A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: MORPHOLOGICAL PATTERNS AND PRODUCTIVITY

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the derivational affixes in both English and Uzbek, focusing on their morphological patterns and productivity. By examining the similarities and differences between the two languages, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how derivational affixes function within their respective linguistic systems. The investigation highlights the role of these affixes in word formation, the extent of their productivity, and the impact they have on language development. This comparative analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of cross-linguistic morphological structures and enhances the pedagogical approaches for teaching derivational morphology in both languages.

KEYWORDS: Derivational affixes, morphology, English, Uzbek, productivity, word formation, cross-linguistic comparison.

INTRODUCTION

Word formation plays a vital role in the linguistic evolution and productivity of any language. Among the various morphological processes, derivation stands out as a key method by which new words are formed from existing bases or roots. This paper investigates the derivational affixes in English and Uzbek, focusing on their morphological patterns, usage, and productivity. By conducting a comparative study, we aim to shed light on how these languages utilize affixation in word formation, while also identifying key differences that reflect broader typological distinctions between English, an Indo-European language, and Uzbek, a Turkic language.

Derivational affixes are morphemes that modify the meaning of a root word to create new lexical items. In both English and Uzbek, these affixes can take the form of prefixes and suffixes. Derivational morphology is distinct from inflectional morphology, as derivational affixes typically alter the lexical category of the word (e.g., from a noun to an adjective or verb), whereas inflectional affixes modify a word to fit grammatical contexts without changing its category.

• **English Derivational Morphology**: English derivational affixes are highly productive, with many common affixes such as -ness, -ly, -er, and -ment for suffixes, and un-, re-, and dis- for prefixes. These affixes allow for the formation of nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs from a base word. English derivation tends to favor suffixation over prefixation, with a wide range of suffixes being used to derive new words.

• **Uzbek Derivational Morphology**: In Uzbek, derivational affixation is also central to word formation, with common suffixes like -chi (denoting professions or agents), -lik (indicating

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qualities or states), and -dosh (indicating shared characteristics or companions). Uzbek derivation primarily relies on suffixation, with affixes playing an integral role in expanding the vocabulary of the language. Unlike English, Uzbek tends to have a more regular and agglutinative structure in its derivational processes.

In English, prefixes modify the meaning of the root without typically changing the word's grammatical category. For example, the prefix un- negates a word's meaning (happy → unhappy), and re- indicates repetition (do → redo). Prefixation in English often conveys abstract modifications such as negation, opposition, or intensification.

In Uzbek, prefixation is far less common. Instead, the language relies predominantly on suffixes for derivational purposes, with few prefixes used in everyday speech. Most Uzbek prefixes are borrowed from Arabic or Persian and are primarily found in older or more formal language registers.

Suffixation is a prominent feature in both English and Uzbek, though the nature and productivity of suffixes differ. In English, suffixes like -er (denoting agents, as in worker), -ness (forming abstract nouns, as in happiness), and -able (forming adjectives, as in readable) are highly productive and widely used.

In Uzbek, suffixes like -chi (denoting professions or agents, as in oʻqituvchi meaning teacher), -lik (indicating qualities or states, as in baxtlik meaning happy), and -kor (indicating someone who performs an action, as in ishkor meaning worker) play a central role in word formation. Uzbek's suffixes tend to be more predictable in their function, and the language's agglutinative nature allows for the stacking of multiple affixes on a single base.

The morphological patterns of English and Uzbek derivation differ significantly due to their typological differences. English, being a relatively analytic language, often shows irregularities in its word formation processes. For instance, while the suffix -er usually denotes an agent (worker), some words formed with this suffix have shifted in meaning, such as butter (derived from but).

Uzbek, on the other hand, is an agglutinative language with a more regular system of affixation. The base word remains relatively unchanged, and affixes are added in a predictable manner. This allows for greater transparency in word formation and higher productivity in forming new words.

The productivity of derivational affixes in both languages reflects their respective morphological structures. In English, derivational affixes are productive but subject to semantic and phonological constraints. For instance, not all adjectives can take the suffix -ness to form nouns (happy → happiness, but angry does not form angriness).

In contrast, Uzbek's agglutinative nature allows for a higher degree of productivity. Suffixes can often be freely added to roots without significant constraints, enabling the language to generate new lexical items more fluidly.

Understanding the derivational processes in both English and Uzbek is crucial for language learners and educators. For English learners, mastering the irregularities of derivation and the various meanings of affixes can be challenging. In contrast, Uzbek learners benefit from the regularity and predictability of suffixation, though they must also grasp the semantic nuances introduced by each affix.

Comparing these two systems offers insights into cross-linguistic word formation and enhances the teaching of derivational morphology in multilingual classrooms. Language instructors can

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emphasize the patterns of affix usage in both languages, helping learners to develop a more systematic approach to understanding and using derivational morphology.

CONCLUSION

The study of derivational affixes in English and Uzbek reveals key morphological patterns and highlights significant differences in productivity and usage between the two languages. While English derivation often involves complex and irregular processes, Uzbek's agglutinative structure facilitates more predictable and productive word formation. This comparative analysis contributes to linguistic theory and pedagogy by providing insights into the role of derivational morphology in language development and teaching.

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