

SYNTACTIC PATTERNS OF REPORTING PERCEPTUAL
EXPERIENCES IN ENGLISH**Karabaeva Barno Bobir qizi**PhD in Philology, doctorate,
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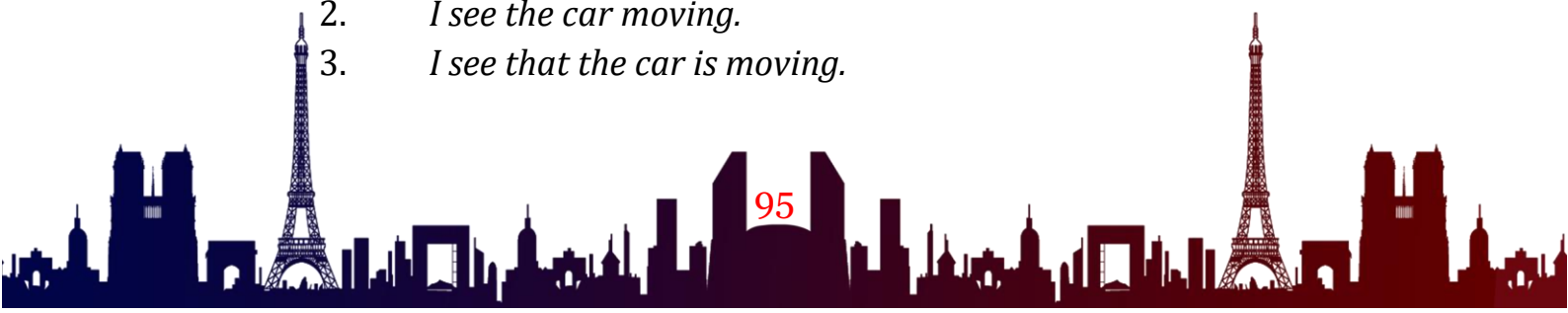
Annotation. This paper explores the syntactic structures used to report perceptual experiences in English. Drawing on corpus-based analyses and comparative linguistic studies, it examines the ways in which sensory verbs such as *see*, *hear*, *feel*, *smell*, and *taste* are embedded in a variety of clauses. Special attention is paid to how complements and subordinate clauses serve to convey different degrees of speaker subjectivity. The study also incorporates perspectives from Uzbek linguists, highlighting comparative aspects between English and Uzbek syntax. Findings underscore the complexity and flexibility of English reporting verbs and provide insights for cross-linguistic research.

Keywords: Perceptual verbs, reporting clauses, syntax, English, Uzbek linguistics

The syntactic representation of perceptual experiences in English has attracted substantial attention in linguistic research due to its relevance for understanding how language encodes sensory input and subjectivity (Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, & Finegan, 1999). Studies suggest that English deploys a range of clause configurations when reporting perceptual events, revealing the interplay between syntactic form and semantic nuance (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, & Svartvik, 1985). This paper aims to offer a concise overview of the syntactic patterns used in reporting perceptual experiences, using data from existing corpus-based research and comparative analyses by both Western and Uzbek scholars.

Perception verbs in English – commonly *see*, *hear*, *feel*, *smell*, and *taste* – allow speakers to report sensory experiences (Quirk et al., 1985). These verbs can introduce complex complement structures that range from simple noun phrases to non-finite and that-clauses. For example, Quirk et al. (1985, p. 1185) illustrate the following sentences to demonstrate varying syntactic complexity:

1. *I see the car.*
2. *I see the car moving.*
3. *I see that the car is moving.*



In (1), the verb *see* is followed by a direct object (**the car**). In (2), the present participle (**moving**) provides additional detail on the action being perceived, thus increasing syntactic and semantic complexity. Finally, sentence (3) employs a that-clause to frame the perceptual event as a proposition, foregrounding the speaker's interpretation of the observed action.

Recent corpus-based studies underline how diverse syntactic choices reflect varying degrees of the speaker's involvement or subjectivity in the reported event. Biber et al. (1999) note that bare infinitives (*I saw him leave*) can denote a direct and complete perception of the event, while present participial forms (*I saw him leaving*) often highlight the durative, ongoing process. For instance, *I heard her sing* implies witnessing the entirety of the performance, whereas *I heard her singing* suggests partial or continuous observation of the action.

Such nuances have also been discussed by Uzbek linguists investigating cross-linguistic parallels. Tursunova (2019) compares English perception-reporting verbs and their Uzbek equivalents, noting how Uzbek tends to employ postpositional complements and auxiliary verbs to achieve similar semantic distinctions. The variability in these syntactic patterns underscores the complexity of perceptual reporting when aligning English usage with other languages, including Uzbek (Tursunova, 2019).

Perception verbs in English frequently appear with non-finite clauses, particularly the infinitive or -ing forms. Biber et al. (1999) observe that:

- **Infinitives** usually convey a perception of a complete action (e.g., *I saw her leave the room*).
- **-ing forms** stress the ongoing nature of the perception (e.g., *I saw her leaving the room*).

These syntactic choices can influence how speakers interpret and recount the chronology or completeness of perceived events. Uzbek scholar Rakhimov (2020) points out that while Uzbek also utilizes non-finite constructions, the language's agglutinative morphology produces different morphological markers. Comparisons with English confirm that both languages maintain a robust mechanism to express perception with varying degrees of aspectual emphasis (Rakhimov, 2020).

Another prominent pattern involves using that-clauses after perception verbs, particularly when speakers convey evidential or inferential nuances (Quirk et al., 1985). Sentence (3) from Quirk et al. (1985) – *I see that the car is moving* – exemplifies how the event is presented as a proposition that the



speaker perceives as true. This construction can signal a level of interpretive distance between the speaker and the perceived fact, suggesting that the speaker's sensory input aligns with an underlying proposition that can be questioned or affirmed.

Nazarova (2021), in her comparative work on evidentiality in English and Uzbek, indicates that Uzbek also displays similar evidential markers, though they are often embedded in verb morphology rather than separate that-clauses. This reveals an intersection between syntactic choice and morphological processes in reporting perceptual experiences.

The interplay between syntax and semantics in reporting perceptual experiences is not unique to English. However, English offers a wide array of constructions – bare infinitives, participial clauses, and that-clauses – to encode perceptual content. The comparative work of Uzbek linguists (Rakhimov, 2020; Tursunova, 2019) underscores the importance of examining the typological features that shape syntactic realizations of perception across languages.

The implications of these findings are twofold. First, they highlight the complexity in teaching and learning these structures in second language contexts, particularly for Uzbek learners of English. Second, they offer fertile ground for further research into how languages manage the interface between perception, cognition, and syntax. By integrating corpus-based analyses with cross-linguistic approaches, future studies can deepen our understanding of the universal and language-specific dimensions of perceptual reporting.

Reporting perceptual experiences in English involves a variety of syntactic patterns that reflect the speaker's perspective, the nature of the perceived event, and the degree of evidential certainty. The range of constructions – from simple noun phrases to elaborate that-clauses – demonstrates the language's flexibility in encoding sensory experiences. Comparative studies with Uzbek show both shared and distinct mechanisms in how perception is linguistically framed. These findings contribute to ongoing discussions in descriptive and theoretical linguistics and reinforce the need for further cross-linguistic exploration of perceptual reporting strategies.

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