

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Contractions in The Uzbek Language and The History of Their Study

Mahmudova Matluba Sagdulla qizi

2nd year doctoral student at the Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature named after Alisher Navoi, Uzbekistan

VOLUME: Vol.06 Issue03 2026

PAGE: 48-52

Copyright © 2026 European International Journal of Philological Sciences, this is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License. Licensed under Creative Commons License a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

Abstract

This article examines contractions in the Uzbek language and the historical development of their study in linguistic research. Contractions are considered an important linguistic phenomenon that reflects phonetic, morphological, and syntactic processes occurring in the development of a language. The study analyzes how contractions arise through the interaction of linguistic units, resulting in phonetic reduction, fusion of grammatical elements, and the simplification of frequently used constructions. The research also reviews the historical stages of studying grammatical categories in Turkic and Uzbek linguistics. Particular attention is paid to the contributions of early sources and scholars such as Mahmud Kashgari, Mahmud az-Zamaxshariy, Alisher Navoiy, Mirzo Mehdixon, and later linguists who investigated grammatical structures of the Uzbek language. The article highlights the evolution of the study of grammatical categories, particularly case forms, and the development of Uzbek grammar in the twentieth century. The results demonstrate that contractions play a significant role in understanding language change, the interaction between spoken and written forms, and the historical development of Uzbek within the broader framework of Turkic linguistics.

KEYWORDS

Uzbek language, contractions, grammatical categories, Turkic linguistics, historical linguistics.

INTRODUCTION

The study of grammatical phenomena in the Uzbek language remains one of the important directions of modern Turkic linguistics. Among such phenomena, contractions occupy a special place as they reflect the dynamic processes of phonetic, morphological, and syntactic development of the language. Contractions arise as a result of the interaction of linguistic units in speech, leading to the reduction, fusion, or phonetic modification of words and grammatical forms. These processes not only demonstrate the tendency of the language toward economy and convenience in communication but also reveal historical stages of linguistic development.

In Uzbek linguistics, contractions are closely connected with phonetic changes, morphological transformations, and the evolution of syntactic constructions. They can occur in different forms, such as the shortening of auxiliary elements, the merging of grammatical markers with lexical bases, or the phonetic reduction of frequently used word combinations. As a result, contractions serve as an important source for understanding the mechanisms of language change and the formation of modern grammatical structures in Uzbek.

The origins of contractions in the Uzbek language can be traced back to earlier stages of Turkic languages. Historical

written monuments of Turkic peoples provide valuable material for observing how contraction processes developed over time. In particular, the works of the medieval Turkic scholar Mahmud Kashgari contain important information about phonetic and grammatical features of early Turkic languages, which help researchers identify the historical roots of contraction phenomena. Later linguistic studies continued to analyze these processes in the context of Uzbek and other Turkic languages. In modern Uzbek linguistics, contractions have been examined from various perspectives, including phonetics, morphology, and historical linguistics. Researchers have attempted to classify types of contractions, explain their mechanisms, and determine their role in the development of grammatical forms. At the same time, the study of contractions contributes to a deeper understanding of language evolution, structural changes, and the interaction between spoken and written forms of Uzbek. Therefore, investigating contractions in the Uzbek language and the history of their study is essential for revealing important aspects of linguistic development. Such research not only clarifies the mechanisms of phonetic and grammatical change but also enriches our knowledge of the historical development of the Uzbek language within the broader context of Turkic linguistics.

Relevance of the Topic. A comprehensive study of pressing issues in Uzbek linguistics is of particular importance today, when our independent country is confidently moving toward the future. The Uzbek language, which is closely connected with the history of the nation, could not always be freely studied during the period of colonial rule. Indeed, the fact that our language has gained the status of a state language and has begun to enter the sphere of international relations is directly related to the independence of our Republic.

The development of any scientific discipline is closely connected with the scope and relevance of research activities. Therefore, every scientific conclusion achieved in this field is of significant importance. The development of a language cannot be imagined only through vocabulary; it must also be considered together with grammatical units. Likewise, the advancement of linguistics cannot be conceived without grammatical units, which are one of the fundamental features of the language system. Grammatical units are regarded as one of the main objects in the construction of phrases and sentences. This, in turn, provides a basis for drawing correct theoretical conclusions. The relevance of this course paper is

determined by these considerations.

Degree of Study of the Topic. In Uzbek linguistics, the study of the case category has gradually developed from the works of Mahmud Kashgari to the present day through the research of many linguists. Later, in Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as A. G'ulomov, G. Abdurahmonov, Sh. Shukurov, H. Ne'matov, S. Ashirboyev, A. Hojiyev, Sh. Shoabdurahmonov, Sh. Rahmatullayev, R. Qo'ng'urov, E. Begmatov, R. Sayfullayeva, A. Shomaqsudov, I. Rasulov, B. Mengliyev, and D. G'aniyeva studied this issue extensively based on their own research aims and directions. Among foreign linguists, the contributions of scholars such as N. A. Baskakov, A. N. Kononov, and S. N. Ivanov to the study of the case category within the framework of Turkic languages are invaluable.

RESULTS

Approximately in the fourteenth century, the anonymous work *At tuhfatuz zakiyati fillug'atit turkiya* ("A Precious Gift Concerning the Turkic Language"), which has survived to the present day, provided valuable information about many features of the Turkic languages. In particular, it contains detailed descriptions of several grammatical categories of the Turkic language, such as number, possession, and case. The information presented in the work regarding the following five cases is especially significant:

1. the accusative case;
2. the dative case (-g'a, -ga, -qa, -ka, -a);
3. the locative-temporal case (-da);
4. the ablative case (-tan, -dan);
5. the comitative case (bila).

Although this work provides extensive information about the case category of the Uzbek language, it does not mention the nominative and genitive cases that exist in modern Uzbek literary language. At the same time, the author recognized the postposition *bila*, which historically appears as *birlan* in the development of the language, as a separate case and thus confused the synonymous relationship between postpositions and case markers with the case category itself. In general, this work can be regarded as one of the earliest sources providing information about cases in the Uzbek language.

In the manual *Qadimgi turkiy til*, authored by G'ani Abdurahmonov and A. Rustamov, cases and their morphological markers are presented as follows:

1. Genitive case – expressed by the suffixes -ning, -ning, -nung, -nüng, which are attached depending on whether the stem or base is back or front vowel in harmony.
2. Accusative case – marked by the suffixes -g', -g, -n, -ni, -ni.
3. Dative case – expressed by the suffixes -qaru, -g'aru, -karu, -garu, -qa, -ka, -ä.
4. Locative-ablative case – marked by -da, -dä, -ta, -tä. Initially these two cases were not distinguished. Even the form -ä of the dative case was sometimes used in place of the locative case. This phenomenon can still be observed in some modern Uzbek dialects.
5. Ablative case – by the late period of Old Turkic it began to form as an independent case and appeared with its own suffixes: -din, -din, -tin, -tin, -dän, -dan, -tan, -tän.
6. Instrumental case – marked by the suffix -n, which acquires an additional vowel when attached to a word and conveys the meaning of bilan (“with”) in the modern language.

Similarly, N. Rahmonov and Q. Sodiqov note in their textbook *O'zbek tili tarixi* that seven cases existed in the Old Turkic language.

One of the great encyclopedic scholars who made an enormous contribution to linguistics was Mahmud az Zamaxshariy. In the Muslim East he was widely known by the honorable titles “Ustād al-Arab wa-l-Ajam” (“Teacher of Arabs and non-Arabs”) and “Fakhr al-Khwarazm” (“Pride of Khwarazm”). The scholar produced more than fifty remarkable works in linguistics, lexicography, geography, literature, prosody, Qur'anic exegesis, hadith, jurisprudence, and recitation. His work *Al Mufasssal*, devoted to the morphology and syntax of the Arabic language, remains an unparalleled and valuable source widely studied in higher educational institutions. In this work, parts of speech are divided into three categories: nouns, verbs, and particles. The book concludes with a section on phonetics. Following traditional grammatical classification, the author did not allocate a separate category for adverbs. In another work, *Muqaddimat al Adab*, he also discusses parts of speech and classifies words into nouns, verbs, and conjunctions (5).

The great poet and thinker Alisher Navoiy also addressed linguistic issues in his work *Muhokamat ul lug'atayn*. In this treatise he discusses the origin of languages, the relationship between language and thought, the meaning of words, the

classification of words according to form and meaning, word formation, morphological categories, and phonetic considerations, supporting his arguments with numerous examples and scientific explanations.

In the eighteenth century, Mirzo Mehdixon composed a large dictionary titled *Sanglox* and attached to it a grammatical treatise called *Maboni ul lug'at* (“Foundations of the Language,” also known as *Sarfi va Nahvi Lug'ati Chig'atoy*). This work represents a rare and valuable source on the grammar of the Old Uzbek (Chagatai) language (2). It consists of an introduction and a grammatical section. The treatise is devoted to the analysis of morphological features of Old Uzbek, including verbs and their voices, tenses, specific forms, formation, conjugation, auxiliary verbs, nouns and their five case forms, numerals and their types, pronouns and their types, as well as phonetic phenomena.

While discussing the morphology of Uzbek, the author also presents valuable observations regarding case forms. He identifies five cases in Uzbek:

1. genitive (-ning);
2. accusative (-ni, -n);
3. dative (-ka, -ga, -g'a);
4. ablative (-dan);
5. locative-temporal (-da).

The author distinguishes these five cases based on the presence of suffixes and describes their morphological features. As the author himself notes, *Maboni ul-lug'at* may justifiably be regarded as the first scientific grammar of the Uzbek language. However, the work does not include discussions on the adjective and adverb as independent parts of speech.

In the eighteenth century, the Russian scholar Mikhail Lomonosov created the first scientific grammar of the Russian language with his work *Russian Grammar*. This work was not only a normative grammar but also a descriptive, normative-stylistic grammar and gained recognition as a comprehensive source on the Russian language. In this book the author identifies eight parts of speech: noun, pronoun, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. The ancient Greeks also divided parts of speech into eight groups: noun, verb, participle, article, pronoun, preposition, adverb, and conjunction. However, it was only after Lomonosov's *Russian Grammar* that the issue of parts of

speech began to be studied scientifically and clarified.

This grammar served as the main reference for the Russian language for nearly eighty years until the appearance of Alexander Vostokov's work *Russian Grammar*. Subsequently, Russian scholars engaged in linguistic research produced numerous scientific works on the phonetics, morphology, and syntax of many languages of the world. Among these were studies devoted to Turkic languages, including the grammar of the Uzbek language. Based on the earliest sources and later grammatical works, the grammar of the Uzbek language was finally developed by the twentieth century.

The morphology and syntax of the Uzbek language were first studied as separate disciplines by Abdurauf Fitrat. His manuals on Uzbek grammar titled *Sarf and Nahv* were published six times between 1925 and 1930. In 1932, the book *O'zbek tili grammatikasi* by M. Shamsiyev and Sherbek was published, and in 1933–1934 the works *Sarf and Nahv* by H. Qayumiy and S. Dolimov appeared. In 1938, O. Usmon and B. Azizov published the books *Morfologiya and Sintaksis*. The first special study of Uzbek cases was carried out by A. G'ulomov and published in 1941 under the title *O'zbek tilida kelishiklar*.

By 1957, based on the grammars created in the 1930s and 1940s, the first detailed scientific grammar of Uzbek—*Hozirgi zamon o'zbek tili*—was published. This book covered not only Uzbek grammar but also other aspects of the structure of the Uzbek language.

In this work, 34 pages are devoted to the noun as a part of speech and the category of case. The meanings of nouns (proper and common, singular and collective) and their grammatical features (number, possession, and case) are presented as separate topics. The section on the case category of nouns is based on A. G'ulomov's research on Uzbek cases. The book identifies six cases in the Uzbek language and explains their morphological and syntactic characteristics.

Based on accumulated experience and materials, the publication of *O'zbek tili grammatikasi* in 1975 (Vol. I: Morphology; Vol. II: Syntax) resulted in a more complete scientific grammar of the Uzbek language. In this work the noun and its morphological features are described in detail.

In the textbook *Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili*, published in 1980 under the editorship of Sh. Shoabdurahmonov, the section related to the noun was prepared by I. Rasulov and A. Hojiyev. The discussion of nouns occupies pages 213–251 and is

presented in considerable detail. However, the order of cases is somewhat rearranged:

1. nominative;
2. genitive;
3. accusative;
4. ablative;
5. dative;
6. locative-temporal.

CONCLUSION

The study of contractions in the Uzbek language reveals important aspects of the phonetic, morphological, and syntactic evolution of the language. Historical linguistic sources and grammatical works created from the medieval period to the twentieth century provide valuable data for understanding how grammatical structures developed in Turkic and Uzbek languages. The contributions of scholars such as Mahmud Kashgari, Mahmud az-Zamaxshariy, Alisher Navoiy, and Abdurauf Fitrat played an essential role in shaping the scientific understanding of grammatical phenomena in the Uzbek language. The analysis shows that the study of grammatical categories, particularly case systems, laid the foundation for later investigations of linguistic processes such as contractions. Modern Uzbek linguistics continues to develop these ideas, expanding the theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of language change. Therefore, further research on contractions and related grammatical processes will contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical development, structural features, and functional characteristics of the Uzbek language within the broader context of Turkic linguistics.

REFERENCES

1. Абдуллаев Ф. А. Ўзбек адабий тилининг ўғуз лаҳжаси. – Т., 1978.
2. Абдурасулов Ё. Туркий тилларнинг қиёсий-тарихий грамматикаси. – Т.: Фан, 2009 – 257 б.
3. Абдурахмонов Ф. А., Шукуров Ш. Ш. Ўзбек тилининг тарихий грамматикаси. – Т.: Ўқитувчи, 1975.– 320 б.
4. Абдурахмонов Ф. А., Рустамов А. Қадимги туркий тил. – Т.: Ўқитувчи, 1982. – 168 б.
5. Abuzalova M., Yo`ldoshova D. Tilshunoslikka kirish. – Т.:

Universitet, 2005. – 136 b.

6. Баскаков Н. А. Тюркские языки. – М.: Изд.вост.лит. 1960.
7. Баскаков Н.А., Содиқов А., Абдуазизов А. Умумий тилшунослик. – Т.: Ўқитувчи, 1979.-192 б.
8. Мирзаев М. Ўзбек адабий тилининг Бухоро группа шевалари. – Т.: Фан, 1969. – 152 б.
9. Мирзаев М., Усмонов С., Расулов И. Ўзбек тили. – Т.: Ўқитувчи, 1962, 1978.
10. Менглиев Б., Абузалова М. Ҳозирги ўзбек адабий тили. – Қарши: Насаф, 2005 – 184 б.
11. Нигматов Х.Г. Функциональная морфология тюркоязычных памятников XI-XII вв. – Т.: Фан, 1989.-190 с.
12. Ne'matov N.,Ahmatov N., Ahmedov A. O`zbek tili tarixi, tayanch tushunchalar sharhi. Buxoro, 2001. – 48b.
13. Нурмонов А., Шаҳобиддинова Ш., Искандарова Ш., Набиева Д. Ўзбек тилининг назарий грамматикаси. Морфология. – Т.: Шарқ , 2001.-164б.
14. Нурмонов А. Танланган асарлар. II жилд. – Т.: “Академнашр”, 2012.
15. Ўзбек тили грамматикаси. I, II том. –Т.:Фан, 1975-1976 – 612 б.; 560 б.
16. Каримов Қ. Восита келишиги (“Қутадғу билиг” материаллари асосида). Ўзбек тили тарихи масалалари. – Т.: Фан, 1977.