MAIN METHODS OF EXPRESSING GRADUALITY IN VERBS OF MOTION IN UZBEK AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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Annotation: This article explores the main methods of expressing graduality in verbs of motion in Uzbek and Russian. Graduality, understood as the stepwise, iterative, or progressive nature of motion, is a key semantic feature of motion verbs. The study analyzes morphological, lexical, and syntactic strategies used in both languages to convey graduality, including prefixation, aspectual distinctions, iterative constructions in Russian, and suffixation, reduplication, and serial verb constructions in Uzbek. Comparative analysis highlights both typological differences and functional similarities, providing insights into how different languages encode temporal and procedural nuances of motion.

Keywords: uzbek, russian, verbs of motion, gradability, graduality, aspect, iterative constructions, typology.

Introduction.

Verbs of motion are among the most semantically and cognitively complex verbs in the world's languages, as they encode not only direction and manner of movement but also temporal, procedural, and aspectual characteristics. One important semantic feature of motion verbs is **graduality** (or gradability), which refers to the stepwise, iterative, or progressive nature of movement. Graduality allows speakers to convey how actions develop over time, whether as continuous processes, repeated stages, or slow incremental motion. Understanding how languages express graduality is crucial for typological studies, cognitive linguistics, and comparative grammar.

In the Russian language, graduality is expressed through a variety of morphological, lexical, and syntactic means. Morphologically, **prefixation** modifies the base verb to indicate direction, approximation, or gradual development of motion. For example, the verb *идти* (to go) can become *подходить* (to approach gradually) or *отходить* (to move away gradually) through prefixation. Iterative or habitual motion is marked through aspectual pairs, such as *идти* versus *ходить*, distinguishing between one-time directional motion and repeated or gradual movement. Lexical markers, including adverbs like *медленно* (slowly) or *постепенно* (gradually), further reinforce the graduality of an action. Syntactic constructions, such as adverbial phrases or subordinate clauses (*Он шёл по коридору, медленно приближаясь к двери*), provide additional contextual means for expressing stepwise progression.

In contrast, Uzbek, an agglutinative Turkic language, relies on different morphological and syntactic strategies. Graduality is often expressed via derivational **suffixes** (*-ib*, *-a*, *-ar*), **reduplication** (*yura-yura* – walking gradually/continuously), and **serial verb constructions** (*borib kelmoq* – to go and return gradually/stepwise). Adverbial modifiers, such as *sekin-sekin* (slowly) and *bosqichma-bosqich* (step by step), are commonly employed to reinforce gradual motion. The agglutinative nature of Uzbek allows verbs to encode multiple layers of temporal, aspectual, and gradable meaning within a single morphological complex, making the expression of graduality highly productive and flexible.

Comparative study of these two languages reveals both **typological differences and functional similarities**. Russian, with its fusional morphology, emphasizes aspectual distinction and prefixation as primary strategies, whereas Uzbek demonstrates agglutinative flexibility, using suffixation, serial constructions, and reduplication. Despite these structural differences, both languages serve the same communicative purpose: conveying the stepwise, iterative, or continuous nature of motion.

The **objective of this article** is to identify and analyze the main methods of expressing graduality in motion verbs in Uzbek and Russian, focusing on **lexical, morphological, and syntactic strategies**, and to compare their typological and functional characteristics. This study aims to contribute to the understanding of cross-linguistic mechanisms of gradability, highlight the cognitive and communicative importance of graduality, and provide insights for typological, pedagogical, and translation studies.

By examining motion verbs in both languages, this article demonstrates that **graduality is not merely a peripheral or stylistic feature but a central semantic and pragmatic property** of verbs of motion, reflecting how speakers perceive, segment, and communicate actions unfolding over time.

 Main part.

Lexical methods involve the choice of verbs and adverbs that inherently convey the progressive, stepwise, or iterative nature of motion.

Russian: Verbs like *продвигаться* (to advance), *приближаться* (to approach gradually), and *удаляться* (to move away gradually) inherently encode a gradual or stepwise movement. Additionally, adverbs such as *медленно* (slowly), *постепенно* (gradually), and phrases like *шаг за шагом* (step by step) reinforce the sense of graduality. For example:

Он продвигался к цели шаг за шагом. – He advanced toward the goal step by step.

Here, both the verb and the adverbial phrase work together to convey a gradual progression.

Uzbek: In Uzbek, graduality is frequently expressed lexically through adverbs such as *sekin-sekin* (slowly, gradually) and *bosqichma-bosqich* (step by step), and through verbs like *yaqinlashmoq* (to approach gradually) and *uzalashmoq* (to move away gradually). For example:

U sekin-sekin uyga yaqinlashdi. – He gradually approached the house.

The combination of verb and adverb in Uzbek mirrors the function of Russian, emphasizing the iterative or progressive nature of motion.

Lexical markers in both languages serve not only to specify the manner or speed of motion but also to highlight cognitive segmentation of the movement into identifiable steps, making them central to expressing graduality.

Morphological strategies allow speakers to encode graduality within the verb itself, often through derivational processes or aspectual distinctions.

Russian: Graduality is expressed through **prefixation** and **iterative aspect**.

o Prefixes such as *под-* (approach), *от-* (move away), *про-* (pass through) modify the base verb to encode gradual or directional motion:

- *идти → подходить* (to approach gradually)
- *идти → отходить* (to move away gradually)

o Iterative or habitual forms (*ходить*, *бегать*) contrast with singular actions (*идти*, *бежать*) to indicate repeated or ongoing motion.

Uzbek: Graduality is morphologically expressed through **derivational suffixes**, **reduplication**, and **serial verbs**:

o Suffixes *-ib*, *-a*, *-ar* indicate continuous, iterative, or gradual action:

- *borib kelmoq* – to go and return gradually/stepwise

o Reduplication reinforces iterative or continuous motion:

- *yura-yura* – walking gradually or repeatedly

o Serial verb constructions combine multiple actions to indicate graduality:

- *Yura-yura borib keldi* – walked gradually and arrived

Morphological gradability in Uzbek benefits from the agglutinative structure, allowing multiple temporal, aspectual, and graduality markers to co-occur in a single verb complex.

Syntactic methods involve constructions where adverbs, phrases, or clause structures signal the stepwise or progressive nature of motion.

Russian: Graduality is often expressed using adverbial modifiers and subordinate clauses:

o *Он шёл по коридору, медленно приближаясь к двери.* – He walked down the corridor, gradually approaching the door.

o *идти шаг за шагом, двигаться медленно* – common adverbial expressions indicating stepwise progression.

Such constructions allow precise specification of the temporal and procedural unfolding of motion.

Uzbek: Syntactic constructions involve adverbs, serial verbs, and auxiliary verbs:

o *U sekin-sekin yurdi.* – He walked slowly/gradually.

o *Yura-yura borib keldi.* – He walked gradually and arrived.

Adverbs like *sekin-sekin* and *bosqichma-bosqich* often co-occur with verbs to reinforce graduality syntactically, while serial constructions allow expression of multi-stage motion.

Both languages often integrate syntactic and morphological strategies to enhance clarity and expressiveness in denoting gradual movement.

Overall, despite structural differences, both Uzbek and Russian serve the same communicative function: representing how movement unfolds over time, step by step, or progressively, reflecting the cognitive and pragmatic importance of graduality in motion verbs.

Conclusion.

This study has examined the main methods of expressing graduality in verbs of motion in Uzbek and Russian, highlighting lexical, morphological, and syntactic strategies. Graduality, understood as the stepwise, continuous, or iterative nature of motion, is a fundamental semantic feature of motion verbs, allowing speakers to convey how actions develop over time, unfold in stages, or repeat progressively.

In Russian, graduality is primarily expressed through **prefixation**, **aspectual distinctions**, and **adverbial modifiers**. Prefixes such as *под-* (approach) and *от-* (move away) modify base verbs to encode stepwise or directional motion, while aspectual pairs (*идти* vs *ходить*) distinguish one-time from repeated or ongoing motion. Adverbs (*медленно, постепенно, шаг за шагом*) and syntactic constructions provide further contextual precision, enabling speakers to articulate gradual movement with clarity.

In Uzbek, the expression of graduality relies on **derivational suffixes** (*-ib, -a, -ar*), **reduplication** (*yura-yura*), **serial verb constructions** (*borib kelmoq*), and adverbs (*sekin-sekin, bosqichma-bosqich*). The agglutinative structure allows multiple temporal, aspectual, and graduality markers to co-occur within a single verb complex, resulting in highly flexible and productive strategies for marking progressive or iterative motion.

Comparatively, the two languages demonstrate both **typological differences and functional convergence**. Russian, with its fusional morphology, emphasizes internal modification through prefixes and aspectual contrast, whereas Uzbek utilizes agglutination and serial constructions to encode graduality. Despite these structural differences, both languages serve the same communicative function: to express the procedural, continuous, and iterative aspects of motion. Adverbs in both languages reinforce this gradability, and syntactic constructions provide additional context for nuanced expression.

The study confirms that graduality is not merely a peripheral stylistic feature but a central semantic and pragmatic property of motion verbs in both languages. Expressing the stepwise or progressive nature of motion reflects speakers' cognitive attention to the temporal and procedural characteristics of actions. Understanding these strategies contributes to **typological linguistics**, **comparative grammar**, and **language pedagogy**, particularly for second language learners and translators working with Slavic and Turkic languages.

In conclusion, Uzbek and Russian exhibit distinct but complementary methods for expressing graduality in motion verbs. Both lexical, morphological, and syntactic strategies play crucial roles in conveying iterative, continuous, or stepwise motion. These findings highlight the interplay between language structure, cognition, and communication, demonstrating that

graduality in motion verbs is a universal linguistic concern, manifested differently according to typological features of each language.

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