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## CATEGORY OF TIME IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

*Isroilova Nargiza**Faculty Of Russian Philology, Department Of Modern Russian Language Uzbekistan State University Of World Languages, Uzbekistan*

## ABOUT ARTICLE

**Key words:** Category, cultural, form, nuance, context, verb, similarity.**Received:** 11.05.2024**Accepted:** 16.05.2024**Published:** 21.05.2024**Abstract:** In this article presents the category of time between English and Russian languages. In addition, it was mentioned that although both English and Russian use the grammatical category of tense to indicate the time of action, their systems and usage are very different, reflecting different linguistic structures and cultural influences.

## INTRODUCTION

The category of time in English and Russian represents ways of expressing temporal relations and coordinating actions with certain moments in the past, present and future. Both languages have their own characteristics in this regard. In English, the category of time is expressed through various tense forms of verbs, for example, Present Simple (present simple tense), Past Continuous (past continuous tense), Future Perfect (future perfect tense), etc. In Russian, the category of time is also expressed through verb forms and other means. In Russian there are grammatical tenses, such as Present Simple (present simple tense), Past Perfect (past perfect tense), Future Continuous (future continuous tense), etc., but other ways of expressing time are also often used in Russian, such as context, supporting words and phrases, and infinitive and participle forms. Thus, although both languages have a tense category, the way it is expressed and used may differ.

Although both English and Russian use tense as a grammatical category to convey the time of action, they differ significantly in their systems and usage, reflecting different linguistic structures and cultural influences. The concept of time as a grammatical category in language refers to the way of expressing temporal relationships between events or actions. In most languages, tenses are expressed using verbs or special tense forms that indicate when an action occurs or will occur: past, present or future.

Depending on the language and its grammatical features, tenses can have different forms and be used for different purposes. For example, in English there are such tenses as Present Simple (present simple), Past Simple (past simple), Present Continuous (present continuous) and so on. The Russian language has grammatical forms to express past, present and future tenses. The concept of time as a grammatical

category allows you to structure sentences and communicate information about the sequence of events in time.

Understanding the temporal connections between English and Russian is important in communication for several reasons.

- Translation and Interpretation: Understanding tense forms in both languages helps translators and language learners accurately convey the meaning of statements and texts from one language to another.
- Communication: It is important to be able to correctly express temporary relationships in spoken and written language in order to be understood by your interlocutor or audience.
- Grammatical Correctness: Incorrect use of tenses may lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretation of the message. Correct use of tenses helps clarify the sequence of events and their time frame.
- Cultural understanding: Time forms can reflect cultural characteristics and nuances in the perception of time in different cultures. Understanding these differences promotes deeper communication with native speakers.

Although English and Russian have similarities and differences in tense systems, the basic concepts (for example, past, present and future tense) are the same. Understanding these basic concepts makes it easier to learn and use both languages. A comparative analysis of tense forms in English and Russian can be useful for understanding their structures and functions. Although both languages have similar tense categories (past, present, future), there are also significant differences. Here are some of them:

#### 1. Past tense:

- English: There are several past tense forms in English, such as Past Simple, Present Perfect and Past Continuous.
- Russian language: The Russian language also has several forms of the past tense, for example, Past Imperfect, Past Perfect and Past Future.

#### 2. Present tense:

- English: The present tense is expressed using the Present Simple (simple present) and Present Continuous (present continuous).
- Russian language: Russian also uses various forms of the present tense, including the Present Imperfect and the Present Perfect.

#### 3. Future tense:

- English: The future tense can be expressed using the Future Simple, the Present Continuous, and other constructions such as "going to" + infinitive.
- Russian language: In Russian, to express the future tense, constructions using the future tense of the imperfect and perfect form, as well as the form "to gather" + infinitive are used.

#### 4. Specific temporary forms:

- English: English has tense forms such as Present Perfect Continuous and Future Perfect, which may be less common or absent in Russian.
- Russian language: The Russian language has tense forms that may differ from English, such as the past future tense.

This is just a quick comparison of tenses in English and Russian, and many of the details may be more complex or meaningful in each language.

#### 1.1 Differences in timing systems

The tense system of the English language is quite diverse and consists of several main tense forms, each of which has its own unique structure and use in context. Let's look at basic tense forms and structures, as well as the use of auxiliary verbs:

1. Present Simple:

- Structure: Subject + Verb (main verb) in base form (unchanged) or ending -s/-es for third person singular.

- Example: He eats apples every day. (He eats apples every day.)

2. Present Continuous:

- Structure: Subject + am/is/are + Verb-ing (verb in the form of the present participle).

- Example: They are playing football now. (They are playing football now.)

3. Present Perfect:

- Structure: Subject + have/has + Past Participle (past participle of the verb).

- Example: She has already finished her homework. (She has already finished her homework.)

4. Past Simple:

- Structure: Subject + Verb-ed (past tense of verb) or irregular verbs.

- Example: We visited Paris last summer. (We visited Paris last summer.)

5. Past Continuous:

- Structure: Subject + was/were + Verb-ing (verb in the form of the present participle).

- Example: I was studying when you called me. (I was studying when you called me.)

6. Future Simple:

- Structure: Subject + will + Verb (main verb).

- Example: They will go to the cinema tomorrow. (They will go to the cinema tomorrow.)

7. Future Continuous:

- Structure: Subject + will be + Verb-ing (verb in the form of the present participle).

- Example: By 5 o'clock tomorrow, I will be studying for three hours. (By 5 o'clock tomorrow I will have studied for three hours.)

Auxiliary verbs (am/is/are, have/has, was/were, will be, etc.) are used to form various tense forms and vary depending on the person and number of the subject. For example: I am, he is, we are, they were, etc.

The Russian tense system does differ from English and relies more on verb conjugation patterns and aspect rather than on the use of auxiliary verbs. Let's compare the main differences between the tense systems in Russian and English:

1. Simple present tense:

- English: English uses the Present Simple, which is often expressed using a main verb (for example, "I eat").

- Russian: Russian also has a present simple tense, but it is most often expressed through the aspect (imperfect or perfect) of the verb (for example, "I eat" or "I eat").

2. Past tense:

- English: English uses verb forms to express the past tense, such as the Past Simple ("I ate") or the Present Perfect ("I have eaten").

- Russian: In Russian, the past tense can also be expressed through aspects of the verb (imperfect or perfect), but verb conjugations are often used (for example, "I went" or "I walked").

3. Future tense:

- English: In English, the future tense can be expressed using the Future Simple ("I will eat") or Present Continuous ("I am going to eat") forms.

- Russian: In Russian, the future tense can also be expressed through aspects of the verb (imperfect or perfect), as well as through forms of the future tense ("I will eat").

#### 4. Auxiliary verbs:

- English: In English, tense forms are often formed using auxiliary verbs (for example, "to be", "to have").

- Russian language: In Russian, tense forms are usually formed by changing the forms of the main verb and the use of auxiliary verbs is not so common, although auxiliary words like "be", "become" are sometimes used to form some tense forms.

Thus, the tense system in Russian is based more on verb conjugation and aspect than on the use of auxiliary verbs, as is done in English. Of course, let's look at a few examples where English and Russian express similar tense concepts, but use different tense structures:

##### 1. Present simple tense:

- English: She drinks tea every morning.

- Russian: She drinks tea every morning.

##### 2. Past simple tense:

- English: They visited their grandparents last weekend.

- English: They visited their grandparents last weekend.

##### 3. Future simple tense:

- English: I will call you later.

- Russian: I'll call you later.

##### 4. Present continuous tense:

- English: They are watching a movie right now.

- Russian: They are watching a film now.

##### 5. Past continuous tense:

- English: She was reading a book when I entered the room.

- Russian: She was reading a book when I entered the room.

##### 6. Future continuous tense:

- English: By this time tomorrow, I will be traveling to Paris.

- English: By this time tomorrow I will be traveling to Paris.

In these examples we see how both languages express similar tense concepts (present, past, future) using different tense structures. Although the forms and constructions may differ, both languages convey the meaning of temporal relations in the context of sentences.

## 2. Cultural and linguistic influence

2.1 Study of historical and cultural factors that shaped the temporary systems of the English and Russian languages. The tense systems of English and Russian have been influenced by many historical, cultural and linguistic factors. Let's look at some of these factors:

### 1. Historical context

- English: The temporary system of the English language was formed during the historical development of the language, including the influence of Old English, Scandinavian, Norman French and Latin. Over time, these influences led to the creation of a tense system characterized by verb conjugations and auxiliary verbs.

- Russian language: The Russian language system developed from Old East Slavonic with influence from Church Slavonic and later borrowings from other languages such as Old Norse and Turkic. The development of the Russian language provisional system was influenced by various historical events, including cultural exchanges and conquests.

## 2. Grammatical structure:

- English: The English language has a relatively complex time system, distinguishing between simple and complex seasons. Using auxiliary verbs such as "have", "be" and "will" helps express different tenses and aspects.

- Russian language: The Russian language has a rich system of tenses and forms, which are indicated primarily by the conjugation of verbs. It distinguishes between past, present and future tenses, as well as perfect and imperfective forms, which indicate whether the action is completed or ongoing.

## 3. Cultural influences:

- English: The tense system of the English language reflects cultural attitudes towards time and action. The English language tends to emphasize precision and specificity in the use of tenses, reflecting a culture that values punctuality and efficiency.

- Russian language: The use of tense in Russian depends on cultural factors such as the perception of time and the importance of context. Russian speakers may use aspects such as the perfective to convey nuances of completion or emphasis, reflecting a culture that values storytelling and depth of meaning.

## 4. Linguistic heritage:

- English: The English language has been influenced by Germanic, Romance and other languages, resulting in a variety of vocabulary and constructions over time. The Anglo-Saxon heritage encourages the use of irregular verb forms and complex tense constructions.

- Russian: The provisional system of the Russian language has its roots in Slavic languages and was shaped by the linguistic heritage of the region. The development of such aspects as the perfect and imperfective forms is due to linguistic features inherited from Old Church Slavonic and other Old Slavic languages.

## 5. Language contacts and borrowings:

- English: Throughout its history, the English language has had contact with many languages, resulting in the borrowing of words, phrases and grammatical structures. This contact influenced the tense system, introducing new ways of expressing time and action.

- Russian language: The Russian language has also experienced linguistic contact, especially with neighboring languages and cultures. Borrowings from languages such as Old Norse, Turkic languages, and later from European languages contributed to the richness and complexity of the Russian language tense system.

Thus, the tense systems of English and Russian have been shaped by a combination of historical, cultural and linguistic factors, leading to different approaches to expressing tense and aspect in each language.

## 2.2 Influence of Germanic and Romance languages

The influence of Germanic and Romance languages had a significant impact on the development of tense forms of the English language. Here are a few ways this happened:

### 1. German influences:

- Nouns: Germanic languages such as Old Saxon and Old Frisian contributed to the development of nouns in English. This can be reflected in the forms of nouns, as well as their use in tense and aspect contexts.

- Verb forms: One of the prominent influences of the Germanic languages is the use of affixes and endings to form verb forms. This is seen in the formation of the past tense, especially in irregular verbs, where adding the ending -ed is analogous to Germanic endings.

## 2. Romanesque influences:

- Vocabulary: The Romans, after conquering Britain, made significant lexical contributions to the English language, introducing many Latin words. These words, associated with law, religion, science and technology, contributed to the development of the English language and its ability to express various aspects of time and action.

- Grammatical structures: Romance languages such as Latin contributed to the development of grammatical structures, including the use of auxiliary verbs to express tense forms. For example, in English, the formation of the simple past tense is carried out using the auxiliary verb "to have", which can be compared with a similar way of forming the past tense in Romance languages.

## 3. Mixing and interaction:

- There is a long history of contact between Germanic and Romance languages, which has led to mutual influence and borrowing. This process of formation of the English language took place over many centuries, and the result was a complex mixture of grammatical and lexical elements that together determine the specificity of its tense forms. In summary, the Germanic and Romance languages contributed to the development of English tenses through lexical influence, grammatical structures, and general linguistic trends, creating the rich system of tenses that exists in English to this day. Direct translation of tense structures between English and Russian can sometimes lead to ambiguity or loss of meaning due to differences in grammar, sentence structure and cultural sensitivities. Here are some cases when this can happen:

### Using articles in English:

- English uses articles ("a", "an", "the") to indicate the certainty or uncertainty of an object or event. There are no articles in Russian, so direct translation may lead to misunderstandings or ambiguity. For example, "I saw a bear" could be translated as "I saw a bear," but contextually it could mean "I saw some kind of bear" or "I saw the bear we were talking about earlier."

### Grammar structures of tenses:

- In the Russian language, there are two main ways of denoting time - aspects (perfect and imperfect) and temporal forms (present, past, future). In English, grammatical structures are more varied, which can lead to direct translations not taking these differences into account and leading to misunderstandings of the context.

- For example, the phrase "I am reading a book" can be translated as "I am reading a book" (the action is happening at the moment) or "I read a book" (the action in general). A direct translation without taking into account the context may not convey the exact meaning.

### Idioms and cultural nuances:

- Every language has its own idioms and expressions, which may be difficult to understand or literally untranslatable. Direct translation may lead to misunderstandings or funny results. For example, the English expression "It's raining cats and dogs" is unlikely to be understood literally in Russian.

- Cultural nuances can also influence the interpretation of temporary structures. For example, in Russian the context of time may be less direct and more variable than in English.

### Context clarification:

- Sometimes the context of time in one language requires additional explanation or clarification when translated into another language. For example, "He came" may be translated as "He came", but additional information may be required to indicate when this happened.

In general, direct translation of tense structures between English and Russian may result in loss of meaning or misunderstandings due to differences in grammar, sentence structure, and cultural background. To accurately convey meaning, it is important to take into account the context and characteristics of each language. The difference between Russian and English is that the tense system in Russian is less developed, and it is often expressed not only by verb forms, but also by context or auxiliary words.

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