

# General Characteristics of Uzbek Language Morphology

Mirzakarimova Zamira Dadamatovna

Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the general characteristics of Uzbek language morphology. The morphological system of the Uzbek language, characteristic of Turkic languages, is based on an agglutinative structure, which allows for the expression of grammatical meanings by adding affixes to words. The article examines key aspects such as the word-formation system, types of affixes (suffixes, prefixes), grammatical categories (person, tense, number, state), and the agglutinative nature of the morphological system. Furthermore, it analyzes the changes occurring in morphology during the language's development, including new words used in contemporary Uzbek and its various domains. This article aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of Uzbek language morphology.

**Keywords:** Uzbek language, morphology, word formation, affixes, agglutinative structure, parts of speech, person, tense, number, grammar, linguistics, semantics, grammatical categories, agglutination.

**Introduction:** The general characteristics of Uzbek language morphology are related to the fundamental elements that constitute the language's grammatical structure and their interrelationships. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that defines the structure, formation, inflection, and grammatical relations between words. The unique features of Uzbek language morphology are particularly linked to its belonging to the Turkic language family. This article will examine the main characteristics of the Uzbek morphological system, its role in word formation, the significance of affixes, the expression of grammatical categories, and the agglutinative nature of its morphological system.

Word formation (derivation) plays a crucial role in the morphology of the Uzbek language. New words are created through the help of various affixes (suffixes, prefixes). These affixes primarily form verbs, adjectives, nouns, and other parts of speech. The main methods of word formation include:

- **Affixation:** Words acquire new forms by adding morphemes (affixes).

- **Verb Formation:** Affixes expressing grammatical categories such as tense, person, number, and state are widely used in verbs. For instance, from the verb *yaz* (to write), forms like *yaz-gan* (wrote) or *yaz-ish* (writing/to write) are derived.

- **Noun Formation:** Many suffixes are used to form nouns in the Uzbek language. For example, *kitob* (book), *kitob-chi* (bookseller/librarian), *o'qituv-chi* (teacher).

- **Adjective Formation:** Adjectives gain new meanings by adding affixes to verbs and nouns. For instance, the suffix *-gan* added to the verb *ko'r-* (to see) forms the word *ko'r-gan* (one who has seen/seen). Adding *-li* to *aq-l* (mind/intellect) forms *aq-lli* (intelligent).

Affixes hold significant importance in Uzbek language morphology. Affixes change the part of speech, form, or grammatical meanings of a word. The main types of affixes in Uzbek are:

- **Suffixes:** Affixes added to the end of a word to change its meaning. For example, *-chi* (as in *o'qituvchi* - teacher), *-lar* (as in *kitoblar* - books, plural), *-ga* (as in *maktabga* - to school, dative case), *-dan* (as in *uyidan* -

from his/her house, ablative case), and others.

- **Prefixes:** Affixes added to the beginning of a word in some cases. For example, no- (as in no'xush - unpleasant), qayta- (as in qayta tiklash - to restore). However, prefixes are less common in Uzbek compared to suffixes.

- **Infixes:** This type of affix is not widely used in the Uzbek language, but some interna

Affixes enable the modification of a word's meaning by changing its part of speech or its form. For example, if the suffix -chi is added to the noun kitob (book), it forms kitobchi (a person who reads or sells books).

Words in the Uzbek language express various grammatical categories, which define their grammatical functions:

- **Person:** Affixes used to express person in verbs. For example, men yozaman (I write), sen yozasan (you write).

- **Tense:** Verbs in Uzbek are expressed through tenses: present, past, and future. Examples: yozmoq (to write, present tense), yozdi (wrote, past tense), yozadi (will write, future tense).

- **Number:** The category of number is expressed in nouns, pronouns, and adjectives in Uzbek: singular and plural. For example: bir (one), ikki (two), uch (three), kitob-lar (books), uy-lar (houses).

- **State and Condition:** Words have morphological forms to indicate their state or condition. For example: yaxshi ko'rish (to like/love, state), agar u kelsa (if he comes, condition), o'qib chiqdi (read through, indicating completion of action).

- **Transitivity/Intransitivity:** Verbs can be transitive (requiring a direct object) or intransitive (not requiring a direct object). For example, "Men kitobni o'qidim" (I read the book - transitive), "U yugurdi" (He ran - intransitive).

The morphological structure of the Uzbek language is agglutinative (affixing). This means that grammatical meaning-bearing affixes are attached to words in a specific order, and each affix typically expresses only one grammatical meaning. Affixes are easily attached to and detached from the word stem.

For example, in the word o'qituv-chi-lar-ga (to the teachers): o'qit- is the root (to teach), -uv is a word-forming suffix, -chi is a suffix indicating a profession, -

lar denotes plurality, and -ga indicates the dative case (direction). Each affix expresses a distinct grammatical meaning, and they combine to form complex word forms. This characteristic distinguishes the Uzbek language from many other languages.

The Uzbek language, like all languages, is in a constant state of development. Morphological changes are also observed at the morphological level in contemporary Uzbek:

- **Neologisms:** The emergence of new words and the affixes attached to them. For example, kompyuter-chi (computer user/specialist), onlayn-dars-lar (online lessons).

- **Adaptation of Borrowed Words:** Words borrowed from English are adapting to Uzbek grammar. For example, menejer-lar (managers), brend-lar (brands).

- **Influence of Jargon and Slang:** Unique morphological forms are appearing in the speech of youth and various social groups (e.g., distortion or simplification of affixes in contemporary slang).

- **Language Normalization:** With the strengthening of its role as the state language, there is an increased focus on morphological normalization, i.e., adherence to grammatical rules.

Uzbek language morphology possesses characteristics typical of Turkic languages, distinguished by an effective word-formation system, extensive use of affixes, clear expression of grammatical categories, and its agglutinative nature. This system defines the grammatical structure of the Uzbek language. While morphological changes continue in contemporary Uzbek, with the emergence of new words and the adaptation of borrowed words to its grammar, these changes do not fundamentally alter the overall morphological structure of the language. A deeper study of Uzbek language morphology contributes to understanding its developmental tendencies and facilitates its corr.

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