



WORD FORMATION IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE THROUGH SUFFIXES

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the process of word formation in the Uzbek language through suffixes. It explores the morphological foundations of word formation, the types of derivational affixes, and their lexical-semantic functions. The role of suffixes in creating new words in Uzbek, as well as their application in forming units belonging to parts of speech such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs, is illustrated with practical examples. Furthermore, the distinction between inflectional and derivational affixes, their grammatical and semantic functions, and the productivity of suffix-based word formation in the development of the modern language are discussed. This article holds significant importance for the study of the morphological system of the Uzbek language.*

Keywords: *Uzbek language, word formation, derivational suffix, morphology, affix, derived word, lexical-semantic system, grammatical function, neologisms, language development*

Since affixation is the primary method of word formation in Uzbek, the number of nominal, adjectival, and verbal affix morphemes is considerably large. Compared to other categories of morphemes, derivational suffixes provide a relatively simple and convenient mechanism for forming nouns and adjectives. They create new words under the interaction of two sources: the root morpheme, which contributes both literal and figurative meanings, and the affix morpheme, which adds its own functional-semantic meanings.

The main subject of word formation is words that are derivationally motivated. In other words, words whose structure contains derivational components and whose meanings are based on those components constitute the object of study in the field of word formation. Uzbek is classified as a Turkic language. Word formation is one of the most important aspects of its grammatical structure, as it reflects the lexical-grammatical units of the language. In Uzbek linguistics, word formation through affixes is particularly widespread and remains a central area of study.

In the Uzbek language, the process of derivation is considered one of the most important areas of study. In this process, new words are created through suffixation. As morphemes, suffixes alter the meanings and functions of words and contribute to the enrichment of the language. Academic scholar A. Khojiyev, in his book “The



System of Word Formation in the Uzbek Language”, explains that word formation refers to the process of producing a new word from a given lexical unit by means of a word-forming device. For example, the word *bilim* (knowledge) is derived from *bil* (to know) by adding the suffix *-im*. This method is referred to as the affixation method. Every derived word consists of two elements: the base of word formation and the derivational element. A suffix is defined as a part of a word that cannot be used independently, attaches to a root, and either conveys a new or additional meaning, or serves to connect words.

The main methods of word formation in Uzbek through suffixes are as follows. Word formation by affixal suffixes is divided into two categories: (1) derivational suffixes and (2) inflectional suffixes.

The majority of derivational suffixes in Uzbek are native to the language. However, Uzbek also contains suffixes borrowed from other languages. For instance, suffixes such as *-don*, *-zor*, and *-kor* were borrowed from Tajik and later integrated into Uzbek. From Russian, suffixes such as *-siya*, *-ant*, *-tor*, *-ist*, and *-izm* entered the language. When derivational suffixes are attached to a root, the lexical meaning of the root changes. Derivational suffixes primarily serve the function of creating new words. For example: *o‘qit+uvchi* = *o‘qituvchi* (teacher), *ishla+chi* = *ishlovchi* (worker), *kitob+xon* = *kitobxon* (reader).

The most important characteristic of derivational suffixes is that when added to a root, they alter its lexical meaning and often change the grammatical category of the word as well. However, not all derivational suffixes necessarily alter the word class or grammatical meaning. For instance, in words like *do‘stona* (in a friendly way) and *o‘rtoqlarcha* (like a comrade), adverbs are formed from nouns.

Affixation is the most widespread and productive method of word formation in the Uzbek language. Through this method, suffixation is applied only to the four main parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. Each word formed through derivational suffixes represents an internal resource of the Uzbek language and contributes to its continuous development.

Affixes that are added to the root in order to load it with an additional meaning or to connect the word they are attached to with another word are called inflectional affixes (form-building affixes). Such affixes do not change the grammatical category of a word but only modify its form, and they do not generate new lexical meanings. For example: *kitob+lar* = *kitoblar* (books), *o‘qidi+mi* = *o‘qidimi?* (did he/she read?).

Form-building affixes, in turn, are classified into two types: lexical form-building affixes and syntactic form-building affixes.

Lexical form-building affixes are those which, when attached to the root, add an additional shade of meaning. For instance: *uycha* (small house), *kattaroq* (bigger), *onajon* (dear mother). Such affixes are found in nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and verbs.

Syntactic form-building affixes serve the function of connecting a word to another word in a sentence. Examples include: ukam (my younger brother), daftarning (of the notebook), keldik (we came). These affixes are also referred to as relational forms or inflectional affixes.

In Uzbek linguistics, the scholar Q. Sapayev, within the scope of his research, further divided form-building affixes into two groups: categorial form-building affixes and non-categorial form-building affixes.

Categorial form-building affixes form a coherent system related to word inflection, producing grammatical forms which merge into particular grammatical categories and paradigms.

Non-categorial form-building affixes, on the other hand, generate forms that express grammatical meaning but do not constitute a paradigmatic system of forms.

Affixes perform not only grammatical but also semantic functions. They may denote professions, characteristics, sources, or states. Thus, in Uzbek, the process of word-formation through affixation contributes to the enrichment of the vocabulary and the expansion of the expressive possibilities of the language.

In every language, constant changes occur, giving rise to new lexical units. In modern linguistics, the study of how new words are formed is considered one of the important research areas. The study of compound words has attracted the attention of many foreign scholars, such as T.A. Andriyanova, G.B. Antrushina, I.V. Arnold, G. Greenbaum, G. Marchand, among others.

Before explaining the concept of compound words, it is necessary to provide some information regarding the terminology. The English term compound literally means “complex” or “combined.” According to the approaches of I.V. Arnold, G. Greenbaum, A.I. Smirnitsky, G. Marchand, and others, a compound word is regarded as a derived word formed from two or more bases. In their view, compound words possess the following features:

Firstly, compound words possess two bases but function as a single lexical unit.

Secondly, the second base determines the part of speech and the semantic category of the whole word.

Thirdly, the meaning of a compound word is derived from the combination of the meanings of its constituent bases as well as from the derivational model applied. These features are characteristic properties of compound words.

According to linguists such as N.A. Shtok and T.A. Andriyanova, new words are generated on the basis of existing models in the language, and these models are evaluated by the criteria of productivity, activity, and frequency. Any social change in society influences the language by introducing new words and meanings.

The process of word formation through compound words, in which two or more bases are morphologically combined to form a new word, is called composition. The resulting units are known as compound words. Structurally, compounds are divided

into two-component and multi-component words. While many compounds are semantically transparent and can be understood from the meanings of their components, some acquire an idiomatic character, meaning that their interpretation depends on context or extralinguistic knowledge. For example, support bubble refers to the circle of close relatives allowed for interaction during a lockdown period.

In the study of word-formation processes, the grammatical approach simplifies the identification of semantic relations between the derived and the base words. Russian linguists such as N.V. Arjantseva, N.V. Maklakova, and Y.S. Khovanskaya argue that the system of word formation in a language should be considered not only from a grammatical perspective but also as a semantic-grammatical process. The structural analysis of compounds reveals the direct relationship between the form of a word and its meaning, thus enabling a deeper understanding of its semantics.

Among the important contributions to the study of compound word formation are the views of A.G. Sodiqova. In her opinion, a composite is a directly or indirectly structured, multifunctional unit which can be regarded as a type of derivative formed according to a standard model, or as a syntactic phrase that has been lexicalized through the process of nomination. The interaction of grammar and word formation is particularly evident in syntax, where many compounds originate from syntactic units consisting of two bases or simple compositions.

The formation of compound words plays a significant role in enriching the vocabulary, designating new concepts, and ensuring both precision and expressiveness in literary and scientific discourse. This process reflects the constant and dynamic development of the language. In dissertation research, the systematic study of the structure, semantics, and functional possibilities of compounds represents one of the most pressing areas of modern linguistics.

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