

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY IN UZBEK AND KOREAN: AFFIXATION PATTERNS AND WORD-FORMATION MECHANISMS

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Abstract

This paper examines derivational morphology in Uzbek and Korean from a comparative perspective. Both languages belong to the agglutinative type and exhibit productive word-formation mechanisms based primarily on affixation. The study focuses on the structural and semantic characteristics of derivational processes, including suffixation, compounding, and lexical derivation. Although Uzbek and Korean share typological similarities, they differ in the productivity of derivational affixes and the role of compounding. The findings demonstrate that suffixation is the dominant mechanism in both languages, while compound formation is considerably more productive in Korean. The study contributes to comparative linguistics and provides insights into word-formation patterns in agglutinative languages.

Keywords: Derivational morphology, word formation, affixation, Korean language, lexical, derivation, Uzbek language, agglutinative languages, compounding.

Introduction

Word formation constitutes one of the fundamental components of morphological systems and plays a crucial role in lexical expansion. Derivational morphology refers to the process through which new lexical items are created from existing bases by means of affixation or other mechanisms. In agglutinative languages, derivational morphemes are particularly important because they systematically contribute to the creation of new words and meanings. Uzbek and Korean are classified as agglutinative languages; therefore, they exhibit certain structural similarities in their morphological organization. Despite these similarities, differences exist in the productivity and distribution of derivational morphemes. Comparative studies on derivational morphology in these two languages remain relatively limited, making this topic relevant for typological and contrastive linguistic research. The aim of this study is to investigate and compare derivational mechanisms in Uzbek and Korean, focusing on affixation patterns and word-formation processes. Theoretical Background According to Bauer (1983), derivation is a morphological process that creates new lexical items through the addition of affixes or through other word-formation mechanisms. Haspelmath and Sims (2010)



define derivational morphology as a process that may alter both lexical meaning and grammatical category.

The principal types of derivation include: affixation, compounding, conversion, semantic derivation. Among agglutinative languages, affixation is considered the most productive mechanism for word formation.

Derivational Morphology in Uzbek: Uzbek predominantly employs suffixation in lexical derivation. Derivational suffixes generate nouns, adjectives, and verbs from existing lexical bases.

Examples:

ish(work) – ishchi – worker

bilim (knowledge) – bilimli – knowledgeable

mehnat (labor) – mehnatkash – hardworking

oq (white) – oqla – to justify

Common derivational suffixes include:

-chi (profession or occupation);

-lik (abstract noun formation);

-siz (absence);

-la (verb formation);

-kor, -dosh, -xon, and others.

Semantic extension also contributes to lexical derivation. For example, *ko'z* (“eye”) may denote a body part or metaphorically refer to the opening of a needle (*igna ko'zi*).

Derivational Morphology in Korean. Korean also demonstrates productive derivational processes, primarily through suffixation and compounding. According to Sohn (1999), derivational affixes in Korean can produce nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. 높다 - 높이 height, 넓다 - 넓히다 to widen, 사랑 - 사랑스럽다 lovely,

Compound formation is highly productive in Korean: 눈 + 물 → 눈물 (*tears*);

손 + 잡이 → 손잡이 (*handle*); 불 + 꽃 → 불꽃 (*flame*).

Compared with Uzbek, Korean exhibits greater productivity in lexical compounding.

Comparative Analysis: Both Uzbek and Korean possess agglutinative morphological structures and employ derivational suffixes extensively. However, differences can be observed regarding word-formation mechanisms.

The comparison indicates that suffixation serves as the principal derivational mechanism in both languages, whereas Korean relies more heavily on compound formation.

Conclusion

The present study has demonstrated that Uzbek and Korean, despite belonging to different language families, exhibit significant typological similarities due to their agglutinative structure. In both languages, derivational morphology serves as an essential mechanism for lexical expansion and the creation of new meanings.



Affixation, particularly suffixation, constitutes the most productive word-formation process and contributes to the development of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and other lexical categories. The comparative analysis reveals that although both languages rely heavily on derivational suffixes, Korean displays a higher degree of productivity in compound formation. Compound words occupy an important position in Korean vocabulary development, whereas Uzbek derivation is characterized mainly by the extensive use of suffixes and semantic extension. These differences reflect the specific structural and functional features of each language and illustrate the diversity of derivational mechanisms among agglutinative languages. Furthermore, the findings indicate that derivational processes are closely related not only to morphology but also to semantics and lexical organization. The study confirms that derivation plays a crucial role in enriching vocabulary, expressing new concepts, and adapting linguistic resources to the communicative needs of speakers. From a theoretical perspective, this research contributes to comparative morphology and typological linguistics by highlighting both common and language-specific features of derivational systems in Uzbek and Korean. From a practical perspective, the results may be useful in foreign language teaching, translation studies, lexicography, and the development of educational materials for learners of Uzbek and Korean. Future studies may focus on corpus-based analyses of derivational productivity, semantic changes associated with derived words, and a broader comparison involving other agglutinative languages. Such investigations would provide a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying word formation and contribute to the advancement of cross-linguistic morphological research.

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