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# THE TYPOLOGY OF WORDS (PARTS OF SPEECH) IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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**Abstract**

This article deals with the comparative-typological study of words taken separately (parts of speech) in English and Uzbek. The paper examines the classification of words into grammatical classes, their morphological and semantic characteristics, and the typological similarities and differences between the two languages, which belong to different language families — English to the Germanic group of Indo-European languages, and Uzbek to the Turkic language family. The study is of great importance for contrastive linguistics, lexicology, and foreign language teaching.

**Key words:** word, part of speech, typology, morphology, lexical-grammatical class, noun, verb, adjective, agglutination, analytic language.

## Introduction

A word is the smallest independent unit of language that has both a lexical meaning and a grammatical form, capable of functioning as a part of a sentence. The classification of words into parts of speech (lexical-grammatical classes) is one of the central problems of general and comparative linguistics, since it reflects how a language organizes its vocabulary according to meaning, form, and syntactic function.

English and Uzbek differ considerably in their morphological type. English is predominantly an analytic language, in which grammatical relations are expressed mainly through word order, auxiliary words, and a relatively poor system of inflections. Uzbek, on the other hand, is an agglutinative language, in which grammatical meanings are expressed by adding a chain of suffixes to an unchangeable root or stem. These typological differences are clearly reflected in the structure, forms, and grammatical categories of words belonging to different parts of speech in the two languages.

## Main Part

### 1. General Classification of Parts of Speech

In both English and Uzbek, words are traditionally divided into two large groups: notional (content) words and functional (form) words.

**Notional words** carry an independent lexical meaning and can function as members of a sentence. To this group belong: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, numeral, and pronoun.

**Functional words** do not have an independent lexical meaning but serve to express grammatical relations between notional words. To this group belong: preposition/postposition, conjunction, particle, article (in English), and interjection.

This basic division is common to both languages and represents a typologically universal feature, while the internal composition and grammatical behaviour of each class differ considerably.

### 2. The Noun (Ot) in English and Uzbek

In English, the noun has the grammatical categories of number (singular/plural, e.g., book – books) and case is expressed only in the possessive form (the boy's book) or analytically through prepositions (of, to, for). The category of gender in English is mostly notional (he/she/it) and is not expressed by the noun's form itself, with rare exceptions.

In Uzbek, the noun (ot) has a much richer system of grammatical categories expressed through suffixes: the category of number (kitob – kitoblar), the category of case (six cases: bosh, qaratqich, tushum, jo‘nalish, o‘rin-payt, chiqish kelishiklari, e.g., kitob, kitobning, kitobni, kitobga, kitobda, kitobdan), the category of possession (egalik affixlari: kitobim, kitobing, kitobi), and the category of predicativeness (kesimlik shakllari). Uzbek has no grammatical category of gender at all.

Typologically, this shows that English expresses many grammatical meanings analytically (through prepositions and word order), whereas Uzbek expresses the same meanings synthetically, by attaching a sequence of suffixes to the noun stem — a clear manifestation of agglutination.

**3. The Verb (Fe‘l) in English and Uzbek**

The English verb has a developed system of analytic forms: tense, aspect, voice, and mood are expressed mainly through auxiliary verbs combined with the main verb (e.g., has written, is writing, will be done, would have come). The number of purely synthetic (inflectional) forms is limited (e.g., -s, -ed, -ing).

In Uzbek, the verb (fe‘l) expresses tense, person, number, mood, and voice mainly through suffixes added to the verb stem (yoz-di-m, o‘qi-yap-man, kel-a-di, ish-la-t-il-di). Compound and analytic verb forms also exist (yozib oldi, o‘qib chiqdi), but the core grammatical meanings are typically synthetic/agglutinative.

Both languages distinguish finite and non-finite forms of the verb (English: infinitive, gerund, participle; Uzbek: harakat nomi, ravishdosh, sifatdosh), and in both languages these non-finite forms play an important role in forming complex syntactic constructions.

**4. The Adjective, Adverb, and Numeral**

In English, adjectives have degrees of comparison expressed either synthetically (-er, -est: big – bigger – biggest) or analytically (more/most: beautiful – more beautiful – most beautiful), and adjectives do not change for number, gender, or case.

In Uzbek, adjectives (sifat) are also unchangeable in themselves, but degrees of comparison are formed through specific suffixes and analytic means (-roq: kattaroq; eng + adjective: eng katta; juda + adjective: juda katta), which is partly similar to the English analytic comparative/superlative.

Adverbs in English are often formed by adding the suffix -ly to adjectives (quick – quickly), while in Uzbek adverbs (ravish) are formed in various ways, including reduplication (asta-sekin), compounding, and conversion from other parts of speech, with relatively few specialised adverb-forming suffixes.

Numerals in both languages are divided into cardinal and ordinal numbers; in English ordinal numerals are formed mainly with the suffix -th (four – fourth), while in Uzbek they are formed with the suffix -inchi (to‘rt – to‘rtinchi), showing a similar but language-specific pattern of suffixation.

**5. The Pronoun and Functional Words**

English pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, we, they, etc.) have a developed system of case forms (I – me, he – him, who – whom). Uzbek pronouns (men, sen, u, biz, siz, ular) decline according to the same case system as nouns, taking the same case suffixes (meni, menga, mendan, and so on), which again demonstrates the agglutinative nature of Uzbek.

A major typological difference is found in functional words expressing spatial, temporal, and other relations: English uses prepositions placed before the noun (in the house, on the table, with a friend), while Uzbek uses postpositions and case suffixes placed after the noun (uyda, stol ustida,

do‘st bilan). This corresponds to the general typological tendency of English as a prepositional language and Uzbek as a postpositional language.

English also possesses the article (a/an, the) as a separate functional word expressing definiteness/indefiniteness, a category which is absent in Uzbek as a separate part of speech; in Uzbek, definiteness/indefiniteness is expressed through other lexical and grammatical means, such as word order, the numeral bir (‘one’), or context.

**6. Comparative-Typological Summary**

**a) Morphological type.** English words are characterised by a relatively poor inflectional system and a strong tendency toward analytical (multi-word) grammatical forms, while Uzbek words are characterised by a rich, regular system of agglutinative suffixes attached to an invariable root.

**b) Grammatical categories.** Categories such as case, possession, and predicativeness are fully developed in the Uzbek noun system through suffixes, whereas in English the same meanings are often expressed by separate words (prepositions, possessive constructions, auxiliary verbs).

**c) Word order and relational words.** English relies on prepositions and a relatively fixed SVO word order to show relations between words, while Uzbek relies on case suffixes and postpositions, combined with a flexible but generally SOV word order.

**d) Conversion and word formation.** Both languages make use of conversion (a word changing its part of speech without changing its form, e.g., English to water – water; Uzbek tongda – tong as adverb/noun), but English shows this phenomenon to a much greater extent due to its analytic structure and lack of obligatory part-of-speech-marking suffixes.

**Conclusion**

The comparative-typological analysis of words (parts of speech) in English and Uzbek shows that, although both languages share a common, typologically universal division into notional and functional words and similar lexical-grammatical classes (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, numeral, pronoun, and so on), the formal means by which these classes express their grammatical categories differ fundamentally. English, as an analytic language, tends to express grammatical meaning through word order, auxiliary words, prepositions, and a limited set of inflections, while Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, expresses the same meanings synthetically, through a regular and productive system of suffixes attached to invariable roots. Recognising these typological correspondences and differences is essential for translation practice, contrastive grammar, and the effective teaching of English grammar to Uzbek-speaking learners, since many typical learner errors arise precisely from the unconscious transfer of agglutinative patterns into the analytic structure of English, and vice versa.

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