



**CONTEXTUAL REPROFILING OF CONCESSIVE MEANING IN GERMAN
AND UZBEK DISCOURSE**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the contextual reprofiling of concessive meaning in German and Uzbek discourse, with particular attention to cases in which the semantic status of a counteracting circumstance changes under the influence of discourse context. Rather than treating concessivity as a fixed relation between an obstacle and its non-realization, the study approaches it as a dynamic semantic configuration whose interpretation depends on the interaction between linguistic form, contextual expectation, subjective evaluation, and the resulting action [1; 2]. German constructions with *obwohl*, *auch wenn*, *selbst wenn*, and *ungeachtet* are compared with Uzbek constructions involving *-sa ham*, *-ganiga qaramay*, *garchi*, and *qaramay* [3; 4]. The analysis demonstrates that formally different concessive markers may activate comparable counter-expectational relations, while apparently similar constructions may differ in the degree to which the obstacle is asserted, presupposed, evaluated, or pragmatically neutralized. The findings support the view that concessive meaning should be described not only through grammatical opposition but also through the changing functional status of the counteracting condition in discourse.

Keywords: concessivity, concessive meaning, contextual reprofiling, counter-expectation, functional neutralization, semantic status, discourse context, German, Uzbek...

Concessivity is traditionally associated with a semantic relation in which an event occurs despite a circumstance that would normally be expected to prevent it. Such



an interpretation captures the logical basis of concessive constructions but does not fully explain how the counteracting circumstance functions in actual discourse [1; 5]. The same formally expressed obstacle may remain semantically strong in one context, become pragmatically weakened in another, or be retained merely as background information against which the subsequent event is foregrounded. Consequently, the interpretation of concessivity depends not only on the presence of a grammatical marker but also on the functional relationship established between the counteracting condition and the realized outcome.

German provides a differentiated system of grammatical and lexical means for profiling this relationship. Consider the construction *Obwohl es stark regnete, setzte er seinen Weg fort*. The subordinate clause introduced by *obwohl* presents heavy rain as a circumstance from which an interruption of movement could conventionally be expected. The main clause, however, cancels this expected consequence without denying the reality of the rain [2; 5]. The counteracting circumstance therefore remains factually valid, whereas its expected functional effect is neutralized. This distinction is essential: concessivity does not eliminate the obstacle itself; it eliminates or weakens the consequence conventionally associated with that obstacle.

The Uzbek construction *Yomg'ir qattiq yog'sa ham, u yo'lida davom etdi* displays a comparable semantic configuration. The form **-sa ham** retains the adverse circumstance while simultaneously signalling that it does not determine the final course of action [3; 6]. The rain remains part of the represented situation, yet its capacity to prevent movement is reduced. Thus, German *obwohl* and Uzbek **-sa ham** converge at the level of counter-expectational organization, although the grammatical mechanisms through which the relationship is encoded differ.

The distinction becomes more significant when concessive constructions contain hypothetical rather than factual counteracting conditions. German *Auch wenn es*



schwierig wird, machen wir weiter does not necessarily assert that difficulty has already arisen. Instead, *auch wenn* introduces a potential condition and simultaneously deprives it of decisive force with respect to the projected action [2; 4]. Uzbek *Qiyin bo'lsa ham, davom etamiz* may perform a similar function: difficulty is admitted as a possible or relevant circumstance, but continuation is presented as independent of its restrictive potential [3; 6]. In both cases, concessivity operates prospectively by neutralizing the expected effect of a condition before that effect is realized.

This observation allows a distinction to be made between factual and projective contextual reprofiling. In factual reprofiling, the obstacle is represented as an existing condition whose expected consequence fails to occur. In projective reprofiling, the potential obstacle is acknowledged in advance, while the speaker presents the intended action as resistant to its possible influence [1; 5]. The difference concerns the epistemic status of the counteracting circumstance rather than the general concessive relation itself.

A further configuration is found in constructions with *German selbst wenn*. In *Selbst wenn alle dagegen sind, ändere ich meine Entscheidung nicht*, the counteracting condition is strengthened rather than minimized. The quantificational element *selbst* raises the condition toward an extreme point on an implicit scale: even a high degree of opposition is presented as insufficient to change the decision [2; 7]. Concessive meaning therefore emerges through an interaction between scalar intensification and functional neutralization. The stronger the projected obstacle becomes, the more salient the independence of the resulting action appears.

Uzbek can profile a comparable relation through constructions such as *Hamma qarshi bo'lsa ham, qarorimni o'zgartirmayman*. Here, *hamma qarshi* maximizes the scope of opposition, whereas *-sa ham* prevents that opposition from acquiring decisive functional force [3; 6]. The two languages consequently share the possibility of



strengthening an obstacle while simultaneously weakening its effect. This apparent semantic paradox is one of the important properties of concessivity: the intensity of a counteracting circumstance and its functional effectiveness do not necessarily increase together [1; 7].

The same principle can be observed where the counteracting circumstance is not an external event but a socially or institutionally relevant restriction. German *Ungeachtet der bestehenden Einschränkungen wurde das Projekt fortgesetzt* explicitly acknowledges the continuing existence of restrictions while presenting the continuation of the project as functionally independent of them [4; 5]. Uzbek *Mavjud cheklovlarga qaramay, loyiha davom ettirildi* establishes a closely comparable relationship [3; 6]. In these constructions, the restrictive condition is neither denied nor removed. Its status is reprofiled from a potentially determining factor into a non-decisive background condition.

This makes it necessary to distinguish between the existence of an obstacle and the functional force of an obstacle. A circumstance may remain objectively present while losing its capacity to determine the outcome. Conversely, the absence of an explicitly named obstacle does not automatically produce concessive meaning, because concessivity requires an identifiable counter-expectational relationship [1; 5]. The semantic centre of the category is therefore located not in the obstacle as an isolated entity but in the discrepancy between its expected effect and the actual or projected result.

Table 1. Distinction Between the Existence and Functional Force of an Obstacle in Concessive Meaning

Analytical parameter	Existence of an obstacle	Functional force of an obstacle	Concessive interpretation
Semantic status	The obstacle is objectively present or contextually established	Its capacity to influence the expected outcome is evaluated	Concessivity depends on the relation between the two parameters



Presence of restriction	A counteracting circumstance exists	The circumstance may remain effective or become neutralized	Mere presence of an obstacle is insufficient
Expected effect	The obstacle conventionally predicts prevention, interruption or modification of an event	The predicted effect may fail to occur	Counter-expectation becomes semantically relevant
Functional neutralization	The obstacle itself is not removed	Its determining force is weakened or cancelled	The event occurs despite the maintained obstacle
Absence of an explicit obstacle	No restriction is directly verbalized	A counter-expectational relation may still be contextually recoverable	Concessivity is possible only if the opposing expectation can be identified
Decisive semantic relation	Obstacle as a circumstance	Obstacle as a determining force	The two must not be treated as identical
Semantic centre of concessivity	Not located in the obstacle as an isolated entity	Not located merely in its neutralization	Located in the discrepancy between the expected effect and the actual or projected result [1; 5]

From a comparative perspective, German and Uzbek differ in the linguistic distribution of this relation. German frequently encodes concessive relations through specialized conjunctions and prepositional constructions such as *obwohl*, *obgleich*, *auch wenn*, *selbst wenn*, and *ungeachtet* [2; 4]. Uzbek makes extensive use of morphological and syntactic combinations such as *-sa ham*, *-gan bo'lsa ham*, *-ganiga qaramay*, and *garchi ... bo'lsa-da* [3; 6]. These structural differences, however, do not prevent the two languages from organizing concessive meaning around comparable semantic operations.

The comparison consequently reveals that contextual reprofiling affects at least three parameters of concessive meaning: the epistemic status of the obstacle, the degree of its semantic intensity, and its functional influence on the resulting event. A counteracting circumstance may be factual or hypothetical, weak or intensified,

externally maintained or pragmatically neutralized. These parameters interact rather than operate independently, producing different configurations within the broader domain of concessivity [1; 5; 7].

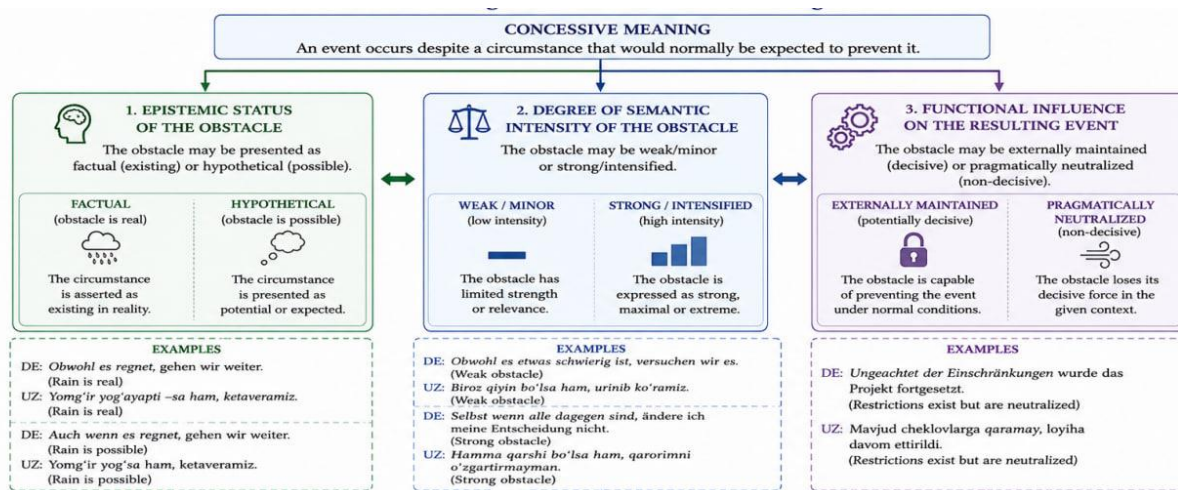


Figure 1. Contextual Reprofileing of Concessive Meaning through Epistemic Status, Semantic Intensity and Functional Influence

The analysis leads to the conclusion that concessive meaning in German and Uzbek cannot be reduced to a static formula in which an obstacle simply fails to prevent an event. Its semantic organization is more dynamic. Context determines whether the counteracting condition is presented as factual, projected, intensified, backgrounded, or functionally neutralized. The stable component is the presence of a counter-expectational relation; what changes is the discourse status assigned to the obstacle and its expected consequence. Contextual reprofileing can therefore be regarded as a mechanism through which German and Uzbek adapt the general semantics of concessivity to different epistemic, evaluative, and communicative conditions [1; 3; 5].

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