

ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКАЯ, ПРИКЛАДНАЯ И СРАВНИТЕЛЬНО-СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНАЯ ЛИНГВИСТИКА /
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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SEMANTICAL PECULIARITIES OF THE TAJIK MODAL PARTICLE *-DIYA*
AND ITS ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

Research article

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Abstract

The given article presents a comparative analysis of the semantic peculiarities of the Tajik modal particle *-diya* and its potential English equivalents. While often relegated to the periphery of grammatical analysis, particles play a vital role in modulating meaning and conveying subtle pragmatic nuances. This study focuses on *-diya*, a particle prevalent in informal Tajik speech, as evidenced by its frequent occurrence (over 100 instances) in “Ghulomon” by Sadridin Aini (2019). In contrast, its limited representation in the “Tajik-English Dictionary” [8] and its absence in the English translation of “Temur Malik – Tajik People's Hero. Muqanna`s Rebellion” [7] suggest a strong association with vernacular language and potential challenges in cross-linguistic transfer. Through a qualitative analysis of examples drawn from these sources, the research considers the range of semantic and pragmatic functions performed by *-diya*, including emphasis, modality, and the expression of speaker attitude. The study further explores how English, a typologically distinct language, employs alternative linguistic strategies, such as modal verbs, adverbs, and intonation, to achieve comparable communicative effects. The findings highlight the intricate relationship between particles and the broader linguistic systems in which they operate, underscoring the importance of register and context in understanding their multifaceted roles. The given article promotes a deeper understanding of Tajik grammar, the typology of particles, and the complexities of cross-linguistic equivalence in translation.

Keywords: particle, modal particle *-diya*, comparative analysis, semantical peculiarities, English equivalents.

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИХ ОСОБЕННОСТЕЙ ТАДЖИКСКОЙ МОДАЛЬНОЙ
ЧАСТИЦЫ *-ДИЯ* И ЕЕ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ЭКВИВАЛЕНТОВ

Научная статья

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Аннотация

В данной статье представлен сравнительный анализ семантических особенностей таджикской модальной частицы *-дия* и ее потенциальных английских эквивалентов. Хотя частицы часто относят на периферию грамматического анализа, они играют важную роль в модуляции значения и передаче тонких прагматических нюансов. В этом исследовании основное внимание уделяется *-дия*, частице, распространенной в неформальной таджикской речи, о чем свидетельствует ее частое употребление (более 100 случаев) в «Гулумон» Садриддина Аини (2019). В то же время, ее ограниченное представление в «Таджикско-английском словаре» [8] и отсутствие в английском переводе «Темур Малик – герой таджикского народа. Восстание Муканны» [7] указывают на тесную связь с просторечием и потенциальные трудности при межъязыковой передаче. Посредством качественного анализа примеров, взятых из этих источников, в исследовании рассматривается спектр семантических и прагматических функций, выполняемых *-дия*, включая эмфазу, модальность и выражение отношения говорящего. Исследование далее изучает, как английский, типологически отличный язык, использует альтернативные лингвистические стратегии, такие как модальные глаголы, наречия и интонацию, для достижения сопоставимых коммуникативных эффектов. Результаты подчеркивают сложную связь между частицами и более широкими лингвистическими системами, в которых они действуют, подчеркивая важность регистра и контекста в понимании их многогранных ролей. Данная статья способствует более глубокому пониманию таджикской грамматики, типологии частиц и сложностей межъязыковой эквивалентности в переводе.

Ключевые слова: частица, модальная частица *-дия*, сравнительный анализ, семантические особенности, английские эквиваленты.

Introduction

Particles are often mentioned in the margin of linguistic analysis, representing a crucial component in terms of structure. Particles as an auxiliary part of speech functionate the subtle yet powerful modifiers, shaping and refining the meaning of words, phrases, and clauses. While they may appear insignificant at the first glance, however occupy a vital position in conveying an inclusive variety of semantico-pragmatic shades, promoting meaningfully to the language richness and expressiveness. “Particles are the auxiliary parts of speech serving to give various shades of meaning to a sentence” [3], [4, P. 136]. In general, they play an important role in the people`s spiritual life [6, P. 100].

In modern linguistics, particles are classified as a distinct part of speech standing alongside nominal ones. However, their functional margins are often unclear, and their roles can overlap considerably with those of adverbs, conjunctions, and even interjections. This inherent flexibility and multifaceted nature make particles a particularly intriguing area of linguistic inquiry [9, P. 50], [10, P. 13].

In the compared languages, despite their typological differences make widespread usage of particles to fine-tune meaning and achieve a variety of communicative goals. These linguistic elements serve to add emphasis, express modality (possibility, necessity, obligation), to limit the scope of a statement, to intensify the force of an utterance, and to indicate the speaker's attitude, emotions, or degree of certainty. They can signal whether a statement is a fact, an opinion, a guess, or a supposition [5, P. 45]. They can also perform discourse-level functions, such as marking topic shifts, signaling agreement or disagreement, and managing turn-taking in conversation.

This study aims to consider the semantic features of the particle *-diya* and its corresponding English equivalents (CEEs) through a comparative analysis.

The comparative analysis draws upon data extracted from the following sources: "Ghulomon" by Sadriiddin Aini (2019), the English translation of "Temur Malik – Tajik People's Hero. Muqanna's Rebellion" (introduced by Professor Abdusalom Mamadnazarov, 2022), and the "Tajik-English Dictionary" (Mamatov, Harell, Kehoe, & Khodjibaev, 2005). These texts were selected for their representation of diverse historical periods and their relevance to the evolution of the Tajik literary language (TLL). Illustrative examples were extracted from these sources to support the semantic analysis of *-diya* and its CEEs. The rationale for this selection lies in the rich portrayal of historical events and the representation of TLL within these works, thereby providing a suitable corpus for the comparative analysis of semantic nuances. So, the particle *-diya* is occurred more than 100 instances in [1], once in [8] and it is never used in [2]. This particle used in the informal speech, namely vernaculars in most cases.

Research methods and approaches

This study aimed the comparative analysis framework to consider the semantic properties of *-diya* and its CEEs. The analysis centers on the particle's dynamic nature, morphological and semantic features, and the interplay of various linguistic mechanisms involved in its usage. The primary objective is to carry out its functional and usage patterns with those of EE structures. The research draws upon a multifaceted, data-driven approach, guided by the following methodological considerations:

2.1 Pragmatic Analysis

Each instance of *-diya* within the corpus was analyzed to determine its underlying communicative intent. This involved identifying the specific speech acts performed (e.g., emphasis, mitigation, affirmation) and examining the speaker's goals in relation to the intended effect on the addressee. Factors such as politeness strategies, power dynamics, and the broader social context were considered to elucidate the pragmatic nuances conveyed by the particle.

2.2 Contextual Analysis

The analysis recognized that the meaning of *-diya* is intrinsically linked to its linguistic and situational context. Therefore, a meticulous examination of the co-text (preceding and following linguistic elements) was conducted to determine the particle's function in each specific instance. Furthermore, the broader situational context, including speaker-hearer relationship, topic of discourse, and physical setting, was taken into account to provide a comprehensive interpretation.

2.3 Contrastive Analysis

To gain a deeper understanding of *-diya*, a contrastive analysis was performed, comparing the strategies used in English to bear similar pragmatic functions. This involved identifying both similarities and differences in how these languages encode pragmatic meaning. Specifically, the analysis considered whether English engages prosodic features (e.g., intonation), lexical items, or syntactic structures to achieve comparable effects to *-diya*. This comparison aimed to illuminate the unique characteristics of the Tajik particle and identify potential challenges in translation.

2.4 Typological Considerations

The findings were further positioned within a broader typological framework. This involved relating the level of usage of *-diya* to cross-linguistic patterns of grammaticalization and pragmatic encoding. The analysis explored the existence and function of similar particles in other languages, thereby connecting the specific case of *-diya* to broader typological trends. This approach provides insights into the evolution and function of pragmatic markers across languages and contributes to our understanding of linguistic universals and language-specific distinctions.

The integration of these analytical approaches - corpus-based pragmatic analysis, contextual analysis, contrastive linguistics, and typological considerations - provides a crucial framework for a comprehensive consideration into the complex functions of *-diya*. This demanding methodology moves beyond subjective observations and offers empirical grounding for the findings, ultimately promoting a deeper understanding of the particle's role in Tajik and its cross-linguistic implications.

Main results

The conducted comparative analysis of semantical peculiarities of *-diya* in *Ghulomon* (2019) and *Tajik-English Dictionary* (2005) reveals a complex interplay of expressive elements that significantly contribute into the narrative's affective depth and pragmatic shades. The following examples adduce the diverse range of the particle *-diya* presented by Aini, their respective functions, and their corresponding interpretations in English.

3.1 Examples and Analysis

Example 1. – Khudat ham ba khalifa hele ba qimati garon aftoda budi-*diya*, –guft u bo ohangi ba khalifa tarafgirona [1, P. 23] – "You yourself paid a very high price to the Caliph, *you know*", he said, his tone biased towards the Caliph.

In this sentence, *-diya* adds a sense of reminding or pointing out something the listener should already be aware of. Its CEEs are *You know, you see, or as you are aware*.

– Magar nameshinosi? Mullo-Navruzi istamzigi-*diya*, -gufta Safar khavob dod [1, P. 123] – “Don’t you recognize me? I’m Mulla-Navruz from Istamzig, you know”, answered Safar.

As well as, *-diya* functionates similarly to *you know* subtly reminding the listener of something they should already know.

Example 2. – Khub, kohish nakuned, aka Ortuq! – guft on dehkun bo vaziyati ehtiromkorona, – ehtiyot kuned, sakhvu khato nashavad guftam-*diya* [1, P. 48] – “Alright, don’t reduce it, Ortuq!” – said the peasant respectfully – be careful, *I’m telling you* lest any errors occur.

We can assert that *-diya* adds emphasis and a sense of warning or caution. The following phrases and set of phrases participate as its CEEs, such as: *I’m telling you*, *mark my words*, or *mind you* capture. The English translation also streamlines the sentence to sustain the drift.

– Voy jonam, in chi guna bedodist, dar in guna khavoi garm, dar yak joi tang yak odamro gushna va tashna do ruz tikkonda memondaand-*diya*, – guyon nolidani kasero shunid [1, P. 118] – “Oh my god, what kind of injustice is this? Keeping someone hungry and thirsty for two whole days in such hot weather, in a cramped space!”, he heard someone lament.

Here, *-diya* adds emphasis to the outrage expressed. The English translation conducted by dint of the exclamation and the strong wording.

Example 3. – Khub, andak kam baroyad, chi meshavad? Ghuza shamol hurda khushk meshavad, az choki juvol dar rohho merazad, albatta kam meshavad-*diya*, – guft pallabardor ba onho [1, P. 49] – “Well, it decreases a little, what’s the big deal? The cotton dries out in the wind, it spills from the sacks on the road, *naturally*”, said the weigher to them.

Hereby, the particle in question indicates explanation and a sense of obviousness. Its English equivalents are: *Naturally*, *of course*, or *obviously*.

Example 4. Ha, ha, ha, – guft chupon, – baroi hamin shumo az sag in qadar tarsida buded-*diya* [1, P. 170] – “Ha, ha”, said the shepherd, so that’s why you were so afraid of the dog!

– Ki khabar medod? Hamin oqsakoli khonasuhta khabar medihad-*diya* [1, P. 121] – “Who would report it? This same unfortunate elder reports it”, *of course!*

Proceeding from the assumption of the above-given example, we can confidently express our opinion that the modal particle *-diya* conveys a sense of sarcasm or irony. *Of course*, *as if*, or *naturally* can capture this tone in English.

Ayb namekuned, man holo in zaboro nagz namedonam. Excuse me, I don’t know this language very well yet. Ayb namekuned-*diya!* You must excuse me! [8, P. 12].

The particle *-diya* expresses sarcasm or a mocking tone. The last sentence is used only once in [8].

Example 5. – Magar shumoyon ghuzaro kharida ovarded, ki zarar mekashed, moli az zamin khudododa-*diya*, -guyon gumoshtai boy Nabi-Polkon mekhost ba onho tasalli dihad... [1, P. 49] – “Did you buy the cotton to suffer a loss? It’s a God-given product from the land”, said the agent of the wealthy Nabi-Polvon trying to console them...

This example testifies to the fact that *-diya* adds a sense of reinforcing a point or appealing to a shared understanding. The English translation depends on the rhetorical question and the context to convey certain shades of meanings.

Example 6. Nimai in “hakki haloli” man ast. Insof kuned-*diya*, aka boy. “Insof, din sof” guftaand [1, P. 50] – “Half of this “honestly earned right” is mine. Be fair, wealthy brother”. They say, “Fairness is pure religion”.

Based on the above sentence, one can note that the particle *-diya* adds a touch of pleading or gentle insistence to the request for fairness. The English translation captures the relevant grammatical phenomenon by virtue of the direct address *wealthy brother* like a proverb.

Example 7. – Iloji tanhoi khonadorsshavi-*diya*, -guft Ochil, ki dar ru ba rui u nishasta bud [1, P. 106] – “There’s no other way, you’ll have to get married alone, then”, said Ochil who was sitting in front of him.

It is important to keep in mind that the particle *-diya* proposes a slight resignation or acceptance of an unavoidable situation. *Then* or *So*, *it seems*, can convey this shade of meaning in English.

Example 8. – Tu zavji shav, yagon zanro yob, ki khonador shavad-*diya*, -guft ba Ochil Shodmon, ki bo onho menishast [1, P. 106] - Get married, find a woman to marry”, Shodmon said to Ochil sitting with them.

Here, *-diya* is more difficult to render directly. It could add a trace of casualness or informality to the advice. The English translation relies on the context and directness of the advice to convey this shade of meaning.

Example 9. - Nobudagi-*diya*, taqsir, -guft oqsakkol ba amlokdor, ovozi khudro ba hamai dehqonon shunavonda, – bo yak bancha lubiyi khazinai podshoji pur ham nameshavad, kholi ham nameshavad [1, P. 123] – “My apologies, it’s nothing serious”, the elder said to the property manager making his voice heard by all the peasants. The royal treasury won’t be filled by a handful of beans, nor will it be emptied.

So, *-diya* softens the elder’s statement, making it sound less accusatory. *It’s nothing serious* captures the relevant attempt to downplay the situation.

Example 10. – Du tanobi boqimondaash hamin zamini gandum-*diya*, -guft amlokdor boz sukhani Safarro burida va khudashro ba nofakhmi zada [1, P. 126] – “The remaining two tanob are this wheat field” interrupted the property manager feigning ignorance.

The particle *-diya* adds a sense of finality or obviousness to the statement, even though the property manager is pretending not to understand.

Dalelash?.. Dalelash taghma-*diya* [1, P. 134] – The proof? The proof is a mark.

As well as, *-diya* adds a sense of finality and certainty. Its CEE relies on the curtness of the statement.

Example 11. Khabardori kuned, posboni kuned, bardor karda gired-*diya* [1, P. 129] – “Be warned, guard it, take it away”, he said.

In this sentence, *-diya* reinforces the commands, adding a sense of urgency or seriousness. The English translation relies on the imperative mood to convey this shade of meaning.

Example 12. - Az davlati janobi oli va shumo hamaash azoni man ast, man charo khafa shavam? Dar omadi gap guftam - *diya* [1, P. 129] – “Thanks to His Excellency and you, everything is mine, why should I be upset? I just said it in passing”, he said.

Here, *-diya* softens the statement, making it sound less boastful. *I just said it in passing* or *I didn't mean anything* by it can capture this downplaying effect in English.

Example 13. – Hamai dashtro tu sohibi karda budi-*diya*. Pas az shudgor kardan charo nakishti? [1, P. 131] – You owned all the land. So why didn't you plant it after plowing it?

Here, the particle in question adds a note of accusation or challenge. The English translation relies on the word order and the direct question to convey the speaker's implied criticism.

Example 14. – Yak murcha yak dona gandumro kashola kunad, murchai digar az pushti on dona tela doda yori medihad-*diya*, –guft khandakunon yak dehkoni. Gapi barziyod darkor nest, az rui taomuli viloyat barkashidan gir-*diya*, –guft arbob qadre shurida ba Fulom-Haidar [1, P. 136] – “When an ant drags a grain of wheat, another ant pushes it from behind to help, you see”, said a peasant laughing. “No need for further talk, take it according to the custom of the province”, said the master, somewhat agitated, to Ghulom-Haydar

In this sentence, *-diya* is used twice. Firstly, it is used to emphasize a well-known truth, and secondly, is resorted to stress the advice or command.

Example 15. – Magar maqbuz va muhrona az kisai shumo raft, ki in qadar dod megued, hamaash az boloi dehkoni-*diya* [1, P. 145] – “Did the seized property and the seal come from your pocket that you're making such a fuss? It all came from the peasants”, he said.

Hereby, we can confidently say that the Tajik modal particle *-diya* adds a sense of reproach and obviousness to the statement.

Example 16. – Durust ast-kuya, -guft Nazarboy, -lekin khatu savod nadored-*diya*... [1, P. 146] – “That's true”, said Nazarboy, but you're illiterate, you see...

In this sentence, the particle under study conveys a sense of pointing out a flaw or weakness.

Example 17. – Ya'ne, – guft Hait-Amin boz sukhani Urmon-Polvonro burida, –dar tuman chi qadar, ki ghulom boshad, hamaashonro dastgir karda kushtan darkor megued-*diya* [1, P. 159] – “So”, Hait-Amin interrupted Urmon-Polvon you're saying that as many slaves as there are in the fog, they should all be caught and killed?

Here, *-diya* expresses incredulity or disbelief at what is being suggested.

Example 18. – Shumo, -guft Qulmurod, -bo odamoni amir bisyor dushman shuda mondaed-*diya*, aka Shokir! [1, P. 175] – “You”, said Qulmurod have become quite the enemy of the Amir's men, haven't you, Shokir?

Hence, *-diya* is difficult to translate directly. It could be interpreted as a slightly teasing or challenging remark. The English translation uses a tag question to convey a similar shade of meaning.

Discussion

4.1. Semantical Peculiarities of English Equivalents of *-diya*

As you can see from the translations and considerations, the particle *-diya* doesn't have a single, perfect equivalent in English. Its function is primarily *pragmatic* adding a shade of meaning related to the speaker's attitude, intention, or the relationship between the speaker and listener. The best English equivalent depends heavily on the specific context and the distinction being carried. Here's a breakdown of common strategies for translating *-diya*:

- Emphasis/Obviousness: *you know, you see, of course, obviously, indeed, really, truly.*
- Confirmation Seeking: tag questions (*isn't it?, don't you?, right?, then, so.*)
- Politeness/Softening: *please, perhaps, maybe, I suppose, if you don't mind.*
- Warning/Caution: *mark my words, I'm telling you, be careful, mind you.*
- Irony/Sarcasm: *of course, as if, naturally, indeed.*
- Reproach/Challenge: intonation, word order, direct questions.

As we've established, the particle in question functions primarily in the pragmatic realm, coloring the utterance with the speaker's attitude, intention, or the relationship dynamics between speaker and listener. It's a multipurpose means that can be arranged for a variety of communicative purposes making its translation into English a nuanced task requiring careful consideration of the context.

1. Emphasis and Obviousness (Reinforcement): beyond simply emphasizing a point, *-diya* can also function to reinforce a statement, presenting it as self-evident or readily apparent. This often occurs when the speaker believes the information should be known or understood by the listener. The former in question underscores the naturalness or expectedness of the situation. English equivalents include *of course, naturally, certainly, or indeed.*

2. Seeking Confirmation/Agreement (Shared Understanding): *-diya* can invoke the listener's confirmation or agreement, creating a sense of shared understanding and reducing the potential for conflict or disagreement. It's a way of subtly checking in with the listener and ensuring they are on the same page. *-diya* seeks confirmation of shared knowledge. CEEs include tag questions or phrases like *right? or don't you?* to achieve a similar effect.

3. Softening/Mitigating (Politeness and Deference): In hierarchical social contexts, the particle under study can soften a request, statement, or command making it less direct and more polite. It conveys a sense of deference to the listener and mitigates the potential for offense. This particle transforms a direct command into a polite request. English employs modal verbs like *could or would*, along with phrases like *please or if you don't mind* to convey politeness.

4. Warning/Caution (Admonition): this linguistic element can signal a warning or caution, urging the listener to be mindful of a potential danger or undesirable outcome, and adds a sense of seriousness or urgency to the statement. *-diya* strengthens the warning. English equivalents include phrases like *be careful, watch out, or lest* to convey caution.

5. Expressing Emotion (Irony, Sarcasm, Resignation): *-diya* can also carry subtle emotional overtones, such as irony, sarcasm, resignation, or even mild annoyance. The exact emotion conveyed depends heavily on context and intonation. The English translation relies on intonation, word choice (e.g., *that*), or phrases like *you know* to convey these emotions.

4.2 This in-depth analysis will yield several key benefits:

The contrastive analysis bore in this study is expected to yield several significant contributions to the field of linguistics:

4.2.1 Enhanced Precision in Semantic Analysis

Departing from subjective interpretations, the data-driven nature of this research enables a more precise identification and delineation of the diverse functions and semantic nuances of *-diya* across various contexts. This empirical approach enhances the accuracy of the semantic analysis.

4.2.2 Improved Accuracy in Translation

A deeper understanding of the semantico-pragmatic functions of *-diya* will significantly enhance the accuracy of translations from Tajik into other languages. By apprehending the intended meaning and subtle nuances carried by the particle, this research will facilitate more faithful and accurate translations, minimizing the risk of misinterpretations and preserving the integrity of the original Tajik text.

4.2.3 Cross-Linguistic Insights into Pragmatic Encoding

The comparative analysis of *-diya* with functionally equivalent structures in English and other languages will illuminate not only the specific characteristics of the Tajik particle but also broader patterns in the grammaticalization and encoding of pragmatic meaning. This cross-linguistic perspective reveals how different languages employ diverse strategies to achieve similar communicative goals, thereby enriching our understanding of linguistic diversity and universality.

4.2.4 Advancement of Knowledge on Linguistic Complexity

This research contributes to a greater appreciation for the complexity and richness of the languages under investigation. It demonstrates how seemingly minor linguistic elements, such as particles, can play a crucial role in conveying nuanced meaning and facilitating effective communication. Furthermore, it highlights the intricate interplay between grammar, pragmatics, and context in shaping linguistic expression.

4.2.5 Implications for Future Research

This study into the semantic peculiarities of *-diya* fosters a more profound and nuanced understanding of its unique linguistic features and its role within the broader context of human communication. This study serves as a model for future research on other linguistic phenomena, underscoring the importance of rigorous, data-driven analysis in elucidating the intricacies of language.

Conclusion

Thus, this study considered the semantico-pragmatic functions of *-diya* and its CEEs through a comparative analysis, acknowledging the significant role of particles in conveying nuanced meaning in communication. The findings demonstrate that *-diya*, despite its position as a minor linguistic element carries a rich array of semantic and pragmatic functions in Tajik. It is suggested that *-diya* is deeply embedded in the spoken register of Tajik performing functions that are either not directly translatable into English or are rendered through alternative linguistic mechanisms, such as prosody, syntax, or lexical choice.

While acknowledging the limitations imposed by the scope of the selected texts, the comparative analysis suggests that English engages a wider range of linguistic strategies to achieve the communicative effects conveyed by *-diya* in Tajik. These strategies may encompass modal verbs, adverbs, pragmatic markers, and contextual cues. This divergence highlights typological differences between the two languages, with Tajik potentially utilizing particles more extensively to encode modality, emphasis, and speaker attitude.

Moreover, the study elucidates the inherent challenges in translating particles across languages. The subtle nuances of meaning conveyed by *-diya* are susceptible to being lost or modified in translation, emphasizing the necessity for a nuanced understanding of the source language's pragmatic and sociolinguistic norms. The analysis also highlights the importance of considering register and style in the examination of particles, as their usage and meaning can vary significantly across formal and informal contexts.

In conclusion, this research provides valuable insights into the complex nature of *-diya* and its CEEs serving as a foundation for further investigation. Future research should broaden the scope of analysis by incorporating a more diverse corpus encompassing various genres and registers. Quantitative methods should be employed to assess the frequency and distribution of *-diya* and its CEEs. Additionally, a more in-depth exploration of the specific pragmatic functions performed by *-diya* in diverse communicative settings is necessary.

Конфликт интересов

Не указан.

Рецензия

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Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Review

All articles are peer-reviewed. But the reviewer or the author of the article chose not to publish a review of this article in the public domain. The review can be provided to the competent authorities upon request.

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