COLLOCATIONAL BEHAVIOR OF "HEAD" IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A CORPUS-BASED QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The article aims to explore the collocational behavior of the noun "head" in English and its equivalent "bosh" in Uzbek through a comparative corpus-based approach. The study identifies frequent collocates, analyzes grammatical patterns, and highlights cultural and semantic differences by drawing on the British National Corpus and the Uzbek National Corpus. While both languages use "head" or "bosh" in domains such as leadership, emotion, and gesture, structural and idiomatic variations reveal important linguistic and cultural nuances. These findings contribute to translation studies, lexicography, and bilingual language pedagogy.

Keywords: Collocation, corpus linguistics, head, bosh, phraseology, comparative analysis, Uzbek, English.

Introduction

The concept of "head" is central in many languages and metaphorically rich. It symbolizes intellect, leadership, and emotion. Both English and Uzbek employ "head" (or *bosh*) in various expressions. Their usage diverges due to cultural and structural factors despite this commonality. This paper compares collocational patterns of *head* and *bosh* in modern corpora to uncover similarities and differences in how these languages conceptualize and use the term.

Methods

The study uses data from the **British National Corpus (BNC)** and **Uzbek National Corpus (UNC)**. For English, noun forms of "head" (excluding verbs) were extracted. For Uzbek, all grammatical forms of "bosh" (e.g., *boshini*, *boshida*) were included. A collocate span of ±4 words was used, with high-frequency and high-MI collocates identified. Words were grouped into categories: verbs, adjectives, and compounds. Lexicographic sources such as the Oxford Collocations Dictionary and Uzbek phraseological dictionaries supported interpretation [2, 357b.]. The study then analyzed the collocates for each language, categorizing them into groups based on their grammatical functions. To provide a comprehensive understanding of how the word "head" or "bosh" is used in each respective language, verbs, adjectives, and compounds were all examined. The researchers also consulted lexicographic sources such as the Oxford Collocations Dictionary and Uzbek phraseological dictionaries to further interpret the data and ensure accuracy in their analysis. The study was able to gain valuable insights into the semantic and syntactic patterns of the term "head" in both English and Uzbek through this meticulous methodological approach.

Results

English Collocations

➢ **Verbs**: *shake, nod, hold, scratch* - indicating gesture or emotion (e.g., *shake one's head* for disagreement).

➢ **Adjectives**: *bald, hot, level* - describing physical or metaphorical traits (e.g., *hot-headed*).

➢ **Nouns**: *head of state, head injury, head start* - leadership or figurative uses.

➢ **Idioms**: *keep/lose one's head*, *off the top of one's head* - show cognitive or emotional states.

Uzbek Collocations

➢ **Verbs**: *egmoq (bow), ko'tarmoq (lift), chayqamoq (shake)* - common with idiomatic function (e.g., *boshini egmoq*).

➢ **Compounds**: *bosh vazir, bosh mutaxassis* - titles indicating leadership.

➢ **Classifier Use**: *o'n bosh qoramol* - a unique use of *bosh* as a classifier for animals.

➢ **Idioms**: *bosh qotirmoq* ("to puzzle over"), *baliq boshidan sasiydi* - shared metaphor with English.

Comparative Insights

➢ Shared gestures: *shake one's head* ⇔ *bosh chayqamoq*.

➢ Leadership metaphors: *head of department* ⇔ *boshqarma boshligʻi*.

➢ Cognitive/emotional idioms exist in both, though English prefers *head*, while Uzbek may use *aql* or *kalla*.

➢ Unique uses include Uzbek's numerical classifier *bosh* and broader adjective + noun formations.

Discussion

The collocational analysis confirms shared human conceptual metaphors: the head as a symbol of status, reasoning, and emotion. However, structural differences (e.g., Uzbek agglutination) and cultural perspectives shape expression. Uzbek idioms like *boshiga ish tushmoq* (misfortune befalls one's head) emphasize fate, while English leans toward individual control (*keep your head*). Differences like these have a great impact on translation and language learning, necessitating cultural awareness when teaching or translating idiomatic collocations.

Furthermore, while *bosh* is used widely in formal contexts, idioms in spoken Uzbek may prefer *kalla*. English, by contrast, uses *head* across formal and informal registers. Both languages encode deep metaphorical meanings in "head" expressions, but with different semantic focus areas. For example, while Uzbek idioms often focus on the concept of fate and misfortune, English idioms tend to emphasize personal responsibility and control. As the underlying meanings may not directly align, this difference in cultural perspectives can make translating idiomatic collocations challenging. In addition, in each culture, the choice of formal or informal language can also impact the use of idioms involving "head."
All in all, understanding these nuances is essential for effective language teaching and translation between Uzbek and English.

Conclusion

The demonstration of the noun "head" (*bosh*) shows strong collocational versatility in English and Uzbek. We can see that both languages use it for different purposes,

like gesture, leadership, and cognition, yet differ in idiomatic combinations and grammatical strategies. Understanding these patterns better helps in translation, language teaching, and bilingual lexicography. The study affirms that even common words embody cultural worldviews, and corpus-based methods are key to revealing these patterns.

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