LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF DIMINUTIVE AND ENDEARMENT FORMS IN UZBEK

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Abstract. This article examines the linguocultural features of Uzbek diminutive and endearment forms through examples from family and everyday communication. It explores how forms such as *bolajon*, *qizaloq*, and *ukajon*, including terms of address formed with the suffix *-jon*, convey affection, warmth, and interpersonal closeness. The analysis considers the lexical meaning, affective connotations, and address functions of these forms in context. For example, *qizaloq* denotes a young girl in a descriptive context and can convey affection when used in direct address. The form *ukajon* illustrates how a kinship term can express warmth toward the addressee. The article relates the cultural meanings of these forms to the age and relationship of the speakers and to the communicative situation.

Keywords. *linguocultural features, Uzbek, forms of address, affective meaning, cultural connotation, family communication, communicative context.*

Introduction

In Uzbek family and everyday communication, the way a speaker names or addresses someone can convey affection, familiarity, or respect. Forms such as *bolajon*, *qizaloq*, and *ukajon* illustrate how information about the person and the speaker's attitude can be expressed together. For example, *qizaloq* can identify a young girl in a descriptive sentence and convey warmth when used to address her directly. Uzbek descriptions of these forms identify *-jon* in terms such as *bolajon* and *ukajon*, and *-(a)loq* in forms such as *qizaloq*.

A linguocultural analysis examines how the meanings of these forms relate to the social situations in which they are used. A speaker addressing a child as *bolajon* may convey care or reassurance, while the use of *ukajon* between siblings can express affection within a relationship already identified by the kinship term *uka* 'younger brother'. In each instance, the expression's interpersonal meaning depends partly on who is speaking, who is being addressed, and what the speaker is doing in that moment.

This article examines how selected Uzbek diminutive and endearment forms express affection and interpersonal closeness. It uses constructed examples of family and everyday communication to compare three features: the lexical base of each form, the meaning contributed by the suffix, and the function of the expression in context. Particular attention is paid to the distinction between reference and direct address.

Main part: The form *qizaloq*, built from *qiz* 'girl' and *-aloq*, illustrates how a diminutive form can convey information about age and acquire an affectionate tone in context. In *Hovlida bir qizaloq o'ynab yurardi* ('A little girl was playing in the courtyard'), the word characterizes the person being described as a young girl. In *Qizaloq, bu yoqqa kel* ('Come here, little girl'), the same word addresses the child directly. A familiar relationship and a gentle tone can make affection more prominent in the second example.

The comparison shows how the shift from third-person reference to direct address changes what the expression does. In the descriptive sentence, *qizaloq* tells the reader something about the person. In direct address, it also helps set the tone of the interaction. The wording establishes that the child is being addressed. The speaker's manner of delivery and relationship with the child help determine whether the address sounds affectionate, protective, or simply familiar.

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The forms *bolajon* and *ukajon* contain the element *-jon*, which can contribute an affectionate meaning to terms of address. Their lexical bases identify different kinds of social relationships. *Bola* refers to a child, while *uka* identifies a younger brother in its kinship sense. The derived forms therefore express warmth through different kinds of reference.

In *Bolajon, qo'rqma, men shu yerdaman* ('Don't be afraid, dear child. I'm right here'), the address accompanies reassurance. *Bolajon* helps establish the caring tone of the utterance, while the following words make the purpose of the reassurance explicit. In *Ukajon, menga bir oz yordam bera olasanmi?* ('Dear brother, could you help me for a moment?'), the affectionate address accompanies a request. Within an exchange between siblings, the form can signal familiarity and warmth, while the interrogative structure also contributes to the politeness of the request.

These examples illustrate the value of examining the address form alongside the rest of the utterance. In the first example, affection supports reassurance. In the second, it accompanies a request within a family relationship. The suffix contributes an affective meaning, and the surrounding words establish what that meaning accomplishes in the interaction.

The cultural significance of the selected forms is visible in how they express relationships within ordinary interactions. A kinship-based address such as *ukajon* can express both a family relationship and the speaker's warmth toward the addressee. A form such as *bolajon* can accompany reassurance directed at a child. *Qizaloq* links a description of age with the possibility of affectionate address. Together, the examples show how age, kinship, and interpersonal closeness can become relevant to the interpretation of a single word.

A contextual analysis asks who uses the form, whom it refers to, and what speech act it accompanies. This is particularly important when assessing its affective meaning. A word embedded in a narrative description may foreground the referent's age, while the same word at the beginning of an utterance may help establish a tone of familiarity. In spoken interaction, intonation can further shape that interpretation. The written examples illustrate these possibilities through wording and context.

Conclusion

The analysis of *qizaloq*, *bolajon*, and *ukajon* shows how selected Uzbek diminutive and endearment forms connect lexical meaning with interpersonal stance. *Qizaloq* can describe a young girl and acquire an affectionate tone in direct address. In *bolajon* and *ukajon*, *-jon* contributes warmth to forms based on a term for a child and a kinship term, respectively. Whether that warmth supports reassurance, accompanies a request, or signals familiarity depends on the communicative situation.

The linguocultural significance of these forms lies in how they make age, kinship, and closeness relevant to everyday speech. Their interpretation requires attention to the lexical base, the suffix, the position of the form in the utterance, and the relationship between the participants. The study illustrates these patterns through constructed examples. Further analysis of naturally occurring Uzbek conversations could examine how consistently the interpretations recur across age groups, family relationships, and speech situations.

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