ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКАЯ, ПРИКЛАДНАЯ И СРАВНИТЕЛЬНО-СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНАЯ ЛИНГВИСТИКА/THEORETICAL, APPLIED AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

THE ROLE OF COMPOUND INFINITIVES WITH ARABIC COMPONENTS IN TAJIK VERBAL PHRASES AND THEIR ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

Research article

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Abstract

The given article dwells on the structural peculiarities, functional roles of compound infinitives with Arabic components within Tajik verbal phrases and their English equivalents on the example of the novel entitled as "Ghulomon" by Sadriddin Aini. Employing a comparative semantico-functional analysis, the author of the article categorizes the structural types of these infinitives, and analyzes their contribution to the overall meaning and function of verbal phrases, and compares them with their English translational equivalents. The findings reveal that these Tajik compound infinitives often encode actions, states, or processes that correspond to various English verbal structures, including simple verbs, phrasal verbs, or nominalizations. The study highlights that the Arabic component, while lending specific semantic content, functions within a distinctly Tajik grammatical framework, posing particular challenges for translation and underscoring the need for context-sensitive, functionally-oriented translation strategies.

Keywords: Tajik language, compound infinitives, Arabic borrowed words, verbal phrase, English equivalents, translational strategies, comparative linguistics.

РОЛЬ СЛОЖНЫХ ИНФИНИТИВОВ С АРАБСКИМИ КОМПОНЕНТАМИ В ТАДЖИКСКИХ ГЛАГОЛЬНЫХ СЛОВОСОЧЕТАНИЯХ И ИХ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ЭКВИВАЛЕНТАХ

Научная статья

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Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются структурные особенности, функциональные роли сложных инфинитивов с арабскими компонентами в таджикских глагольных словосочетаниях и их английских эквивалентах на примере романа «Гуломон» Садриддина Айни. Используя сравнительный семантико-функциональный анализ, автор статьи классифицирует структурные типы этих инфинитивов и анализирует их вклад в общее значение и функцию глагольных словосочетания, а также сравнивает их с их английскими переводными эквивалентами. Результаты показывают, что эти таджикские сложные инфинитивы часто кодируют действия, состояния или процессы, которые соответствуют различным английским глагольным структурам, включая простые глаголы, фразовые глаголы или номинализации. В исследовании подчеркивается, что арабский компонент, придавая определенное семантическое содержание, функционирует в отчетливо таджикской грамматической структуре, создавая особые трудности для перевода и подчеркивая необходимость контекстно-зависимых, функционально-ориентированных стратегий перевода.

Ключевые слова: таджикский язык, сложные инфинитивы, арабские заимствованные слова, глагольные словосочетания, английские эквиваленты, переводческие стратегии, сравнительное языкознание.

Introduction

Verbal phrases constitute the core of sentence structure, conveying information about actions, states, and processes. In many languages, verbs can combine with other lexical items to form complex or compound verbal units that carry specialized meanings or grammatical functions. The Tajik language, as a member of the Persian language family, exhibits a rich system of compound verbs (also referred to as complex predicates or light verb constructions), where a non-verbal element (typically a noun, adjective, or participle) combines with a light or auxiliary verb (such as *кардан to do/make, шудан to become/happen, гаштан to turn/become, намудан to do*). These combinations often replace or complement simple, morphologically complex verbs [6], [7].

A prominent distinguishing of the Tajik lexicon reflecting centuries of linguistic contact is the significant presence of borrowings, particularly from Arabic. These Arabic borrowings are not confined to nominal or adjectival usage but frequently serve as the non-verbal components of compound verbs and their non-finite forms, such as infinitives. For example, the Arabic noun *сафар (travel)* combines with the infinitive *кардан (to do)* to form the compound infinitive *сафар кардан (to travel)*. Similarly, the Arabic adjective *тоза (clean)* forms *тоза кардан (to clean)*.

The study of these compound infinitives with Arabic components is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, they represent a key aspect of the Tajik verbal system, demonstrating how borrowed lexicon integrates into native grammatical structures [5, P. 160]. Understanding their formation and function is essential for a complete description of Tajik grammar. Secondly, these

forms are frequently encountered in Tajik texts, including canonical literary works, and their accurate interpretation is vital for linguistic analysis and literary scholarship. Thirdly, and particularly relevant to this research, the translation of these compound infinitives into other languages, such as English, poses considerable challenges. The structural difference between a Tajik compound infinitive ([Arabic component] + infinitive auxiliary) and typical English verbal structures often necessitates significant shifts in translation, testing the limits of functional and formal equivalence [2, P. 169].

The corpus of our study aims to address this gap by conducting a comparative analysis of compound infinitives with Arabic components in Tajik verbal phrases and their English translations. The research seeks to identify the structural types of these infinitives, analyze their functional roles within various verbal phrase contexts, and examine the strategies employed by translators to render them into English, highlighting the challenges and implications for translation theory and practice.

Research methods
2.1. Corpus
The primary corpus of our study is the novel referred to as "Ghulomon" by S.Aini being a seminal work of modern Tajik literature written in Tajik and originally republished in 2019. "Ghulomon" was selected due to its status as a literary classic, its rich and varied language, and its widespread availability in translation, providing a suitable basis for exploring linguistic features and translation challenges.

2.2. Data Collection
The researchers conducted a systematic identification of all instances of compound infinitives featuring an Arabic-origin non-verbal component (noun, adjective, or participle) combined with a Tajik auxiliary verb infinitive (primarily *кардан* and *шудан*, but also considering less frequent auxiliaries like *намудан* or *гаштан* in their infinitive forms) occurring within verbal phrases in "Ghulomon". Verbal phrases were defined broadly to include the infinitive used as:

a) the main predicate with modal verbs (e.g., must do);
b) a complement to other verbs (e.g., want to do);
c) a subject or object (nominalized infinitive);
d) part of a complex predicate structure;
e) in purpose clauses or other adverbial uses.

Each identified instance was recorded along with its immediate surrounding sentence context and its corresponding translation in the English version of the novel. Tajik text and English translation page numbers were meticulously documented for each example.

Main results
The conducted comparative analysis of the theme explored reveals a substantial number of compound infinitives with Arabic components used in various verbal phrase constructions. These instances exhibit a range of structural types and functional roles, with corresponding diverse English translation strategies.

3.1. Structural Types
The most frequent structural type observed is Arabic Noun + *кардан* (infinitive), encoding a transitive action. Examples include:

– *ёрдам кардан* (help + to do) *to help*;
– *сафар кардан* (travel + to do) *to travel*;
– *тамом кардан* (completion + to do) *to finish;*
– *қабул кардан* (acceptance + to do) *to accept;*
– *назар кардан* (look + to do) *to look;*
– *хабар додан* (news + to give) *to inform* (using a different auxiliary, *додан to give*).

Less frequent, but also present, are structures like Arabic Adjective + *кардан* (infinitive), often encoding a causative action:

– *тоза кардан* (clean + to do) *to clean;*
– *озод кардан* (free + to do) *to free.*

And Arabic Noun/Adjective + *шудан* (infinitive), encoding intransitive states or processes:

– *тамом шудан* (completion + to become) *to finish / end;*
– *озод шудан* (free + to become) *to become free / be freed.*

3.2. Functional Roles and Translation Equivalents
The compound infinitives identified serve various functional roles within Tajik verbal phrases. Here, we present key functions illustrated with examples from "Ghulomon" and their English translations, analyzing the translation strategy and the role of the Arabic component.

3.2.1. Encoding Transitive Action (Arabic Noun + кардан)
This is a very common type, where the Arabic noun provides the core semantic meaning of the action, and *кардан* provides the transitivity and verbal frame.

– Example 1: Аз ин ба баъд ба шумо *ёрдам кардан* даркор [1, P. 15] – From now I have *to help* you [translated by the author]

This case exemplifies direct functional equivalence. The non-verbal component, the Arabic noun *ёрдам (help),* is lexicalized as the single English verbal unit 'help'. This mapping involves the compression of the Tajik compound construction into a monolexemic English equivalent, representing a frequently employed and efficient translation strategy. The semantic transparency of the Arabic component in Tajik facilitates this direct lexical correspondence in the target language.

– Example 2: ...то ки роҳи наҷот аз ин бадбахтиро *пайдо кардан* мумкин шавад [1, P. 55] – ...so that it may be possible *to find* a way of salvation from this misfortune [translated by the author].

Again, a direct lexical equivalent in English. The Arabic noun *пайдо (finding/discovery)* combines with *кардан* to form the verbal concept to find. English uses a single verb find. The Arabic roots meaning is preserved in the English verb.

– Example 3: ...ваъда карданд, ки баҳори дигар ба сафаргоҳи дур *сафар кардан* лозим аст [1, P. 89] – ...they promised that next spring it would be necessary *to travel* to a distant land [translated by the author].

Similar pattern — Tajik compound infinitive maps to a simple English verb. The Arabic noun *сафар (travel)* clearly indicates the core meaning. The English verb *travel* directly captures this. The auxiliary verb *кардан* here doesn't make *travel* transitive in the sense of having a direct object, but rather acts as a general verbalizer for the non-verbal component.

3.2.2. Encoding Intransitive State/Process (Arabic Noun/Adjective + шудан)

These structures typically denote a change of state or a process, with шудан acting as the copula or change-of-state auxiliary.

– Example 4: Вақте ки маҷлис *тамом шудан* гирифт... [1, P. 120] – When the meeting began *to finish*... [translated by the author].

Proceeding from the assumption of the above-adduced example, one can assert that the Arabic noun *тамом (completion)* with *шудан* denotes the process of ending. English uses the simple verb *finish*. The translation accurately captures the processual meaning. The Arabic component's meaning is directly reflected in the English verb.

– Example 5: ...то ки аз ин кулфат *озод шудан* мумкин бошад [1, P. 205] – ...so that it might be possible *to be freed* from this suffering [translated by the author].

Designing on the premise of the relevant sentence, we can confidently express our own opinion that the Arabic adjective *озод (free)* with *шудан* denotes the state of being free or the process of becoming free. English uses a passive construction *to be freed*, highlighting the result of an implicit action. While to become free is also possible, *to be freed* fits the context of liberation. The Arabic component directly informs the English equivalent *free*.

3.2.3. Encoding Causative Action (Arabic Adjective + кардан)

These forms use кардан causatively, meaning to cause [the adjective] to become.

– Example 6: Ҳарчанд хонаи ӯро *тоза кардан* мехостем... [6, P. 150] – Although we wanted *to clean* his house... [translated by the author].

On the basis of the example 6 one can underscore that the Arabic adjective *тоза (clean)* with *кардан* forms the causative *to make clean*, commonly translated as *to clean* in English. Direct lexicalization is the preferred strategy. The Arabic component again directly guides the English equivalent.

3.2.4. Less Frequent Auxiliaries (Arabic Noun + намудан)

While кардан and шудан are dominant, other auxiliaries are used, often with subtle differences or in specific registers.

– Example 7: ...ки аз аҳволи ману бародарам *хабар намудан* мехостанд [1, P. 95] – ... so wished *to hear* news of me and my brother [translated by the author].

So, the Arabic noun *хабар (news)* with *намудан* (similar to *кардан to do/make*) forms the action *to inform* or *to give news*. The English translation uses the receptive side of this action (*to hear news of*) which is functionally equivalent in this context. This shows that the translation may involve a slight shift in perspective (*giving vs. receiving news*) while maintaining the core semantic transfer. The Arabic component *хабар* is clearly related to the English *news*.

3.2.5. Nominalized Infinitive Use

Compound infinitives can function as nominal units (subjects, objects), although less frequently in the infinitive form compared to verbal nouns derived from the same root.

– Example 8: *Сафар кардан* ба шаҳри Бухоро хатарнок буд [1, P. 55] – *Traveling* to the city of Bukhara was dangerous [translated by the author].

In the last sentence, the Tajik compound infinitive, functioning nominally, translates to an English gerund, which serves a similar nominal function derived from a verb. The Arabic component *сафар* directly corresponds to the English root travel.

3.3. Summary of Translation Strategies

Based on the analysis of these examples and other instances in the corpus, the most prevalent translation strategy for Tajik compound infinitives with Arabic components is mapping to a simple English verb. However, as seen in Examples 7 and 8, other strategies like phrasal verbs or nominalizations (gerunds) are also employed depending on the specific context and syntactic role of the infinitive in the Tajik sentence. Literal translation of the auxiliary (*кардан/шудан* as to do/become) is rare, occurring only when strictly necessary for emphasis or specific semantic nuance not captured by a simple verb.

Discussion

The findings from "Ghulomon" corroborate the significant role of compound infinitives with Arabic components within the Tajik verbal system and highlight key aspects of their structure, function, and translation.

Structurally, the dominance of the Arabic Noun + *кардан* pattern underscores how abstract nouns, often of foreign origin, are integrated into the verbal paradigm using a versatile light verb. This reflects a common strategy in Persian and related languages for expanding the verb lexicon [3], [4]. The Arabic component serves as the core semantic carrier, providing the specific meaning of the action or state (e.g., *ёрӣ* help, *сафар* travel, *тамом* completion, *озод* free), while the auxiliary infinitive (*кардан* or *шудан*) primarily provides the grammatical scaffolding, indicating verbal status, transitivity (*кардан*), or change of state (*шудан*) in its non-finite form.

Functionally, these compound infinitives behave similarly to simple verb infinitives, occupying various syntactic slots within verbal phrases (complements to modals or other verbs) or as nominal elements. Their role is to express the core verbal concept derived from the Arabic root.

The comparative analysis reveals a strong tendency in the English translation to employ lexicalization, rendering the Tajik compound infinitive as a simple English verb wherever possible. This strategy is highly effective because many common Arabic roots used in these Tajik compounds (like *сафар, хабар, ёрдам, қабул, тоза, озод, тамом, назар*) have readily

available, semantically equivalent simple verb forms in English (*travel, inform/news, help, accept, clean, free, finish, look*). This high degree of semantic overlap at the root level facilitates direct lexical substitution in translation.

However, the analysis also demonstrates that functional equivalence is not always achieved through simple verb substitution. When the Tajik infinitive takes on a nominal role (Example 8), English naturally employs a gerund or other nominal construction. When the combination with the non-verbal component creates a specific nuanced meaning or requires a different perspective (giving vs. receiving news in Example 7), a phrasal verb or a different verbal structure might be chosen in English. These instances underscore that translation is not merely a one-to-one mapping of structures but a process of finding functionally equivalent expressions within the target language`s idiomatic norms [8], [10].

The role of the Arabic component in translation is twofold. On the one hand, the clear semantic core provided by the Arabic root often simplifies translation by pointing directly to a cognate or highly similar concept in English. On the other hand, the fact that this Arabic component is embedded in a compound structure in Tajik, while English often prefers a single verb, highlights a fundamental structural asymmetry. The Tajik structure allows for easy verbalization of a vast number of Arabic nouns and adjectives, creating a flexible and productive verb-forming mechanism [9, P. 531-570]. English achieves a similar flexibility through derivational morphology or a different set of phrasal verb patterns. Translators must navigate this structural difference, choosing the most natural-sounding and functionally equivalent English structure.

Furthermore, the stylistic implications cannot be ignored. In Tajik, using a compound verb with an Arabic component might be a matter of register, formality, or specific semantic precision compared to a potential native Tajik simple verb equivalent. For example, *сафар кардан* and *сафар намудан* vs. a potential simple Tajik verb for *to travel*. The English translation, usually opting for a single verb, might lose some of these stylistic or nuanced distinctions present in the original Tajik. While Aini`s prose in "Ghulomon" masterfully blends native Tajik elements with borrowed vocabulary, capturing the exact stylistic flavor of these compound infinitives in translation presents a subtle, yet significant challenge.

Conclusion

Thus, the conducted comparative analysis beset with the semantico-functional features of the theme explored has successfully identified the prevalence and characteristics of compound infinitives with Arabic components in the verbal phrases of "Ghulomon" by Sadriddin Aini and examined their English translation equivalents. The study confirms that these forms are structurally diverse, primarily consisting of Arabic Noun/Adjective + кардан or шудан infinitive, and functionally versatile, encoding transitive actions, intransitive states, or processes.

The research highlights that the translation of these compound infinitives into English primarily relies on finding functionally equivalent structures, with a strong tendency towards lexicalization into simple English verbs. While the Arabic component often provides a clear semantic core that facilitates translation, the structural difference between the Tajik compound form and English preferences necessitates careful consideration of context, idiomaticity, and potential structural shifts. Achieving functional equivalence sometimes requires employing strategies beyond direct interjectional replacement, including nominalization or alternative verbal constructions.

The study contributes empirical data to the fields of Tajik linguistics, contrastive linguistics, and translation studies, specifically regarding the behavior of compound verbs/infinitives and the integration and translation of Arabic loan vocabulary within these structures.

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