

## Classification of Adjectives in Russian and Karakalpak Languages

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### ABSTRACT

*This article presents a comparative analysis of adjectives in the Russian and Karakalpak languages. The research focuses on the lexico-grammatical classification of adjectives, their word formation patterns, grammatical agreement, and syntactic functions. The author highlights both typological similarities and systemic differences in the structure and usage of adjectives in the two languages. Special attention is given to the semantic classification of adjectives, their role in literary texts, and morphological means of expressing degrees of comparison. The study emphasizes the importance of cross-linguistic comparison for identifying both universal and language-specific features of the adjective category.*

**Keywords:** Adjective, classification, Russian language, Karakalpak language, lexico-grammatical category, qualitative adjectives, relative adjectives, derivative forms, word formation, comparative analysis.

### INTRODUCTION

In the study of linguistics, the classification and function of adjectives represent a key area of interest due to their essential role in describing and qualifying nouns. Adjectives not only enrich language but also reflect the unique grammatical and semantic systems of individual languages. This article presents a comparative analysis of adjectives in two typologically distinct languages – Russian, an Indo-European language, and

Karakalpak, a Turkic language. Despite their shared function of modifying nouns, adjectives in these languages differ significantly in terms of morphological structure, grammatical agreement, and word-formation mechanisms.

The comparison focuses on several dimensions: lexico-grammatical classification, derivational patterns, syntactic position, and degrees of comparison. In Russian, adjectives are traditionally categorized into qualitative, relative, and possessive types based on semantic and morphological criteria. In contrast, Karakalpak classifies adjectives primarily by derivational origin: non-derived (*tiykar kelbetlik*) and derived (*dórendi kelbetlik*). This typological difference underlines the varying linguistic strategies employed by Indo-European and Turkic languages in categorizing descriptive elements.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Furthermore, the research draws on the works of key linguists such as A. A. Shakhmatov, V. V. Vinogradov, and M. Zh. Khamidullaev, as well as recent studies on Karakalpak grammar and literature. The role of adjectives in literary expression is also considered, revealing how they contribute to stylistic richness and emotional depth in both languages. By examining the systemic similarities and differences in the adjective systems of Russian and Karakalpak, this article aims to contribute to a broader understanding of linguistic typology and support the development of cross-linguistic grammatical models.

The classification of adjectives has been a subject of scholarly interest in various linguistic traditions. In Russian linguistics, A. A. Shakhmatov was among the first to establish a comprehensive categorization of adjectives based on their morphological and semantic features. He distinguished qualitative adjectives by their capacity to form degrees of comparison, short forms, and adverbs. Later, V. V. Vinogradov expanded on this classification by introducing the concept of qualitative-relative adjectives, placing them at the core of the adjective category. He also explored the morphological

indicators of adjective types and highlighted the fluid boundary between qualitative and relative adjectives.

The Russian Grammar of 1980 refined these classifications by introducing dual criteria for adjective categorization: the nature of the feature being denoted and the lexical vs. pronominal status of the adjective. This systematic approach allowed for a more nuanced understanding of full-meaning versus pronominal adjectives, and their grammatical roles.

In contrast, studies on Karakalpak, such as those by M. Zh. Khamidullaev and N. Orazbayeva, emphasize a derivational and semantic approach. Karakalpak adjectives are divided into non-derived and derived forms, with a strong focus on the productivity of affixes and their role in expanding the adjective lexicon. Comparative studies, such as those by Seitzhanova and Akhmetova, have shown that despite functional similarities in syntactic usage, Russian and Karakalpak adjectives exhibit significant structural and morphological differences, particularly in terms of agreement, word order, and degree formation.

The classification of adjectives based on lexico-grammatical features constitutes a complex system where each category occupies a specific position. Adjectives are characterized by considerable diversity, which necessitates classification. The first such classification was introduced by A.A.Shakhmatov: "Qualitative adjectives express qualities or properties that are conceived in terms of time and variation; morphologically, they are identified by their ability to form non-determined forms, adverbs, degrees of comparison, and diminutive forms" (Shakhmatov 1925: 124).

M. Zh. Khamidullaev's article 'A Comparative Analysis of the Semantics of Adjectives in Russian and Karakalpak' presents a linguistic study devoted to the comparative analysis of adjectives in these two languages. The work examines features of usage, semantic groups, and structural differences between Russian and Karakalpak" (Khamidullaev 2022). The author notes that while adjectives serve similar syntactic functions in both languages, they differ in expression and classification. In Russian, adjectives are divided into qualitative, relative, and possessive, whereas in Karakalpak, classification is based on

derivation: non-derived (*tiykar kelbetlik*) and derived (*dórendi kelbetlik*) adjectives.

M. Zh. Khamidullaev points out that qualitative adjectives in Russian vary by number, gender, and case, while in Karakalpak, adjectives do not agree grammatically with nouns. Furthermore, Russian adjectives can appear in post-position, whereas in Karakalpak they typically precede the noun.

## RESULTS

Thus, the study illustrates both typological similarities and systemic differences in the grammatical nature of adjectives in the two languages. This division laid the foundation for the modern classification of adjectives into qualitative, relative, and possessive types. However, the boundaries between, for example, qualitative and relative adjectives can be fluid, as noted by V. V. Vinogradov. He proposed a classification of adjectives based on declension patterns:

1. Basic (qualitative-relative);
2. Possessive;
3. Pronominal.

(Vinogradov 1986)

According to Vinogradov, “the core of the adjective category is made up of qualitative-relative adjectives, while possessive and demonstrative-pronominal adjectives form the periphery”. However, this classification did not gain wide acceptance.

The *Russian Grammar* of 1980 proposed different criteria for classifying adjectives: "Adjectives are classified based on two principles: the nature of the denoted feature, and whether the feature is lexically expressed or merely indicated. These classifications are equally important for grammatical characterization and are independent of one another".

Classification by the first criterion divides adjectives into two lexico-grammatical types – qualitative and relative. Relative adjectives include possessive (both possessive and non-possessive), ordinal, and pronominal adjectives.

Classification by the second criterion divides adjectives into full-meaning (significant) and pronominal. All qualitative and most relative adjectives fall into the former (Warditz 1980).

Vinogradov “identified adjective endings (-ый/-ой/-ий, -ая/-яя, -ое/-ее) as formal markers of gender, number, and case, as well as indicators of qualitative meaning. He also highlighted features of qualitative adjectives such as short forms, degrees of comparison, the formation of diminutive and subjective-evaluation forms, and the ability to derive related adverbs ending in -о/-е” (Vinogradov 1986).

When comparing Karakalpak and English, L. Seitzhanova and M. Akhmetova note that both grammatical and lexical differences exist in expressing degrees of comparison: “*Kelbetliktiñ dárejelerin bildiriwde qaraqalpaq hám inglis tilleri arasında grammatikalıq hám leksikalıq ayırmashılıqlar bar*” (Seitzhanova & Akhmetova 2024). In Karakalpak, comparison is expressed primarily morphologically using suffixes (-raq, -la, eń-), while in English, both morphological (-er, -est) and analytical (more, most) methods are used.

It is worth noting that certain suffixes are used only for qualitative meanings in Russian (e.g., -ив, -лив, -чив, -ист-, -аг-). However, Vinogradov maintained that the morphological differences between qualitative and relative adjectives are conditional and not absolute. Relative adjectives can develop qualitative nuances and form comparative/adverbial structures as well, suggesting that these types are branches of a broader grammatical-semantic category. He proposed a revised classification:

1. Possessive;
2. Pronominal;
3. Qualitative-relative, further subdivided into: a) Qualitative, b) Relative, c) Participial.

#### DISCUSSION

In Karakalpak, as in most Turkic languages, adjective classification is primarily semantic, based on derivation.

Adjectives are divided into non-derived (*tiykar kelbetlik*) and derived (*dórendi kelbetlik*) forms. N. Orazbaeva notes the productivity and variability of derivational suffixes in Karakalpak: "*Kelbetlik jasawshu qosımtalar qaraqalpaq tilinde hár túrli leksikalıq negizde payda bolıp, variantlılıq sıpatqa iye*" (Orazbayeva 2025.). This reflects not only the language's lexical flexibility but also its high productivity in forming relative adjectives. M. Zh. Khamidullaev outlines the following differences:

- **Classification:** Russian: qualitative, relative, possessive; Karakalpak: non-derived (*tiykar kelbetlik*) and derived (*dórendi kelbetlik*).
- **Grammatical agreement:** Russian adjectives agree in gender, number, and case (e.g., *bolshoy dom – bolshogo doma*); Karakalpak adjectives do not change or agree with nouns (*úlken úy – úyge úy*, with *úlken* unchanged).
- **Position:** Russian adjectives can precede or follow the noun (e.g., *gorod krasivyy*); In Karakalpak, they usually precede the noun (*jaqsı bala*, not *bala jaqsı*).
- **Degrees of comparison:** Russian: suffixes (*-ee, -eiıuuıı*) or analytic forms (*boleı, samyy*); Karakalpak: suffixes (*-raq, eń*) or analytic constructions.

These differences highlight both typological features and the value of a comparative approach in studying adjectives.

In Karakalpak, qualitative adjectives are the most common and productive, as they express intensity, form degrees of comparison, and are widely used in speech and literature. They can be grouped thematically:

1. **Physical characteristics of people and animals:** *uzın* (tall), *semiz* (fat), *jumsaq* (soft), *jas* (young), *qara* (black).
2. **Taste properties:** *mazalı* (sweet), *ashshu* (bitter), *duzlı* (salty), *dámsız* (tasteless).
3. **Character traits:** *miyrimli* (kind), *gázepli* (angry), *sabırlı* (patient), *aqullı* (smart).

4. **Spatial features:** *biyik* (high), *keń* (wide), *tar* (narrow), *alis* (far).

As N. Baskarov notes: "In qualitative adjectives, the universal linguistic function of describing the world through attributes is realized, with the possibility of quantitative assessment" (Baskakov 1996). Relative adjectives are typically formed with suffixes from nouns and verbs, expressing material, relation, or function: *aǵashtan islengen* (wooden), *jumsshu* (labor-related), *xızmetshi* (official), *oyshul* (thoughtful).

Thus, the adjective system in Karakalpak shows a stable division based on semantic and derivational features, reflecting how the Turkic worldview categorizes attributes. Examples from Karakalpak literature:

1. *Kishemniń táriplewinen better shıraylı eken* – "Even more beautiful than the daughter-in-law described."
2. *Sup-sulw qız tuwıp aldım* – "I gave birth to a very beautiful girl."
3. *Túri qıp-qızıl, murnı bizdey, kózi duzday* – "Her face was red, her nose hooked, her eyes salty-colored."
4. *Appaq júzi nurlanıp baǵda ózken peridey* – "Her snow-white face glowed like a fairy grown in a garden."
5. *Bir kún meniń kúndegi júretin jolında...* – "One day on my usual path, a tall, tan stranger appeared."
6. *Ózinen denesi de iri, minezi shataqlıǵı dúnyaǵa pitpegen* – "Large-built, with a character that doesn't fit into this world."

The second most frequent group includes adjectives for evaluative characteristics: *úlken* (tall), *toyǵın ashıq* (bright), *ashıq* (light), *aspan kók* (sky blue), *qara pareń* (dark-skinned), *tolıqtan kelgen* (slightly full), *simbatlı* (charming), *altın* (golden), etc.

1. *Mashina bir dúmpektiń janına kelip toqtadı* – "The car stopped by a tall hill."
2. *Úlken aynektiń tusına qoyılǵan stolǵa qolın qoyıp bir qız kitap oqıp otır eken* – "A girl was reading a book with her hands resting on a table placed near a large mirror."

These examples reinforce the importance of typological comparison in understanding the structure and function of adjectives.

Additionally, L. T. Kabulova and S. A. Mambetov analyze lexical-semantic and structural features of adjectives in Karakalpak prose. They emphasize that literary adjectives often deviate from grammatical norms, showcasing expressive, evaluative, and authorial forms. The researchers distinguish three main structural groups (Kabulova & Mambetov n.d.):

1. **Simple (non-derived) adjectives that often denote basic qualities:** *qara* (black), *uzın* (long), *salqın* (cool);
2. **Derived adjectives formed with affixes:** *oylı* (thoughtful), *jumısshı* (labor-related), *xızmetker* (official/service-related);
3. **Compound and phrasal adjectives, typical of literary prose:** *júrekke jıllı tiygen sóz* (a soul-warming word).

Thus, in Karakalpak literature, there is a tendency toward semantic expansion of the adjective category through the use of complex and authorial descriptive structures, which highlights the richness and expressiveness of the language.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that adjectives in Russian and Karakalpak, despite sharing common syntactic functions, differ significantly in terms of classification features, formal structure, and degree of grammatical agreement. The research by M. Zh. Khamidullaeva, L. T. Kabulova, and R. B. Mambetov reveals not only the grammatical and semantic characteristics of adjectives but also traces their stylistic and pragmatic functions in texts. It is especially important to consider the differences in the productivity of derived forms, word-formation models, and the degree of expressiveness, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the lexical system of each language and serves as a basis for cross-linguistic comparison.

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