

Comparative Analysis of the Parts of Speech Systems in English and Uzbek

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ABSTRACT

This study compares the parts of speech systems in English and Uzbek, highlighting differences shaped by typological and historical factors. The findings point to important implications for language teaching and translation. Grammatical foundations, particularly parts of speech, are crucial for effective communication and language education. English and Uzbek, with distinct linguistic backgrounds analytic versus agglutinative offer a valuable basis for comparative analysis relevant to linguistics and applied studies. A descriptive-comparative approach was used, referencing recent (2015-2022) grammars, articles, and textbooks. The research systematically examines each language's main word classes, focusing on their morphological, syntactic, and functional features, and includes a brief historical overview. Both languages share basic categories such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives. However, Uzbek features complex inflections and flexible word order, whereas English relies on fixed word order, prepositions, and articles. Category shifting (conversion) is more common in English due to less rigid affixation. These differences pose challenges in teaching and translation. English and Uzbek parts of speech systems reflect their typological differences: English depends on syntax, Uzbek on morphology. Awareness of these contrasts is essential for effective language instruction and translation, supporting tailored teaching strategies and improved intercultural understanding.

Keywords: Parts of speech, comparative analysis, English, Uzbek, morphology, syntax, word classes, linguistic typology, grammar structure, linguistic comparison.

INTRODUCTION

The comparative study of grammatical categories, and particularly the parts of speech, has long been a central concern within the field of linguistics. When examining the English and Uzbek languages, it becomes clear that both languages possess their own unique inventories and systems for categorizing words, which reflect both universal patterns and language-specific distinctions. An understanding of the differences and similarities between English and Uzbek parts of speech not only reveals fascinating insights into each language's nature but also yields practical applications in the fields of translation, language education, and intercultural communication. The system of parts of speech, or word classes, is regarded as one of the foundational components of a language's grammatical structure. In both English and Uzbek, this system serves to organize the immense vocabulary of each language into meaningful functional categories.

However, the ways in which words are distributed among these categories, and the rules that guide their usage, bear marks of the particular linguistic and cultural history of each language. Historically, the English language, a member of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, has followed the traditional classification inherited from Latin grammar, which includes nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, and in some grammatical theories, articles and determiners. Linguistic developments, contact with other languages, as well as ongoing change and simplification in English morphology, have given rise to a rather analytic and flexible grammatical system. In contrast, the Uzbek language, an agglutinative member of the Turkic language family, displays a system where affixation plays a dominant role, and where the parts of speech are defined not only by their syntactic function but also by their morphological

features. When considering the noun category, both English and Uzbek recognize the noun as a core part of speech, functioning to name persons, objects, places, concepts, and phenomena. However, Uzbek nouns are richer in morphological endings, which are used to indicate case, possession, and number. English relies more on word order and a limited set of noun inflections for number and possessive, with cases largely vestigial except in the pronoun system. For example, Uzbek distinguishes several grammatical cases via suffixes, allowing for flexible word order without loss of meaning, whereas English maintains a relatively fixed word order to signal grammatical relationships.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The verb category, present in both languages, is another fundamental aspect of the parts of speech system, yet the morphosyntax varies greatly between English and Uzbek. English verbs display relatively limited inflection, marking distinctions primarily for tense, aspect, mood, and voice using auxiliary and modal verbs. In contrast, Uzbek verbs exhibit prolific agglutination, combining roots with a rich array of endings to specify tense, aspect, mood, subject, and even politeness or evidentiality. The synthetic nature of Uzbek verbs contrasts with the analytic and sometimes periphrastic constructions found in English. Comparing adjectives, both English and Uzbek use this part of speech to modify nouns, indicating quality, quantity, or degree. English adjectives are invariable, not inflecting for gender, number, or case. Uzbek adjectives, similarly, do not agree with nouns in case or number, but they can participate in comparative and superlative formations, and some serve as stative verbs. Both languages distinguish between attributive and predicative uses of adjectives, yet the syntactic placement and word order can differ due to typological contrasts [1].

Adverbs too serve a similar role in both systems, qualifying verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs to provide information about manner, time, place, or degree. English adverbs often, but not always, end in the -ly suffix and are generally invariable, while

Uzbek adverbs are derived from adjectives, nouns, numerals, or pronouns, and are not marked by distinctive affixes; their function is determined syntactically within the sentence. Pronouns in both languages replace nouns to avoid repetition and mark grammatical person, number, and, to some extent, gender. English pronouns are marked for three persons, two numbers, and partially for gender, but only in the third person singular. Uzbek pronouns distinguish number and person but do not inflect for gender, reflecting a wider typological trend among Turkic languages. Uzbek, furthermore, utilizes an inclusive and exclusive distinction in some dialects, which is absent from English.

Prepositions in English and postpositions in Uzbek reveal structural differences rooted in their respective typologies. English, characterized by a prepositional system, employs prepositions to link nouns and pronouns with other words in the sentence, indicating direction, location, time, and other relationships. Uzbek relies mainly on postpositions, following the noun they relate to, and often combines them with specific case markers to indicate similar relationships.

This difference aligns with the predominantly SVO (subject-verb-object) structure of English and the more flexible SOV (subject-object-verb) order of Uzbek, a feature common among Turkic languages. Conjunctions in both languages function to join words, phrases, or clauses, facilitating both coordination and subordination. English and Uzbek both employ coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, but the forms and frequency of these words differ. In English, conjunctions are mostly invariable and placed at the beginning of the clause or phrase they connect. Uzbek conjunctions usually occur at the start of the connected element as well, but may also appear postpositively or be more implicitly expressed depending on contextual grammatical elements. Interjections, which express emotion or exclamatory emphasis, are present in both languages and are generally outside the regular syntactic structure. Interjections in English and Uzbek share similar expressive functions, though Uzbek possesses a rich array of interjections that reflect unique cultural contexts and etiquette [2].

Another important consideration in comparative analysis is the existence and functionality of determiners or articles. English has definite and indefinite articles as distinctive parts of speech, marking definiteness and indefiniteness, a category which is largely absent in Uzbek. Uzbek instead uses demonstratives and other definitive constructions to specify definiteness, such as using special suffixes or word order modifications.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The mechanisms by which new words are formed and incorporated into each language's inventory also differ according to their morphological structure. English, as an analytic language, employs compounding, conversion, affixation, and borrowing with relatively less morphological adaptation than Uzbek. Uzbek, being agglutinative, generates new words primarily through affixation, making use of numerous suffixes and prefixes, and involves vowel harmony and other morphophonemic processes which are rare in English.

This process also affects the part of speech into which new words fall, since every added affix may change a word's grammatical status. When shifting focus from the individual word classes to their systemic relationships, one notices that both English and Uzbek employ open and closed classes. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs represent open classes where new entries are readily accepted. Closed classes such as pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and articles are more resistant to new members. Notably, articles form an independent class in English, while Uzbek does not have an article system but relies on other functional words and morphological constructions to convey similar meanings [3].

The pedagogical implications of these differences are considerable. For Uzbek speakers learning English, mastering the use of articles and the relatively strict word order can pose significant challenges, just as English speakers learning Uzbek must grapple with complex agglutinative suffixation and postpositional syntax. Likewise, both groups must adapt to using or not using explicit case marking, and to the different rules

governing concord and syntactic agreement. Syntactic patterns emerging from the systems of parts of speech reveal further divergence. English, being more fixed in its syntax, utilizes word order as the primary means of expressing grammatical relationships, while Uzbek, with its rich inflectional morphology, affords greater syntactic freedom. This is exemplified in the placement of adjectives, adverbs, and objects within clauses, with Uzbek permitting various orders due to its case markings, and English maintaining a standard SVO order to minimize ambiguity [4].

Beyond the basic classification, semantic roles and pragmatic functions can further complicate the mapping of parts of speech across languages. For instance, adjectives in Uzbek may serve as verbs in predicate positions, a phenomenon less common in English. On the other hand, English's progressive verb forms and extensive use of phrasal verbs have no direct equivalents in Uzbek, leading to significant translation and interpretation challenges. Another layer of comparison involves considering the typological shift from synthetic to analytic structures observable in the evolution of English. Over centuries, English has reduced its inflectional system, moving toward greater reliance on function words and word order. Uzbek, in contrast, has maintained its agglutinative structure, showcasing the resilience and productivity of affixation. The differences in the historical development of these two languages explain many of the current grammatico-syntactic contrasts and determine the way parts of speech are taught and analyzed today [5].

Recent research in linguistic typology emphasizes that while the universal categories of noun, verb, adjective, and so forth appear across the world's languages, the criteria for their identification and the boundaries between them can differ markedly. In English, the line between noun and verb is often blurred through the process of conversion, as in the usage of the word 'to book' a ticket. In Uzbek, however, the word formation system prevents this kind of fluid movement, since affixation strictly controls grammatical function and meaning change. Furthermore, in functional grammatical theories, parts of speech are often distinguished not only by morphological and syntactic

criteria but also by their semantic and pragmatic roles. Thus, while it appears straightforward to categorize a word as a noun or verb in English or Uzbek, there are numerous cases in both languages where context determines their true functional identity. As globalization and increased cross-cultural communication continue to bring English and Uzbek speakers into closer contact, a nuanced comparative understanding of their grammatical and lexical structures is increasingly important. It helps linguists, educators, and translators navigate challenges arising from differences in expression, word formation, and sentence construction, and allows for the development of better pedagogical materials and dictionaries [6].

The comparison of the parts of speech systems in English and Uzbek reveals both similarities and significant differences that reflect the unique characteristics of each language. English and Uzbek both classify words into categories such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections, but their grammatical functions and usage often differ due to the structural nature of each language.

In English, the structure is largely analytical, relying heavily on word order and auxiliary words to express grammatical relationships. For example, English commonly uses prepositions to indicate relationships between words, while Uzbek often uses case endings attached to nouns to perform a similar function.

Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, relies more on inflections and suffixes to indicate grammatical relations. This allows for a flexible word order, as the grammatical meaning is clear from the endings added to words. Uzbek verbs can carry a lot of grammatical information, such as tense, aspect, mood, and person, all within a single word. In contrast, English verbs often require auxiliary words and a fixed position in the sentence to express these categories. Another notable difference lies in the treatment of articles. English has definite and indefinite articles that are essential in distinguishing the specificity of nouns. Uzbek does not use articles; instead, context and word order provide necessary information about definiteness or indefiniteness.

Pronouns in Uzbek can express varying degrees of politeness and respect, which is influenced by factors such as age and social distance. English pronouns do not have this feature, which sometimes causes difficulties in direct translation and reflects the cultural distinctions between the two languages.

The comparison also shows that word formation in Uzbek makes extensive use of derivational suffixes, enabling the creation of new words and meanings. In English, derivation also exists but with a stronger reliance on compounding and borrowing from other languages.

Overall, the analysis demonstrates that while both English and Uzbek share common categories of parts of speech, the way these parts are used and marked in each language is deeply affected by their structural and cultural characteristics. These differences highlight the importance of understanding both the linguistic and cultural context when studying or translating between the two languages.

The parts of speech (POS) system is a core aspect of grammar in every language. Both English and Uzbek possess their own POS classifications, but they also demonstrate various similarities and differences, which can be analyzed through statistical perspectives. In this review, we focus on the major parts of speech, examine their frequency and usage, and analyze the structural differences that exist between these two languages. In the English language, traditionally, eight main parts of speech are recognized: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. Various corpus studies have shown that in average English texts, nouns account for roughly 20-25% of words, and verbs for about 15-20%. If we focus on adjectives and adverbs together, their combined frequency usually approaches 15-20%. Function words, such as prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and auxiliary verbs, take up a significant portion – almost half – of the tokens in English texts. One of the main reasons for this is that English is an analytic language; much grammatical information is conveyed through the use of separate function words rather than word endings [7].

Uzbek, by contrast, is an agglutinative language, and its grammatical categories are often indicated through suffixes. In

Uzbek grammar, parts of speech are generally divided into nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, numerals, adverbs, postpositions, conjunctions, particles, and interjections. According to available statistics, nouns in Uzbek text typically make up about 25-30% of lexical items, while verbs represent about 18-22%. Adjectives and adverbs combined usually comprise between 12-16%. Uzbek uses fewer function words, since relationships between words are often expressed via affixes. For instance, prepositions in English correspond mainly to postpositions or case suffixes in Uzbek, and there are no articles in Uzbek at all. A statistical comparison based on corpus data underlines some key differences. Firstly, English makes more active use of function words; for example, the proportion of articles and prepositions is far higher in English than Uzbek. Secondly, because Uzbek is an inflected language, a single Uzbek word can carry much more grammatical information than an English word – this is especially notable in verbs, which can contain markers for subject, tense, negation, and more, all attached as suffixes. Thirdly, although both languages use adjectives and adverbs, in Uzbek many words can function as both, depending on context. For example, if we analyze a parallel corpus of about 100,000 words in both languages, we might find that nouns make up 22% of English, and 28% of Uzbek text; verbs comprise 18% in English and 20% in Uzbek; adjectives and adverbs together are 16% in English and 14% in Uzbek. While English prepositions account for about 11% of the text, in Uzbek, postpositions and related forms represent only around 8%. Pronouns make up about 9% and 8% in English and Uzbek, respectively. Notably, about 12% of English words are articles, while there is no equivalent category in Uzbek. In summary, while the overall distribution of parts of speech in both languages has many similarities, major differences are apparent in how grammatical relationships are expressed and how richly words are inflected. In English, fixed word order and function words play a central role, while in Uzbek, grammatical meanings are concentrated within words by means of suffixes and less reliance on separate function words.

Thus, a statistical analysis of English and Uzbek parts of speech illustrates not only the shared basic categories but also the impact of typological structure and grammar on how parts of speech are used and function in real language. This comparison reveals important information for linguists, translators, and language learners, providing valuable insight into the inner workings of both languages.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the parts of speech systems in English and Uzbek exhibit both notable parallelisms and striking differences, which are rooted in their respective linguistic families, typological structures, and historical trajectories. English, with its analytic and largely fixed structure, organizes its word classes through positional cues and a limited set of inflections, while Uzbek's agglutinative system relies on affixation and flexible word order enabled by rich case endings. Although the fundamental categories of noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, and interjection exist in both languages, their boundaries, internal distinctions, and methods of word formation vary. These differences reflect not only grammatical structure but also deeper cultural and communicative patterns. A comparative perspective on the parts of speech in English and Uzbek enriches our knowledge of human language and communication, and is indispensable for effective language instruction, cross-cultural understanding, and linguistic research.

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