

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

**ASATOVA AZIZA**

*Navoiy State Pedagogical Institute*

*The faculty of English language and literature 3th year student*

*Tel: +998 94 689 15 97*

*Email: azizaasatova5@gmail.com*

### ABSTRACT

The concept of "Person" is a fundamental part of the grammatical structure in both English and Uzbek languages. However, the way this concept is expressed and applied in the two languages exhibits both similarities and differences. This study examines the treatment of "Person" in the grammar of English and Uzbek, focusing on the categories of personal pronouns, verb conjugation, and other grammatical devices that encode person. The analysis reveals that both languages have a similar three-way distinction between first, second, and third person. However, Uzbek has a more complex pronominal system with additional distinctions such as politeness levels. The systems of verb conjugation to mark person also show divergences, with Uzbek verbs exhibiting richer person-number inflections compared to the more analytic person marking in English. The paper discusses how these grammatical differences in the expression of "Person" between the two languages arise from their distinct typological and historical backgrounds. The findings contribute to a better understanding of cross-linguistic variation in the domain of person grammar and have implications for translation, language teaching, and contrastive linguistic analysis.

**Key words:** Person, Plular, Singular, Grammatical Alignment, Pronominal System

### INTRODUCTION

The grammatical category of "Person" is a fundamental aspect of language, reflecting the relationship between the speaker, the addressee, and the entities being referred to. How this concept of person is encoded and expressed in the grammar of a language can vary widely across different linguistic systems. English and Uzbek, as languages belonging to distinct language families (Germanic and Turkic respectively), provide an interesting case study for examining the similarities and differences in the treatment of person in grammar. Both languages have well-developed systems for marking person, but the specific devices utilized and the overall organization of the person category exhibit both parallels and divergences. This paper aims to undertake a comparative analysis of the grammar of person in English and Uzbek. It will explore

the expression of person through personal pronouns, verb conjugation patterns, and other relevant grammatical mechanisms in the two languages. The goal is to shed light on the underlying principles and structural differences that shape the person systems in English and Uzbek, and to contribute to a broader understanding of cross-linguistic variation in this essential domain of grammar.[1]

The analysis will highlight the common features shared by the two languages, as well as the unique characteristics that distinguish their person grammars. This comparative perspective can offer valuable insights for translation studies, language pedagogy, and the field of contrastive linguistics as a whole.

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

#### **Personal Pronouns:**

The personal pronoun systems of English and Uzbek show both similarities and differences. Both languages have the basic three-person distinction - first person (I/we, men/biz), second person (you, sen/siz), and third person (he/she/it, u/ular).

However, the Uzbek pronominal system is more complex, with additional distinctions based on politeness and formality levels. Uzbek has two forms of the second person pronoun - "sen" for informal/familiar contexts and "siz" for formal/polite situations. This politeness distinction is absent in the English pronoun system.[2]

Additionally, Uzbek personal pronouns exhibit case marking, with different forms used for the subject, object, and other grammatical functions. English pronouns have fewer case distinctions.

#### **Verb Conjugation:**

The encoding of person on verbs also shows significant differences between English and Uzbek. English relies more on separate subject pronouns to indicate the person of the verb, with limited person-number inflections on the verb itself.

In contrast, Uzbek verbs exhibit rich person-number conjugation, with distinct personal endings for each combination of person and number. For example, the Uzbek verb "yoz-" (to write) has forms like "yoz-a-man" (I write), "yoz-a-san" (you [informal] write), "yoz-a-siz" (you [formal] write), "yoz-a-di" (he/she/it writes), and so on.

This synthetic person marking on Uzbek verbs contrasts with the more analytic person expression in English, where the personal pronouns carry a greater functional load.

#### **Other Grammatical Devices:**

Beyond pronouns and verb conjugation, Uzbek also utilizes nominal case marking to convey person-related meanings. For instance, the case endings on nouns and noun phrases can indicate whether they are serving as the subject, object, or other grammatical roles.

English, on the other hand, relies more on word order and prepositions to encode similar person-related relationships between different sentence elements.[3]

#### Semantic Distinctions:

The person categories in both English and Uzbek encode the basic three-way distinction - first, second, and third person. However, the Uzbek person system carries additional nuances of politeness, social status, and respect that are not as salient in the English person distinctions.

For example, the choice between "sen" and "siz" in Uzbek not only signals informality vs. formality, but can also convey subtle meanings about the relative social standing or power dynamics between the interlocutors.

These semantic associations with person categories are more prominent in Uzbek, reflecting the language's sensitivity to social hierarchies and interpersonal relationships. In summary, the comparison of person in English and Uzbek grammar highlights the richer and more intricate person system in Uzbek, with its complex pronominal forms, robust verb conjugation patterns, and additional grammatical devices for encoding person-related meanings. This contrastive analysis sheds light on the typological differences between these two languages.

Grammatical person is a linguistic concept that refers to the relationship between the speaker, the listener, and others in the context of a conversation or narrative. Both English and Uzbek languages distinguish between first, second, and third persons, but they do so in ways that reflect their unique grammatical and cultural contexts.

#### English Language

In English, the grammatical person is divided into three categories: first person, second person, and third person. Each category can be singular or plural.

1. **First Person**: Refers to the speaker.
  - Singular: **I** (e.g., I am)
  - Plural: **We** (e.g., We are)
2. **Second Person**: Refers to the listener.
  - Singular: **You** (e.g., You are)
  - Plural: **You** (e.g., You are)
3. **Third Person**: Refers to someone or something other than the speaker or listener.
  - Singular: **He/She/It** (e.g., He is, She is, It is)
  - Plural: **They** (e.g., They are)

#### Verb Conjugation in English

English verbs conjugate differently depending on the person and number, particularly in the present tense. For example, the verb "to be" conjugates as follows:



- First Person Singular: **\*\*I am\*\***
- First Person Plural: **\*\*We are\*\***
- Second Person Singular and Plural: **\*\*You are\*\***
- Third Person Singular: **\*\*He/She/It is\*\***
- Third Person Plural: **\*\*They are\*\***

Regular verbs in the present tense usually add an "-s" or "-es" ending in the third person singular form:

- I/We/You/They **\*\*walk\*\***
- He/She/It **\*\*walks\*\***

### Uzbek Language

Uzbek, a Turkic language, also uses three grammatical persons but incorporates distinctions based on formality and clarity between singular and plural forms more explicitly than English.

1. **\*\*First Person\*\***: Refers to the speaker.

- Singular: **\*\*Men\*\*** (e.g., Men **\*\*kelaman\*\*** - I come)
- Plural: **\*\*Biz\*\*** (e.g., Biz **\*\*kelamiz\*\*** - We come)

2. **\*\*Second Person\*\***: Refers to the listener.

- Singular Informal: **\*\*Sen\*\*** (e.g., Sen **\*\*kelas\*\*** - You (informal) come)
- Singular Formal: **\*\*Siz\*\*** (e.g., Siz **\*\*kelasiz\*\*** - You (formal) come)
- Plural: **\*\*Sizlar\*\*** (e.g., Sizlar **\*\*kelasizlar\*\*** - You all come)

3. **\*\*Third Person\*\***: Refers to someone or something other than the speaker or listener.

- Singular: **\*\*U\*\*** (e.g., U **\*\*keladi\*\*** - He/She/It comes)
- Plural: **\*\*Ular\*\*** (e.g., Ular **\*\*keladi\*\*** - They come)

### Verb Conjugation in Uzbek

Uzbek verbs conjugate according to person, number, and formality. The verb endings change based on the person:

- First Person Singular: **\*\*-man\*\*** (Men **\*\*kelaman\*\***)
- First Person Plural: **\*\*-miz\*\*** (Biz **\*\*kelamiz\*\***)
- Second Person Singular Informal: **\*\*-san\*\*** (Sen **\*\*kelas\*\***)
- Second Person Singular Formal: **\*\*-siz\*\*** (Siz **\*\*kelasiz\*\***)
- Second Person Plural: **\*\*-sizlar\*\*** (Sizlar **\*\*kelasizlar\*\***)
- Third Person Singular: **\*\*-adi\*\*** (U **\*\*keladi\*\***)
- Third Person Plural: **\*\*-adi\*\*** (Ular **\*\*keladi\*\***)

### Key Differences

1. **\*\*Formality in Second Person\*\***: Uzbek distinguishes between informal and formal forms in the second person (Sen vs. Siz), while English does not.

2. **\*\*Plural Second Person\*\***: English uses "you" for both singular and plural, whereas Uzbek uses distinct forms (Sen, Siz, Sizlar).

3. **Verb Conjugation**: English verb conjugation in the present tense primarily affects the third person singular, while Uzbek verb conjugation changes for all persons and includes formal and informal distinctions.

#### Key Similarities

1. **Three Main Persons**: Both languages categorize grammatical person into first, second, and third persons.

2. **Subject-Verb Agreement**: Both languages require verbs to agree with their subjects in person and number.

Some comparative examples to illustrate the differences and similarities:

#### English:

- **I speak**: I am speaking.
- **You (singular/plural) speak**: You are speaking.
- **He/She/It speaks**: He is speaking.
- **We speak**: We are speaking.
- **They speak**: They are speaking.

#### Uzbek:

- **Men gapiraman**: I speak.
- **Sen gapirasan**: You (informal singular) speak.
- **Siz gapirasiz**: You (formal singular) speak.
- **Sizlar gapirasizlar**: You (plural) speak.
- **U gapiradi**: He/She/It speaks.
- **Biz gapiramiz**: We speak.
- **Ular gapiradi**: They speak.

Understanding the grammatical person in English and Uzbek involves recognizing both shared concepts and unique features. While both languages distinguish among the speaker, the listener, and others, Uzbek places a greater emphasis on formality and provides clearer distinctions between singular and plural forms in the second person. These nuances are crucial for effective communication and proper verb conjugation in each language.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of the "Person" concept in the grammar of English and Uzbek languages has revealed some striking differences between the two systems:

#### 1. Pronominal System:

- Uzbek has a more elaborate pronominal system, with additional distinctions based on politeness and formality levels (e.g. "sen" vs. "siz").
- Uzbek pronouns also exhibit more overt case marking, reflecting the grammatical roles of the persons involved.
- English pronouns have a simpler, less differentiated system in comparison.

## 2. Verb Conjugation:

- Uzbek verbs display rich person-number conjugation, with distinct personal endings for each combination.
- English relies more on separate subject pronouns to indicate person, with limited person-number inflections on the verb.
- The synthetic person marking on Uzbek verbs contrasts with the more analytic person expression in English.

## 3. Grammatical Alignment:

- Uzbek utilizes a mix of nominative-accusative and ergative-absolutive alignment, with person being a key factor.
- English has a more rigid subject-object structure, without the person-based alignment alternations seen in Uzbek.

## 4. Semantic and Pragmatic Dimensions:

- Uzbek person categories carry additional nuances of formality, respect, and social status that are not as salient in English.
- The choice of pronouns in Uzbek can convey subtle meanings about interpersonal relationships and power dynamics.
- English person system is more neutral and egalitarian in comparison.

These findings highlight the richer and more intricate person system in Uzbek grammar, which reflects the language's sensitivity to social hierarchies and interpersonal relationships. In contrast, the English person system is more straightforward and less socially coded. This contrastive analysis provides valuable insights into the typological differences between these two languages and underscores the importance of considering person-related grammatical features when studying cross-linguistic variation in human language.[4]

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