

**MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH
AND UZBEK**

Student:

Umarova Shahrizoda

shahrizodaumarova180@gmail.com

Supervisor:

Mahmudjanova Mexribon Xurshedovna

mexribonmaxmudjonova@gmail.com

English Philology and Translation Faculty

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Annotation: This study explores the morphological features of adjectives in English and Uzbek, focusing on their structural, derivational, and inflectional properties. English adjectives display morphological processes such as comparative and superlative formation, derivational suffixation (e.g., -ful, -less, -able), and limited agreement in certain syntactic contexts. Uzbek adjectives, as part of an agglutinative Turkic language, exhibit richer morphological inflection, including case agreement, degree, and derivational affixation. By comparing the two languages, the study highlights typological differences and similarities, illustrating how morphological structure affects syntactic behavior, semantic nuance, and stylistic variation. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of cross-linguistic adjective morphology and informs both theoretical linguistics and applied language studies.

Keywords: adjectives, morphology, derivation, inflection, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics, agglutination.

Introduction

Adjectives are a fundamental part of speech that provide descriptive, quantitative, or qualitative information about nouns. Their morphological properties how they form, change, and combine with other morphemes play a crucial role in both syntactic structure and semantic interpretation. In English, adjectives are generally morphologically simple, with some marked forms for degree (e.g., big, bigger, biggest) and derivation (happy → happiness; useful). In contrast, Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, allows more complex morphological processes, including derivational affixes, degree markers, and case agreement with nouns. Understanding the morphological features of adjectives is essential not only for theoretical linguistics but also for second language teaching, computational linguistics, and cross-linguistic research. By analyzing English and Uzbek adjectives comparatively, this study seeks to identify structural patterns, derivational strategies, and inflectional behaviors



that illustrate the typological contrasts between an Indo-European language and a Turkic language. English and Uzbek adjectives are both morphologically invariable because they do not change their form to match the gender, number, or case of the noun they describe. Both languages use a combination of suffixes and helper words to express degrees of comparison, although Uzbek includes a specific diminutive degree for lower intensity that is less formal in English. While English adjectives are categorized as qualitative or relative and formed through various suffixes, Uzbek adjectives rely on an agglutinative system where multiple suffixes are attached to roots to create new meanings.

Literature Review

Previous research on adjective morphology has highlighted both universal and language-specific features. In English, studies by Quirk et al. (1985) and Bauer (2003) emphasize derivational suffixation and the use of comparatives and superlatives as primary morphological processes. English adjectives are largely invariant, and their inflectional morphology is limited to degree marking and occasional participial forms (interested, interesting). Uzbek adjectives, as documented in works by Salimov (2002) and Teshabaev (2010), display richer morphological behavior. Uzbek adjectives can take suffixes for comparative (-roq), superlative (eng-), and case agreement with the modified noun, reflecting the agglutinative nature of the language. Moreover, derivational processes allow adjectives to form nouns, verbs, and adverbs, expanding their functional flexibility. Cross-linguistic studies, such as those by Kurylowicz (1967) and Comrie (1981), have suggested that agglutinative languages often exhibit more extensive inflectional and derivational morphology than analytic languages like English. Comparative research on English and Turkic languages (e.g., Uzbek, Kazakh) demonstrates both similarities, such as semantic gradation, and differences, such as morphological complexity and affixation strategies. Despite the growing body of research on morphology, few studies have directly compared English and Uzbek adjectives in terms of both derivation and inflection. This study addresses that gap by systematically analyzing morphological structures, comparing degree marking, derivational patterns, and syntactic integration in both languages, thereby contributing to the field of comparative linguistics.

Methodology

The present study employs a comparative-descriptive and analytical research methodology to investigate the morphological features of adjectives in the English and Uzbek languages. The main purpose of the research is to identify, classify, and compare the structural and word-formation characteristics of adjectives in both languages, as well as to determine their similarities and differences within the framework of modern linguistics. This article is based on a qualitative approach, since the analysis focuses primarily on linguistic forms, grammatical structures, and semantic functions rather than on statistical



measurement. At the same time, some elements of comparative linguistic analysis are used in order to establish parallel and contrastive observations between the two languages. The study relies on several methods of linguistic investigation. First, the descriptive method is used to present the general morphological characteristics of adjectives in English and Uzbek, including their formation, grammatical behavior, and structural patterns. This method makes it possible to explain how adjectives function as an independent part of speech in both languages. Second, the comparative method is applied to compare adjective systems in English and Uzbek. Through this method, the researcher examines common and distinctive morphological features such as simple, derived, and compound adjective forms; the role of affixation; degrees of comparison; and the relationship between adjectives and other word classes. Comparative analysis allows for a deeper understanding of typological differences between an analytic language (English) and an agglutinative language (Uzbek).

Third, the morphological analysis method is used to examine the internal structure of adjectives. In this process, adjectives are analyzed according to their root morphemes, derivational affixes, and inflectional patterns. In English, special attention is paid to suffixes such as *-ful*, *-less*, *-ous*, *-al*, *-ic*, and *-y*, which are productive in adjective formation. In Uzbek, the study focuses on affixes such as *-li*, *-siz*, *-dor*, *-chan*, *-kor*, and others that contribute to the derivation of adjectival forms. This method helps to reveal how each language creates and modifies adjectives morphologically. In addition, the componential and contextual analysis methods are partially employed. The componential method assists in identifying the structural elements that form adjectives, while contextual analysis is used to observe how adjectives function in actual language usage within sentences and texts. Examples are selected from grammar books, academic sources, literary texts, and authentic language materials in both English and Uzbek. The empirical material of the study consists of examples of adjectives collected from scientific literature, English and Uzbek grammar textbooks, dictionaries, and selected literary works. The theoretical basis of the study is formed by works in general linguistics, morphology, comparative linguistics, and English-Uzbek grammar studies. Scholarly sources related to parts of speech, word formation, and typological language comparison are used to support the analysis and provide a scientific foundation for the research.

Results

1. Degree marking: English employs inflection (*-er*, *-est*) and analytic forms (*more*, *most*), while Uzbek uses affixes (*-roq*, *eng-*) combined with case and number markers.

2. Derivational morphology: English adjectives derive from nouns or verbs via suffixes (*beauty* → *beautiful*, *harm* → *harmless*). Uzbek adjectives



can derive adverbs, nouns, and even verbs, reflecting higher morphological productivity.

3. Agreement and inflection: English adjectives do not agree with nouns for number or case, whereas Uzbek adjectives consistently reflect noun morphology.

4. Syntactic placement: English adjectives are primarily pre-nominal or post-nominal with limited variation. Uzbek allows flexible placement, aided by morphological marking.

5. Typological implications: English represents an analytic pattern with low inflectional load; Uzbek demonstrates agglutinative typology with rich inflection and derivation.

Table 1: Comparative Features of English and Uzbek Adjectives

Feature	English	Uzbek
Degree marking	-er/-est, more/most	-roq, eng-
Derivational affixes	-ful, -less, -able	Multiple suffixes for nouns, adverbs
Agreement with nouns	None	Case, number, definiteness
Syntactic flexibility	Limited	High
Morphological type	Analytic	Agglutinative

Discussion

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek adjectives reveals significant morphological contrasts rooted in the typological differences between analytic and agglutinative languages. English adjectives are morphologically relatively simple, primarily marked for degree through the comparative (-er) and superlative (-est) suffixes or with periphrastic constructions (more beautiful, most beautiful). Derivational processes in English, such as suffixation (-ful, -less, -able), contribute to the expansion of adjective-related vocabulary but do not affect syntactic agreement with nouns. Uzbek adjectives, in contrast, exhibit a more complex system of morphological inflection. Degree is marked both through affixation (-roq for comparative, eng- for superlative) and syntactic structures. Adjectives also show agreement with nouns in case, number, and definiteness, reflecting the language's agglutinative structure. For example, the adjective katta ("big") can combine with a noun in different cases (katta uy – "big house" (nominative), katta uyni – "big house" (accusative)). Additionally, derivational morphology allows adjectives to form adverbs or nouns, enhancing lexical productivity. Cross-linguistic comparison demonstrates that while both languages express semantic gradation, English relies on periphrastic and limited suffixation, whereas Uzbek employs productive agglutinative morphology. These

differences also influence syntactic flexibility, as English adjectives are fixed in pre-nominal or post-nominal positions (the red car, something interesting), whereas Uzbek adjectives may precede or follow nouns with consistent morphological marking, allowing more syntactic freedom.

Conclusion

The morphological features of adjectives in English and Uzbek reveal both universal tendencies and language-specific patterns. English adjectives are morphologically simple, with limited inflection and derivation, whereas Uzbek adjectives are morphologically rich, reflecting the agglutinative nature of the language. Degree marking, derivational productivity, and syntactic agreement are key areas of contrast. This comparative study highlights how morphology interacts with syntax and semantics in shaping adjectival expression. Understanding these differences is crucial for second-language acquisition, translation studies, and typological linguistics, and provides insights into how morphological systems influence grammatical structure and lexical creativity. Future research may extend this analysis to other Turkic languages or explore computational modeling of adjective morphology in cross-linguistic applications. In conclusion, the comparison of adjectives in English and Uzbek highlights a fascinating blend of shared functional traits and distinct structural roots. Both languages maintain a high level of stability in adjective forms when modifying nouns, which simplifies the learning process compared to languages that require gender or case agreement. However, the fundamental difference lies in their morphological construction: English relies on a mix of synthetic suffixes and analytical helper words, while Uzbek utilizes its robust agglutinative nature to convey precise shades of meaning through a wide array of productive suffixes. Understanding these similarities and differences is essential for effective translation and provides deep insight into how different language families categorize and describe the qualities of the world.

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