

Timur Akishev^{1*}, Arailym Sarbassova², Yekaterina Kravtsova³^{1*}Corresponding Author, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Assistant Professor, KIMEP University, Kazakhstan, Almaty, ORCID: 0009-0009-3684-5500 E-mail: t.akishev@kimep.kz²Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), KIMEP University, Kazakhstan, Almaty, ORCID: 0000-0002-2712-9221 E-mail: a.sarbassova@kimep.kz³Master's Student, KIMEP University, Kazakhstan, Almaty, ORCID: 0009-0003-4471-0645 E-mail: yekaterina.kravtsova@kimep.kz**THE LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF A KAZAKH AUXILIARY VERB**

Abstract. This study presents a comprehensive analysis of the linguistic characteristics of the verb *zhatyr*, one of a set of four closely related auxiliary verbs of state that possess an almost identical structure when forming complex verb constructions and are used to provide a variety of meanings. Specifically, the main emphasis is on the morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties of the Present Continuous Tense-expressing *zhatyr*. The characteristics of the auxiliary verb are considered in detail, determining the intrinsic structural components involved in the formation of the lexical verb + *zhatyr* construction. Additional focus is placed on the semantic nature of the phenomenon in question, especially the ways in which the meanings and contexts coincide and differ for *zhatyr* and its three counterparts (*otyr*, *tür*, and *zhür*). The methodological framework of this study is based on a comprehensive, multi-level examination of a number of linguistic examples in which the verb in question is typically used in the language to express Continuous Tense meanings. The findings contribute to the theoretical understanding of the auxiliary verb systems in Kazakh, while also providing practical insights for advanced linguistic analysis and language learning. Ultimately, this research aims to enhance our linguistic approaches to Kazakh grammar.

Keywords: auxiliary verbs; morphology; syntax; semantics; Present Continuous Tense**For citation:** Akishev, T., Sarbassova, A., Kravtsova, Ye. The Linguistic Features of a Kazakh Auxiliary Verb. *Tiltanyim*, 2025. №1 (97). P. 68-78.DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55491/2411-6076-2025-1-68-78>**Тимур Акишев^{1*}, Арайлым Сарбасова², Екатерина Кравцова³**^{1*}автор-корреспондент, философия докторы (PhD), доцент, КИМЭП Университеті, Қазақстан, Алматы қ., ORCID: 0009-0009-3684-5500 E-mail: t.akishev@kimep.kz²философия докторы (PhD), КИМЭП Университеті, Қазақстан, Алматы қ., ORCID: 0000-0002-2712-9221 E-mail: a.sarbassova@kimep.kz³магистрант, КИМЭП Университеті, Қазақстан, Алматы қ., ORCID: 0009-0003-4471-0645 E-mail: yekaterina.kravtsova@kimep.kz**ҚАЗАҚ ТІЛІНДЕГІ КӨМЕКШІ ЕТІСТІКТЕРДІҢ
ЛИНГВИСТИКАЛЫҚ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ**

Аңдатпа. Зерттеу жұмысы жасалу құрылымы бір-біріне ұқсас, күрделі етістік конструкциясын жасауда құрылымы бірдей, бір-біріне байланысты төрт қалып етістіктің бірі – «жатыр» етістігінің тілдік ерекшеліктерін кешенді талдауға бағытталады. «Жатыр» етістігінің созылыңқы осы шақ формасындағы морфологиялық, синтаксистік, семантикалық ерекшеліктеріне басты назар аударылады. Бұл қалып етістіктің тілдік ерекшеліктері жан-жақты қарастырылады, атап айтқанда «негізгі етістік + жатыр» конструкциясын жасауға қатысатын құрылымдық элементтер анықталады, мағыналық сипаты, ұқсастықтары мен ерекшеліктеріне баса назар аударылады. Аталмыш етістіктің семантикалық негізіне көңіл бөлініп, нақты айтқанда контекстік баламалары (жүр, отыр, тұр) арасындағы ұқсастықтар мен айырмашылықтар анықталады. Бұл зерттеудің әдістемесі лингвистикадағы бірқатар мысалдарды жан-жақты, көп деңгейлі зерттеуге негізделген, онда типтік нұсқадағы бұл етістік қазіргі ұзақ уақыттың мағыналарын білдіру үшін қолданылады. Алынған нәтижелер қазақ тіліндегі көмекші етістіктер жүйесін теориялық тұрғыдан түсінуге ықпал етеді, сондай-ақ тілді тереңдетіп лингвистикалық талдау мен зерделеу үшін практикалық ұсыныстар береді. Сайып келгенде, бұл зерттеу қазақ тілінің грамматикасын оқытудың лингвистикалық тәсілдерін жетілдіруге бағытталған.

Тірек сөздер: көмекші етістіктер; морфология; синтаксис; семантика; созылыңқы осы шақ**Сілтеме жасау үшін:** Акишев Т., Сарбасова А., Кравцова Е. Қазақ тіліндегі көмекші етістіктердің лингвистикалық ерекшеліктері. *Tiltanyim*, 2025. №1 (97). 68-78-бб. (ағыл. тілінде)DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55491/2411-6076-2025-1-68-78>

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ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ВСПОМОГАТЕЛЬНОГО ГЛАГОЛА В КАЗАХСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация. Данное исследование направлено на комплексный анализ лингвистических особенностей глагола «жатыр», одного из четырех тесно связанных вспомогательных глаголов состояния, которые имеют практически идентичную структуру при формировании сложных глагольных конструкций и используются для передачи целого ряда значений. Основное внимание уделено морфологическим, синтаксическим, и семантическим особенностям глагола «жатыр», выражающего значения настоящего длительного времени. Языковые свойства данного вспомогательного глагола рассматриваются детально, включая определение структурных элементов, задействуемых при формировании конструкции «основной глагол + жатыр», а также отдельного внимания заслуживает семантическая природа данного глагола, а именно сходства и различия в рамках значений и контекстов между глаголом «жатыр» и его аналогами (*отыр*, *тұр* и *жүр*). Методология данного исследования основана на всестороннем, многоуровневом изучении ряда примеров в лингвистике, в которых данный глагол в типовом варианте используется для выражения значений настоящего длительного времени. Полученные результаты вносят вклад в теоретическое осмысление системы вспомогательных глаголов в казахском языке, а также предоставляют практические рекомендации для углубленного лингвистического анализа и изучения языка. В конечном итоге данное исследование направлено на совершенствование лингвистических подходов к изучению грамматики казахского языка.

Ключевые слова: вспомогательные глаголы; морфология; синтаксис; семантика; настоящее длительное время

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Introduction

Kazakh auxiliary verbs represent a challenge for learners and instructors due to their inherent linguistic complexity. There is a particular group of such “challenging” auxiliary verbs that are used to reflect similar linguistic characteristics: *отыр*, *тұр*, *зһатыр*, and *зһүр*. While these verbs are quite often, but not always, interchangeable, there are minor differences between them that depend on the general linguistic and specific semantic contexts in which they are used.

The main purpose of this paper is to elucidate the linguistic complexity of one of these auxiliary verbs, the verb *зһатыр*. Of particular interest to this study are the morphological, syntactic, and semantic characteristics of this verb. While *зһатыр* can undergo a number of transformations and be used to express a variety of tense-related meanings, the main focus of this study is only on the Present Continuous Tense version of this auxiliary verb.

In order to understand the linguistic characteristics of *зһатыр*, it is necessary to discuss the notion of ‘auxiliary verbs’ in general and the nature of auxiliary verbs in modern languages, including Turkic languages and, of course, Kazakh itself. Such an overview is expected to provide insight into the general and specific linguistic properties of the phenomenon in question.

Зһатыр is often considered a universal auxiliary verb that is used in the most frequent number of cases. Despite its broad implication and variety of tenses it is applicable to, its utilization nevertheless relies on factors of speaker’s position and length of the action. The verb *зһатыр*, in comparison with other three auxiliary verbs, is of extreme interest due to the highest number of cases in which it is contextually suitable.

Materials and methods

The methodological framework of the current study includes (1) an example-based analysis of the morphological characteristics of the verb; (2) an X-bar-theoretic breakdown of the syntactic patterns in which the verb typically occurs; and (3) a comprehensive description of the main semantic aspects of the verb.

Thus, the morphological analysis will rely on the Leipzig Glossing Rules to illustrate the structural aspects of the verb. Official, internationally accepted linguistic terminology will also be used to describe the morphemes and their characteristics. A set of fabricated examples will be provided in order to be able to present the verb *zhatyr* in its usual linguistic environment and help demonstrate the relationships between the verb and other linguistic elements. It is important to note that all of the linguistic aspects operationalized in this study are closely related to each other, so the decision to separate them was made in order to facilitate certain presentational aspects of the given methodology.

The analysis of the syntactic characteristics of the verb *zhatyr* will be based on the use of the X-bar schema developed by Noam Chomsky as part of his X-bar theory, which is one of the fundamental theories of generative syntax (Chomsky, 1970). Although X-bar theory has already been superseded by more modern linguistic approaches in the field of syntax, such as, for instance, Minimalism, it can still be used as a reliable descriptive instrument that can demonstrate the inherent specificities of phrase and clause structure. Thus, the purpose of this analysis will be to elucidate the characteristics of the construction that contains the lexical verb and the auxiliary verb form *zhatyr*. It should be noted that a generativist approach may have its own challenges when applied to an agglutinating language like Kazakh which has a rich morphological inventory and relies heavily on suffixation in terms of both derivation and inflection. While these processes are morphological per se, they can still have syntactic implications. Importantly, the current study does not aim to present a comprehensive syntactic analysis that would depict the transformations, such as, for example, movement operations required in order to generate grammatical sentences containing the phenomenon in question. Instead, our approach focuses on the demonstration of the surface-level specificities of the syntax of the complex construction that contains the lexical verb and the auxiliary verb *zhatyr*.

Upon analyzing the verb *zhatyr* morphologically and syntactically, we will demonstrate and explain the diversity of meanings that it frequently represents when expressing Present Continuous Tense features. The semantic analysis will also focus on the description of the meaning-related characteristics of the verb as opposed to its ‘structural’ counterparts (*otyr*, *tūr*, and *zhūr*). As the literature review has demonstrated, there may be significant differences in meaning between *zhatyr* and the three other auxiliary verbs when it comes to expressing tense characteristics. Such differences should be described in detail in order to understand the complex semantic properties of this verb as well as its overall linguistic nature. We will rely on available literature to pinpoint these differences.

It is expected that this multi-level approach will provide further insights into the morphological, syntactic, and semantic nature of this auxiliary verb, making it easier for researchers to describe its intrinsic characteristics, and, ultimately, for instructors to be able to draw useful conclusions about its general grammatical properties when preparing teaching materials.

Literature review

Auxiliary verbs are found in a large number of languages, and their structural and semantic relationships with the main lexical verbs differ vastly from language to language. A common characteristic of auxiliary verbs is that they represent a set of verbs that are subordinate to lexical verbs (Crystal, 2008). Thus, auxiliaries are more or less a closed, limited class of items characterized by a specific structural pattern and a particular function to perform in relation to the main verbs, modifying or supporting their tense, aspect, voice, or mood characteristics (Radford, 2009).

In many modern languages, auxiliary verbs and auxiliary verb constructions are generally regarded as elements that combine with main, lexical verbs to form the verb phrase of a clause. While auxiliaries perform similar functions across languages, it is impossible to develop any language-independent, all-encompassing criteria that linguists would use to identify a given element as either an auxiliary verb or a lexical verb in any language (Anderson, 2006). Still, it is possible to determine the usual characteristics of auxiliary verbs by focusing on the complex constructions in which they occur in many languages. In auxiliary verb constructions, the lexical verb provides the lexical content, while the auxiliary verb provides grammatical and functional content (Anderson, 2006).

In agglutinating Turkic languages, auxiliary verbs are formed using a wide variety of structural patterns. These languages frequently rely on auxiliary verb constructions (Schamiloglu, 1996). In terms of such constructions, both the structure and the meaning of auxiliary verbs interact with those of lexical

verbs. While lexical verbs provide the actual semantic content to the lexical-auxiliary verb construction and are presented in their converbal form, auxiliary verbs typically provide only a functional meaning and assume a number of regular verb characteristics (Shluinsky, 2021).

In Kazakh, lexical verbs cannot express meanings related to the progression of an action or its state of completion. Only complex verb constructions, or verb-verb complexes, can provide those meanings. In this language, there are a total of eighteen auxiliary verb constructions that reflect various meanings in combination with the main verb. The meanings that they reflect can be defined as tense-aspect-modality (TAM) relationships (Györfi, 2022). Thus, Kazakh can be characterized as having a diverse, multi-item system for expressing TAM relationships. There is a wide variety of tense constructions in this language, each possessing a unique structural pattern. The current study focuses on the nature of one such relationship, namely the means of expression of the Present Continuous Tense.

There are four auxiliary verbs that take a copula-like personal ending and require the main verb to take a converbal morpheme. As mentioned above, this set of auxiliary verbs includes *otyr*, *tūr*, *zhatyr*, and *zhūr*. While the ways in which these complex verb constructions are formed are identical, each of the four verbs is unique, in that they can be used in a particular context and with a particular meaning (Dotton, Wagner, 2018). Importantly, this review of the literature focuses only on one of the verbs, while the relevant characteristics of the three other verbs are discussed in detail in the analytical part of the present paper.

The verb *zhatyr* is one of the auxiliary verb forms that are used to create complex verb structures (Mamanov, 2007). Constructed using the stem of the verb *zhatu* ‘to lie’ that is connected with the suffix *-yr*, the verb *zhatyr* is used to express a number of tense characteristics (Zholshayeva, 2011). As previously mentioned, the verb is closely related to the other three auxiliary verbs that can also possess similar semantic characteristics, *otyr*, *tūr*, and *zhūr*. The distribution of these auxiliary verbs depends on the manner of the action. *Zhatyr* is considered as more free than the other three verbs, in that it is able to combine with most actions depicted by the main verb. The meaning of the verb is always connected with the action being ongoing or in the process (Dotton, Wagner, 2018). There are several tense-related semantic functions that *zhatyr* performs. It is important to pay attention to the context or situation being discussed in order to differentiate between the functions. The analysis part of the present paper will describe the auxiliary verb in detail, focusing not only on the Present Continuous Tense but also on all other possible tense meanings that *zhatyr* is used to communicate in terms of various structural patterns. It is important to mention that our study will focus only on the Present Continuous Tense version of this verb beyond this review of the literature.

It can be inferred that the auxiliary verb *zhatyr* and the constructions derived from it have a variety of meanings and contexts in which they can be used in Kazakh. It has its own linguistic properties, which are closely connected with those of the other three auxiliary verbs of this group (*otyr*, *tūr* and *zhūr*). Still, the specificities of its meaning set it apart from its counterparts, making it a more universal option for expressing the Continuous Tense features (Dotton & Wagner, 2018). The other linguistic characteristics of this verb should also be studied in depth, focusing not only on its semantics but also on its structural properties.

Results and discussions

The given section represents the main analytical part of our study. The following analysis procedure will focus on each of the three selected linguistic levels independently, considering the characteristics of this auxiliary verb in depth and relying on contemporary and accepted linguistic approaches and terminology. Importantly, our approach focuses mainly on the morphosyntactic and meaning-based characteristics of the verb, while all other linguistic levels were excluded from the analysis. While a phonology-oriented description may not be relevant to further research on this topic, it is understood that a comprehensive scrutiny focusing on pragmatics and discourse analysis would help determine and describe the richness of contexts in which the verb is commonly used in the language.

1. Morphological analysis

Kazakh is an agglutinating Turkic language with rich derivational and inflectional morphology. The morpheme-to-meaning ratio is predominantly 1:1. Words are constructed by adding morphemes sequentially, with each element expressing a particular meaning in terms of inflectional or derivational

processes. This concatenation process typically results in complex word structures that are still transparent in meaning due to the application of the principles of agglutination (Mukhamedova, 2015).

Let us consider the morphological characteristics of the auxiliary verb *zhatyr*. The following examples were created to illustrate the complex nature of the verb itself and the structure of the elements accompanying *zhatyr* inside of a Kazakh clause. It is important to mention that these and all other examples in Kazakh that are provided in the paper were written using the official Latin alphabet for this language (Satubaldina, 2021).

Thus, in constructions like (1), the stem of the main verb *köru* ‘to watch,’ *kör-* adds a converbal suffix form *-ıp* and combines with the verb *zhatyr* to form a complex verb construction that expresses the Continuous Tense characteristics, showing that the action is in progress or ongoing. The verb *zhatyr* itself carries tense and personal characteristics.

(1)	<i>Ol</i>	<i>filmdı</i>	<i>körıp</i>	<i>zhatyr</i>
	ol	film-dı	kör-ıp	zhatyr-Ø
	3PSG.NOM	film-ACC.DEF	watch-CONV	lie.AUX.PROG-3P

‘He is watching the film.’

The following example presents a slightly different context. The verb *zhatyr* is conjugated with the suffix *-myn* which indicates agreement with the subject of the clause expressed by the first person singular pronoun *men*. In (1) agreement is still achieved, but there is no suffix at the end of *zhatyr* that would explicitly demonstrate that. This has to do with the conjugation principles of Kazakh, especially those pertaining to the expression of agreement of the four auxiliary verbs (*otyr*, *tūr*, *zhatyr*, and *zhúr*) with third-person subjects.

(2)	<i>Men</i>	<i>filmdı</i>	<i>körıp</i>	<i>zhatyrmyn</i>
	men	film-dı	kör-ıp	zhatyr-myn
	1PSG.NOM	film-ACC.DEF	watch-CONV	lie.AUX.PROG-1PSG

‘I am watching the film.’

In conclusion, the scrutiny of the morphology of the phenomenon in question has demonstrated that the verb *zhatyr* is characterized by a complex structure. This structure includes multiple morphemes that each perform a particular function when expressing the Present Continuous Tense features. Moreover, the morphological structure of the main verb itself also undergoes transformations, such as the addition of a converbal morpheme to facilitate the formation of a Continuous Tense structure. These and all other inherent morphological properties should be taken into consideration when analyzing the linguistic nature of any similar phenomenon in such an agglutinating language.

2. Syntactic analysis

Kazakh is classified as a head-final language, which means that the head element of a phrase usually appears as the final element (Mukhamedova, 2015). This characteristic is particularly evident when constructing syntactic tree diagrams for this language, with the diagramming itself achieved through a left-branching approach. Consequently, the word order is usually SOV in regular, unmarked contexts. Still, it is possible to alter the placement of syntactic elements in a Kazakh phrase or clause in order to emphasize their meaning or significance.

In the analysis that follows we have applied a generative, X-bar-theoretic approach to analyze the syntactic structure of a clause containing the auxiliary verb *zhatyr*. There are two approaches to representing the syntax of the phenomenon in question: a simplistic representation and a more detailed approach.

APPROACH #1: T node occupied by *zhatyr*

It is possible to assume that the verb *zhatyr* originates in the T node, providing tense characteristics to its complement VP that is headed by the main verb. From the T node, it does, as actual phonological content, interact with the subject DP, assigning a nominative case from this position. According to this

approach, there are no covert, abstract mechanisms responsible for feature assignment. The overt T element *zhatyr* is itself responsible for such a process.

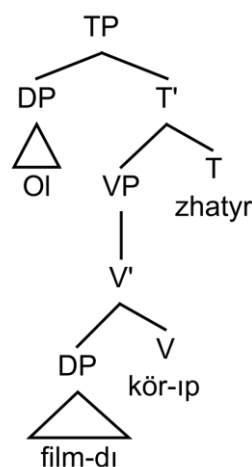


Figure 1 – Analysis of the verb *zhatyr* as the head of the TP

Сурет 1 – Жатыр етістігін шақ мәнді сөйлемнің басшысы ретінде талдау

Рисунок 1 – Анализ глагола «жатыр» как главы фразы времени

Furthermore, the auxiliary is not “raised” to the T node from a lower position in the hierarchy, instead originally occupying that position. Based on the fact that the verb *zhatyr* is a relatively fixed, established representation of a certain tense feature (*pres*), it is safe to assume that the T node is the appropriate position in which it is originally generated. Such an assumption is reminiscent of the positioning of modal and auxiliary verbs in basic versions of English syntactic tree diagrams (Carnie, 2012). Based on the claim that the T node should be occupied by the tense-established *zhatyr*, it may also be true that this overt element possesses the *prog* feature in that position. However, these and all further assumptions are difficult to present and interpret here because this approach does not demonstrate the syntactic complexity that our analysis aims to capture.

APPROACH #2: Stacked VP analysis

There is another approach to analyzing the syntactic structure of the phenomenon in question. Following the “stacked VP” interpretation, it is possible to hypothesize that the auxiliary is generated lower than the T node, as the head of the higher VP, which has as its complement another VP, the one that contains the actual main verb. A similar approach is applied in a more advanced analysis of the English auxiliaries *be* and *have* by Carnie (2012).

Our analysis assumes (1) that the T position is phonologically empty, only containing the Present Tense feature (*pres*), and (2) that *zhatyr*, which is the head of the higher VP, has a Continuous (Progressive) Tense feature (*prog*) that requires the main verb to take the converbal morpheme *-ıp*.

Whether or not the head verb element *zhatyr* should move to the T node in order to assign the nominative case to the subject DP, in the same way that it is done in English in the context of V→T movement, is not clear. There could be abstract mechanisms for case assignment as well. It is also not clear if the VP-internal subject hypothesis (VPISH) is true for Kazakh. If it is applicable, the subject DP would obtain its theta role from a lower, VP-internal main verb element, and then be moved to satisfy the Kazakh-language equivalent of the Extended Projection Principle (EPP) and also obtain nominative case, assuming that there already is a corresponding overt or covert case-assigning element in the T position. Importantly, any questions regarding the presence or absence of the EPP or VPISH in Kazakh are empirical. As the current study does not focus on transformational processes including DP movement, V→T movement, etc., our approach to the location of the subject DP is rather straightforward: it originates in SpecTP (as a sister to the T’). Based on this alone, we can still assume that there is a further movement, or raising, operation, that would copy the *zhatyr* element from the head position of the higher VP to the T node in order for the subject DP to obtain case, with the T node serving as the repository for both tense characteristics and subject-verb agreement features.

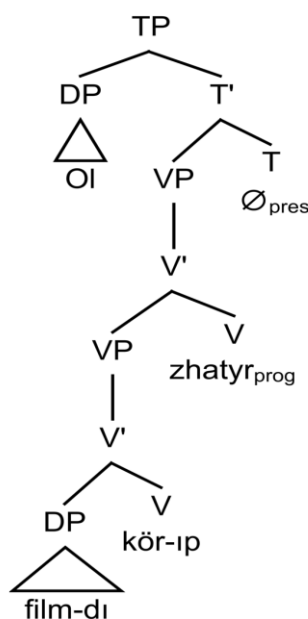


Figure 2 – Analysis of the verb *zhatyr* as part of a stacked VP

Сурет 2 – *Жатыр* етістігін күрделі етістік тіркесінің бөлігі ретінде талдау

Рисунок 2 – Анализ глагола «жатыр» как части составной глагольной формы

Thus, the T node can contain the linguistic material representing the agreement between the subject DP and the auxiliary verb itself: *Men filmdı körıp zhatyrmyn*. Whether these features are provided by overt or abstract mechanisms is unclear.

Finally, as the Past Continuous Tense construction is possible to form in Kazakh by using the verb *zhatyr* and adding an inflectional morpheme *-ğan* to it, the T node for the Present Continuous version of this structure may be occupied by a phonologically null, abstract element reflecting only the *pres* feature. This position may remain empty to facilitate further transformations (if necessary), such as V→T movement and movement to satisfy the EPP and contribute to the assignment of the nominative case to the subject DP, especially if there are no abstract mechanisms responsible for that. The structure of a Past Continuous Tense clause would have to be expanded to include additional elements in this hierarchy. In conclusion, the syntactic analysis has shown that there is a complex, stacked VP construction that is headed by the auxiliary verb itself which has as its complement another VP that contains the main verb. The given structure reflects the standard SOV word order and the relationships between syntactic elements inside of a Present Continuous Tense clause containing the auxiliary verb in question. Importantly, there is more work to be done to describe the syntax of Kazakh as applied to many other phenomena from a generative perspective such that a discussion of the presence or absence of certain syntactic principles would be more precise and theory-based. Furthermore, as generative syntax should be designed to present an explanatorily adequate grammar of a language that accounts for facts of language acquisition, further syntactic analyses should take these acquisitional aspects into consideration.

3. Semantic analysis

The scrutiny of the semantic properties of the Present Continuous Tense verb *zhatyr* will also contribute to understanding the complex linguistic nature of this verb. In this analytical part, we will attempt to dissect the meaning-related characteristics of the verb, emphasizing the diversity of semantic contexts in which it can be used. We will analyze the use of *zhatyr* as opposed to the other three auxiliary verbs that have an identical structural pattern and can express approximately the same tense meanings in the language.

The four auxiliary verbs of state, *tūr*, *zhūr*, *otyr*, and *zhatyr*, are originally created from lexical verbs that can be used independently with their direct meanings. In terms of this paper, only their roles as auxiliary verbs will be emphasized since being used on their own does not bring semantic or lexical interest for acting as regular verbs. It is also necessary to understand the difference between the four auxiliary verbs. This differentiation might be slight and debatable since they mostly rely on the speaker's

perception of the action; however, they provide semantics to the sentences and ensure the correct provision of actions.

The verbs *tūr*, *otyr*, *zhūr*, and *zhatyr* are called “state verbs” in Kazakh since they are used to express the position of the action. Importantly, all four auxiliary verbs are used in the Present Tense (most likely the Present Continuous) but vary in terms of condition and position of the speaker/protagonist. Their representations differ depending on the duration of the action (if it is a continued one or not) and are interconnected with the initial meaning of the auxiliary verb when not standing in this position of a sentence. The following cases are not exclusive of using these verbs but the ones representative in comparison with the target verb *zhatyr*. Moreover, they can be used in future and past tenses as well, but it is not the point of discussion in this paper.

The first auxiliary verb is *tūr*. In Kazakh it has a meaning of standing, thus, represents a stable action either taking place in a short period of time or a long one. The idea is that the actor is not changing its position or state, thus, it can be used to illustrate the waiting process, feelings, unmovable actions, etc. Sentences like “I feel well today”, and “It keeps raining in here” can be said in Kazakh with the use of the auxiliary verb *tūr*, for instance, “*Myna zherde zhanbyr zhauyp tūr*”.

The next verb is *otyr*. This one is close to *tūr* but is usually used (a) for living creatures (e.g. people) and (b) when talking about physical actions happening right now and those that might be continued in the near future. Furthermore, the verb *otyr* means “to sit”, which elaborates the idea of not doing something in movement but having some action being performed in one place. All these descriptions help to see the correspondence of this type of usage to the English Present Continuous Tense. Consequently, this verb can be used in sentences like “The child is playing with a doll” (“*Bala qūrshaqpen oınap otyr*”) or “She is watching TV” (“*Ol teledidardy qarap otyr*”).

The third one is the action verb *zhūr*. It is translated as “to go”, which is the main idea of sentences that use *zhūr*. These are the dynamic actions in the current time, which are also often used with people. This is the main difference between *zhūr* and the two previously mentioned verbs. The typical cases for using this verb are similar to the ones provided in the following sentences: “They are playing volleyball” (“*Olar voleibol oınap zhūr*”), “We are dancing” (“*Biz bilep zhürmyz*”), or “Our guests are playing Alias” (“*Qonaqtarymyz Alias oınap zhūr*”). Another case where the verb *zhūr* occurs is the change of stable action to another one. If doing the action requires moving, changing the current position, or changing the action, the action verb *zhūr* should be used as well. For instance, if a person was reading a book and then they were told to “wash the dishes”, this action verb would be the perfect fit.

Zhatyr might be considered the most diverse auxiliary verb since there are more cases in which it can be used. It expresses the action (like *zhūr*) but the difference is that it is used for actions that are not dynamic but stative, i.e. happening in one place. An example that might take place when translated into Kazakh is “He is watching a video (lying down)”, “He is talking to a friend (lying down).” Another meaning is slightly more complex because it is used when showing an action that requires movement with a concrete aim or direction. An example of this case is “She is coming” when speakers know precisely where and when she will come. One more usage of the verb *zhatyr* is the case of the Present Perfect Continuous when the action started previously and continues now. For example, “I am currently working (as if it started at 9 a.m. and continues now)”. Additionally, in some cases it may be slightly unclear which specific ‘temporal’ meaning the verb *zhatyr* is used to convey: *Amira kitap oqyp zhatyr*. (‘Amira is reading a book.’). This sentence could not only mean that the person is reading at the moment, right now, but also that she has been reading for several days or even longer.

Zhatyr is often considered a universal auxiliary verb due to its suitability in various cases. Moreover, it is a state verb that can illustrate the continuous process within a long period of time indicating its “continuousness.” A sentence like *Ol alty ai boıy kitap zhazyp zhatyr* – “He has been writing a book for six months” demonstrates that the person has been in the process of writing for a particular period of time. However, it does not mean that time is taken literally – it is a general perspective of doing something for a long period of time. This sentence indicates that the person is continuing to do it now, so *zhatyr* is the appropriate verb of state for this context.

Apart from the Present Continuous Tense, *zhatyr*, as well as the other three auxiliary verbs of state, can be used in the future and past tenses. It can be considered a universal verb, but not in written language.

However, it is not used in the same way as in the previous cases. In most cases, the auxiliary verb does not take the main role in showing the tense (Mamanov, 2014: 251).

In the Present Continuous tense, the lexical verb requires the suffix *-yp*, *-ip*, *-p*, and possessive endings are added to auxiliary verbs in accordance with the subject of the sentence. However, in the Future Tense, the auxiliary verb also does not represent the tense. It is necessary to add particular affixes to the main verb, such as *-ǵaly*, *-geli*, *-qaly*, *-keli/-aiyn dep*, *-eiin dep*, *-iin dep*. Thus, the verb constructed this way illustrates the future tense, when something is planned (similar to the English *to be going to*) (Ysqaqov, 1991).

In order to create the past tense construction, it is not the main verb that should be changed but the auxiliary one. The main verb, as in the Present Continuous Tense, is used with the affixes *-yp*, *-ip*, *-p*. The auxiliary verb is inflected in accordance with the following formula: $V_{Inf} + -ty$, $-ti$, $-atyn$, $-etin$, $-itin$. Thus, the tense construction that is similar to the English Present Perfect Tense can be formed.

Importantly, each of the auxiliary verbs can be combined with particular verbs in terms of their morphological and semantic features. Zholshayeva conducted an analysis of the main verbs that can be used with the verb *zhatyr* and made the following conclusion:

- 100% of cases include verbs that can be used in combination with suffixes *-yp*, *-ip*, *-p*;
- 90% of cases include the verbs *bar*, *kel* that can be used in combination with suffixes *-a*, *-e*;
- 10% of cases include all lexical and semantic verbs' groups;
- 10% of cases include the verbs expressing feelings (Zholshayeva, 2011: 103).

To summarize, the differentiation between the four auxiliary verbs is often underestimated for being considered as if there is not much of importance when choosing the verb that suits any sentence. However, in accordance with the detailed analysis hereinbefore, it can be seen that the auxiliary verbs do not simply show the present tense but the narrowed time and state of the protagonist, which might be of extreme importance. The following table presents examples of using the auxiliary verbs followed by the characteristics that describe each case in detail.

Table 1 – Summary of the differences between the four Present Continuous Tense-expressing auxiliary verbs in Kazakh

Кесте 1 – Қазақ тіліндегі созылыңқы осы шақты білдіретін төрт көмекші етістіктің арасындағы айырмашылықтарға шолу

Таблица 1 – Обзор различий между четырьмя вспомогательными глаголами, выражающими настоящее длительное время в казахском языке

Auxiliary	Present Continuous Tense example	English translation (w/ additional contextual information)	General semantic and aspectual characteristics
<i>zhatyr</i>	<i>Men teledidardy körıp zhatyrmyn</i>	<i>I am watching TV (lying down) [right now]</i>	Present Continuous Tense, stative action; action happening without movement in a particular position
<i>otyr</i>	<i>Ol oqyp otyr</i>	<i>He is reading [right now]</i>	Present Continuous Tense; stative action happening in one place
<i>tūr</i>	<i>Bügin men zhaqsyraқ сезіп тұrmyn</i>	<i>Today I am feeling better [continuous feeling]</i>	Present Continuous Tense; stative feeling
<i>zhür</i>	<i>Olar dalada zhügіrip zhür</i>	<i>They are running on the street [continuous action right now]</i>	Present Continuous Tense; dynamic action

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the structural and semantic specificities of the auxiliary verb *zhatyr*, one of the many auxiliary verbs in Kazakh. The examples provided have shown that the semantic features

of this verb are diverse, representing different aspects of meaning and depending on the variety of contexts in which it is generally used. A set of fabricated examples was used to identify and describe the morphological, syntactic, and, most importantly, semantic nature of this auxiliary verb. The findings of this study are presented in the following table.

Table 2 – Characteristics of the Present Continuous Tense-expressing verb *zhatyr*

Кесте 2 – Созылыңқы осы шақты білдіретін *жатыр* етістігінің сипаттамасы

Таблица 2 – Характеристики глагола «жатыр», выражающего настоящее продолжительное время

Level	Characteristics
Morphology	The Present Continuous construction is formed using the stem of the verb <i>zhatu</i> , adding the morpheme <i>-yr</i> and requiring the main verb to take a converbal suffix (<i>-yp, -ip, -p</i>)
Syntax	<i>Zhatyr</i> is the head of a stacked VP and has as its complement another VP that contains the object DP and the main lexical verb
Semantics	<i>Zhatyr</i> has the biggest scope of use since it can be used to express both stative and dynamic actions. It serves as an explanatory verb of the Present Continuous Tense that serves to show the state and the length of action.

Zhatyr is a strong representation of the auxiliary verb that helps create the Present Continuous Tense in the Kazakh language. It is an unavoidable verb when illustrating actions that have a long-term prospective continuation as well as being done in the moment of speaking. It can be called a universal auxiliary verb among those four used in the Kazakh language but, according to previously mentioned data, those verbs vary depending on the state of the actor and the length of the action.

The comprehensive analysis has demonstrated that the auxiliary verb *zhatyr* possesses a complex structure and a variety of meanings and contexts in which it is used. There are three other similar verbs that use a structurally identical pattern, including the addition of a converbal morpheme to the lexical verb and agreement of the auxiliary with the subject in terms of conjugation, but not all of them are capable of expressing the tense characteristics in the same way.

Further research will aim to elucidate the structural and semantic characteristics of other auxiliary verbs in Kazakh. An approach characterized by novelty and adherence to international standards of research in linguistics should be applied to the scrutiny of other intriguing phenomena in the Kazakh language. In general, the field of linguistics of Kazakh should also be renovated by presenting a contemporary review and reanalysis of familiar topics.

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