

Comparative Study of Pronouns in Russian And Karakalpak Languages

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative analysis of pronouns in Russian and Karakalpak, two typologically distinct languages. While Russian, a Slavic Indo-European language, utilizes an inflectional system marked by grammatical gender and extensive case usage, Karakalpak, a member of the Turkic language family, features agglutinative morphology and gender-neutral structures. The study explores various categories of pronouns including personal, possessive, demonstrative, reflexive, interrogative, indefinite, and relative pronouns. Through this comparison, key differences and similarities are highlighted, with a focus on morphological, syntactic, and semantic aspects. The research underscores how these languages encode meaning through different grammatical strategies and reflects on the implications for language learning and translation studies.

Keywords: Russian language, Karakalpak language, pronouns, comparative linguistics, personal pronouns, possessive pronouns, Turkic languages, Slavic languages, morphology, syntax.

Introduction: Languages across the world utilize pronouns as fundamental components of grammar to replace nouns and avoid repetition. In both Russian and Karakalpak—two languages from different language families—pronouns serve similar grammatical functions but differ in structure, categories, and usage. This article aims to offer a comparative analysis of the pronoun systems in Russian and Karakalpak, covering personal, possessive, demonstrative, reflexive, interrogative, indefinite, and relative pronouns. Through detailed examination, the study will identify structural, morphological, and semantic similarities and differences, while highlighting linguistic features rooted in their respective language families.

To begin with, personal pronouns in Russian and Karakalpak exhibit several noticeable differences and a few functional similarities. In Russian, personal pronouns are: я (I), ты (you singular informal), он/она/оно (he/she/it), мы (we), вы (you plural or formal), они (they). These pronouns vary depending on grammatical case—nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, instrumental, and prepositional—making Russian a highly inflected language. On the other hand, Karakalpak personal pronouns include: men (I), sen

(you singular), ol (he/she/it), bizler (we), sizler (you formal or plural), olar (they). Notably, unlike Russian, Karakalpak pronouns are marked by case endings rather than internal changes, and the language does not differentiate gender, simplifying agreement and reducing morphological variation. Furthermore, while Russian pronouns often reflect gender distinctions, especially in the third person singular (он/она/оно), Karakalpak uses a gender-neutral pronoun "ol" for all third person references. This difference reflects a broader typological divergence between Indo-European and Turkic languages [6, 153-158].

Moreover, both languages make use of possessive pronouns, but they differ in formation and agreement rules. Russian possessive pronouns—мой (my), твой (your), его (his), её (her), наш (our), ваш (your plural), их (their)—agree in gender, number, and case with the noun they modify. For example, "моя книга" (my book – feminine), "мой стол" (my table – masculine), and "моё окно" (my window – neuter) all use different forms of the possessive "my" depending on the noun's gender. Conversely, in Karakalpak, possessive pronouns are formed either as independent words or as suffixes attached to nouns: meniń (my), seniń (your),

onıń (his/her), bizlerdiń (our), sizlerdiń (your plural), olardıń (their). Additionally, possessive suffixes such as -im/-im (my), -ıń/-ıń (your), -ı/-ı (his/her) are attached directly to the noun. For instance, "kitabım" means "my book," where "-im" signifies first person singular possession. This agglutinative structure is typical of Turkic languages. Thus, although both languages express possession clearly, the means of doing so reflect their distinct morphological typologies: Russian relies on adjective-like pronouns with declensions, while Karakalpak uses possessive constructions via suffixation and pronoun-noun combinations.

In addition, demonstrative pronouns play a vital role in both languages, helping to point out specific entities in space or context. Russian employs *этот* (this), *тот* (that), and variations thereof, such as *эта*, *это*, *эти*, depending on gender and number. These pronouns are declined by case and must agree with the nouns they refer to. Karakalpak demonstratives include *bul* (this), *anaw* (that far), *mıraw* (this near), and *sol* (that), among others. They do not inflect for gender, as Karakalpak lacks grammatical gender, but they can change based on syntactic position or case. For example, "bul kitap" means "this book," while "ana adam" translates as "that person." A striking difference lies in the spatial deixis. Karakalpak has a more nuanced demonstrative system distinguishing proximity (near vs. far), whereas Russian relies more heavily on two basic distinctions (this vs. that). Consequently, Karakalpak's system allows for greater spatial precision [1, 59-69].

When it comes to reflexive pronouns, both Russian and Karakalpak express actions done by the subject upon itself. Russian has a single reflexive pronoun "себя" which inflects according to case but not number or gender. For instance, "он видит себя в зеркале" translates to "he sees himself in the mirror." In contrast, Karakalpak uses the reflexive pronoun "ózi" or "ózim" depending on the person, and it can be modified with possessive endings: "ózim" (myself), "óziń" (yourself), "ózi" (himself/herself), etc. Thus, reflexivity in Karakalpak is expressed in a more person-specific way, often clarified through suffixation. While both languages convey reflexivity effectively, Russian uses a uniform pronoun for all persons, while Karakalpak aligns reflexive pronouns with personal pronouns more directly.

Equally important are interrogative pronouns, which facilitate the formation of questions. Russian interrogative pronouns include: *кто* (who), *что* (what), *какой* (which), *чей* (whose), *сколько* (how many). These pronouns are inflected according to case and sometimes gender and number, particularly in "какой" and "чей." Karakalpak interrogative pronouns include

kim (who), *ne* (what), *qaysı* (which), *kimdiki* (whose), *qansha* (how many). These do not inflect for gender but may reflect case through particle usage or suffixation. For example, "Kim keldi?" (Who came?), "Ne boldı?" (What happened?). Interestingly, both languages distinguish between animate and inanimate entities when forming questions, especially in the accusative case. However, Karakalpak's lack of gender distinction simplifies interrogative constructions compared to Russian [3, 113-118].

In addition, both languages use indefinite and relative pronouns, though the means of forming them differ. Russian forms indefinite pronouns by adding particles such as *–то*, *–либо*, *–нибудь* to the interrogative base: *кто-то* (someone), *что-нибудь* (something), *какой-либо* (any kind). These forms allow speakers to express uncertainty or generalization. Karakalpak uses constructions such as *birew* (someone), *birnàre* (something), which are often independent lexical items rather than particle additions. For relative pronouns, Russian uses *который* (which/who), agreeing in gender, number, and case with the noun it modifies. Karakalpak, however, frequently relies on relative clauses introduced by words like "qanday" (which) or the participle-based constructions rather than dedicated relative pronouns. Therefore, Russian's system shows more morphological complexity due to inflection, while Karakalpak relies on syntactic strategies and analytic constructions.

From a broader typological perspective, the comparison reveals that Russian pronouns are more influenced by grammatical gender and case inflection. Russian uses internal morphological changes and has a rich declension system. Karakalpak, in contrast, uses agglutinative morphology, where suffixes are systematically added to roots. This results in more predictable and regular patterns in Karakalpak compared to the irregularities found in Russian. Additionally, the absence of gender in Karakalpak leads to simpler pronoun systems, especially in third person and possessive constructions. On the other hand, Russian pronouns often require learners to memorize various gendered forms, which increases the grammatical load.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comparative study of pronouns in Russian and Karakalpak languages illustrates both shared functional roles and distinct structural features. While both languages possess a comprehensive set of pronoun categories—personal, possessive, demonstrative, reflexive, interrogative, indefinite, and relative—their means of expression are shaped by their typological and grammatical systems. Russian's

inflectional complexity contrasts with Karakalpak's agglutinative regularity. Furthermore, the presence of grammatical gender in Russian introduces additional variation that is absent in Karakalpak. Despite these differences, both languages effectively use pronouns to maintain coherence, avoid redundancy, and express nuanced grammatical relationships. This comparison not only sheds light on linguistic diversity but also enriches our understanding of how different languages structure core elements of communication.

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