



Comparative Typology of Word Forms in English And Uzbek

 Khalilova Sitora Zarifovna

EFL teacher, department of Foreign Language and Literature, Tashkent
University of Applied Sciences, Uzbekistan

OPEN ACCESS

SUBMITTED 12 April 2025

ACCEPTED 08 May 2025

PUBLISHED 10 June 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue 06 2025

COPYRIGHT

© 2025 Original content from this work may be used under the terms
of the creative commons attributes 4.0 License.

Abstract: This scientific article investigates the commonalities and comparative differences in word formation between English and Uzbek. English and Uzbek languages possess both similar and distinct features in terms of their morphological systems. Through the analysis of word formation processes, this scholarly research provides extensive information on morphological changes in both languages, including affixation, composition, shortening, and reduplication. This study contributes to a better understanding of cross-linguistic morphological comparison between Uzbek and English. This, in turn, serves as a useful scientific resource for linguists, translators, and educators to gain a deeper insight into the interrelationships between the two languages.

Keywords: English language, Uzbek language, word formation, derivation, composition, affixation, conversion, clipping, back-formation.

Introduction: The comparative study of word formation methods in English and Uzbek constitutes a significant area revealing linguistic diversity. This analysis precisely demonstrates how the unique structure and historical development context of each language influence the process of forming new lexical units. Such comparative investigation not only facilitates a deeper understanding of the internal mechanisms of both languages but also substantially contributes to the development of comparative linguistics by exploring how different linguistic systems address similar communicative needs. In this process, inter-linguistic differences and similarities are identified, leading to the advancement of new ideas regarding universal linguistic principles.

English word formation has been extensively studied, with a substantial body of research documenting its diverse processes. Trousdale (2024) discusses changes in word formation within the framework of Word Grammar, providing two case studies that illustrate the temporal evolution of word formation rules. His research emphasizes the dynamic nature of word formation and its dependency on cognitive and grammatical contexts. Bauer (2020) provides a comprehensive overview of compounds and minor word-formation types in English. He categorizes English word formation methodologies into major and minor processes, highlighting how compounding remains one of the most productive methods. Bauer's analysis demonstrates how new words (compounds) are created by combining existing lexical units; these compounds often acquire semantic meanings distinct from their constituent elements.

Uzbek word formation, though less studied than English, offers substantial insight into the agglutinative nature characteristic of Turkic languages. Erkinova (2023) thoroughly examines the principles of word group formation in Uzbek. Her work identifies key regularities in how words are grouped and modified through suffixation, thereby providing insights into the systematic characteristics of Uzbek word formation. Erkinova's research contributes to a broader understanding of the structural rules governing the expansion of Uzbek vocabulary.

RESULTS

Through linguistic typology, various aspects such as syntax (sentence structure), morphology (word structure), and phonology (sound system) are investigated across different languages. The primary objective of this approach is to classify languages based on their grammatical characteristics. This research provides a step-by-step comparative description of English and Uzbek.

Syntactic Comparative Analysis: English predominantly adheres to the S+V+O (Subject-Verb-Object) word order. For example: "The dog (S) eats (V) the bone (O)." (Uzbek: It suyakni yeydi.) In contrast, Uzbek follows the S+O+V (Subject-Object-Verb) word order. For example: "It (S) suyak (O) yeydi (V)."

Morphological Comparative Analysis: English is generally considered an isolating language, meaning that word formation involves a limited number of affixes. For instance, the past tense is formed with the suffix -ed (start → started). Uzbek, unlike English, is an agglutinative language, where grammatical meanings and relationships are expressed through numerous affixes. Various suffixes are used for number, tense, possession, case, and other grammatical categories in

word formation.

Case of Nouns: English has limited noun case markers. The primary cases include nominative (subjective), accusative (objective), and genitive (expressed with 's). In Uzbek, the situation is reversed: nominative, accusative, dative, locative, ablative, and other case forms exist, each expressed with specific suffixes. For example: daftar (nom.), daftarni (acc.), daftarga (dativ).

Gender: English generally lacks grammatical gender, although some words distinguish gender (e.g., actor/actress). Gender-specific pronouns like he/she are used to indicate gender in showing tense and person. Uzbek nouns do not possess grammatical gender. However, gender distinction exists in pronouns (e.g., u – refers to male/female based on context).

Verb Conjugation: English verbs have a limited number of forms. Conjugation primarily depends on tense and person. For example: he runs / they run. Uzbek verb conjugation is more complex, having various forms based on tense, mood, voice, and person. For example: keladi, kelgan, kelayotgan, kelar edi, and so on.

Determiners and Articles: In English, definiteness and indefiniteness are expressed through determiners and articles (a, an, the). Uzbek, however, does not have articles. In this language, definiteness and indefiniteness are conveyed through context, case suffixes, and word order.

Word Formation (Morphological Structure): Word formation refers to the methods of creating new words in a language. Despite having different genetic origins, both English and Uzbek utilize specific word formation methods.

English Word Formation Methods: Derivation: New words are formed by adding prefixes or suffixes to a word. Examples: lonely + -ness → loneliness; un- + comfortable → uncomfortable.

Composition (Compounding): Two or more independent words combine to express a new meaning. Examples: wheel + chair → wheelchair; black + board → blackboard. **Conversion:** In this method, the grammatical category (i.e., part of speech, e.g., from noun to verb) of a word changes without altering its form. Example: bottle can be a noun, and also used as a verb (to bottle). **Abbreviation:** New words are formed through shortened forms of words or phrases. These can be acronyms or initialism. Examples: Federal Bureau of Investigation → FBI, NATO. **Blending:** A method of creating a new word by combining specific parts of two words. Examples: smog (from smoke + fog); brunch (from breakfast + lunch). **Clipping:** Shortening the long form of a word while retaining its semantic content. Examples: ad (from advertisement), lab (from laboratory).

Uzbek Word Formation Methods: Uzbek is a member of the Turkic language family and possesses unique morphological characteristics. The following are the main word formation methods in Uzbek: Derivation: Similar to English, new words in Uzbek are formed by adding affixes, particularly suffixes, to a word stem. Example: yozmoq (to write) + -uvchi → yozuvchi (a writer). Compounding: New words with a unified meaning are formed by combining two independent words. Example: kitob (book) + do'st (friend) → kitobdo'st (a person who reads many books, "bookworm").

Affixation: As a common feature in both English and Uzbek, affixation is the process of creating a new word or altering the grammatical function of an existing word by adding morphological elements such as prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes to a word stem or root. Affixation is employed in both English and Uzbek, but their structures, rules of application, and frequency of use differ. Affixation in English: Prefixes: Added to the beginning of a word. Example: un- → unable. Suffixes: Added to the end of a word. Example: -ly → slowly. Circumfixes: Not widely used in English. Common Suffixes: -ed: past tense → started; -ing: present continuous form → walking; -s: plural → dogs; -able: adjective-forming → unbelievable; -ment: noun-forming → improvement

Common Prefixes: un-: negation: unacceptably; re-take; pre-: predominant dis-: disagree.

Characteristics: English relies heavily on affixation. Both derivational (creating new words) and inflectional (creating grammatical forms) affixes are widely used. The order of affixation is generally clear: prefixes are added before the word stem, and suffixes after it.

Affixation in Uzbek. Uzbek is an agglutinative language, where suffixes are widely used. Due to the nature of this language, several suffixes can be added to a single word. Prefixes are very rare in Uzbek and are almost never used. Common Suffixes: -lar: plural marker. Example: daftar - daftarlar (notebooks); -ga: dative case suffix. Example: daftar - daftarga (to the notebook); -da: locative case suffix. Example: daftar - daftarda (in the notebook); -ish: indicates action or process. Example: o'qi - o'qish (reading); -chilik: noun-forming suffix indicating profession, activity, or state. Example: o'qituvchi - o'qituvchilik (teaching).

Characteristics: Uzbek allows for the sequential addition of multiple suffixes to a word stem. This enables the expression of complex and rich semantic meanings. Due to the agglutinative nature of the language, each added suffix can significantly alter the meaning of the word. Compared to English, Uzbek often uses suffixes instead of separate words to

express grammatical meaning, which ensures conciseness and clarity in the language.

Suffixes Forming Different Parts of Speech: a) Noun-forming suffixes: English: -ism → socialism; -er → gardener; -dom → boredom. Uzbek: -uvchi → uchuvchi (uchmoq + uchi → "pilot"); -lik → yoshlik (yosh + lik → "youth"). b) Adjective-forming suffixes: English: -able → believable; -less → useless; -ous → monotonous. Uzbek: -li → sutli (sut + li → "milky"); -siz → odobsiz (odob + siz → "rude"). c) Verb-forming suffixes: English: -ize → minimize; -ify → clarify. Uzbek: -la/-lan → gulla, uylan. d) Adverb-forming suffixes: English: -ly → softly, slowly. Uzbek: Specific suffixes are less commonly used, but forms created with -cha, -lab, -lik exist. Examples: bolalarcha, sekinlik bilan, tinchlab. Uzbek: -lab (to'g'rilab), -ona (oqilona) suffixes. Word modification in English is highly significant, as it is widely used by both native and non-native speakers.

Compounds in English are sometimes written as a single word (sunglasses), sometimes hyphenated (life-threatening — this case is generally not observed in Uzbek), and sometimes as two separate words (football stadium). Composition (word formation through compounding) is one of the most widespread word formation methods in English. This method is also highly effective and productive in Uzbek. Types of Compounds:

Closed Compounds: Words are combined without spaces or hyphens. Examples: wheelchair, notebook.

Hyphenated Compounds: Words are linked by a hyphen. Examples: sister-in-law, well-being.

Open Compounds: Words are written separately but retain a unified meaning. Examples: ice cream, post office. Compounds are widely used in daily speech and serve to express objects, actions, or characteristics. The combination of words results in the formation of unique lexical units.

Compounds across Parts of Speech: Noun + Noun: Seafood = Sea + Food, Earphones = Ear + Phones. Uzbek example: Mehmonxona = mehmon + xona - mehmonxona (hall). Adjective + Noun / Adjective + Adjective: Blackboard = Black + Board, Whitehouse = White + House, Bitter-sweet = Bitter + Sweet. Uzbek example: Oqsoqol = Oq + Soqol - oqsoqol (elders/white beard). Noun + Verb: Haircut = Hair + Cut. Uzbek example: Mehnatsevar = Mehnat + Sevar - mehnatsevar (hardworking).

Back-formation is the process of forming a new word by removing a prefix or suffix from an existing word. This method is also called back-derivation because it forms a new shape by simplifying an existing complex word. English example: Examination → examine (the -ation suffix is removed). In Uzbek, back-formation occurs in various forms. This process typically involves forming a verb from a noun, or a noun from a verb. Examples:

Back-formation is the process of forming a new word by removing a prefix or suffix from an existing word. This method is also called back-derivation because it forms a new shape by simplifying an existing complex word. English example: Examination → examine (the -ation suffix is removed). In Uzbek, back-formation occurs in various forms. This process typically involves forming a verb from a noun, or a noun from a verb. Examples:

Yozuvchi (noun) → yozmoq (verb); O'quvchi (noun) → o'qimoq (verb). In these cases, a derived noun already exists, and then a verb form is extracted from it. This plays an important role in language development and vocabulary expansion. Kitob (book) → Kitobxon (reader). Here, the word "kitobxon," meaning "a person who reads books," exists as a noun, and then the word "kitobxona" (library, i.e., "a place where books are read") is formed. By analyzing this process in reverse, one can arrive at the original noun - kitob.

Conversion in English: In English, conversion often occurs between nouns and verbs, meaning a word changes its grammatical function based on context without altering its meaning. Noun → Verb. Example: to text (verb) - text (noun). Usage: "I will text you soon." Verb → Noun: Example: call (verb) → a call (noun). Adjective → Noun: Example: The rich (noun) < rich (adjective). Usage: "We need to address the poor." Noun → Adjective: Example: winter (noun) → winter vacations (adjective + noun). Usage: "We have winter plans."

Conversion in Uzbek: Conversion occurs less frequently in Uzbek compared to English. However, in existing cases, the grammatical function of the word is expressed with various suffixes. Noun → Verb: Example: yozish (noun, i.e., "writing/practice") is used as a verb. Example: "Men insho yozyapman." Verb → Noun: Example: Yurish (verb, "to walk") → yurish (noun, "a walk, a stroll"). Example: "Kecha zerikarli yurish bo'ldi." Adjective → Noun: Example: Boy (adjective, "wealthy") → boylar (noun, "wealthy people"). Example: "Boylar qo'llab quvvatlashadi." Noun → Adjective: Example: Kuz (noun, "season") → kuz fasli (in attributive function). Usage: "Kuz fasli juda go'zal."

CONCLUSION

The information above demonstrates that Uzbek is an agglutinative language, where complex words are created by adding multiple suffixes to a word. These formed words express grammatical categories such as tense, number, possession, and case within the word itself. In contrast, English is an analytic language, extensively utilizing word order, auxiliary verbs, and various forms of inflection and derivation to express grammatical meanings. Furthermore, despite English and Uzbek belonging to different language families, they share several commonalities at the syntactic level. These include the use of a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order in simple sentences, as well as the employment of auxiliary verbs to express tense and aspect categories, both characteristic of these languages. Morphologically, similarities can be observed in the use of affixes to modify word meaning. Specifically,

prefixes are widely used in English, while suffixes are extensively used in Uzbek to express grammatical meaning. Concurrently, similarities exist within word formation methods, with compounding and derivation being widely and productively utilized in both languages.

It is also important to highlight the differences between these two languages. To clarify, English is primarily an analytic language, where grammatical relationships are expressed through word order and auxiliary verbs. Conversely, Uzbek belongs to the synthetic language type, employing extensive inflectional paradigms in both nouns and verbs.

REFERENCES

- Abidova, N. Word Formation in Uzbek and English: A Comparative Study. Tashkent: Uzbek National Press, 2020.
- Atajonova, A. Modern Uzbek Literary Language (A Methodical Handbook for Academic Lyceum Students) - Tashkent: Bayoz, 2017. 178 p.
- Bauer, L. (2020). Compounds and minor word-formation types. The handbook of English linguistics, 463-482.
- Davis, R. English and Uzbek Grammar: A Comparative Analysis. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2018. P. 200-207.
- Erkinova, M. (2023). Principles of Formation of Word Groups in Uzbek Language. Центральноазиатский журнал образования и инноваций, 2(12), 8-11.
- Johnson, M. A. Morphological Patterns in Uzbek and English. Linguistic Society, New York. 2021. P. 100-109.
- Jones, A. Morphology and Syntax: A Cross-Linguistic Perspective on Word Formation. London: Language and Linguistics Publications. 2018
- Karimov, A. Lexical Structures in Uzbek and English: A Typological Approach. University of London Press, London, 2019. P. 15-34.
- Mamatov, N. The difference between a compound word and a phrase // Uzbek language and literature. - Tashkent, 2018. -No 5. -P. 17-21.
- Smith, J. Word Formation Techniques in English: An Analysis of Affixation and Compounding. New York: Linguistic Research Press. 2019
- Smith, J. A Comparative Study of Uzbek and English Word Forms. Academic Press, Tashkent, 2020. P 45-72.
- Trousdale, G. (2024). Word formation change in Word Grammar: Two case studies. In Word Grammar, Cognition and Dependency. Cambridge University Press.
- White, R. Comparative Morphology: Exploring the Word Formation Strategies of Uzbek and English.

