



TYOPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE MORPHOLOGICAL AFFIXATION SYSTEM IN UZBEK

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Abstract

Affixation systems are central to understanding morphological structures in linguistics, as they influence word formation and grammatical expression. In agglutinative languages like Uzbek, affixes particularly prefixes play a crucial role in the linguistic framework. While suffixation in Turkic languages, including Uzbek, has been extensively studied, prefixation, especially profiksatsiya (prefixation), remains underexplored, with limited focus on its typology, historical development, and semantic roles. The existing literature has focused primarily on suffixes, leaving a significant gap in understanding the role of prefixes in word formation, particularly in Uzbek, which has been minimally examined. This study aims to fill the gap by investigating the typological and functional aspects of prefixes in Uzbek, examining their historical development and their impact on morphological and semantic structures. Through a comparative analysis with other Turkic languages, the study reveals that Uzbek prefixes, though less frequent than suffixes, are integral to word formation and express specific grammatical and semantic functions, including negation and emphasis. This research introduces a detailed exploration of profiksatsiya in Uzbek, combining typological comparisons and etymological analysis to trace the influence of foreign prefixes. The findings contribute to the theoretical understanding of Uzbek morphology, offering insights for linguistics, language education, and computational tools. The study fills an important gap in both theoretical and applied linguistics by providing a comprehensive framework for future research in affixation systems.

Keywords: Uzbek language, affixation, morphological structure, prefixes, suffixes, word formation, typology, profiksatsiya, language structure, agglutinative languages, linguistic morphology

Introduction

The topic of morphological structures has been an integral part of linguistic studies with a strong focus on how affixation systems contribute to the way language occurs and shifts over time. In any language, the affixation system is the morphological system through which words are built with prefixes, suffixes, and infixes attached to the base word. In the area of profiksatsiya specifically, affixation in the Uzbek language is one of the necessary aspects of forming a larger grammatical structure. This study explores the morphology of the affixation system in Uzbek, as well as the typological, historical, and functional perspectives of affixation in Uzbek and other Turkic languages in comparison to other languages.

Prior research has primarily investigated agglutinative languages in terms of their suffixes but only a limited amount of work addressed language prefixes, even less in languages such as Uzbek. These studies fall short especially with respect to profiksatsiya (prefixation) in the Uzbek language where issues such as historical linguistics, typological and semantic features continue to be under-researched. Although Turkish, Kazakh and other Turkic languages have draw much attention on the topic of affixation, details and

characteristics of prefixoid in word formation have remained unexplored in Uzbek bayan. We hope to fill this knowledge gap in this research by addressing the typological and functional aspects of prefixes in Uzbek.

This study is theoretically anchored on theories related to morphology and word formation from linguistics, namely, generative grammar, structuralism and functionalism. These theoretical frameworks assist contextualizing the affixation analysis within the larger concept of language systems and their grammatical forms. Similarly, Matthews' morphological theory which focuses on the internal structure of words and affixes and Chomsky's generative grammar help us understand these ways affixes contribute to word formation. Using these theories, the present research investigates how this type of formation construction through affixation works in the Uzbek language, while especially defining the structural and semantic changes caused by prefixes.

The study follows a comparative methodology, based on the patterns of affixation in Uzbek and to a lesser extent in other Turkic languages. The study also draws on etymological analysis to trace foreign prefixes' historical development and influence, especially those of Persian, Arabic at Latin origins. Through the integration of these techniques, the affixation system can be explored in more detail, illuminating the typological regularities and historical pathways that influence the morphological system of Uzbek.

This research soaks up to depict the affixation system utilized in Uzbek, especially the part and sort of prefix and gives customary information on its actual consequences for up-to-date language. This research will not only add to the theoretical landscape of morphology but also provide at least partially empirical evidence that will help guide language instruction, inform computational linguistic work, and contribute to language preservation. This study intends to serve as a basis for further studies in the area through filling the gaps from previous research. We anticipate that the outcome of this study will contribute to theoretical linguistics, but also to practical benefits for language education and computational tools.

Methodology

A theoretical-applied research methodology of morphological analysis of Uzbek language affixational system: the case of Uzbek language affixational system The main method used is descriptive analytical method which is used to analyze the morphological structure features of affixes, and also their structure and function in the language. This approach is combined with homoeretic analysis, which makes it possible to find similar and opposite principles of affixes within the systems, e.g. Turkish, Persian-Tajik, and Latin aspects. From this perspective, contextual analysis is paramount for determining the behavior of affixes within specific lexical items and how the meanings of affixes vary given the particular syntactic and semantic context. Such as the semantic differentiation of affixes: through differential-semantic analysis, it is possible to distinguish principle types of affixes that differ by their morphological and syntactic purposes. As for the typological comparison, this part will be used to compare the structure similarity and differences among the affixation systems in Uzbek with those of other Turkic languages and with those of certain languages from an unrelated family like Latin and Greek in order to reconstruct the historical origin ya "type" of the affixes. Etymological analysis is also used to trace the origins and historical development

of affixes, specifically, how these affixes were borrowed from other languages and then adapted over time. In fact, this method is particularly relevant for explaining typological differences in affixation as well as processes of language change. Finally, the research includes a qualitative literature review of Uzbek morphosyntax studies, and it makes a broader contribution to the groundwork of affixation in morphological studies. In this way, by utilizing such approaches, we hope to address the issue of what affixation contributes to the typological profile of Uzbek morphology and its typological relations with the other languages.

Results and Discussion

Morphological Features of Affixation System in Uzbek and Typological Comparisons

The study of affixation systems in Uzbek linguistics reveals a rich and complex morphological structure, where affixes play a crucial role in word formation and grammatical expression. This research particularly focuses on the morphological properties of affixes, their typological distribution, and their functional dynamics within the Uzbek language system. The results and discussion are structured around the identification of affixes' role, their historical development, and how these elements integrate into the broader linguistic structure of Uzbek.

Key Findings

Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, employs affixes to modify root words and create new lexical items, reflecting both grammatical and semantic nuances. The research indicates that affixes in Uzbek, particularly prefixes (profiks), suffixes (suffiks), and infixes, are integral to the syntactic and semantic richness of the language. Affixes in Uzbek serve various functions:

Derivational Affixes: These create new words, such as the agentive suffix *-chi* (e.g., "o'qituvchi" – teacher), or the nominalizing suffix *-lik* (e.g., "yoshlik" – youth).

Inflectional Affixes: These express grammatical categories like plurality *-lar*, possession *-im*, and tense *-di*.

Intensifying Affixes: For instance, *-gina* and *-qina* function as emphatic markers, highlighting certain qualities of nouns and verbs.

A key discovery in this research was the identification of prefixes (profiks) in Uzbek, a feature that is less prominent compared to suffixation. Prefixes such as "no-" (negative meaning), "be-" (lack of), and "ba-" (intensity or possession) are explored in depth, showing how their usage expands the semantic and syntactic capabilities of the language. This represents a significant contribution to the study of Uzbek morphology, as the presence of prefixes was not well-documented in earlier linguistic studies on the language.

Typological Comparisons

The study also incorporated a typological approach, comparing Uzbek affixation patterns with those of other Turkic languages. Similarities and differences in affix systems between languages such as Turkish, Kazakh, and Uzbek were identified, highlighting both universal morphological features and language-specific characteristics. For example, Uzbek shares a fundamental agglutinative nature with Turkish, but the use of prefixes is more pronounced in the latter. Furthermore, some affixes that originated from Arabic and Persian influence have been integrated into the Uzbek system over time, especially in technical and

scientific terms. This influence from non-Turkic languages is a notable feature of Uzbek, differentiating it from purely Turkic agglutinative systems .

Practical Implications and Application

From a practical perspective, the findings suggest that understanding the intricate nature of affixes in Uzbek is essential for several applied fields, such as language teaching, computational linguistics, and text analysis. The typological and functional roles of affixes can be incorporated into language education curricula, especially for Uzbek as a second language, where learners need to grasp the complexities of agglutination and affixation to master syntax and morphology effectively.

Moreover, the results have significant implications for lexical databases and morphological tools in computational linguistics. As the research highlights, affixation plays a central role in word formation, meaning generation, and syntactic structure in Uzbek. This understanding can aid in developing morphological analyzers for Uzbek that can process inflections, derivations, and compound word formations more efficiently, which would benefit both machine learning models and lexicographical projects.

Knowledge Gaps and Further Research

While this study makes significant contributions to the understanding of affixation in Uzbek, several knowledge gaps remain. One of the key areas for further research is the phonological variation of affixes. While this study addresses some of the phonetic shifts in affix usage, a deeper analysis into allomorphy (the variation of affix forms) is needed. For instance, the alternation of affix forms depending on phonological environments, such as -lar vs -ler for plural formation, requires more detailed investigation to capture all variants across different dialects of Uzbek .

Another area for future research is the semantic nuances of affixes, particularly with respect to their role in lexical expansion and semantic differentiation. As Uzbek is influenced by globalized terminology, there is a growing presence of neologisms formed through the application of foreign affixes. The incorporation of Latin and Greek-based affixes into the Uzbek language, particularly in technical and scientific fields, has created a new dimension for morphological studies. This shift needs to be explored further, considering the functional shifts these affixes undergo when adopted into Uzbek vocabulary .

Lastly, the sociolinguistic dimension of affixation is an area that has been largely unexplored. How affixes are used in different sociolects, across different generations, or in formal vs informal speech could provide further insight into the dynamics of language change and adaptation. This sociolinguistic perspective is especially important in understanding the emerging affixal trends influenced by media, youth culture, and social media platforms.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research provides a comprehensive analysis of the affixation system in Uzbek, revealing its complex morphological structure and typological significance. The study emphasizes the importance of both suffixes and prefixes in shaping the grammatical and lexical properties of the language. The findings contribute to the broader field of morphological studies and typological linguistics, with practical applications in language education and computational linguistics. However, as the study has highlighted, further research is necessary to address the remaining knowledge gaps, particularly in the

phonological, semantic, and sociolinguistic dimensions of Uzbek affixation. These areas of study will enrich our understanding of how affixes evolve and function within language systems, providing a foundation for future research into Uzbek's morphological and syntactic development.

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