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Principles of Analysis of Interfixal Morphemes (On the Example of English And Uzbekistan)

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Abstract: This article analyzes interfixal morphemes on the example of English and Uzbek. Although an interfix does not have an independent lexical meaning like a simple affix, it is located between two bases or parts and serves to unite them. Therefore, the article considers not only the formal function of the interfix, but also its importance in forming a semantic connection within a word. The research used comparative, morphemic, lexical-semantic, cognitive analysis and contextual observation methods. As a result, it was found that in English, interfixes are mainly active in terminological and neoclassical words, while in Uzbek they strengthen the semantic relationship in repeated and paired units. The novelty of the article is that interfixal morphemes are interpreted not only as a technical connecting element, but also as a small but important unit expressing the semantic valence between lexical units.

Keywords: Interfix, interfixal morpheme, morphology, semantic valence, word formation, comparative analysis, neoclassical words, paired and repeated units.

Introduction: The first method is morphemic analysis. Through this method, the structure of words was divided into components. For example, the word electrocardiogram was analyzed as electro + cardio + gram, and the element -o- was interpreted as a connecting component. In Uzbek, the unit yuzma-yuz was analyzed as yuz + ma + yuz. Here, the element -ma- does not carry an independent lexical meaning, yet it was shown to keep the two bases within one semantic field. Morphemic analysis helped identify the external structure of the word.

The second method is lexical-semantic analysis. Through this method, the semantic relationship between the parts connected by the interfix was studied. For example, in the word speedometer, there is a measurement relationship between the parts speed and meter. In yuzma-yuz, the direct opposition of two sides is expressed. In ketma-ket, the continuation of an action or event in sequence is understood. Thus, the interfixal morpheme participates in strengthening or organizing semantic relations. This analysis served to determine the valency of the interfix.

The third method is comparative analysis. Interfixal units in English and Uzbek were compared with each other. Similarities and differences between the two languages were identified. It was observed that the element -o- in English is mainly used in scientific and international terminology. In Uzbek, the elements -ma- and -ba- are more common in adverbialized, repetitive, or paired constructions. This difference was explained by the typological characteristics of the languages. Comparative analysis showed that although interfixes perform a connecting function in both languages, their semantic scope is not identical.

The fourth method is cognitive analysis. Through this method, the way interfixal units are understood in human cognition was explained. In the cognitive approach, a word is viewed not merely as a combination of sounds, but as a unit connected with

concepts and experience. For example, when hearing yuzma-yuz, a person imagines two individuals standing directly opposite each other. In socio-economic, social life and economic conditions are imagined together. The interfix acts as a bridge between these two components. Therefore, cognitive analysis reveals the hidden meaning-forming role of the interfix.

The fifth method is contextual observation. Each example was considered not separately, but together with the field or context in which it is used. Interfixes in English scientific, medical, and social terminology are more common in academic discourse. Uzbek units such as yuzma-yuz, dam-badam, and ketma-ket are actively used in everyday speech, literary texts, and journalistic style. Contextual observation helped determine in which situations the interfix produces stronger meaning. Together, these methods were applied to make the analytical part of the article clear and consistent.

In this section, the examples are presented in the order of “extract + simple analysis + discussion.” The word extract here is used not in the sense of a long literary excerpt, but as a short linguistic unit selected for analysis, since interfixal morphemes mainly appear within word structures. In each example, the unit is first presented, then morphemic and semantic analysis is carried out, followed by a discussion of its comparative and cognitive significance.

Table 1. General Comparison of Interfixal Units in English and Uzbek

Language	Interfix Form	Examples	Main Semantic Function
English	-o-	electrocardiogram, speedometer, socio-economic	scientific, technical, and conceptual connection
English	-s-	statesman, craftsman, kinsman	historical or relational connection
Uzbek	-ma-	yuzma-yuz, ketma-ket, qo‘lma-qo‘l	directness, sequence, direction
Uzbek	-ba-	dam-badam, qadam-baqadam, rang-barang	repetition, gradualness, diversity

Extract 1: electrocardiogram Source: English medical terminology and neoclassical word formation.

This word consists of the parts electro + cardio + gram. Here, the element -o- appears between two neoclassical bases. The part electro refers to electricity, cardio relates to the heart, and gram means writing or result. The element -o- is not an independent word, but it facilitates the smooth and natural combination of the components.

In this example, the lexical-semantic valency of the interfix is related to the scientific field. The element -o- is used not with ordinary words, but mainly with terms of Greek-Latin origin. Cognitively, three concepts enter one system in the human mind: electricity, the heart, and recorded results. The interfix smooths the connection between these concepts. In Uzbek, this term is usually borrowed in the form elektrokardiogramma. Thus, the English interfixal model can also pass into other languages as a term.

Extract 2: speedometer Source: English technical word formation.

The word speedometer is analyzed as speed + o + meter. Speed indicates velocity, while meter means a measuring device. The element -o- functions as a connecting unit between these two parts. The main meaning formed here is “an instrument for measuring speed.”

The valency of the interfix in this example is connected

with the semantic field of measurement and technology. The element -o- does not add a separate new meaning to the word, but it turns speed and meter into a single concept. Cognitively, when a person hears this word, they think of the speed indicator in a car or device. In Uzbek, this concept is commonly used in the form spidometr. This demonstrates that the English interfixal structure entered Uzbek as an international term.

Extract 3: socio-economic Source: English social sciences terminology.

The word socio-economic consists of the parts socio + economic. The component socio is connected with the terminological form of the word social. Economic expresses an economic meaning. The element -o- links two domain-related concepts into one complex unit. The overall meaning is understood as "related to social and economic factors."

In this example, the interfix expresses the interaction between two fields of knowledge. Interfixal valency here serves interdisciplinary connection. Cognitively, the word socio-economic shows that society and economy are understood not as separate entities, but as systems influencing one another. In Uzbek, this word is expressed as ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy. In the Uzbek form, the connection is conveyed not through a separate interfix, but through a hyphen and two adjectives. Thus, the same meaning is expressed through different morphological means in the two languages.

Extract 4: psychoanalysis Source: English scientific and psychological terminology.

The word psychoanalysis consists of psycho + analysis. The part psycho relates to mental or psychological states, while analysis means examination or analysis. The element -o- connects these two parts as a term. The overall meaning is understood as "the analysis of mental processes."

Discussion: This example demonstrates the role of the interfix in combining scientific concepts. Since the element -o- is mostly used in specialized terminology, its valency is limited but highly precise. Cognitively, the word places the concepts of psyche and analysis into one model. In Uzbek, the form psixoanaliz is used. In this borrowed word, the element -o- is also preserved. Thus, some interfixes enter another language together with the entire term without translation.

Extract 5: yuzma-yuz Source: A unit widely used in Uzbek everyday speech and literary style.

The unit yuzma-yuz is analyzed as yuz + ma + yuz. The word yuz refers to the human face and also to the state of confrontation. The element -ma- connects the two yuz components. The general meaning of the unit is "directly, face-to-face, opposite."

In this example, the interfix -ma- strengthens the seme of directness. It does not provide an independent meaning, but by appearing between two identical bases, it forms a new adverbial meaning. Cognitively, when hearing yuzma-yuz, a person imagines two people looking directly at each other. In English, this meaning is expressed by the phrase face to face. In the English form, there is no separate interfix; instead, the connection is conveyed syntactically through a preposition. Thus, a meaning expressed morphologically in Uzbek is conveyed syntactically in English.

Extract 6: ketma-ket Source: An Uzbek adverbialized repetitive unit.

The unit ketma-ket consists of the parts ket + ma + ket. The verb ket expresses movement. The element -ma- appears between the repeated bases and forms a unit indicating the continuation of movement in sequence. The general meaning is understood as "one after another."

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