

The Lexical And Grammmatical Description Of Binomial Adjectival Expressions In English And Uzbek

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Abstract: This paper examines the lexical and grammatical characteristics of binomial adjectival expressions in English and Uzbek, focusing on their structural patterns, semantic relations, and typological similarities and differences. Binomial constructions, which consist of two coordinated adjectival components, represent a productive and expressive type of phraseological formation that reflects both linguistic and cultural dimensions of each language. The study aims to identify the morphological and syntactic organization of such units and to determine their role in expressing evaluative, emotional, and figurative meanings.

Keywords: Adjectival idioms, binomials, trinomials, irreversible binomials, reversible binomials.

Introduction: Binomial adjectival expressions (e.g., bright and beautiful, black and white, hot and cold) are fixed or semi-fixed collocations characterized by coordination and stylistic symmetry. These structures often reveal cultural stereotypes, emotive associations, and binary oppositions inherent in a language community. In Uzbek, similar constructions such as katta-kichik, oq-qora, or yaxshi-yomon demonstrate comparable semantic duality and rhythmic balance. The present research explores the lexical and grammatical peculiarities of such expressions in both languages, emphasizing their structural regularities, combinatory potential, and semantic-pragmatic functions.

Theoretical Background

In linguistics, binomial expressions are two-word coordinate units that are typically linked by conjunctions such as "and", "or" are used in a fixed sequence. These constructions are regarded as phraseological units, and are often referred to as "irreversible binomials", that is, fixed-order collocations. Makkai (1972) classifies such structures as lexically encoded constructions, emphasizing their semi-idiomatic and formulaic nature. Examples: alive and kicking/well (sog'-salomat), common or garden

(soddagina), cut and dried (taylor), died and gone (issiz g'oyib bo'lgan), done and dusted (tugatilgan), down and dirty (qo'pol, ochiqchasiga, har qanday yo'l bilan), down and out (yengilgan, nochor ahvolda), far and away (keskin ustunlik bilan), high and dry (yolg'iz qolgan, muammoga duch kelgan), high and mighty (dimog'dor), home and dry/hosed (maqsadga yetgan, muvaffaqiyatli yakunlagan), loud and clear (aniq va ravshan), on the up and up (rivojlanayotgan, yaxshilanayotgan), short and sweet(ozgina-sozgina). Such binomials are characterized by semantic unity, grammatical stability, and stylistic expressiveness. The word order within them is rigidly fixed, forming what is known as a fixed order structure. Malkiel (1959) emphasizes that these expressions represent semantically consistent and syntactically conventionalized units. Any alteration in the established sequence often leads to semantic disruption or pragmatic awkwardness. For instance, the phrase cut and dried ("ready and simple") is conventional, whereas dried and cut would sound unnatural or incorrect to native speakers.

Carter and McCarthy (1988) attribute this order fixation to cognitive salience, cultural convention, and phonological harmony. The preferred sequence, therefore, reflects both linguistic and extra-linguistic

factors — including prosodic rhythm, semantic hierarchy, and socio-cultural coding. Within the system of fixed expressions, however, certain deviations from the usual ordering principles can occur. In some cases, components of a binomial expression may appear in reversed order without loss of intelligibility. R. Nordquist provides a clear distinction between such types. When the words in a pair always appear in a specific order, and reversing them produces an unnatural or incorrect result, the expression is termed an irreversible binomial. Conversely, if the two elements can be interchanged without affecting naturalness or meaning, the expression is known as a reversible binomial. For example, in the newspaper headline “Cold and snow grip the nation,” the sequence cold and snow may be identified as a binomial, since both elements are lexically coordinated and occupy the same syntactic level. However, the order here is not fixed: the speaker may easily reverse it (snow and cold) or substitute other semantically related items (wind, ice), which indicates a reversible relationship.

In contrast, in odds and ends (“small miscellaneous items”), the order of elements is so fixed that any inversion (ends and odds) renders the phrase virtually unintelligible. Thus, odds and ends represents a prototypical case of an irreversible binomial.

METHODS AND RESULTS

Adjectival binomial expressions are symmetric constructions of the form adjective + and + adjective. In phraseology, symmetry functions as a stylistic and structural device that enhances rhythmic balance, highlights contrast or similarity, and intensifies expressive meaning. For instance, English expressions such as safe and sound (“unharmful, intact”) or high and mighty (“arrogant”) and their Uzbek counterparts baland-past (“high and low”) and kambagʻal-u nochor (“poor and helpless”) demonstrate how symmetry contributes to semantic and stylistic reinforcement.

Lexically, the components of adjectival binomials are semantically interrelated and may express various types of meaning relations. Fernando and Flavell classify adjectival binomials into three principal types:

a) Synonymic binomials: happy and cheerful, safe and secure, free and independent;

b) Antonymic binomials: hot and cold, thick and thin, young and old, high and low;

c) Reduplicative binomials: more and more, neck and neck, out and out, stronger and stronger.

These binomials are often employed as stylistic devices and frequently acquire connotative meanings beyond their literal sense. For instance, the phrase black and blue not only denotes colors but also conveys a

figurative meaning — “bruised, beaten, or badly injured.” Such expressions thus extend their semantic scope through metaphorical transfer, becoming integral components of the idiomatic system of the language.

Grammatically, both English and Uzbek binomial adjectival expressions display coordination through conjunctions or juxtaposition:

- **English:** usually joined by and (e.g., safe and sound), forming coordinate structures that function as attributive or predicative modifiers.

- **Uzbek:** coordination may occur via the conjunction va or through reduplicative juxtaposition (e.g., katta-kichik), often functioning adjectivally within nominal phrases.

From a syntactic perspective, English binomial adjectives may serve as:

- **Pre-modifiers:** a clean and tidy room

- **Predicatives:** The house is clean and tidy.

In Uzbek, such expressions also appear as pre-modifiers (katta-kichik odamlar) or as predicatives (Hamma katta-kichik quvondi).

Semantically, binomial adjectival units convey:

- **Evaluation and emotion:** nice and easy, sokin-tinch

- **Contrast and opposition:** rich and poor, oq-qora

- **Idiomaticity:** certain combinations develop figurative meanings, e.g., safe and sound → “completely unharmed,” yaxshi-yomon → “everyone, regardless of status.”

Functionally, these expressions enrich stylistic texture, enhance rhythm, and intensify expressiveness. Their fixed order contributes to their phraseological stability, a hallmark of idiomatic usage.

While English relies heavily on conjunctive coordination and phonological balance, Uzbek tends toward morphological reduplication and rhythmical parallelism. Both languages, however, employ binomial adjectival structures as mechanisms for expressing cognitive binaries, evaluative polarity, and emotional nuance.

Typologically, the two systems reveal shared universal tendencies — semantic symmetry, idiomatic fixation, and figurative potential — yet differ in their morphological realization and phonological motivation.

CONCLUSION

Binomial adjectival expressions represent a significant subset of phraseological units in both English and Uzbek, characterized by lexical pairing, grammatical

coordination, and idiomatic meaning. Their study contributes to the broader understanding of how languages encode evaluation, symmetry, and expressiveness through fixed combinatory patterns. The comparative linguistic analysis demonstrates that despite typological differences, both languages share a deep structural and semantic tendency toward parallelism, contrast, and metaphorical intensification.

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