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A BROAD SEMANTIC, SYNTACTIC AND FRAME-SEMANTIC CORPUS ANALYSIS OF TODAY AND BUGUN AS TEMPORAL DEICTIC LEXEMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK CORPORA

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Annotation: *This article presents an expanded comparative investigation of the temporal deictic lexemes today in English and bugun in Uzbek on the basis of corpus linguistics, lexical semantics, syntactic distribution, and frame semantics. Although both lexemes are conventionally translated as indicators of the current day, corpus evidence demonstrates that they are not functionally symmetrical. The English lexeme today reveals broad categorial mobility, semantic polysemy, and discourse-pragmatic extension, particularly in newspaper language where it frequently encodes informational freshness, public immediacy, and socio-historical contemporaneity. The Uzbek lexeme bugun, while sharing the core temporal meaning, exhibits stronger narrative anchoring, event-localization, emotional urgency, and dialogic dramatization in literary discourse.*
Key words: *temporal deixis, today, deictic lexemes, corpus linguistics, lexical semantics, syntactic distribution, frame semantics, English corpus, Uzbek corpus, comparative linguistics, discourse pragmatics, temporal adverbials, conceptual framing.*

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Introduction

Temporal deixis constitutes one of the most cognitively indispensable categories in natural language because it allows speakers to position events relative to the moment of utterance. Lexemes such as today, yesterday, tomorrow, and their equivalents in other languages function not merely as chronological indicators, but as organizers of discourse, markers of speaker perspective, and triggers of conceptual framing. Within this system, the English lexeme today and the Uzbek lexeme bugun appear at first glance to be straightforward lexical equivalents. In bilingual dictionaries, both are defined simply as “the current day” or “this day.” However, such dictionary-level equivalence often obscures substantial differences in actual corpus use. A corpus-based approach makes it possible to move beyond lexicographic abstraction and observe how these units function in living discourse.

Methods

The semantic structure of today in the English corpus is considerably broader than a simple temporal indicator. In actual discourse this lexeme does not remain limited to the denotation of one chronological day, but expands toward several layers of communicative meaning. First, it functions as a precise deictic locator that ties the event to the speaker's immediate present. Second, it acquires a pragmatic shade of freshness in public discourse, especially in journalistic narration where the present day is interpreted as the moment of revelation. Third, it often broadens into a socio-historical marker meaning the conditions of contemporary life rather than one isolated date. Finally, in many contexts it becomes the center of temporal contrast, allowing the writer to oppose the present with the past or future and thereby intensify the informational force of the utterance. For example:

1. "Scottish prison officers start a charity jog from John o'Groat's to Land's End today, staying at prisons on the way."
2. "Today the Daily Mirror reveals the shameful secret behind the innocent animal antics at Longleat."
3. "By then many of today's teachers will have upped sticks and left the classroom for good."
4. "The monkeys are on your cars today. They could be in the lab tomorrow."

These examples show that today semantically oscillates between literal present-day reference, informational immediacy, historical contemporaneity, and temporal contrastive focus. Therefore, the lexeme should be interpreted as a polysemantic temporal center rather than a single-layer adverb.

From the syntactic point of view, today demonstrates a remarkable degree of mobility and structural adaptability in English. It is not confined to one grammatical position but enters the sentence in several syntactic roles depending on communicative intention. In the most prototypical cases it functions as a temporal adverbial adjunct and modifies the verbal predicate by answering the question of time. In sentence-initial position it acts as a discourse frame setter and gives the entire clause an updated present-time orientation. English also allows this lexeme to move into the possessive attributive form today's, which means that the temporal notion can directly modify a noun phrase. In addition, certain contexts reveal noun-like abstract use where today no longer merely modifies the action but stands for the present state of reality itself.

1. "He will today witness Shearer's claim to be part of Graham Taylor's 1994 World Cup squad."
2. "Today we are giving you the chance to sample the carefree life of a pools winner."
3. "Today's question is: What is the name of the famous French express train?"
4. "Everything was so different from today."

These corpus instances prove that English today is syntactically heterogeneous, functioning as adverbial modifier, discourse initializer, attributive premodifier, and nominal temporal concept.

The Uzbek lexeme bugun also possesses a temporal deictic nucleus, yet its semantic unfolding in literary corpus material is noticeably different from English. In Uzbek prose, bugun is much more tightly connected with event chronology and the lived experience of the characters. It most frequently localizes an event within the exact current day, but beyond this literal function it often marks the point at which circumstances change dramatically. The lexeme is especially productive in building contrast with kecha and ertaga, thereby creating a feeling of temporal pressure. In emotionally charged dialogues it can carry the meaning of urgency, inevitability, or decisive necessity. Thus, the semantic field of bugun is not merely "today" in a calendrical sense, but "today

as the moment on which consequences depend."

1. "Qachongacha chilla o'tiraman, deb kampir bugun qizinikiga otlanib qoldi."
2. "Eringizni tushunmovchilik bilan qamashibdi. Bugun qo'yib yuboramiz."
3. "Kecha tantana bilan kuzatilgan leytenant bugun yana boshliq huzurida paydo bo'ldi."
4. "Bugun qasos olmasang, ertaga el oldida basharangga tupurishadi."
5. "Axir bugun yangi yil, o'g'lim yolg'iz."

These examples demonstrate that bugun semantically combines exact temporal reference, narrative shift, emotional urgency, and culturally significant presentness.

Results

Syntactically, bugun is less categorially diffuse than English today, yet it still displays several highly functional positions in Uzbek discourse. Its dominant grammatical role is that of payt holi, where it modifies the verbal action and specifies when the event takes place. However, because Uzbek literary narration often relies on fronted temporal markers, bugun frequently appears at the beginning of the sentence and acts as a narrative activator introducing a new stage of the story. In such position the lexeme receives not only grammatical but also intonational emphasis. It is also capable of serving as the temporal basis of predicative constructions where the day itself becomes the communicative center. Unlike English, however, bugun does not directly enter attributive noun modification without derivational transformation, which means its syntactic range remains narrower though still discourse-intensive.

1. "Kampir bugun qizinikiga otlanib qoldi."
2. "Bugun qo'yib yuboramiz."
3. "Bugun qasos olmasang, ertaga..."
4. "Bugun ham tong sahardan Korako'z chiqib ketdi."
5. "Bugun dushanba."

These examples show that Uzbek bugun functions primarily as temporal adverbial modifier, sentence-initial narrative fore grounder, and predicative temporal center.

Frame semantics makes it possible to observe not only what these lexemes denote, but what conceptual scenarios they activate in the mind of the reader. The English lexeme today repeatedly appears in contexts where the present day is associated with newly delivered information, public circulation, fresh relevance, and media attention. The lexical environment around it often contains verbs such as reveal, give, print, announce, which indicates that the day is conceptualized as a channel through which information becomes socially available. Uzbek bugun, by contrast, appears in lexical environments connected with action, decision, threat, release, movement, or emotional consequence. Verbs surrounding it usually imply that something must happen now, must be decided now, or will affect tomorrow. Therefore, although both lexemes point to present time, they activate fundamentally different cognitive models of presentness.

1. "Today the Daily Mirror reveals the shameful secret behind the innocent animal antics at Longleat."
2. "Today we can reveal the staggering total of your generous donations so far."
3. "Bugun qasos olmasang, ertaga el oldida basharangga tupurishadi."
4. "Eringizni tushunmovchilik bilan qamashibdi. Bugun qo'yib yuboramiz."

The English examples construct the present as informational disclosure, whereas the Uzbek

examples construct the present as immediate decision and consequential action. This indicates that today predominantly evokes an informational present frame, while bugun evokes an immediate action and narrative consequence frame.

Conclusion

The broadened corpus analysis confirms that the English lexeme today and the Uzbek lexeme bugun share only the denotative nucleus of current-day reference while diverging significantly in semantic extension, syntactic flexibility, pragmatic burden, and conceptual framing. English today is grammatically more mobile and semantically more expandable, functioning in informational, socio-historical, and promotional contexts. Uzbek bugun is narratively denser, emotionally sharper, and more closely tied to immediate event progression. The comparison demonstrates that even direct lexical equivalents may encode different cultural and cognitive experiences of the present moment.

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