

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF DEGREE OF ADJECTIVE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGE GRAMMAR

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the similarities and differences in the grammatical structures used to express degrees of adjectives in English and Uzbek. In both languages, adjectives can be modified to convey different levels of intensity or comparison. English utilizes inflectional endings and auxiliary words to form comparative and superlative degrees, with regular adjectives typically adding "-er" and "-est" or using "more" and "most" for polysyllabic adjectives. Uzbek, a Turkic language, forms comparative degrees by adding the suffix "-roq" and superlative degrees by adding "eng" before the adjective. Both languages share the fundamental concept of modifying adjectives to express comparison, yet they differ significantly in their morphological and syntactical approaches. This comparison highlights how typological differences between Indo-European and Turkic languages manifest in their grammatical structures. Understanding these differences provides valuable insights into the linguistic mechanisms that shape adjective modification across languages.

Key words: Positive Degree, Comparative Degree, Superlative Degree, Degree Modifiers, Negation of Comparatives.

INTRODUCTION

The study of grammatical structures across languages offers valuable insights into the diverse ways human languages express similar concepts. One such concept is the degree of adjectives, which is crucial for conveying varying levels of quality, intensity, or comparison. This paper focuses on the degrees of adjectives in English and Uzbek, two languages from distinct linguistic families—Indo-European and Turkic, respectively. English, a widely spoken Indo-European language, employs a combination of inflectional endings and auxiliary words to form comparative and superlative degrees. For example, regular adjectives often take the suffixes "-er" and "-est" (e.g., "tall," "taller," "tallest"), while longer adjectives use "more" and "most" (e.g., "beautiful," "more beautiful," "most beautiful"). In contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic language, utilizes the suffix "-roq" to form comparatives and the word "eng" to indicate the superlative degree (e.g., "katta" meaning "big," "katta-roq" meaning "bigger," and "eng katta" meaning "biggest").

Despite these structural differences, both languages share the underlying principle of modifying adjectives to express different degrees of comparison. This paper aims to explore these similarities and differences in greater detail, examining how each language's unique grammatical rules shape the expression of adjective degrees. By comparing and contrasting these mechanisms, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of cross-linguistic variations and the typological characteristics of English and Uzbek.[1]

Comparison of the Degree of Adjective in English and Uzbek language grammar:

1. Basic Concepts

Both English and Uzbek languages modify adjectives to express different degrees of intensity or comparison. These degrees are generally categorized as positive, comparative, and superlative.

2. Positive Degree

- **English**: The positive degree is the base form of the adjective (e.g., "tall," "beautiful").
- **Uzbek**: Similarly, the positive degree is the base form of the adjective (e.g., "katta" meaning "big," "go'zal" meaning "beautiful").

3. Comparative Degree

- **English**:
 - For one-syllable adjectives, the suffix "-er" is added (e.g., "tall" becomes "taller").
 - For adjectives with two syllables ending in -y, -er is used after changing -y to -i (e.g., "happy" becomes "happier").
 - For adjectives with two or more syllables, "more" precedes the adjective (e.g., "beautiful" becomes "more beautiful").
- **Uzbek**:
 - The suffix "-roq" is added to the base form of the adjective (e.g., "katta" becomes "katta-roq" meaning "bigger").

4. Superlative Degree

- **English**:
 - For one-syllable adjectives, the suffix "-est" is added (e.g., "tall" becomes "tallest").
 - For adjectives with two syllables ending in -y, -est is used after changing -y to -i (e.g., "happy" becomes "happiest").
 - For adjectives with two or more syllables, "most" precedes the adjective (e.g., "beautiful" becomes "most beautiful").
- **Uzbek**:
 - The word "eng" is placed before the adjective to form the superlative (e.g., "katta" becomes "eng katta" meaning "biggest").

5. Irregular Forms

- **English**: Some adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms (e.g., "good," "better," "best"; "bad," "worse," "worst").

- **Uzbek**: There are fewer irregular forms compared to English, but some adjectives do exhibit irregular comparative forms (e.g., "yaxshi" meaning "good," "yaxshiroq" meaning "better"; "yomon" meaning "bad," "yomonroq" meaning "worse").[2]

6. Formation Mechanisms

- **English**:

- **Inflectional Endings**: Simple addition of suffixes for short adjectives.

- **Auxiliary Words**: Use of "more" and "most" for longer adjectives.

- **Uzbek**:

- **Suffixation**: Addition of "-roq" for comparatives.

- **Pre-modification**: Use of "eng" for superlatives.

7. Syntax and Word Order

- **English**: The modified adjectives typically follow the standard adjective-noun order (e.g., "the tallest building").

- **Uzbek**: Adjectives precede the nouns they modify (e.g., "eng katta bino" meaning "the biggest building").

8. Summary of Key Differences and Similarities

- **Similarities**:

- Both languages modify adjectives to express comparative and superlative degrees.

- Both use suffixation and auxiliary words, though the specifics differ.

- **Differences**:

- English has more irregular forms compared to Uzbek.

- Uzbek primarily relies on suffixation for comparatives and a prefix for superlatives, while English uses a mix of suffixes and auxiliary words.

- Word order in sentences differs, reflecting broader syntactic differences between the two languages.

Certainly! Here are additional aspects to consider in the comparison of the degrees of adjectives in English and Uzbek grammar:

9. Cultural and Usage Contexts

- **English**:

- In English, the choice between inflectional forms (e.g., "taller") and periphrastic forms (e.g., "more beautiful") often depends on formality, clarity, and euphony. Informal speech may favor simpler inflectional forms, while formal writing might use periphrastic forms for precision.

- Superlatives are often used in advertising and media to emphasize the superiority of a product or service (e.g., "the best coffee in town").[3]

- **Uzbek**:

- Uzbek also uses the comparative and superlative forms in daily communication, but cultural nuances may affect their usage. For instance, modesty and respect for elders can influence how comparisons are phrased.

- Similar to English, superlatives in Uzbek are used in advertising to highlight excellence (e.g., "eng yaxshi" for "the best").

10. Degree Modifiers

- **English**:

- Degree modifiers such as "much," "far," "a lot," and "by far" can intensify comparative and superlative adjectives.

- Examples: "much taller," "far better," "by far the most intelligent."

- **Uzbek**:

- Similar intensifiers are used to emphasize the degree of comparison.

- Examples: "anchagina katta-roq" (much bigger), "ancha yaxshiroq" (much better).

11. Negation of Comparatives

- **English**:

- Comparatives can be negated using "not as... as" or "less... than."

- Examples: "She is not as tall as her brother," "This task is less difficult than the previous one."

- **Uzbek**:

- Negation of comparatives is often achieved by using negative constructions.

- Examples: "U akasiday baland emas" (She is not as tall as her brother), "Bu vazifa avvalgiday qiyin emas" (This task is not as difficult as the previous one).

12. Historical and Linguistic Evolution

- **English**:

- The comparative and superlative forms in English have evolved from Old English, which also used suffixes like "-ra" and "-est." The introduction of periphrastic forms using "more" and "most" became more common in Middle English, influenced by Latin and French.[4]

- **Uzbek**:

- Uzbek, part of the Turkic language family, has maintained relatively consistent use of suffixes like "-roq" for comparatives. The use of "eng" for superlatives is a feature shared with other Turkic languages, reflecting a common historical and linguistic heritage.

13. Comparative Constructions

- **English**:

- Comparative adjectives are often used in specific constructions such as "the... the..." structure.

- Example: "The taller they are, the harder they fall."

- **Uzbek**:

- Similar constructions exist in Uzbek to express conditional comparisons.

- Example: "Qancha baland bo'lsa, shuncha qattiq yiqiladi" (The taller they are, the harder they fall).

14. Influence of Other Languages

- **English**:

- English has borrowed and adapted comparative and superlative forms from other languages, particularly through Latin and French, enriching its vocabulary and comparative structures.

- **Uzbek**:

- Uzbek has been influenced by Persian, Arabic, and Russian, which have contributed to its vocabulary and sometimes its grammatical structures, although the core mechanisms for forming degrees of adjectives remain Turkic.

15. Pragmatic and Stylistic Variations

- **English**:

- The choice of comparative and superlative forms can vary by region (e.g., British English vs. American English) and by context (e.g., spoken vs. written language).

- **Uzbek**:

- Similar regional variations exist within different dialects of Uzbek, and stylistic preferences can change depending on the formality of the situation.

16. Pedagogical Implications

- **English**:

- Teaching comparative and superlative forms in English often involves exercises that distinguish between regular and irregular forms and the appropriate contexts for using inflectional vs. periphrastic forms.

- **Uzbek**:

- Teaching these forms in Uzbek focuses on the consistent application of suffixes and the use of "eng" for superlatives, with attention to less frequent irregular forms.

By considering these additional factors, we gain a more nuanced understanding of how English and Uzbek handle the degrees of adjectives, reflecting both linguistic structures and cultural contexts. This expanded view highlights the rich tapestry of language and its role in effective communication. Understanding these differences and similarities enriches the comparative study of linguistic structures and highlights how language families influence grammatical constructions.[5]

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of the degrees of adjectives in English and Uzbek reveals both striking similarities and distinct differences shaped by their respective linguistic families—Indo-European for English and Turkic for Uzbek. Both languages share the fundamental concept of modifying adjectives to express varying degrees of

comparison, but they employ different morphological and syntactic strategies to achieve this. In English, the use of inflectional endings ("-er," "-est") and auxiliary words ("more," "most") offers flexibility in adjective modification, accommodating both short and long adjectives with regular and irregular forms. English also utilizes additional degree modifiers and complex constructions to emphasize comparisons, reflecting its rich history of linguistic evolution and external influences. Uzbek, on the other hand, employs a more uniform system of suffixation with "-roq" for comparatives and the pre-modifier "eng" for superlatives. This approach is consistent across most adjectives, providing simplicity and regularity. The influence of Persian, Arabic, and Russian has enriched the Uzbek lexicon but has not significantly altered its core grammatical structures for adjective comparison. Cultural and pragmatic factors also play a role in how comparisons are expressed in both languages. In English, choices between inflectional and periphrastic forms can indicate formality and clarity, while in Uzbek, cultural norms around modesty and respect may influence comparative expressions.

Understanding these differences enhances our appreciation of linguistic diversity and the specific typological features that characterize English and Uzbek. For language learners and educators, recognizing these comparative mechanisms aids in developing effective teaching strategies and deepening cross-linguistic comprehension. This comparative study underscores the intricate ways in which languages evolve to meet communicative needs while maintaining unique grammatical identities.

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