

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF GENDER IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGE GRAMMAR

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines the ways in which the concept of grammatical gender is expressed in the English and Uzbek languages. While English is considered a gender-neutral language, Uzbek has a grammatical gender system with masculine and feminine forms. The analysis compares how nouns, pronouns, and adjectives are marked for gender in each language. In Uzbek, nouns are classified as either masculine or feminine, and this gender agreement extends to associated pronouns and adjectives. In contrast, English does not have a grammatical gender system, though certain natural gender distinctions are maintained in personal pronouns. The paper also explores how the presence or absence of grammatical gender impacts other linguistic features, such as the formation of compound words and the use of gender-specific honorifics. Additionally, it discusses the sociocultural implications of gender representation in the grammar of these languages. Through a contrastive analysis, this study sheds light on the diverse ways in which human languages can encode and express the concept of gender, highlighting both universal patterns and language-specific variations in this domain of grammar.

**Key words:** Gender, Masculine, Feminine, Neuter, Gender Agreement.

### INTRODUCTION

Language and gender are intricately linked, as the ways in which a language encodes and expresses gender can both reflect and shape sociocultural attitudes and norms. One key aspect of this connection is the presence (or absence) of grammatical gender systems within a language's structure. Grammatical gender refers to the classification of nouns into categories, typically masculine, feminine, and sometimes neuter, which then triggers agreement patterns with associated grammatical elements such as pronouns, adjectives, and articles. This feature is present in many of the world's languages, including Romance, Slavic, and Semitic language families, but is notably absent in others, such as English.

The goal of this study is to examine the similarities and differences in the representation of gender within the grammar of English and Uzbek, two languages that belong to distinct language families (Germanic and Turkic, respectively) and have

divergent grammatical structures. By conducting a contrastive analysis, this paper aims to shed light on the diverse ways in which human languages can encode the concept of gender, and the potential implications of these linguistic differences.[1]

### **Comparison of Gender in English and Uzbek language grammar:**

#### **Grammatical Gender in Uzbek:**

Uzbek is a Turkic language that has a grammatical gender system, classifying nouns as either masculine or feminine. This gender distinction is marked on nouns themselves, as well as on associated pronouns, adjectives, and other modifiers through agreement.

For example:

- Masculine noun: "o'g'il" (son)
- Feminine noun: "qiz" (daughter)
- Masculine pronoun: "u" (he)
- Feminine pronoun: "u" (she)
- Masculine adjective: "yaxshi o'g'il" (good son)
- Feminine adjective: "yaxshi qiz" (good daughter)

The gender assignment of Uzbek nouns is largely based on biological sex, with words for male humans and animals being masculine, and words for female humans and animals being feminine. There are also some semantic and morphological patterns that govern gender attribution for inanimate nouns.

#### **Lack of Grammatical Gender in English:**

In contrast, the English language does not have a grammatical gender system. Nouns in English are not inherently masculine, feminine, or neuter. The only remnants of gender distinctions are found in the personal pronoun system, where "he/him/his" is used for male referents, "she/her/hers" for female referents, and "it/its" for non-human, inanimate, or gender-neutral referents.[2]

For example:

- Noun: "student" (no gender)
- Pronoun: "He is a good student" or "She is a good student"

The lack of grammatical gender in English means that nouns, adjectives, and other modifiers do not require gender agreement, simplifying the language's morphology compared to Uzbek.

#### **Implications and Sociocultural Considerations:**

The presence or absence of grammatical gender can have implications for how gender is conceptualized and represented in a language. In Uzbek, the strong gender distinctions encoded in the grammar may contribute to more salient gender norms and expectations. Conversely, the gender-neutral nature of English grammar has been argued to facilitate more gender-inclusive language use and potentially influence societal attitudes towards gender.

### Gender Marking on Nouns:

As mentioned earlier, Uzbek nouns are classified as either masculine or feminine, while English nouns do not have grammatical gender. In Uzbek, the gender of a noun is typically determined by its biological sex referent, such as "aka" (brother, masculine) and "opa" (sister, feminine). There are also some semantic and morphological patterns that govern gender assignment for inanimate nouns.

In contrast, English nouns are gender-neutral by default, and any gender distinction is typically expressed through separate lexical items, such as "actor/actress" or "waiter/waitress."

### Gender Agreement:

The grammatical gender of Uzbek nouns triggers agreement on associated pronouns, adjectives, and other modifiers. For example, the Uzbek sentence "Bu yaxshi qiz" (This is a good girl) demonstrates feminine gender agreement between the noun "qiz" (girl) and the adjective "yaxshi" (good).

English, on the other hand, lacks this systematic gender agreement. Pronouns are the only elements in English that maintain gender distinctions, with "he/him/his" for masculine, "she/her/hers" for feminine, and "it/its" for gender-neutral or non-human referents.[3]

### Compound Words and Gender:

The presence of grammatical gender in Uzbek also influences the formation of compound words. Uzbek allows for the combination of a masculine or feminine noun with other nouns or modifiers to create new lexical items, such as "bola-qiz" (girl child) or "erkak-qush" (male bird).

In contrast, English compound words do not typically encode gender distinctions, unless the compound explicitly refers to a person's gender, such as "chairman/chairwoman" or "policeman/policewoman."

### Honorifics and Gender:

Uzbek has a system of honorific terms that can vary based on the gender of the referent. For example, "aka" (brother) and "opa" (sister) are used to address older male and female individuals, respectively, as a sign of respect.

English, on the other hand, does not have a comparable system of gender-specific honorifics. Formal forms of address, such as "Mr." and "Ms.," are primarily based on marital status rather than gender.

### Implications and Sociocultural Considerations:

The presence of grammatical gender in Uzbek, and its absence in English, can have implications for how gender is conceptualized and represented in these languages. The strong gender distinctions encoded in Uzbek grammar may contribute to more salient gender norms and expectations, while the gender-neutral nature of English

grammar has been argued to facilitate more gender-inclusive language use and potentially influence societal attitudes towards gender.

Furthermore, these differences in gender grammar can impact various linguistic features, such as the formation of compound words, the use of gender-specific honorifics, and the challenges of translating gender-marked elements from one language to the other.

#### Noun Gender in Uzbek

In Uzbek, all nouns are classified as either masculine or feminine. This gender distinction is largely based on the biological sex of the referent, such as "ota" (father) being masculine and "ona" (mother) being feminine. However, there are also nouns that are assigned gender based on semantic or morphological patterns, rather than biological sex. For example, nouns ending in "-a" or "-lar" are typically classified as feminine, while those ending in consonants or "-o'g'" are generally masculine.

#### Gender Agreement in Uzbek

The grammatical gender of nouns in Uzbek triggers agreement on associated pronouns, adjectives, and other modifiers. For instance, the sentence "Bu yaxshi qiz" (This is a good girl) demonstrates feminine gender agreement between the noun "qiz" (girl) and the adjective "yaxshi" (good). Similarly, the pronoun "u" (she/he) must agree with the gender of the noun it refers to. This gender agreement system is a pervasive feature of Uzbek grammar.

#### Lack of Grammatical Gender in English

In contrast, English is considered a gender-neutral language, with the only remnants of gender distinctions found in the personal pronoun system (he/she/it). English nouns do not have inherent grammatical gender, and there is no systematic gender agreement between nouns and their associated modifiers or pronouns.

#### Implications for Language Use and Translation

The presence of grammatical gender in Uzbek and its absence in English can pose challenges when translating between the two languages. Translators must carefully navigate the gender-marked elements in Uzbek and find appropriate equivalents in the gender-neutral English context. This can involve using gender-neutral pronouns, adjusting adjective forms, or even modifying the structure of sentences to maintain natural-sounding translations.

#### Sociocultural Influences and Perspectives

The strong gender distinctions encoded in Uzbek grammar may contribute to more salient gender norms and expectations within the language and its associated culture. Conversely, the gender-neutral nature of English grammar has been argued to facilitate more gender-inclusive language use and potentially influence societal attitudes towards gender. These differences in the linguistic representation of gender

can have broader implications for the way speakers conceptualize and express gender in their respective linguistic and cultural contexts.

#### Continued Research and Implications

The comparative analysis of gender in the grammar of English and Uzbek languages highlights the diverse ways in which human languages can represent this linguistic concept. Ongoing research in this area can provide valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between language, culture, and the evolving societal perceptions and representations of gender.[1]

#### CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of gender in the grammar of English and Uzbek languages has revealed both similarities and striking differences in the representation of this linguistic concept.

Uzbek, as a Turkic language, has a robust grammatical gender system that classifies nouns as either masculine or feminine. This gender distinction is then reflected in the agreement patterns of associated pronouns, adjectives, and other modifiers. In contrast, English is considered a gender-neutral language, with the only remnants of gender distinctions found in the personal pronoun system.

These contrasting approaches to encoding gender in grammar have broader implications. The strong gender distinctions in Uzbek may contribute to more salient gender norms and expectations within the language and its associated culture. Conversely, the gender-neutral nature of English grammar has been argued to facilitate more gender-inclusive language use and potentially influence societal attitudes towards gender.

Furthermore, the differences in gender grammar between these two languages can impact various linguistic features, such as the formation of compound words, the use of gender-specific honorifics, and the challenges of translating gender-marked elements from one language to the other.

The findings of this study highlight the diverse ways in which human languages can represent the concept of gender, underscoring the importance of cross-linguistic comparisons in enhancing our understanding of the complex interplay between language and gender. As societies continue to evolve in their views and representations of gender, the examination of grammatical gender systems can provide valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between linguistic structures and sociocultural norms.

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