

WORD FORMATION IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE AND ITS MODERN TENDENCIES

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Abstract: This paper explores the processes and principles of word formation in the Uzbek language, focusing on current tendencies influenced by globalization, technological development, and social change. It examines traditional word-formation methods such as affixation, compounding, and semantic shift, while highlighting the rise of neologisms, borrowings, and hybrid structures. Special attention is given to how new lexical units are shaped by media, the internet, and intercultural communication. The study aims to identify the dynamic nature of Uzbek vocabulary and offers insights into how the language adapts to new realities while maintaining its morphological integrity.

Key words: Uzbek language, word formation, morphology, neologisms, affixation, lexical innovation, borrowings, language development.

Language is a dynamic and ever-evolving system that responds to the changing needs of society. In this process, word formation plays a crucial role, serving as a key mechanism by which a language expands and adapts. The Uzbek language, with its rich morphological structure and historical depth, exhibits a variety of word-formation methods that reflect both its Turkic roots and contemporary influences.

In the modern era, globalization, rapid technological advancement, and cultural exchange have led to the emergence of new lexical items (neologisms), many of which enter the language through borrowing, hybridization, or internal derivation. These developments not only enrich the vocabulary but also raise important questions about normativity, linguistic purity, and adaptation in the context of the Uzbek linguistic system.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive investigation into both traditional and contemporary word-formation strategies in the Uzbek language. It explores how classical morphological processes such as affixation, compounding, and semantic shift continue to shape the lexicon, while also examining the growing influence of modern linguistic phenomena such as neologisms, hybrid formations, and lexical borrowings from foreign languages—particularly English and Russian. The study seeks to understand not only the structural and functional aspects of these word-formation mechanisms, but also their sociolinguistic and cultural implications in contemporary Uzbek discourse. Through this analysis, the research reveals how the Uzbek language adapts to technological, social, and global transformations, highlighting the dynamic nature of its evolution and the balance it maintains between preserving linguistic identity and embracing innovation.

1. Traditional Word Formation Methods

Historically, Uzbek has relied on a well-established set of morphological processes for word creation, including:

Affixation – The use of prefixes and suffixes remains a fundamental strategy.

Example:

kitob (book) → kitobxon (reader), kitobxona (library)

yur (walk) → yurish (walking)

Compounding – Combining two or more stems to form new words.

Example:

qayta (again) + tiklash (restore) = qayta tiklash (reconstruction)

toqqa chiqish (mountain climbing)

Semantic shift / functional shift – When existing words take on new meanings or grammatical roles.

Example:

dastur originally referred to a plan, but now also means “software.”

2. Modern Tendencies in Word Formation

With the influence of media, technology, and global communication, new patterns have emerged:

a) Neologisms and Borrowings

A large number of new terms have entered Uzbek, particularly from English and Russian, often with minimal phonetic adaptation:

onlayn, startap, bloger, like bosmoq, vebinar

These borrowings are often integrated in ways that mix native and foreign elements, such as: storimga qo‘ydim (I put it in my story – English + Uzbek structure)

b) Hybrid Structures

Words are increasingly formed by combining foreign roots with Uzbek suffixes:

kommentariya + qilmoq = komment qilmoq

subscrib bo‘ldim (I subscribed) → English root + Uzbek morphology

This phenomenon illustrates a blending of code-switching and morphological integration, common among youth and social media users[1]

c) Internal Innovation

In some cases, new Uzbek words are coined using native roots:

axborotlashuv, raqamlashtirish, dizaynerlik

These reflect efforts to preserve linguistic identity while addressing modern concepts.

The study of word formation is a key area within morphology, a branch of linguistics that examines the internal structure of words and the rules by which new words are formed.

According to linguistic theory, word formation can be divided into derivation, compounding, conversion, and borrowing — all of which are relevant in the context of the Uzbek language.

Prominent linguists such as Bloomfield, Marchand, and Plag have outlined general principles of word formation, many of which apply cross-linguistically. In Turkic languages, including Uzbek, agglutination (the addition of affixes in a linear fashion) is a dominant morphological feature, making suffixation the most productive strategy[2]

Recent approaches in sociolinguistics and cognitive linguistics also emphasize the socio-cultural and psychological factors that influence word formation. In modern Uzbek, this is evident in the increasing adoption of foreign terms, digital communication, and youth slang, which reflect social identity, technological trends, and linguistic economy.

Theoretical models relevant to this study include:

Morphological productivity (Bauer, 2001) – frequency and acceptability of new word forms.

Loanword integration theory (Haugen, 1950) – how borrowed words adapt phonologically and morphologically.

Language contact theory (Thomason & Kaufman, 1988) – effects of bilingualism and globalization on word formation[3]

The study of word formation in the Uzbek language reveals a rich and adaptive morphological system capable of generating new lexical items in response to changing societal needs. Traditional methods such as suffixation and compounding remain active, while new tendencies — particularly neologisms and borrowings from English and Russian — are reshaping the modern Uzbek lexicon.

Key findings include:

Affixation remains the most productive method of word creation.

Hybrid structures (foreign root + Uzbek suffix) are increasingly common in informal and digital contexts.

Lexical innovation often reflects technological, cultural, and social changes.

While some new words enter the language organically through usage, others require standardization and normative guidance to gain acceptance in literary and official discourse.

The dynamic interaction between internal derivational processes and external influences ensures that the Uzbek language continues to evolve while preserving its core grammatical structure. This ongoing evolution presents both opportunities and challenges for linguists, educators, and language policy-makers.

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