the transformed expression becomes a tool for conveying heightened tension, conflict, and emotional pressure within the context.

Another example occurs in the passage:

“Young man, why did you speak of an oath without understanding its weight? Did you not know that the oaths you have taken rise to the blue vault of heaven, where they turn into a sword and hang above your head?” (Qo'riqchi)

Here, the phraseological unit tilga olish ('to mention') is modified through a noun + verb combination strengthened with possessive morphology, creating a more expressive, admonishing effect. The usual phrase qasam ichmoq ('to take an oath') is transformed into ichgan qasamlaring ('the oaths you have taken'). The participial form ichgan reflects a completed action, lending a tone of judgment, gravity, and moral responsibility. Through this grammatical transformation, the author conveys not only temporal completion but also psychological weight, ethical accountability, and a warning intonation.

While qasam ichmoq carries a neutral descriptive meaning, ichgan qasamlaring acquires artistic, evaluative, and moral connotations. Here, the participle functions attributively, answering the question “what kind of oaths?” and emphasizing that these are the oaths the person themselves took—thus symbolizing personal responsibility and irrevocable obligation.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of grammatical transformations within phraseological units demonstrates that such modifications serve as an important mechanism for expanding the expressive, semantic, and pragmatic potential of phraseologisms in literary texts. Although phraseological units traditionally possess stable lexical meaning and fixed grammatical structure, their contextual adaptation reveals a dynamic capacity for variation. These transformations—reflected in changes to verb forms, the addition of participial and modal markers, shifts in case and possessive morphology, or the incorporation of auxiliary verbs—allow phraseological units to acquire new layers of meaning while preserving their core semantic foundation.

The study shows that grammatical transformation often results in the emergence of **complex predicativity**, integrating both internal and external predicative components and enabling phraseologisms to function within more sophisticated syntactic environments. Transformations also contribute to the intensification of emotive, modal, and evaluative nuances, thereby strengthening the stylistic and rhetorical impact of the phraseological unit. As observed in the transformed forms qo'lingni tekkizguday bo'lsang and ichgan qasamlaring, authors strategically modify phraseological expressions to convey heightened tension, moral responsibility, interpersonal conflict, and psychological depth.

Ultimately, grammatical transformation should be regarded not merely as a deviation from the usual form but as a productive linguistic process that reflects the creativity, intuition, and stylistic intent of the language user. In literary discourse, such transformations enrich narrative expressiveness, reinforce character portrayal, and enhance the overall aesthetic quality of the text.

The findings of this study highlight the significance of grammatical transformation as a powerful stylistic device and contribute to a deeper understanding of the flexible and dynamic nature of phraseology in the Uzbek language.

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