

The usage of three forms expressing desire in Uzbek

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1. Introduction

In Uzbek (Turkic, the southeastern group), desire can be expressed in three forms as shown in (1). We can confirm the existence of the inflectional suffix *V-moqchi* in a., the verbal noun *V-(i)sh* plus *xohla-* ‘want, hope’ in b., and the verbal noun *V-gi* plus *kel-* ‘come’ in c.

- (1) a. *Nima=dir ye-moqchi=man.*
what=INDF eat-INT=1SG
b. *Nima=dir yey-ish-ni xohla-y=man.*
what=INDF eat-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG
c. *Nima=dir ye-gi-m kel-yap=ti.*
what=INDF eat-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
“I want to eat something.”

Previous studies do not explore the difference between these three forms (*V(erb stem)-moqchi*, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-*, *V-gi kel-*). Using translation and exchange tests, this study aims to solve the question of how these three forms differ if all of them express desire.

The remainder of this study is organized as follows: Section 2 outlines the three forms and presents the problems, section 3 states the methods and results, section 4 analyses the results, and section 5 summarizes the findings.

2. Outline of the three forms and problems

First, I provide a brief overview of the literature of *V-moqchi*. Kononov (1960: 278) revealed *V-moqchi* expresses the intention. Example (2) indicates the intention of a first-person subject.

- (2) *Sen-ga bir yaxshilik qil-moqchi=man.*
2SG-DAT one goodness do-INT=1SG
“I want to do one thing for you.” (Kononov 1960: 278)

Bodrogligeti (2003: 708) highlighted that *V-moqchi* expresses intentional mood, which demonstrates the speaker’s resolve to do or not do something. Example (3) indicates the intention of a third-person subject.

- (3) *U maktab-da ol-gan o‘z nazariy bilim-lar-i-ni tajriba-da*
3SG school-LOC take-PTCP.PST own thereotical knowledge-PL-3.POSS-ACC experience-LOC
qo‘lla-b yetuk jurnalist bo‘l-moqchi.
use-CVB.SEQ mature journalist become-INT
“Applying in practice the theoretical knowledge she has obtained in school she wants to become an able journalist.” (Bodrogligeti 2003: 709)

Next, I outline the descriptions of *V-gi kel-*. Kononov (1960: 281) stated that *V-gi kel-* expresses the desire or intention for the action by a verbal noun *V-gi*, *V-g'i*, *V-g'u*. Bodrogligeti (2003: 831) highlighted that *V-gi kel-* expresses the desiderative mood, which serves to convey spontaneous inclination or perform or not carry out an action. Examples (4) and (5) indicate the intention of a third-person subject expressed by the possessive personal suffix *-si*.

(4) ... *ilgari-ga bos-ib bor-g'u-si kel-di-ø, ammo buyruq yo'q edi-ø.*
 forward-DAT step-CVB.SEQ go-VN-3.POSS come-PST-3SG but order no PST-3
 "... He wants to go forward, but no one commanded." (Kononov 1960: 281)

(5) ... *o'zbek xalq-i, albatta, o'z sharafli tarix-i-ni ... bil-gi-si*
 uzbek nation-3.POSS of.course own glorious history-3.POSS-ACC know-VN-3.POSS
kel-a=di.
 come-NPST=3
 'Of course, Uzbeks want to know their own glorious history.' (Kononov 1960: 281)

Kononov (1960) and Bodrogligeti (2003) did not address the form, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-* (lit. hope to V).

Kononov (1960) and Bodrogligeti (2003) should have stated the difference between these forms. I infer that the above three forms could be used to express desire. In order to do so, I composed sentences expressing "I want to eat something" in Uzbek and asked a native speaker to verify these sentences to support my inference. The speaker verified these sentences, which are given in (6).

(6) a. *Nima=dir ye-moqchi=man.*
 what=INDF eat-INT=1SG
 b. *Nima=dir yey-ish-ni xohla-y=man.*
 what=INDF eat-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG
 c. *Nima=dir ye-gi-m kel-yap=ti.*
 what=INDF eat-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 "I want to eat something." (= (1))

Therefore, these forms express the same semantic field. However, previous studies do not highlight the semantic differences between these forms. Uzbek has the first-person intentional inflectional form *-(a)y* for a singular subject as in (7) and *-(a)ylik* for a plural subject, and counterfactual form *-sa edi*¹, as shown in (8).

(7) *Qo'l ko'tar-mas-ing-dan burun chiq-ib ket-ay.*
 hand lift-VN.NEG-2SG.POSS-ABL before go.out-CVB.SEQ leave-1SG.IMP
 "I rather get out of here before you raise your hand." (Bodrogligeti 2003: 667)

¹ To express the number and person of the subject, a personal suffix is added to the conditional suffix *-sa*. The third-personal suffix is zero, meaning nothing is added to *-sa* in (8).

- (8) *Ta'til tez-roq boshlan-sa edi!*
 holiday fast-COMP start-COND PAST
 “I wish a holiday started faster!” (Nakajima 2015: 81)

Therefore, I will compare the three forms (*V-moqchi*, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-*, *V-gi kel-*) to these forms in conclusion. In conclusion, I will present the different meanings between the three forms by possibility of realization of the action and subject’s intention for realization of the action, and suggest the continuum between intention and desire including *-(a)y*, *-(a)ylik*, and *-sa edi*.

Additionally, I highlight that Japanese emotional predicates should add other items to themselves if their subject is a second- or third-person. For example, *tabe-ta-i* “(I) want to eat” is used for a first-person subject, as shown in (9). By contrast, *tabe-ta-gat-te#ir-u* “(you or s/he) want(s) to eat” is used for a second- or third-person subject as shown in (10).

- (9) *watasi=wa takai susi=o/=ga tabe-ta-i.*
 1SG=TOP expensive sushi=ACC eat-ITT-SF
 “I want to eat expensive sushi.”

- (10) *{kimi/Hanako}=wa takai susi=o tabe-ta-gat-te#ir-u.*
 2SG/PN=TOP expensive sushi=ACC eat-ITT-VBLZ-CVB#CONT-SF
 “You/Hanako want(s) to eat expensive sushi.”

This phenomenon is referred to as the “person restriction” for emotional predicates. Kazama (2023) compared some Altaic-type languages including Japanese, Korean, Nanai (Tungusic), Mongolian (Mongolic), Kirghiz, and Turkish (Turkic), from the perspective of person restrictions. Kazama (2023) clarified that Japanese, Korean, Mongolian and Turkish have some restrictions. Uzbek is also an Altaic-type language. Accordingly, I examine whether Uzbek predicates that express desire entail person restrictions.

3. Methods and results

3.1. Translation examination and exchange tests

First, I composed a questionnaire that examined the possibility of realization of the action, the subject’s intention for realization of the action, and the physiological demand. The possibility of realization of the action is connected to its counterfactual implication, that is, is related to *-sa edi*. The subject’s intention for realization of the action is closely tied to intention, that is, is related to *-(a)y*, *-(a)ylik*. The physiological demand is related to spontaneous inclination mentioned in Section 2. This questionnaire constrained 18 Japanese sentences that were only in first-person. I asked an Uzbek native speaker (male, born in Tashkent, in 1989) to translate these sentences into Uzbek, and then I exchanged the translated form with other two forms, and asked him to verify the exchanged sentences. The sentences in this test do not have second- or third-person subjects, because Uzbek predicates that express desire may entail person restrictions; see (9) and (10). Section 2.2 examines these person restrictions.

Table 1 presents the results of the questionnaire. © represents translated forms, ○ represents exchanged forms, and △ represents low acceptable exchanged forms. Table 1 is composed of three parts: ① the action can be

realized, ② the action cannot be realized, and ③ the action is based on physiological demands.

Table 1: Results of the translation and exchange tests

	Possibility of realization of action	Subject's intention for realization of action	Form	<i>V-moqchi</i>	<i>V-(i)sh-ni xohla-</i>	<i>V-gi kel-</i>
			Example			
①	Yes	Strong ↑	I <u>want to</u> save up money and invite my wife and children to Japan. (11)	⊙	○	○
			I <u>want to</u> get a scholarship and study at a Japanese university. (12)	⊙	○	○
			I <u>want to</u> study in Japan someday. (13)	⊙	○	△
②	No	↓ Weak	I <u>want to</u> go back to my childhood. (14)	×	⊙	⊙
			I <u>want to</u> be a bird.(15)	×	⊙	○
			I <u>want to</u> see my (separated) lover right now. (16)	×	○	⊙
			Oh, I <u>want to</u> go to the moon. (17)	×	×	⊙
			Oh, I <u>want to</u> eat an Uzbek melon (in Japan). (18)	×	×	⊙
③	Physiological demand		I <u>want to</u> go to a restroom. (21)	○	○	⊙

In sum, Table 1 states the following:

1. If the action cannot be realized, *V-moqchi* is not permitted.
2. If the subject's intention for realization of the action is weak, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-* is not permitted.
3. *V-gi kel-* is permitted regardless of the possibility of realization of the action and subject's intention for realization of the action.

3.2. Testing person restrictions

I created 81 sentences to ensure that each of the three forms (*V-moqchi*, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-*, *V-gi kel-*) of the nine sentences in Table 1 have different person subjects, based on the translation test. Two Uzbek native speakers (1. male, born in Tashkent, in 1989, 2. female, born in Tashkent, in 1994) verified the accuracy of the sentence. If the sentence in question could be used by them, the respondent marked it as ○. If the respondent could not use the sentence but had heard of it, they marked it as △. Finally, if the respondent could not use or had not heard of the sentence in question before, they marked it as ×. Consequently, person restriction could not be attested in the three forms (*V-moqchi*, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-*, *V-gi kel-*), indicating that all the person subjects are permitted in each form². Thus, in next section, I discuss the differences between these three forms without considering person restriction.

4. Discussion

This section discusses the differences between the three aforementioned forms, considering points 1-3 in

² I must acknowledge the following findings. One native speaker could not confirm person restriction in three forms (*V-moqchi*, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-*, *V-gi kel-*). However, another native speaker never identified sentences with second-person subjects as correct. This may be because second-person subjects are less common than first-person subjects. I was able to locate some instances in which the second- or third-person subjects appear in the three forms within the “Turkic Web – Uzbek” corpus on Sketch Engine (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/uzwac-uzbek-corpus>, accessed August 9th, 2023).

Table 1.

4.1. ① The action can be realized

All examples were permitted in this context. I assumed that the subject's intention for realization of the action in these examples was strong because the speaker was about to act toward the realization of the event in these examples.

- (11) *Pul yig'-ib, ayol-im va farzand-lar-im-ni Yaponiya-ga {chaqir-moqchi=man/*
 money gather-CVB.SEQ woman-1SG.POSS and child-pl-1SG.POSS-ACC Japan-DAT call-INT=1SG
chaqir-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ chaqir-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.
 call-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG call-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 "I want to save up money and invite my wife and children to Japan."

- (12) *Grant yut-ib, Yaponiya-dagi universitet-ga o'qi-sh-ga {bor-moqchi=man/*
 grant win-CVB.SEQ Japan-ADJLZ university-DAT study-VN-dat go-INT=1SG
bor-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ bor-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.
 go-vn-acc want-npst=1sg go-vn-1sg.poss come-prog=3
 "I want to get a scholarship and study at a Japanese university."

However, the acceptance rate for the case of *V-gi kel-* in (13) is lower.

- (13) *Qachon=dir Yaponiya-ga o'qi-sh-ga {bor-moqchi=man/ bor-ish-ni xohla-y=man/*
 when=INDF Japan-DAT study-VN-DAT go-INT=1SG go-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG
?bor-gi-m kel-yap=ti/}.
 go-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 "I want to study in Japan someday."

One of the participants pointed out that *qachon=dir* "someday" and *bor-gi-m kel-yap=ti* "I want to go" are inharmonious. Hidaka (2022) stated that *V-gi kel-* inadequately expresses the distant future because of its lexical meaning "Ving comes".

4.2. ② The action cannot be realized

V-moqchi was not permitted in this context.

- (14) *Bolalik payt-im-ga {*qayt-moqchi=man/ qayt-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ qayt-gi-m*
 childhood time-1SG.POSS-DAT return-INT=1SG return-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG return-VN-1SG.POSS
kel-yap=ti}.
 come-PROG=3
 "I want to go back to my childhood."

(15) *Men qush {*bo'l-moqchi=man/ bo'l-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ bo'l-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.*
 1SG bird be-INT=1SG be-return-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG be-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 “I want to be a bird.”

(16) *Hozir=oq sev-gan inson-im bilan {*ko'r-ish-moqchi=man/ ko'r-ish-ish-ni*
 now=EMPH love-PTCP.PST person-1SG.POSS with see-RECP-INT=1SG see-RECP-VN-ACC
xohla-y=man/ ko'r-ish-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.
 want-NPST=1SG see-RECP-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 “I want to see my (separated) lover right now.”

Therefore, when the action cannot be realized but the subject’s intention for realizing it is relatively strong, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-* and *V-gi kel-* are used.

I assumed that the subject’s intention for realization of the action was low, because (17) and (18) express contexts that are uttered in conversation with friends. Notably, only *V-gi kel-* was used in (17) and (18). Additionally, I assumed that the speaker lived in Japan.

(17) *Eh, oy-ga {*bor-moqchi=man/ *bor-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ bor-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.*
 INTJ month-DAT go-INT=1SG go-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG go-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 “Oh, I want to go to the moon.”

(18) *Eh, O'zbekiston-ni qovun-i-ni {*ye-moqchi=man/ *yey-ish-ni xohla-y=man/*
 INTJ uzbekistan-GEN melon-3.POSS-ACC eat-INT=1SG eat-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG
ye-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.
 eat-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 “Oh, I want to eat an Uzbek melon (in Japan).”

Therefore, if the action cannot be realized and the subject’s intention for realizing the action is relatively weak, *V-gi kel-* is permitted.

However, when the action can be realized, *V-moqchi* is permitted. For example, I changed *qush* “bird” in (15) to *huquqshunos* “lawyer” in (19).

(19) *Men huquqshunos {bo'l-moqchi=man/ bo'l-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ bo'l-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.*
 1SG lawyer be-INT=1SG/ be-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG be-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 “I want to be a lawyer.”

In (20), I evaluated the case in which a speaker actually plans to go to the moon.

(20) *Oy-ga bor-moqchi=man.*
 moon-DAT go-INT=1SG
 “I want to go to the moon.”

Therefore, *V-moqchi* is used only if the action can be realized.

4.3. ③ The action is based on physiological demand

All three forms were permitted in this context.

- (21) *Hojatxona-ga {bor-moqchi=man/ bor-ish-ni xohla-y=man/ bor-gi-m kel-yap=ti}.*
 toilet-DAT go-INT=1SG go-VN-ACC want-NPST=1SG go-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG=3
 ‘I want to go to a restroom.’

A Uzbek native speaker stated that *bor-moqchi=man* and *bor-ish-ni xohla-y=man* mean different things when a speaker utters them on a train. *bor-moqchi=man* is used when a train has a restroom and the speaker can quickly relieve himself, while *bor-ish-ni xohla-y=man* is used when the train does not have a restroom. *bor-gi-m kel-yap=ti* is used regardless of the availability of a restroom on a train. Therefore, *V-gi kel-* is used regardless of the possibility of realization of the action.

5. Conclusion

First, I summarized the way in which the three forms (*V-moqchi*, *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-*, *V-gi kel-*) are used. *V-moqchi* is used only when the action can be realized from (11)–(13) in Section 4.1 and (19) and (20) in Section 4.2. *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-* is used regardless of the possibility of realization of the action. However, it is not used if the subject’s intention for realization is low, as shown in (17) and (18) in section 3.2. This attributes *V-(i)sh-ni xohla-* to the analytical meaning “want to V.” *V-gi kel-* is also used regardless of the possibility of realization of the action. However, it is difficult to use this form to express the distant future.

Figure 1 shows how the three forms expressing “desire” in Uzbek form a continuum with other expressions. This figure includes the first-person intentional inflectional form *-(a)y*, *-(a)ylik*, and counterfactual form *-sa edi* (see (7) and (8) in Section 2).

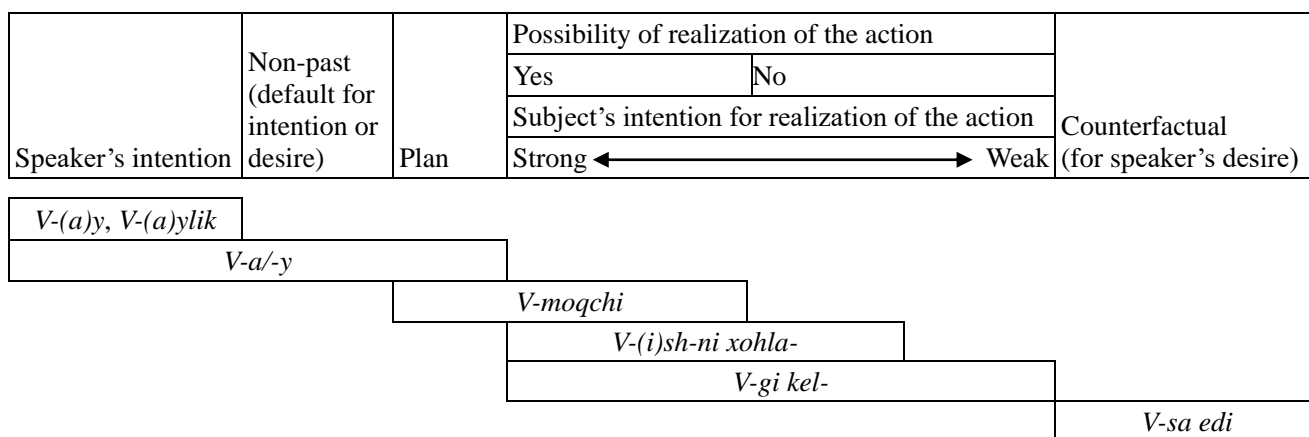


Figure 1: The continuum between intention and desire

This study aimed to uncover the meanings of three types of sentences in the affirmative and present tense. Moving forward, I plan on exploring their negative and interrogative counterparts and those in the past and future tenses.

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Abbreviation (only without Leipzig Glossing Rules)

ADJLZ (adjectivalizer)/COMP (comparative)/EMPH (emphatic)/INT (intention)/INTJ (interjection)/PN (personal name)/SEQ (sequential)/SF (sentence final marker)/ VBLZ (verbalizer)/VN (verbal noun)

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