

# Semantic Differences Of Derivational Affixes In The Uzbek Language

Hamidova Bibigul Rabbimovna

Master's Degree, Senior Teacher of Uzbek Language and Literature, School No. 32, Samarkand City, Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the semantic differentiation of word-forming suffixes in the Uzbek language and their conversional relations. The study explains the synonymic, functional, stylistic, and semantic interchangeability of suffixes with illustrative examples. The synonymic relations of affixes such as -dor // -li // ser-, -gar // -chi, -lik // -chilik // -garchilik are discussed, as well as the tendency of functionally weakened suffixes to approach formal markers. Dialectal and stylistic alternations, along with changes in suffixes during the historical development of the language, are also examined. As a result, it is demonstrated that suffixal conversion enriches the vocabulary, diversifies expressive possibilities in speech, and strengthens the relationship between the literary language and dialects.

**Keywords:** Word formation, suffix, conversion, synonymic alternation, functional conversion, semantic differentiation.

**Introduction:** Word formation is one of the most productive branches of Uzbek morphology. Each word-forming suffix carries a specific lexical-grammatical meaning; however, their mutual conversional relations are also widely observed in the language. Conversion refers to the process in which suffixes substitute one another functionally or semantically, manifesting synonymy or semantic differentiation. As a result of this process, the vocabulary expands and speech expression becomes more diverse.

In the system of Uzbek morphology, word formation holds a special place. Thousands of new words are created with the help of derivational suffixes, thereby enriching the vocabulary of the language. At the same time, the interrelations among suffixes are noteworthy, as they may sometimes substitute one another synonymically or functionally. This phenomenon is referred to in linguistic literature as suffixal conversion. Conversion manifests itself through semantic and functional alternation, synonymy, and stylistic variation of affixes.

## Main Part

### 1. Synonymic Conversion

In the sources, many suffixes are noted to occur in synonymic relations:

-dor // -li // ser- express possession or abundance of a quality: aybdor – aybli (guilty), shirador – shirali (juicy), serunum – unumli (productive). Despite stylistic differences, they may substitute one another semantically.

-gar // -chi both form nouns denoting professions or occupations: holvagar – holvachi (confectioner), nag'magar – nag'machi (musician). However, in some cases they cannot substitute each other: hiylagar and hiylachi differ semantically.

-garchilik // -chilik // -lik appear in the formation of abstract nouns: sharmandachilik – sharmandalik – sharmandagarchilik (disgrace). Here, synonymic alternation is observed, but in xumorigarchilik substitution with -chilik or -lik is impossible.

### 2. Functional Conversion

In some cases, suffixes lose their semantic force and come closer to formal markers:

In the complex -gar+chi+lik (sovungarchilik, oshnaog'ayinchilik), the suffix -chi distances itself from its original meaning of denoting a person and functions as

a formal derivational element.

-v // -(i)sh // -moq interchange: aybloʻv – ayblash – ayblamoq (accusation – to accuse – to blame), qutlov – qutlash – qutlamoq (congratulation – to congratulate). Here, conversion occurs at the level of grammatical functions.

3. Stylistic and Dialectal Conversion Sources also note the interchangeability of some suffixes in dialects or stylistic layers:

-doʻz // -chi: etikdoʻz (shoemaker, literary) – etikchi (shoemaker, in Khorezm dialects).

-bon // -von: bogʻbon (gardener) – qoʻychi-von (shepherd).

Such alternations are linked to the historical development and phonetic variants of suffixes.

#### 4. Semantic Differentiation

Suffixes with similar or close meanings sometimes acquire different stylistic or semantic nuances: aybli // aybdor: both indicate “possession,” but the suffix -dor is more characteristic of formal and passive styles. Sharmandachilik // sharmandalik: synonymous, yet they differ stylistically. Oʻtloq // oʻtzor, olmaliq // olmazor: both denote “a place, location,” but the suffix -zor emphasizes abundance and multiplicity.

5. Complex Conversion certain suffixes enter into complex synonymic relations with one another: The triplet -lik // -chilik // -garchilik produces abstract nouns with different stylistic shades: mahmadonalik – mahmadonachilik – mahmadonagarchilik. The triplet -li // -dor // ser- also expresses possession and abundance: maʼzali – bamaza – mazador. Such triple alternations represent the most extensive form of conversion.

When examining the comparative-typological aspects of conversion, it becomes evident that the conversion of derivational suffixes in the Uzbek language is manifested as a common phenomenon within the Turkic language system. This demonstrates that suffixes are similar in form and meaning, and that the Turkic languages historically originated from a single root.

1. Conversion in Uzbek and Kazakh: In Kazakh, the suffixes -ly (-li) and -dy (-dor) express possessive and excessive meanings: aypdy (guilty), baily (wealthy). This phenomenon fully corresponds to the Uzbek -li, -dor, ser- series: aybli – aybdor – serayb. Similarly, the Kazakh suffix -shyq (-chilik) is widely used: dostyqshyq (friendship), which corresponds to Uzbek doʻstchilik.

2. Conversion in Uzbek and Turkish: In Turkish, the suffixes -ci and -lik participate in conversion: öğretmenlik – öğretmencilik (teaching profession –

being a teacher). This fully corresponds to the Uzbek ustozlik – ustozchilik series. In addition, the Turkish forms suçlu – suçsuz (guilty – innocent) with -lu (-li) and -suz (-siz) suffixes directly correspond to the Uzbek -li, -siz.

3. Conversion in Uzbek and Kyrgyz: In Kyrgyz, the suffixes -чы (-chi) and -gar appear within the same semantic field: oyunchy (player), oyungar (player, in an ironic sense). This is very close to the Uzbek nagʻmachi – nagʻmagar pair. Also, the Kyrgyz form bilimduu (knowledgeable) corresponds to the Uzbek bilimli. Here, the suffix -duu (-li) is active.

4. Comparison with Old Turkic: In Old Turkic monuments, conversion relations of suffixes are also observed. In *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* we find baliqçi (hunter), and in *Qutadghu Bilig* bilgeliy (knowledgeable). These suffixes remain active in modern Uzbek as ovchi, bilimli. The Old Turkic suffix -von has survived in modern Uzbek only in certain words (bogʻbon, qorovon), whereas it has not been widely used in other Turkic languages.

Comparative analysis shows that the conversion of derivational suffixes is a general characteristic of all Turkic languages. The suffixes -li, -dor, -chi, -lik are the most active conversion units in the Turkic languages. Unlike other Turkic languages, Uzbek has preserved specific conversion forms such as -garchilik, -zor, -von. These commonalities and differences reflect the historical development and interrelations of the Turkic languages. In Uzbek, word formation is one of the most productive areas of morphology, playing an important role in expanding the vocabulary of the language and making speech more expressive. Derivational suffixes participate not only in creating new words but also actively enrich the language through conversion processes.

The following scientific results were obtained in the course of the study:

1. Synonymic conversion is widespread, manifested in the interchange of suffixes such as -dor, -li, ser-, as well as -lik, -chilik, -garchilik. However, each has its own semantic or stylistic limitations.

2. In functional conversion, certain suffixes lose their semantic load and approach the status of formal suffixes. This phenomenon is clearly seen in -v, -(i)sh, -moq suffixes and in the -gar+chi+lik complex.

3. Stylistic and dialectal conversion shows that suffixes appear in different forms in literary language and dialects. This is connected with their historical development and phonetic variants.

4. Semantic differentiation proves that suffixes with close meanings carry different stylistic shades and

expressive functions: aybli – aybdor, sharmandachilik – sharmandalik, o'tloq – o'tzor.

5. Complex conversion creates multi-level synonymic series, generating ternary substitutions based on -lik, -chilik, -garchilik and -li, -dor, ser- suffixes.

6. Comparative-typological analysis shows that conversion is a common feature of Turkic languages, with Uzbek preserving distinctive forms such as -garchilik, -zor, -von.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, the conversion of derivational suffixes plays an important role in enriching the vocabulary of the language, ensuring semantic diversity, and shaping various stylistic layers. This phenomenon is significant not only from a theoretical perspective but also in practical fields such as lexicography, mother tongue education, and the study of speech stylistics. In addition, the conversion of word-forming suffixes is a phenomenon of great importance in Uzbek morphology, as it enables the synonymic, functional, stylistic, and semantic interchangeability of affixes. In the development of the language, such a phenomenon creates new semantic opportunities and strengthens the relationship between dialects and the literary language. Most importantly, due to conversion, the word-formation system becomes more productive, and speech expression becomes richer.

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