EMERGING TRENDS IN WORD FORMATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation: This article provides a comparative analysis of contemporary word-formation processes in English and Uzbek. It examines how globalization, technology, and media accelerate the creation of new lexical items (neologisms) in both languages. English, as a global lingua franca, remains highly open to innovation and borrowing The study finds that English tends to adopt and create new forms with few restrictions, while Uzbek often uses derivational morphology or calquing and selectively adapts foreign terms, reflecting both global integration and cultural preservation.

Keywords: word formation; neologism; borrowing; blending; acronym; internet slang; English; Uzbek; globalization.

Introduction

Language is a dynamic system that continuously generates new vocabulary to express novel ideas, technologies, and cultural phenomena. Neologisms – newly coined words or new senses of existing words – signal a language's vitality and its speakers' creativity In the 21st century, accelerated by globalization and digital technology, new words proliferate in all languages. English, in particular, with its status as a global lingua franca, demonstrates "high receptivity to lexical innovation" By contrast, Uzbek – an agglutinative Turkic language that was long influenced by Russian and is now experiencing a post-Soviet revival – shows careful management of new vocabulary, often adapting foreign terms through morphology or coining native equivalents

This article explores new trends in word formation in both English and Uzbek, covering spoken (informal, slang) and written (formal, technical) registers. We examine processes such as derivation (affixation), compounding, blending, clipping, acronyms, and borrowings, and consider semantic extension and calquing. We focus on innovations driven by media, the internet, and youth culture, noting how English and Uzbek respond similarly or differently to these forces. The comparative perspective highlights how typological and sociolinguistic factors shape each language's evolution. We also discuss the sociocultural context – including language policy and globalization – behind these trends. Throughout, concrete examples from each language illustrate each process. The analysis draws on recent linguistic studies and media data to ensure up-to-date coverage

Many modern Uzbek terms are formed by adding native affixes to international stems. For instance, dasturchi ("programmer") comes from dastur ("program") + -chi (agentive suffix), and telefonlashmoq ("to telephone each other") is built from telefon + -lashmoq (reciprocal verb suffix)

Similarly, raqamlashtirish ("digitization") is formed from raqam ("digit") + -lashtir- (suffix meaning "make into") + -ish (noun ending). The suffix -chi is widely used to denote professions

or people involved with something (kompyuterchi "computer specialist" from kompyuter, o'qituvchi "teacher" from o'qitish "teaching" + -uvchi). The abstract -lik marks concepts or collective qualities (e.g. mahallalik from mahalla "community" + -lik meaning "place of"). These examples show Uzbek's preference for native derivation.

A distinctive phenomenon in Uzbek is the Russian "bridge" effect. Often English terms entered Uzbek through Russian intermediaries, especially in the 20th century. Scientific and bureaucratic words were first adopted into Russian with Slavic morphology (e.g. -tsiya or -izm endings) and then carried over to Uzbek. Thus Uzbek atletizm (from English athleticism via Russian атлетизм) and urbanizatsiya (from urbanization) come with the Russian suffixes

These mixed forms reflect practical adaptation. In spoken Uzbek, one might say "Yaqinda Wi-Fi tushib qoldi" (using the English acronym Wi-Fi in Uzbek sentence), or "kompyuter chiqartmoqchi edim" (combining kompyuter with Uzbek verb). While such hybrids are common in casual speech, media and education often promote purer Uzbek constructs. Nevertheless, hybrid terms spread rapidly online. The use of English technology terms (smartfon, videokonferensiya, reklama for "advertisement" from English) is widespread in both writing and speech. This mixing is a sociolinguistic marker of modernity, but also a challenge for maintaining Uzbek lexical norms.

The emergence of these word-formation trends is deeply influenced by sociocultural forces. Globalization and media play leading roles: the global reach of English-language media, film, music, and the internet means new English terms (and cultural concepts) are almost automatically imported. As Crystal (2016) emphasizes, the digital age "accelerates and amplifies" neologism formation

Youth culture is especially influential: teenagers and college students often coin or popularize slang. These youth innovations (e.g. selfie, hangry, bae, xashteg etc.) are first seen in informal settings and later disseminated by media. Ashurova (2024) notes that youth-oriented media in both Uzbekistan and the West reflects this "dynamic, innovative vocabulary", with many neologisms appearing first in peer slang

Social media and online communities enable instant spread. English internet memes or viral hashtags quickly cross linguistic borders, leading even non-English speakers to adopt terms unchanged (e.g. meme, karma). Uzbek youth on platforms like Telegram and Instagram often use a mix of Uzbek and English (e.g. men video qildi, vadey, raqami mixing Uzbek grammar with English-derived words).

Language policy and identity also shape word formation. Uzbekistan's government encourages the development of Uzbek terminology to bolster national identity. This results in conscious efforts to coin native terms (e.g. xususiylashtirish for "privatization", a calque from Russian) and to regulate media language. Simultaneously, Uzbekistan's opening to the world (trade, travel, education) makes adoption of international terms inevitable. We see a tug-of-war: official discourse may preach purism, while everyday speech embraces foreign-derived neologisms for convenience. The sources cited note that Uzbek planners "encourage indigenous or Turkic roots" to preserve authenticity

In English, sociolinguistic factors are different. English has no central policy, so it freely adopts slang from youth culture and technical jargon from industry. However, there are prestige factors: terms can carry social meaning (e.g. using a trendy internet acronym might signal youthfulness). Code-switching in English contexts (e.g. English speakers using Spanish words like mañana or fiesta) is often a sign of multicultural influence. In sum, both languages' word-formation is shaped by communication needs and identity concerns: English's prestige and global role accelerate borrowing outwards, while Uzbek's desire for cultural coherence modulates how borrowed elements are integrated.

Conclusion

English and Uzbek are both undergoing vigorous lexical expansion due to modern pressures, but with distinct patterns. English, as an analytic and globally dominant language, generates neologisms through a very wide range of processes – derivation, compounding, blending, abbreviations, and semantic shifts – with minimal gatekeeping. New English words spread easily across contexts and languages. Uzbek, by contrast, leverages its agglutinative morphology (suffixation) and compounding to create many new terms, especially for technological and academic domains. Borrowings enter Uzbek frequently, but are often morphologically adapted or translated. Abbreviations and internet slang in Uzbek mainly arise through contact with English and Russian. Critically, Uzbek language planners and media shape these trends by promoting native equivalents and calques.

For example, while English adopted smartphone directly, Uzbek alternates between smartfon and aqlli telefon depending on context. Ultimately, the study shows that globalization and digital media are the chief engines of lexical change in both languages, but local linguistic structures and policies determine the precise outcomes

These trends underscore the dynamic interplay of language and society. As new domains (social media, AI, etc.) emerge, we can expect even more coinages and borrowings. Future research should monitor which of these neologisms become standardized in dictionaries and formal registers, and how speakers negotiate the balance between adopting useful global terms and preserving linguistic heritage.

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