

## The Role of Conversion in Word Formation: A Comparative Study of English and Karakalpak Languages

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### ABSTRACT

*This study explores the process of conversion in English and Karakalpak languages, highlighting its role as a dynamic mechanism for word formation. The research emphasizes both semantic and syntactic shifts that occur during conversion, revealing its significance in language development. By comparing these two languages, the study underscores the universal nature of conversion as a linguistic phenomenon that adapts to the needs of speakers. Ultimately, this analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of how languages evolve and expand through innovative word formation processes.*

**Keywords:** Conversion, models, substantivation, verbalization, adjectivization,

### INTRODUCTION

The term "conversion" was first used by G. Sweet in 1892, although the phenomenon itself was noted by Matzner somewhat earlier [13].

In the literature dedicated to the study of conversion, there are three main viewpoints explaining the meaning of this process:

1. Conversion is the use of the same word in different word forms, as well as a change in grammatical form. Early

researchers such as R. Morris, L. Bauer, A. Smirnickiy, G. Braun, J. Nesfield, Bladin, J. Jagger, A. Kennedy, M. Long, D. Kreyg, R. Waddell and others recognized the role of conversion in word formation, considering the use of the same word in different word forms to be functional [14]. However, the well-known linguist Bauer defines conversion as a change in grammatical form [7].

A. Smirnitski views conversion as a phenomenon of transition from one word form to another without affixes and morphological changes. He also describes conversion as one of the ways to enrich the language [12].

2. On one hand, conversion is viewed as syntactic poly functionality of a word, and on the other hand, as a process of syntactic-morphological word formation. Representatives of the second viewpoint, such as G. Sweet, do not dispute the polysemy of conversion and describe it as a syntactic-morphological phenomenon [13].
3. Conversion is seen as a way to create new words with new meanings and new forms. Members of the third group of viewpoints, such as O. Jespersen, E. Kraizinga, St. Robertson, Ch. Hockett, Z. Harris, and McCarthy, regard conversion as a process of creating new words with new meanings and emphasize its role in enriching vocabulary [6].

Conversion is a semantic, morphological, and syntactic process in which one word becomes another without changing the external form of the base word, meaning it acquires the full function of another word. Conversion is associated with word formation, semantic changes, morphological paradigms, and the grammatical structure of words. It is widely used in Roman-Germanic and Turkic languages, as well as in English and Karakalpak.

In the field of Russian linguistics, Professor V. N. Yartseva was the first to refer to conversion as a method of word formation: "In English, conversion is the transition of a word from one morphological category to another (for example, transforming a verb into a noun and vice versa), with elements such as affixes or prefixes not being used as methods of word

formation. This method is widespread in English, particularly in the area of word formation from modified word forms (verbs and adjectives)" [16].

In Karakalpak linguistics, N.A. Baskakov, A. Aymurzaeva, A. Bekbergenov, K. Pakhratdinov, T. Abdimuratov, and P. Nazhimov [10] consider conversion as a method of word formation and believe that practically all word forms, except for verbal ones, are created through the process of conversion. This process involves using a given word in a different context, as well as understanding and perceiving this change. An example of this can be seen in conversion pairs that have no global equivalent: "Last winter three Trans atlantics titaniced in the North Sea [14]. Here, the word "Titanic" functions as a verb, although it originally is a noun.

In the Karakalpak language, conversion often manifests through ellipsis, allowing us to observe how nouns and numerals transition into attributive forms. For example:

Jaqsımń jatı bolmaydı. (Karakalpak folk proverb)  
Birdiń kesapatı mıña tiyer.

Thus, we can see how the study of conversion in the Karakalpak language reveals changes in word forms and their functions within a sentence.

In both English and Karakalpak languages, the generation of words through conversion allows for the creation of necessary and relevant lexical units.

Some scholars, such as V.D. Arakin, O.D. Meshkov, P.M. Karashchuk, A.Ya. Zagoruiko [2] and others, believe that this process originated in the early 13th century. Other researchers, like A. I. Smirnitsky, S. P. Safronova, and Kubryakova, [12] argue that conversion was actively used in the English language.

Conversion is a phenomenon that has many viewpoints, and therefore its meaning can be understood in various ways. A. I. Smirnitsky confidently asserts that this phenomenon is present in modern English. However, he believes that conversion in contemporary English differs from that in Old English. In his opinion, the main difference lies in the fact that homonymy was

not taken into account in the conversion of Old English, while in modern English conversion, homonymous external manifestations are present and pertain to different types of words [12].

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The process of conversion and the transition of a word from one part of speech to another is referred to differently depending on which part of speech it transitions to. O. D. Meshkov identifies four types of conversion models [8].

1) Verbalization; 2) Substantivization; 3) Adjectivization; 4) Adverbialization.

The transition of words from verb form to noun form, known as attribution, is widespread in various languages, including English and modern Karakalpak languages. In both English and Karakalpak, the transition from verb form to noun form is considered one of the methods of word formation with specific meanings. This method involves the use of affixes to transform a particular verb into a noun, which is used as an object, place, or subject of action, and also takes various affixes to form singular, plural, comparative, and superlative forms of words.

The substantivization of verbs in English can be considered through several aspects. [1]

1. *Emotional and mental states (V-N)*: For example:

- There was no fear in him now, only a fierce and terrible hope (“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” by J.R.R. Tolkien, p. 225).
- He was seized by a sudden doubt of his own sanity (George Orwell, p. 80).
- He had no idea what the answer was, but he decided to make a guess anyway (“The Giver” by Lois Lowry, p. 86).

2. *Action and its result (V-N)*: Verbs can also denote an action or its result. For example:

- She felt a sudden attack of nausea and ran to the bathroom (“Gone Girl” by Gillian Flynn, p. 23).

- He was alert, on edge, as if expecting an attack from a hidden enemy (“The Hunger Games” by Suzanne Collins, p. 511).
  - He made a sudden jump and caught the ball in mid-air (“The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger, p. 180).
  - He knew it was a hopeless try, but he had to do something to save her (“The Hunger Games” by Suzanne Collins, p. 354).
3. *Nominal state of action (V-N)*: Verbs transformed into nouns can denote the action as such. For example:
- She was a good cook, but she hated cooking for Mr. Rochester, who was always dissatisfied with her dishes (“Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Brontë, p. 214).

Verbal forms in syntax also perform certain functions.

1. *Verbal forms function as objects in a sentence (V-N)*:

- He paid a visit to the library, hoping to find some information on the mysterious symbol (“The Da Vinci Code” by Dan Brown, p. 351).
- Like his Biblical namesake, Noah got the call (noun-*atliq*) to do no less than save the world's endangered creatures – and he doesn't even get a divine helping hand, as far as we know.
- She obeyed his command without question, trusting him completely (“Fifty Shades of Grey” by E.L. James, p. 123).

2. *Verbal forms function as subjects in a sentence (V-N)*:

- The swim across the channel was a daunting challenge for the young athlete (“The Swimmer” by John Cheever).
- The long run was grueling, but she pushed through to the finish line (“Born to Run” by Christopher McDougall).

If we consider verbal forms as nouns in the Karakalpak language, qualitative verbs—those that denote characteristics of objects—can also serve as nouns and undergo the process of conversion. [5]

Qualitative verbs can be used in a sentence with the meaning of a noun. Verbs transformed into nouns can take plural and singular endings. Converted qualitative verbs perform functions as objects and subjects in a sentence.

In the Karakalpak language, this process is most often observed in proverbs and sayings. For example:

Uyqılaan uyqı aladı. Uyqılama□an jılqı aladı (Karakalpak folk proverb).

Júrgen ozar, turgán tozar (Karakalpak folk proverb).

Qıymılđađan qır asar (Karakalpak folk proverb).

Izlegenniń awzı asqa toladı (Karakalpak folk proverb).

Miynet súygen hesh waqıtta kem bolmas, Miynetten qashqandı adam dep bolmas (Karakalpak folk proverb).

- Eńbekten qashqan dúmpekke jolıar.

- Esi ketken eshki jıyar.

- Eshki jıyıp esin jıyar (Karakalpak folk proverb).

In modern Karakalpak language, the use of qualitative verbs in the role of nouns is considered a productive phenomenon.

1. In modern Karakalpak language, the following forms of qualitative verbs transition into nouns:

a) Qualitative verbs with the forms **-ǵan// -gen, -qan// -ken;**

Biraq *bergenlerdiń* ishinen birewi baxıtlı ekenin adam elestirmey júriwde tájip emes. Sol ushın birew beremen dese alıp úyreniw kerek (“Qoraqalpoq qızı” T.Kayıpbergenov).

b) Qualitative verbs with the forms **-ar// -er, -r;**

*Jatıp isher* jalqaw boladı.

Qosjaqpas mılqaw boladı (Karakalpak folk proverb).

Meniń sizlerge *aytarım*, oqıwshılar, sabaqtı tayarlap kelińiz (N. Dawqaraev).

c) Qualitative verbs with the form **-tuǵın;**

Al sabaqların *bilmeytuǵınlar*, baqırısqa dawıs qosıp, tek mıldap otır (E.Şamuratov).

d) Qualitative verbs with the forms **-mas//mes, -bas//bes, -pas//pes;**

- *Kórmes* túyeni de kórmes (Qoraqalpoq xalıq naqıl-maqalı).
- *Oylanbastıń* túbi oyran (Qoraqalpoq xalıq naqıl-maqalı).

e) Qualitative verbs with the forms **-iwshı//iwshi, -wshı//wshi;**

- *Aytwshı* aqıl bolsa, *tıńlawshı* dana bolar (Qoraqalpoq xalıq naqıl-maqalı).
- *Keliwshilerge* esik ashıq (K.Sultanov).

f) Qualitative verbs that have taken the possessive ending **-jaq;**

Qáne ne *aytajań* bar? Seniń ne *aytajańdıń* qashan-aq sezdim. (J.Aymurzaev).

g) Qualitative verbs that have taken the endings **-ası/-esi.**

*Beresige* besew kóp, *alasia* altaw az (Karakalpak proverb).

2. Transition of qualitative verbs into nouns: Many qualitative verbs can denote not only actions but also objects. In modern Karakalpak, the following forms of qualitative verbs transition into nouns:

a) Verbs with the forms **-ıw//iw, -w:**

- *Juwırw* – sporttıń bir túri.
- *Júziw*-dene shınıqtırıwǵa paydalı ("Jetkinshek" newspaper).
- *Awırw* astan, daw qarındastan. (Karakalpak proverb).

b) Verbs with the forms **-maq//mek, -baq//bek, -paq//pek:**

Example:

- *Almaqtıńbermegi* bar (Karakalpak proverb).
- Anadan bir *tuwılmaq*, bir *ólmek* bar (Á. Shamuratov).

Comparing the above forms, several similarities and differences can be identified in the semantic relationships of the V-N model (Verb-Noun):

- In English, any verb can be transformed, whereas in the Karakalpak language, not every verb can be transformed; only qualitative verbs and action verbs can be used as nouns.
- Both English and Karakalpak languages feature hybrid words that can function as both verbs and nouns.
- When verbs transition into nouns, it is evident in both languages that words are formed using lexical-semantic methods.
- In English, the use of prepositions to form nouns from verbs is considered an effective method. For example, "take off" becomes "takeoff"; "fall out" becomes "fallout." Such a method of transformation is not applied in the Karakalpak language.

In both English and Karakalpak languages, the modeling of adjective-noun has similar aspects, and in this process, words transitioning from the category of adjectives to the category of nouns often occur not through conversion but through ellipsis (omission of the word), serving a syntactic function as both main and subordinate members of a sentence.

When plural forms of nouns are added to qualitative words (in English -s, -es; in Karakalpak -lar, -ler), they denote people. The following table provides examples of the conversion model of adjective-noun for comparison in the specified languages.

When we compare the Adjective-Noun conversion model in English and Karakalpak languages, this model is compatible in both languages. Based on our research, we can consider the adjective-noun model as a widely used and very effective method of word formation in both languages.

In English, conversion from nouns to verbs is a common phenomenon, where nouns can function as verbs. For example:

- Boys spent the night with Mr. Vaughan, and they *breakfasted* together in the usual way upon bacon and eggs, toast, marmalade and coffee" ("Strong Prison". Sayers 1928).



- He *emailed* her every day, telling her about his life in New York, his hopes and dreams, his fears and doubts ("The Time Traveler's Wife" Audrey Niffenegger. 281-p).
- He *shaped* his hands into a cup and scooped up the water ("Life of Pi" Yann Martel. 148-p).
- He *words* me (W.Shakespear).

In English, verbs are formed from adjectives; however, this method of verb formation is not very effective. This phenomenon, the transition from an adjective to a verbal form, does not occur in the Karakalpak language. Therefore, by studying this model, we can highlight the differences between the English and Karakalpak languages. Example:

- He *slowed* his horse to a trot and looked around, searching for a sign of the enemy ("The Three Musketeers" Alexandre Dumas. 59-p).

The conversion of other word forms into adjectives is referred to as adjectivization. This process is common to both English and Karakalpak languages; however, in contemporary English and modern Karakalpak, it is not as actively manifested.

#### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In English, nouns, verbs, and adverbs often transition into adjectives through conversion. For example: "Barking dogs seldom bite." (Proverb) and "We don't usually have such boiling hot weather" (Golden dictionary).

In contemporary Karakalpak, adjectivization is not an active process. In the Karakalpak language, adjectives are often formed from verbal forms, quantitative numbers, individual nouns, and verbs.

For example: "Eshektin jugi jeńil bolsa, jataǵan keledi." "Qabaǵan iyt; Qashaǵan mal." "Súzegen sıyır.; Jataǵan eshek." "Qaraqum menen Qızılqumńıń qaynaǵan ıssısı" (J. Aymurzaev). "Aynımaǵan búlbil bolar edi ol" (I. Yusupov).

Noun-adjective conversion is characteristic of both modern English and contemporary Karakalpak. Adjectives that convert

into nouns perform all functions of adjectives and describe the noun they are associated with.

For instance: "Tom wore a sun hat to protect himself from the sun's rays, a precaution taken by characters" (Harper Lee "To Kill a Mockingbird"). "She wrapped herself in a silk scarf, a cherished possession reminiscent of those in" ("Breakfast at Tiffany's" Truman Capote). "She wore a velvet cloak" (Oscar Wilde "The Picture of Dorian Gray").

In the Karakalpak language, there is also a phenomenon analogous to noun-adjective conversion in modern English. Adjectives that convert into nouns perform all functions of adjectives and describe the noun they are associated with. For example: Amanlıqtıń iynindegi qara jún dorbashı awırılıq etip terlegen edi ("Mamanbiy ápsanası" T.Kayıpbergenov).

Qoy qoraǵa shapqan qasqırlardı óz maydanına jibergen adamdı jurt shaymiy deydıǵoy dedi ("Mamanbiy ápsanası" T.Kayıpbergenov).

The process of transitioning other parts of speech into adverbs is called adverbialization. This conversion model applies to both English and Karakalpak languages; however, it occurs less frequently in English, while in Karakalpak, this process is widespread.

Nouns used as adverbs typically answer the questions "where?", "when?", "how?", or "in what sense?". For example:

1. They live in a beautiful home. (Noun) - They live in a beautiful house.
2. She went home (where?). (Adverb) - She went home (to where?).

In contemporary Karakalpak, adverbs are formed through adverbialization of verbs, as well as using various numerals and adjectives [10]. Examples include:

- "Irisqul biydi kesh shaqırtqanın búrkew ushın imkanıyat izlew edi" (T. Qayıpbergenov).
- "Eregisken eki sultan da atların jedellestirip jaǵaǵa teńdey jetip keldi" (K. Mampov).
- "Úyi joq adam shopan sıyaqlı kúnde hárkimdikine gezek salıp qoyǵanınan aqırzamanı bar ma?" (T.Kayıpbergenov).

- "Azanda, túste, keshte barıp sazan, shabaq, ılaqa ákelip gásin quwırıp, gásin asıp ıssı awqat shólkemlestirildi" (K.Sultanov).

In contemporary Karakalpak, adverbs are formed through adverbialization of verbs and also involve various numerals and adjectives. Examples include:

- To denote quality: (good, bad)
- To denote distance: (far, close)
- To denote temperature: (hot, cold, warm, cool)
- To denote shape: (tall, high, straight, short, even)
- To denote character: (dense, soft, empty, hard, tender, clean)

Additionally, prefixes "bi-", "na-" and suffixes "-siz" / "-siz" can be used to create qualities that may function as adverbs in certain contexts. These qualitative words can be used in specific contexts as a result of conversion and can operate as adverbs.

In linguistics, conversion is viewed as the process of transitioning a word from one part of speech to another without the use of any derivational affixes. Due to its structure, rules, and characteristics of the models that create new words, it is gradually replacing traditional methods of word formation.

A significant difference between the two languages is that verbalization, i.e., the process of word formation from other words, is a productive phenomenon in English, while it is not present in the Karakalpak language.

The conversion model in English from noun to verb (Noun-Verb) has been identified as the most productive and effective. This is due to the fact that almost half of all verbs are formed through conversion from nouns. If necessary, a verb can be formed from practically any noun. In the Karakalpak language, the conversion model from adjective to noun (Adj.-Noun) has been identified as the most productive, carried out through conversion and ellipsis (omission of a word).

The group of verbs formed from adjectives occurs less frequently in English, meaning that the conversion model from adjective to verb (Adj-Verb) is not productive and effective in

modern English, as different structures are used to convey verb meanings, namely the formulas "to be, to get, to take + adjective." Adjectivalization (verb-noun, adjective-noun models) is not a productive phenomenon in the Karakalpak language.

The conversion model from adjective to noun (Adj-Noun) and from verb to noun (Verb-Noun) is considered universal for both English and Karakalpak languages. In both languages, this model is regarded as productive.

Hybrid words that can be used as both verbs and nouns in the Verb-Noun model are found in both English and Karakalpak languages. However, the difference lies in the fact that in English, any verb can undergo conversion, while in Karakalpak, only qualitative verbs and action verbs can be used as nouns.

#### CONCLUSION

In modern English, the conversion model from adjective to adverb (Adj-Adv) has not gained wide prevalence due to the existence of a specific suffix -ly for forming adverbs. In contrast, in the Karakalpak language, the conversion model from adjective to adverb (Adj-Adv) is one of the widely spread models. This is because a significant portion of adverbs in the Karakalpak language is formed through conversion from adjectives.

In the process of adverbialization, there are models Noun-Adv (noun-adverb), Adjective-Adv (adjective-adverb), and Verb-Adv (verb-adverb), which demonstrate the interrelation between English and Karakalpak languages. This interrelation emphasizes the importance of context when using the languages and helps to gain a deeper understanding of semantic constructions and various linguistic systems.

In the compared languages, conversion is a semantic, morphological, and syntactic method whereby words belonging to any part of speech can transition to another part of speech without formal change. Additionally, as tools for word formation, the semantic proximity of words, morphological paradigms, and syntactic rules in both languages are taken into account. In the Qoraqalpoq language, the processes of synonymy, ellipsis,

syntactic structures, and transposition serve as distinctive tools for word formation with unique characteristics.

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