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GRAMMATICAL-SYNTACTIC MEANS OF EXPRESSING PERSONAL IDENTITY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK INTERNET DISCOURSE

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Abstract: This article examines the grammatical-syntactic means used to express personal identity in English- and Uzbek-language internet discourse. The study focuses on profile names and biographical descriptions collected from social media platforms and analyses how grammatical structures contribute to online self-presentation. The findings identify several recurrent patterns, including possessive constructions, relational identity constructions, attributive noun phrases, elliptical structures, imperative constructions, and personal-pronoun constructions. These forms enable users to represent their social roles, family relationships, professional aspirations, personal qualities, values, and group affiliations in concise and recognizable ways. The comparative analysis demonstrates that English and Uzbek employ structurally different grammatical resources to perform similar identity-related functions. English predominantly relies on analytic constructions, such as possessive determiners, the genitive marker ’s, prepositional phrases, and fixed word order. Uzbek, by contrast, more frequently uses agglutinative forms, particularly possessive suffixes and genitive–possessive constructions. The results also indicate that English-language profiles tend to emphasize individual interests, lifestyles, and professional aspirations, whereas Uzbek-language profiles more often foreground family roles and collective belonging. The study concludes that grammatical organization is a central component of digital self-representation and plays an important role in constructing personal identity in internet discourse.

Keywords: personal identity, internet discourse, grammatical-syntactic means, online self-presentation, possessive constructions, relational identity, English language, Uzbek language, social media discourse.

Introduction. The rapid development of digital communication has fundamentally transformed the ways in which individuals construct and present their identities. Social networking platforms such as Instagram, Telegram, YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok have become important environments for self-presentation, enabling users to communicate not only information about themselves but also their values, social affiliations, professional roles, and personal aspirations. In these virtual spaces, identity is no longer expressed solely through face-to-face interaction but is continuously negotiated and reconstructed through linguistic choices embedded in profile names, biographies, captions, and other forms of online discourse.

The relationship between language and identity has been extensively discussed in discourse studies, sociolinguistics, and digital communication research. Previous studies have demonstrated that identity is not a fixed personal attribute but a dynamic social construct that emerges through language use and interaction. Scholars have shown that online discourse provides unique opportunities for individuals to perform multiple identities and strategically shape how they are

perceived by others. Consequently, the linguistic resources employed in internet discourse have become an important object of contemporary linguistic research.

Although numerous studies have examined lexical, stylistic, and pragmatic aspects of identity construction in digital communication, comparatively little attention has been devoted to the grammatical mechanisms underlying this process. However, grammatical constructions themselves serve as meaningful linguistic resources that enable users to encode social roles, interpersonal relationships, personal values, and group affiliations in concise yet highly informative forms.

Within internet discourse, identity is frequently realized through grammatical patterns such as possessive constructions (*My Dream*, *Bella's Lifestyle*), relational constructions (*Mom of Two*, *dadasining erkasi*), attributive noun phrases (*Lifelong Learner*, *Proud Mom*), elliptical constructions (*Teacher | Traveler | Reader*), imperative constructions (*Dream. Believe. Achieve.*) and personal pronoun constructions (*We Travel Together*). These constructions perform not only grammatical functions but also important discourse-pragmatic functions by enabling users to construct recognizable online personas and communicate multiple dimensions of identity within the limited textual space available on digital platforms.

This article aims to investigate the grammatical-syntactic means of expressing personal identity in English and Uzbek internet discourse. Based on a corpus of profile names, biographies, and self-descriptive texts collected from major social networking platforms, the study identifies the principal grammatical constructions employed in online self-presentation and examines their structural characteristics, communicative functions, and identity-building potential. Furthermore, the research provides a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek, revealing both universal and language-specific grammatical strategies used in the linguistic construction of personal identity in contemporary internet discourse.

Methods. The article employs a qualitative comparative research design to investigate the grammatical-syntactic means of expressing personal identity in English and Uzbek internet discourse. The analysis is based on descriptive, structural, comparative, and discourse-analytical methods. The descriptive method is used to identify and classify grammatical constructions, while the structural method examines their grammatical organization. The comparative method reveals similarities and differences between English and Uzbek identity constructions, and discourse analysis is applied to interpret their communicative and identity-building functions in online interaction.

Results and Discussion. The findings demonstrate that grammatical-syntactic constructions are an important resource for expressing personal identity in English- and Uzbek-language internet discourse. In profile names and biographies, these constructions organize information about users' social roles, interests, relationships, values, and aspirations into concise forms suitable for online self-presentation. The corpus reveals six recurrent patterns: possessive constructions, relational identity constructions, attributive noun phrases, elliptical constructions, imperative constructions, and personal-pronoun constructions.

Possessive constructions are among the most productive grammatical means of identity expression in the corpus. Grammatically, they indicate possession, belonging, or association through English possessive determiners and the genitive marker *'s*, or through Uzbek genitive and possessive suffixes. In internet discourse, however, they function as identity labels by associating users with personally significant experiences, lifestyles, spaces, or relationships.

English examples include @my_rural_life, @Bella'sLifestyle, @Gulnoza'sKitchen, and @OurTravelStory. These constructions do not merely indicate ownership; they present rural life, lifestyle, cooking, or travel as central components of the user's identity. Uzbek examples such as

@Orzuyim, @Hayotim, @Gulnozaning_oshxonasi, and @Bizning_oilamiz perform a similar function. In forms such as *orzuyim* and *hayotim*, possession is expressed morphologically through the suffix *-im*, whereas constructions such as *Gulnozaning oshxonasi* employ the genitive–possessive model.

The comparison shows that English predominantly uses analytic forms, while Uzbek frequently encodes possession synthetically through suffixation. Despite this structural difference, both languages use possessive constructions to express emotional attachment, lifestyle orientation, and social belonging.

Relational constructions define users through family roles, kinship, or other interpersonal relationships. English examples commonly follow the pattern noun + of + noun/numeral, as in *@mom_of_two, @daughter_of_lawyer*, and *Wife of a soldier.* In these cases, identity is constructed through motherhood, kinship, or marital status rather than through individual characteristics.

Uzbek examples include *@uch_farzand_onasi, @dadasining_erkasi, @onasining_quvonchi,* and *Otasining faxri*. These forms combine genitive and possessive markers and often express both family relationships and emotional evaluation. Profile names such as @qishloq_kelini and @blogger_kelin additionally combine the relational role *kelin* with lifestyle or professional identity.

The Uzbek internet discourse demonstrates a particularly strong tendency to foreground family-based identity. English also contains relational forms, but Uzbek examples more frequently employ culturally significant kinship terms such as *ona*, *ota*, *dada*, and *kelin*.

Attributive noun phrases compress personal qualities, occupations, values, or aspirations into concise nominal expressions. English examples include @LifelongLearner, @CreativeSoul, @FutureDoctor, and @Future_Programmer. The modifying element specifies the aspect of identity foregrounded by the user, such as creativity, professional ambition, or commitment to learning. Comparable Uzbek forms include *@baxtli_ona, @yosh_tadbirkor, @kelajak_shifokori,* and *@ijodkor_qiz.* In *@kelajak_shifokori*, for example, a future professional role is presented as part of the user's current self-concept. These constructions demonstrate that online identity may represent not only an existing status but also an anticipated or aspirational identity.

In both languages, attributive structures are effective because they convert complete statements into short identity labels. Thus, @Future_Programmer implicitly conveys "I am preparing to become a programmer," while @kelajak_shifokori expresses a comparable meaning through a compact noun phrase.

Elliptical constructions omit finite verbs while retaining sufficient information to communicate identity. Examples include Teacher | Traveler | Coffee Lover, Teacher | Booklover | Mom of Two, O'qituvchi | Kitobsevar | Sayohatchi, and Ona • Bloger • Pazanda. These nominal sequences are interpreted as reduced forms of complete statements such as "I am a teacher, traveller, and coffee lover." Their main function is to present several dimensions of identity simultaneously within a limited textual space. Profession, hobbies, and family roles are arranged in parallel form, allowing users to construct a layered identity without using complete sentences. Ellipsis therefore contributes to both linguistic economy and informational density in online profiles.

Imperative constructions express identity indirectly through personal values and life principles. Examples include Dream. Believe. Achieve., Never stop learning, Orzu qil. Ishon. Erish., and Taslim bo'lma. Although these forms are grammatically commands or recommendations, they project qualities such as ambition, perseverance, optimism, and commitment to self-development. Through such expressions, users do not explicitly describe themselves but encourage readers to infer their identity from the principles they promote. Imperative constructions therefore function as value-based forms of self-presentation.

Personal pronouns directly position users within individual or collective identities. First-person singular forms such as I create digital stories foreground personal agency, whereas plural forms such as We travel the world and Biz birgamiz construct shared or collective identity. Pronoun choice is therefore not limited to grammatical reference. The pronoun *I* individualizes identity, while *we* and *biz* emphasize group membership, partnership, or community belonging. Personal-pronoun constructions represent one of the most explicit ways of positioning the self in online discourse.

The comparative findings indicate that English and Uzbek use different grammatical mechanisms to achieve similar identity-related functions. English predominantly relies on analytic structures, including possessive determiners, the genitive *'s*, prepositional constructions, and fixed word order. Uzbek more frequently employs agglutinative forms, especially possessive suffixes and genitive–possessive constructions. For example, *English My life* expresses possession through a separate determiner, whereas Uzbek *Hayotim* encodes the same meaning within a single word. Similarly, *Mom of Two* uses an English prepositional structure, while *Ikki farzand onasi* employs a possessive-marked relational noun. English profile names more frequently foreground lifestyle, individual interests, and professional aspirations, while Uzbek examples more often emphasize family relationships and collective belonging. However, this represents a tendency within the corpus rather than an absolute distinction between the two languages.

Conclusion. The study demonstrates that grammatical-syntactic constructions play a significant role in constructing personal identity in English- and Uzbek-language internet discourse. Possessive constructions associate users with meaningful experiences and relationships; relational constructions foreground family and social roles; attributive noun phrases express qualities and aspirations; elliptical constructions present multiple identity categories economically; imperative constructions project personal values; and pronoun constructions position users as individuals or members of groups.

Although English and Uzbek differ typologically, their grammatical structures fulfil comparable communicative functions. English mainly employs analytic constructions, whereas Uzbek relies more heavily on possessive and genitive suffixes. In both languages, however, grammar enables users to transform personal characteristics, relationships, values, and aspirations into concise identity-bearing forms.

The findings confirm that online identity construction depends not only on lexical choice but also on grammatical organization. Grammatical structures determine how identity meanings are connected, prioritized, and presented, making them a central component of digital self-representation.

The study demonstrates that grammatical-syntactic constructions play a significant role in the construction and expression of personal identity in English- and Uzbek-language internet discourse. The analysis shows that users employ a range of grammatical patterns to present their social roles, personal qualities, interests, relationships, values, and future aspirations. Possessive constructions associate users with personally meaningful experiences, lifestyles, and relationships; relational constructions foreground family and social roles; attributive noun phrases express personal qualities and aspirational identities; elliptical constructions present several identity categories economically; imperative constructions project individual values and life principles; and personal-pronoun constructions position users as independent individuals or members of a wider group.

Although English and Uzbek differ typologically, their grammatical structures fulfil broadly comparable communicative functions. English mainly employs analytic constructions, including possessive determiners, the genitive marker *'s*, prepositional phrases, and fixed word order. Uzbek,

by contrast, relies more heavily on agglutinative forms, particularly possessive suffixes and genitive–possessive constructions. These structural differences reflect the grammatical systems of the two languages, yet both enable users to transform personal characteristics, social relationships, values, and aspirations into concise identity-bearing forms.

The comparative findings also reveal certain tendencies in the representation of identity. English-language examples more frequently emphasize individual interests, lifestyle choices, creativity, and professional aspirations, whereas Uzbek examples show a stronger tendency to foreground family relationships, kinship roles, and collective belonging. These tendencies should not be regarded as absolute differences, but rather as patterns of relative prominence within the analysed corpus.

The findings further confirm that online identity construction depends not only on lexical choice but also on grammatical organization. Grammatical structures determine how identity-related meanings are connected, prioritized, and presented to an online audience. They also allow users to compress complex information into brief and recognizable forms that correspond to the spatial and communicative requirements of digital profiles. Therefore, grammatical-syntactic constructions should be regarded as a central component of digital self-representation and an important area of investigation in comparative studies of language and identity.

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