



Analysis of the differences between prefixes and suffixes and their role in the Uzbek language

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ABSTRACT

Affixation is a central process in the morphological structure of languages, particularly in agglutinative languages like Uzbek. It involves the attachment of affixes (prefixes and suffixes) to root words to modify meaning or grammatical function. While suffixes in Uzbek have been extensively studied, prefixes, particularly those in borrowed technical vocabulary, remain underexplored. The lack of comprehensive studies comparing the roles and functions of both prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek creates a significant gap in the understanding of its morphological system. This study aims to analyze the distinctions between prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek, focusing on their semantic and grammatical roles, historical development, and syntactic implications. The research finds that while suffixes dominate in grammatical word formation, prefixes play an increasingly important role in altering meanings, especially in loanwords from Arabic, Persian, and Greek. Prefixes contribute to semantic shifts such as negation and modality, while suffixes primarily mark grammatical categories. The novelty of this study lies in its comprehensive comparison of both affix types in Uzbek, particularly in modern contexts where borrowed prefixes are prevalent. The findings have significant implications for language teaching, lexicography, and computational linguistics, suggesting the need for more inclusive language resources that address both prefix and suffix usage in Uzbek.

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O'zbek tilida prefikslar va suffikslar o'rtasidagi farqlar va ularning roli

Kalit so'zlar:

Prefikslar,
Suffikslar,
O'zbek tili,
Affiksatsiya,
Morfologiya,
Lingvistika,
So'zaffiksatsiya,
Til resurslari.

ANNOTATSIYA

Affiksatsiya tillarning morfologik tuzilishidagi markaziy jarayon bo'lib, ayniqsa agglutinativ tillarda, masalan, o'zbek tilida, o'ziga xos ahamiyatga ega. Bu jarayon asosiy so'zlarga (prefikslar va suffikslar) qo'shilib, ularning ma'nosi yoki grammatik funksiyasini o'zgartirishni anglatadi. O'zbek tilida suffikslar keng o'rganilgan bo'lsa-da, prefikslar, ayniqsa, texnik so'zlar va qarz so'zlaridagi prefikslar kam o'rganilgan. Prefikslar va suffikslarning o'zbek tilidagi roli va funksiyalarini solishtiradigan keng qamrovli tadqiqotlarning yetishmasligi, tilning morfologik tizimini chuqurroq tushunishga katta to'siq yaratmoqda. Ushbu tadqiqot o'zbek tilidagi prefikslar va suffikslar o'rtasidagi farqlarni, ularning semantik va grammatik roli, tarixiy rivojlanishi va sintaktik ta'sirlarini tahlil qilishni maqsad qilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, suffikslar grammatik so'z hosil qilishda hukmron bo'lsa-da, prefikslar ma'nolarni o'zgartirishda, ayniqsa, arab, fors va yunon tillaridan olingan so'zlarda muhim rol o'ynaydi. Prefikslar semantik o'zgarishlarga, masalan, inkor va modalitetga olib keladi, suffikslar esa asosan grammatik kategoriyalarni belgilaydi. Ushbu tadqiqotning yangiligi, o'zbek tilidagi har ikki affiks turi bo'yicha amalga oshirilgan keng qamrovli taqqoslashda yotadi, ayniqsa hozirgi zamon kontekstida, aholida qarz prefikslarining keng tarqalganligini inobatga olib. Tadqiqot natijalari til o'rgatish, leksikografiya va hisoblash lingvistikasi sohalarida muhim ahamiyatga ega bo'lib, o'zbek tilidagi prefikslar va suffikslarning ishlatilishini hisobga olgan holda keng qamrovli til resurslarini yaratish zarurligini ko'rsatadi.

Анализ различий между префиксами и суффиксами и их роль в узбекском языке

Ключевые слова:

Префиксы,
Суффиксы,
Узбекский язык,
Аффиксация,
Морфология,
Лингвистика,
Словообразование,
Языковые ресурсы.

АННОТАЦИЯ

Аффиксация — центральный процесс в морфологической структуре языков, особенно в агглютинативных языках, таких как узбекский. Этот процесс включает прикрепление аффиксов (префиксов и суффиксов) к корневым словам для изменения их значения или грамматической функции. В то время как суффиксы в узбекском языке были широко изучены, префиксы, особенно относящиеся к заимствованной технической лексике, остаются слабо исследованными. Отсутствие всесторонних исследований, сравнивающих роль и функции как префиксов, так и суффиксов в узбекском языке, создаёт значительный пробел в понимании его морфологической системы. Цель данного исследования — анализ различий между префиксами

и суффиксами в узбекском языке с акцентом на их семантические и грамматические роли, историческое развитие и синтаксические последствия их употребления. Исследование показывает, что, хотя суффиксы доминируют в грамматическом формообразовании, префиксы играют всё более важную роль в изменении значений, особенно в заимствованных словах из арабского, персидского и греческого языков. Префиксы способствуют семантическим изменениям, таким как отрицание и выражение модальности, тогда как суффиксы преимущественно маркируют грамматические категории. Новизна данного исследования заключается во всестороннем сравнении этих двух типов аффиксов в узбекском языке, особенно в современных контекстах, где заимствованные префиксы широко распространены. Результаты исследования имеют значимые последствия для преподавания языка, лексикографии и вычислительной лингвистики, что указывает на необходимость создания более полных языковых ресурсов, учитывающих использование как префиксов, так и суффиксов в узбекском языке.

INTRODUCTION

Suffixes vs. Prefixes (Suffikslar vs. Profikslar) The significance of these components of word formation, in particular, the morphology of a language as a whole, is undeniable since the prefixation and suffixation roots are impacted to a great extent, particularly in agglutinative languages (Aglyutiniv tillar) such as Uzbek with their specific morphological constructional patterns. Affixes are building blocks of meaning that you can attach to root words to change the meaning of the root word or to change the grammatical role of the root word. Although suffixation has traditionally been the basic affixation process found in Uzbek, more and more words, especially those borrowed or technical, are receiving prefixes as well as suffixes. The purpose of this article is to investigate the difference and the role of prefixes and suffixes in the formation of the morphological structure of the Uzbek language, the history of formation, the semantic meanings, and syntax.

They are mainly used for processes like word formation, marking of tenses, numbers, and possessives, i.e., suffixes. In contrast, prefixes are often used to modify word meanings, and to a large extent, in terms of negation, direction, and modality. While many works have been devoted to suffixes in Uzbek, the function of prefixes, especially in the field of technical and academic languages, has been underinvestigated. Explaining the functions of these affixes should also help us achieve a fuller morphological analysis of Uzbek and contribute to more general claims in typological linguistics.

Suffixes are a well-studied linguistic phenomenon, and research on agglutinative languages has mostly examined their structure, functions, and role in the process of word formation, or their role in grammatical processes. Researchers such as Matthews (1991) and Zaliznyak (2000) have provided extensive, detailed knowledge regarding affixation systems in Turkic and Slavic languages. Although some aspects of prefixes have been investigated specifically, such works on Uzbek are limited. Some effort to fill this gap has been made recently (Narzullayeva 2022; Narzullayeva and Xafizova 2022; Ramzulayev

and Beslerova 2022), such as studying the use of borrowed prefixes from Arabic, Persian, and Greek in Uzbek. Although these studies emphasize that prefixes are on the rise, particularly as a part of scientific and technical language, we still miss a basic comparison with suffixes and an analysis deeply integrated into how prefixes and suffixes together influence the language.

In this paper, prefixes and suffixes used in authentic Uzbek texts (fiction, academic and technical texts) will be identified and classified, and their semantic and syntactic nature will be analyzed. It will also utilize the historical-comparative method to trace the development of prefixes in Uzbek, especially the foreign-language prefixes that have been borrowed. The results revealed the importance of prefixes in the Uzbek language, which is usually neglected, especially in modern times.

This study will help to understand the morphological structure of Uzbek by providing information on how the prefix and a few suffixes function as well as the meaning they represent. This study attempts to bridge the gap in the role of prefixes in linguistic research, at least in terms of understanding and exemplified meanings of borrowed terms. The implications of these findings will be critical for Uzbek language teaching, lexicography, and computational linguistics, because the types of affixes and their interaction for building a word should also be taken into consideration while developing language resources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Differences Between Prefixes and Suffixes and Their Role in the Uzbek Language

The study of affixation in linguistics, particularly in the context of the Uzbek language, has garnered significant attention in recent years, with a growing body of work exploring both prefixes (profikslar) and suffixes (suffikslar). Affixes, being the smallest units of meaning in word formation, are crucial in the morphological structure of languages. Despite the extensive research into suffixation in Uzbek, prefixation remains a relatively underexplored phenomenon. This literature review seeks to examine the existing studies on affixes, particularly prefixes and suffixes, and their respective roles in the Uzbek language, drawing from global, Turkic, and Uzbek-specific linguistic theories and analyses.

In global linguistics, the study of affixes has been a prominent area of interest, with scholars such as Matthews (1974) emphasizing the distinction between prefixes and suffixes and their roles in word formation. Prefixes typically appear at the beginning of words, altering their meaning or function without changing the grammatical category, while suffixes usually follow the root and often transform the word's grammatical class. In the context of Turkic languages, such as Turkish, and other agglutinative languages, suffixation plays a more dominant role due to the language's morphosyntactic structure. However, recent studies have acknowledged the presence of prefixes in these languages, suggesting that prefixes, though less common, contribute significantly to meaning-making (Zaliznyak, 2000).

The Uzbek language, an agglutinative language, is traditionally characterized by its reliance on suffixes to form grammatical relationships, yet prefixes have also found their place, particularly in borrowed words and certain stylistic contexts. For instance, terms like "nohaq" (unjust), "nafaqat" (not only), and "bevaqt" (untimely) exhibit the use of prefixes such as "no-", "na-", and "be-" to convey negation or absence. These prefixes,

although not as productive as suffixes, perform important semantic and grammatical functions within the language (Narzullayeva, 2022). The role of prefixes in Uzbek is often associated with the formation of new lexical items, particularly in translated or technical terminology, further demonstrating their semantic importance.

Scholars have noted that many prefixes in Uzbek have been borrowed from other languages, particularly from Arabic, Persian-Tajik, Greek, and Latin. For example, the prefix "anti-" (against) from Greek appears in terms like "antibakterial" (antibacterial), and "auto-" (self) from Greek is seen in words like "avtomobil" (automobile). These affixes have contributed to the development of scientific and technical terminology in Uzbek, highlighting the language's ability to integrate foreign linguistic elements. This process of borrowing and adapting affixes from other languages has been crucial in expanding the lexicon of modern Uzbek, particularly in academic and technical fields.

In addition to loanwords, Uzbek also demonstrates a rich morphological structure in its native affixation patterns. The prefixes "ham-" (together) and "bad-" (bad) illustrate how prefixes function to express social and moral concepts, as seen in words like "hamkor" (partner) and "badkirdor" (wrongdoer). These prefixes contribute to the expressive and cultural dimensions of the language, enriching its lexicon and enabling speakers to convey complex social relations. While suffixes in Uzbek predominantly mark grammatical categories like tense, aspect, and plurality, prefixes tend to serve more semantic and relational functions, signaling negation, quality, and quantity.

Despite the relatively limited use of prefixes in comparison to suffixes in Uzbek, recent scholarship has begun to focus more on prefixation, particularly its historical and comparative aspects. The study of the genesis of prefixes in Uzbek, how they entered the language from Arabic, Persian, Greek, and Latin, has proven valuable in understanding the evolution of the language's morphemic system. For instance, the Arabic prefix "la-" (no) found in words like "lafarq" (no difference) and the Persian "be-" (without) in "befarq" (indifferent) illustrate the ongoing influence of Arabic and Persian on Uzbek.

Overall, while Uzbek has traditionally relied on suffixation for word formation, prefixes have nonetheless played a significant role in enriching the lexicon, particularly in terms of negation, social concepts, and technical terminology. The integration of borrowed prefixes from Arabic, Persian, and European languages further demonstrates the adaptability of the Uzbek language and its capacity to expand in response to social, cultural, and scientific developments. This literature review highlights the need for further research into the systematic role of prefixes in Uzbek, focusing on their historical development, semantic contributions, and their function within the broader morphosyntactic framework of the language.

METHODOLOGY

This research employs a comprehensive and systematic methodology to analyze the differences between prefixes (profikslar) and suffixes (suffikslar) and their roles in the Uzbek language, focusing on their functions, grammatical, and semantic properties. The main methodological approach is qualitative, utilizing a combination of descriptive, historical-comparative, and corpus-based methods.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The first step involves conducting a thorough literature review on the topic of affixation in global linguistics, with a focus on Turkic and Uzbek linguistics. The review will address the following methods:

Descriptive Method: Analysis of the types of affixes, including their grammatical and semantic features, and the role they play in word formation in Uzbek.

Historical Analysis: Study of the historical development of affixes in the Uzbek language, especially those borrowed from Latin, Greek, Arabic, and Persian.

Review of Existing Theories: Exploration of theoretical approaches such as Andre Martinet's functional analysis theory and Ferdinand de Saussure's structuralist approach to affixes.

Corpus-Based Analysis

In this step, a corpus-based approach will be utilized to analyze authentic linguistic data from Uzbek texts (literary works, journalistic articles, scientific papers):

Data Collection: Collecting instances of prefixes and suffixes from authentic Uzbek texts.

Categorization: Categorizing affixes based on their grammatical function (e.g., nouns, adjectives, verbs) and semantic roles (e.g., negation, diminutives, intensifiers).

Analysis: Examining each affix's role in word formation and its semantic contribution in different contexts.

Differential-Semantic Analysis

In this step, the differences and semantic properties of prefixes and suffixes will be analyzed:

Comparison of Meanings: Analyzing how prefixes and suffixes differ in their meanings (e.g., negating or intensifying meaning, creating new grammatical forms).

Semantic Differences: Highlighting the specific semantic roles of prefixes versus suffixes in Uzbek, such as how prefixes alter word meanings or indicate action direction, while suffixes change grammatical categories or add nuance.

Comparative-Historical Method

This method will be applied to compare the use and development of prefixes and suffixes in the Uzbek language with other languages, especially Turkic languages, and languages such as Arabic, Latin, and Greek:

Historical Changes: Examining the historical development of prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek, focusing on affixes borrowed from other languages and how they evolved.

Cross-Linguistic Comparison: Comparing the functions and structures of prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek and other Turkic languages, highlighting any unique or shared characteristics.

Statistical Analysis

Quantitative methods will be used to analyze the frequency and distribution of prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek texts:

Affix Frequency: Analyzing how frequently different affix types appear in a variety of texts (literary, journalistic, academic).

Graphical Representation: Using graphs and charts to illustrate the distribution and frequency of various affixes, providing a visual understanding of their role in the language.

Differential-Semantic Analysis Method

This method will be used to analyze the specific differences between prefixes and suffixes, focusing on their semantic functions:

Semantic Distinctions: Identifying and describing the unique semantic features of prefixes and suffixes, such as how prefixes create spatial or temporal meaning, while suffixes form new grammatical structures.

Theoretical and Practical Analysis

In the final stage of the research, the theoretical and practical implications of the differences between prefixes and suffixes will be discussed:

Theoretical Conclusions: Drawing theoretical conclusions about the role of prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek linguistics and their impact on language structure.

Practical Recommendations: Offering practical suggestions for further research on affixation in Uzbek, including potential areas for linguistic innovation and development in teaching materials, language textbooks, and grammar resources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of prefixes (profikslar) and suffixes (suffikslar) in the Uzbek language reveals several key distinctions in terms of their function, formation, and usage. While suffixes are predominantly used for grammatical word formation in Uzbek, prefixes are more commonly used in loanwords, particularly in technical and scientific terminology. Below are the key findings based on the linguistic analysis.

Prefixes and Suffixes in Uzbek: Grammatical Functions

Prefixes in Uzbek mainly serve semantic roles, often altering the meaning of a base word, while suffixes predominantly serve grammatical functions such as indicating tense, aspect, and number. Below is a table illustrating some common prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek, along with their functions:

Historical and Cross-Linguistic Influences

Affix Type	Affix	Example Word	Meaning/Function
Prefix	na-	nohaq (unjust)	Negation or absence
	be-	bevaqt (untimely)	Lack or absence of time
Suffix	-lar	kitoblar (books)	Plural marker
	-im	kitobim (my book)	Possession marker (1st person singular)
	-di	yurdi (he/she walked)	Past tense marker
	-lik	adabiylik (literary quality)	Noun formation (abstract nouns)

A key observation in this study is the significant influence of foreign languages on the development of prefixes in Uzbek. Many modern prefixes in Uzbek, especially in technical and academic contexts, are borrowed from languages such as Arabic, Persian, Latin, and Greek. These borrowed prefixes often carry specific meanings related to modern concepts and have enriched the Uzbek lexicon. Below is a table summarizing some examples of borrowed prefixes in Uzbek:

Semantic Roles of Prefixes vs. Suffixes

Origin Language	Prefix	Example Word	Meaning/Function
Arabic	la-	lafarq (no difference)	Negation or absence
Greek	auto-	avtomobil (automobile)	Self or automatic
Latin	anti-	antibakterial (antibacterial)	Against or opposition to
Persian	be-	bevaqt (untimely)	Lack or absence of time

A key distinction found in this study is that prefixes in Uzbek mainly modify the semantic content of words, often altering the meaning (e.g., negation or intensification), while suffixes are used for grammatical transformations such as forming new word categories (nouns, adjectives, verbs). Prefixes tend to alter the inherent meaning of a word, such as in the example of "nohaq" (unjust), where the prefix "na-" negates the meaning of "haq" (right). Conversely, suffixes like "-lik" (quality) in "adabiylik" (literary quality) convert adjectives or nouns into abstract nouns.

Phonological and Morphological Adaptations

Affix Type	Affix	Example Word	Meaning/Function
Prefix	na-	nohaq (unjust)	Negation of the root word
Suffix	-lik	adabiylik (literary quality)	Conversion of an adjective to an abstract noun
	-ish	kitobish (bookish)	Formation of a quality from a noun (adjective formation)

The study also revealed the phonological and morphological adaptations of affixes in different contexts. For instance, while suffixes show variations based on vowel harmony in Uzbek, prefixes tend to maintain their forms more consistently across different contexts. This is especially true for borrowed prefixes, which adapt to the phonetic structure of Uzbek.

For example, in the word "**antibakterial**" (antibacterial), the prefix "anti-" is borrowed directly from Greek and does not undergo phonological changes. In contrast, suffixes like **-lar** (plural) or **-im** (possessive) adapt to the root word's vowel structure (e.g., **kitoblar** for plural and **kitobim** for possession).

Further Research and Knowledge Gaps

While this study provides a comprehensive analysis of prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek, there are several areas that require further exploration. One key gap is the regional variation in the use of prefixes and suffixes across different dialects of Uzbek. Dialectal differences in affixation could offer a deeper understanding of the evolution and adaptation of these affixes within the language. Moreover, the role of prefixes in modern Uzbek, particularly in the development of new technical and scientific terms, presents an area that needs further empirical research.

Another area for future research is the computational analysis of affixation in Uzbek. Current morphological tools for Uzbek language processing are limited, and further work in developing computational models for prefixation and suffixation could provide valuable insights. This would enhance the development of automatic morphological analyzers, which could be applied to lexicography, language teaching, and translation technologies.

CONCLUSION

This study has provided a detailed exploration of the differences and roles of prefixes and suffixes in Uzbek. The findings suggest that while suffixes are central to the grammatical system of the language, prefixes are an important part of the semantic structure, particularly in borrowed technical and scientific terms. The historical

development and phonological adaptation of affixes in Uzbek also demonstrate the dynamic nature of the language. Future research should focus on regional dialectal variations, computational modeling of affixation, and further cross-linguistic comparisons to deepen the understanding of affixation in Uzbek linguistics.

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