A Comparative Analysis of The Case System in Turkish And Uzbek Languages

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Abstract: This article analyzes the case systems in Turkish and Uzbek from morphological and syntactic perspectives. Although both languages belong to the agglutinative type, there are significant differences between the forms of cases, their rules of usage, and the functional load of certain morphemes. These differences are illustrated with examples, and the grammatical structures are explained through a comparative approach.

Keywords: Case, agglutinative language, morphology, syntax, Turkish language, Uzbek language, comparative analysis.

Introduction: Although Turkish and Uzbek languages share a common Turkic origin, there are certain grammatical differences, especially in the case systems. Both languages have an agglutinative nature, where words are inflected using affixes. Cases are crucial grammatical tools that express syntactic relations between words in a sentence. This article focuses on analyzing the forms and functional characteristics of cases in Turkish and Uzbek.

Semantics (from Greek: semantikos — expressive, signifying) refers to:

1.   the overall content, meaning, or information expressed by a language unit (word, grammatical form, idiom, phrase, or sentence);

2.   a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning side of various language units, also known as semasiology.

Certain lexical elements represent concepts, but only full sentences and their combinations can express these concepts entirely. Thus, the main object of study in semantics is the system of meanings of fully autonomous words and sentences. As a science, semantics began to develop in the second half of the 19th century and has since gone through several qualitatively different stages.

Linguistic semantics studies meaning. It examines what meaning is, how words acquire meaning, and how the meaning of complex phrases relates to the meanings of their parts. This process also involves the distinction between sense and reference. Sense is related to the ideas and concepts conveyed by an expression, while reference indicates the object the expression refers to. Semantics contrasts with syntax, which studies the rules for constructing grammatically correct sentences, and with pragmatics, which studies how language is used in communication.

Lexical semantics is the branch of semantics that studies word meaning. It investigates whether a word has one or multiple meanings and how words relate lexically to each other. Phrasal semantics studies the meaning of sentences through compositionality or the creation of new meanings by arranging words. Formal semantics studies the relationship between language and meaning.

Main Part

The Case System in the Uzbek Language

Uzbek has seven grammatical cases:

1.   Nominative case (kitob – "book")

2.   Genitive case (kitobning – "of the book")

3.   Accusative case (kitobni – "the book")

4.   Dative case (kitobga – "to the book")

5.   Locative case (kitobda – "in/on the book")

6.   Ablative case (kitobdan – "from the book")

7.   Instrumental case (kitob bilan – "with the book")

These cases allow words to serve various syntactic functions in a sentence, such as subject, object, and adverbial modifier.

The Case System in the Turkish Language

Turkish generally has five main cases:

1.   Nominative case (kitap – "book")

2.   Genitive case (kitabın – "of the book")

3.   Accusative case (kitabı – "the book")

4.   Dative case (kitaba – "to the book")

5.   Locative case (kitapta – "in/on the book")

6.   Ablative case (kitaptan – "from the book")

Additionally, the instrumental function is fulfilled through the preposition ile (e.g., kitapla, kitap ile – "with the book").

Turkish typically has five main cases:

1.   Nominative (yalın hal): kitap

2.   Genitive (iyelik hali): kitabın

3.   Accusative (belirtme hali): kitabı

4.   Dative (yönelme hali): kitaba

5.   Locative (bulunma hali): kitapta

6.   Ablative (ayrılma hali): kitaptan

In addition, the instrumental function is expressed using the postposition "ile" in different forms: kitapla, kitap ile.

A specific grammatical meaning expressed by a word form is called its grammatical form. For example, in kitaplar (books), besides the lexical meaning of a specific object, the plural grammatical meaning is also expressed. The plural is marked by the suffix -lar in Turkish.

Thus, the plural form kitaplar expresses a grammatical meaning of plurality. A word may contain one or more grammatical markers (morphemes expressing grammatical meaning). For example:

•   kitap — nominative, singular

•   kitaplar — nominative, plural

•   kitaplarım — nominative, plural, first-person possessive

•   kitaplarımı — plural, first-person possessive, accusative

Words change form through declension and conjugation, allowing them to relate to each other and form phrases and sentences.

Differences and Similarities

•   In Uzbek, case meanings are often derived from context. For instance, the genitive case (ning) may indicate possession or a part-whole relationship. The accusative case may denote the goal or direction of an action.

•   In Turkish, cases also express meanings like goal, direction, and location. However, some Turkish cases, particularly the ablative and locative, convey narrower meanings than in Uzbek. For instance, the Turkish ablative case (-den) usually denotes separation or origin, while the Uzbek ablative case (-dan) can express several semantic functions such as time, cause, and source.

•   Uzbek case markers can carry multiple semantic meanings, whereas Turkish cases are used in more specific contexts but have similar forms.

•   In Uzbek, the ablative case (dan) can indicate both time and cause. In Turkish, the equivalent (-den) usually refers to separation or origin.

Despite similarities in form and function, each language has unique features:

•   In both languages, the nominative case lacks a morphological marker.

•   The instrumental case in Uzbek is formed with the postpositional suffix -bilan, while in Turkish it is expressed with the word ile.

•   In Turkish, the genitive and possessive are often merged into one unit (kitabın kalemi), whereas in Uzbek, they are separate (kitobning ruchkasi).

•   The instrumental case in Uzbek is a developed case, whereas Turkish uses a structural postposition instead.

Syntactic Function Differences

In Uzbek, case usage is often obligatory in many contexts. In Turkish, certain cases (like accusative or instrumental) can sometimes be omitted, depending on the syntactic structure. This reflects broader differences in language structure and syntactic rules.

CONCLUSION

Although the case systems of Turkish and Uzbek stem from a common Turkic root, their current structures have evolved along distinct grammatical paths. Uzbek has more cases, and some functions are expressed

through suffixes. Turkish, on the other hand, uses postpositions for certain syntactic roles. These distinctions provide essential theoretical and practical insights for students, translators, and linguists studying both languages.

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