

COMPARATIVE TYPOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE CATEGORY OF NUMBER IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article analyzes the comparative typological features of the number category in Uzbek and English. The study studies the singular and plural forms of the two languages, their grammatical and semantic features and rules. The syntactic and morphological features of the plural form in English are compared with those in Uzbek. The article also considers exceptional cases and lexical-semantic features of the number category. The results of the study contribute to a deeper understanding of the grammatical system of Uzbek and English.

Keywords: number category, singular, plural, comparative typology, morphology, syntax, lexical-semantic features

Introduction

In linguistics, the number category is an important part of the morphological and syntactic system of the language. In the languages of the world, the singular and plural categories are expressed in different ways. Each language, depending on its grammatical structure and semantic structure, expresses the number category in its own forms. Uzbek and English also have certain similarities and differences in this regard, and their comparative analysis is one of the topical issues for linguistics.

In the Uzbek language, the number category is expressed mainly through singular and plural forms. Since this language is an agglutinative language, the plural is formed mainly through morphological means - the affix "-lar" (for example, tree - trees, book - books). In English, the number category has features characteristic of inflectional languages, and is formed using the main plural suffixes "-s, -es" (car - cars, bus - buses), but there are also words with independent plural forms (man - men, child - children).

Also, the syntactic and semantic aspects of the use of the number category in Uzbek and English differ. In Uzbek, number words that come with countable nouns do not require a plural suffix (uch kitob, beshta mashina), while in English, on the contrary, nouns that come with numbers are usually plural (three books, five cars). Such differences indicate the need to study the specifics of this category in both language systems.

This article studies the grammatical, semantic and syntactic features of the number category in Uzbek and English from a comparative typological point of view. The study identifies commonalities and differences in both language systems and compares their grammatical structures. This analysis is of significant theoretical and practical importance for those studying Uzbek and English, as well as researchers conducting research in the field of comparative linguistics.

Methodology

This study is devoted to the comparative-typological analysis of the number category in Uzbek and English, which aims to compare the morphological, syntactic and semantic aspects of this grammatical category. The study used methodological approaches such as comparative linguistics, structural-semantic analysis and corpus linguistics.

1. Research methods

The following main methods were used in the research process:

1.1. Comparative-typological method

It was used to compare the grammatical features of the number category in Uzbek and English. The common and specific aspects of both language systems were identified and their place in linguistic typology was determined.

1.2. Descriptive (descriptive) method

The existing grammatical and semantic features of the number category in Uzbek and English were analyzed descriptively.

The syntactic functions of the number in a sentence and its functions in the speech process were determined.

1.3. Structural-semantic method

A semantic analysis of numerals was carried out.

The semantic field formed around the concept of numeral in Uzbek and English was analyzed. Metaphorical and idiomatic expressions related to numerals were studied.

1.4. Statistical method

A statistical analysis was carried out to determine the frequency of use and grammatical combinations of numerals in English and Uzbek.

Data were collected on the basis of various text corpora and general trends were identified.

2. Research materials and database

Grammatical sources, scientific articles, text corpora and lexicographic data in various languages were used as research materials.

2.1. Dictionaries and grammar guides

English: Oxford English Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Cambridge Grammar of English

Uzbek: Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, Grammar of the Uzbek Language

2.2. Text corpora and real data

English:

British National Corpus (BNC) – to analyze the use of numerals in real speech in English.

Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) – to study statistical data in modern English.

Uzbek:

National Corpus of the Uzbek Language – to study the use of numerals in real speech in Uzbek.

Fictional and scientific texts – to determine the scope of the number category in written and oral speech.

3. Research stages

The research was carried out in the following stages:

3.1. Data collection

Grammatical units related to the concept of number in Uzbek and English were identified.

Preliminary analytical data were collected based on text corpora, dictionaries, and grammar guides.

3.2. Morphological and syntactic analysis

The grammatical formation and use of the number category in Uzbek and English was studied.

The syntactic functions of number units in a sentence were compared.

3.3. Contrastive analysis

A comparative analysis was conducted of common and different aspects in the use of the number category in Uzbek and English.

It was determined which aspects are universal and which are specific to each language.

3.4. Semantic analysis

The changes in the content and context of number units were studied.

The number units with metaphorical and idiomatic meanings were analyzed.

3.5. Summary of results

The results were analyzed, and general conclusions and recommendations were developed.

An analytical model was created based on the features of the use of the number category in both language systems.

4. Reliability and accuracy of the study

The following measures were taken to ensure the reliability of the research results:

Reliance on linguistic sources and scientific literature - the results were confirmed on the basis of academic literature and authoritative linguistic sources.

Use of empirical materials - the study used real texts and statistical data based on corpus linguistics.

Expert assessment - the results were reviewed by comparative linguistics experts and checked for scientific validity.

5. Research limitations and prospects

This study is limited to the number category in Uzbek and English, and comparisons with other languages are beyond the scope of this study. Future research can be conducted in the following areas:

Comparative analysis with other Turkic and Germanic languages

Research on the pragmatic and psycholinguistic aspects of the number category

Research on automated number units using computational linguistics approaches

This methodology section provides a full description of the methods used in the study. The study was conducted based on comparative-typological, descriptive and statistical analysis methods, and dictionaries, text corpora and academic sources were used as the main evidence.

Various linguistic approaches were used to ensure the reliability of the results.

If you need any further clarification or extended analysis, please let us know!

Results and Analysis

This study aims to study the comparative typological aspects of the number category in Uzbek and English, and its results allowed us to identify similarities and differences in the morphological, syntactic and semantic aspects of number. According to the results of the study, the number category in English and Uzbek has its own grammatical features, and their use and place in the grammatical system have certain differences.

1. Morphological Features of the Number Category

1.1. Expression of Number in English

In English, the number category is mainly expressed through the singular and plural forms of nouns. Although the main grammatical means of forming the plural are the suffixes "-s" or "-es", in some cases there are also irregular forms:

Regular forms: book – books, apple – apples

Irregular forms: child – children, foot – feet, mouse – mice

Invariable forms: sheep – sheep, deer – deer

In addition, quantifiers (words that indicate quantity), such as "many," "few," "several", are also important in expressing the plural in English.

1.2. Expression of number in Uzbek

In Uzbek, the number category is formed using morphophonological suffixes. Unlike English, the plural form is mainly expressed using the suffix "-lar":

Regular forms: kitob – kitsob, adam – adamlar

There are no irregular forms – all nouns usually form the plural form using "-lar".

Contextual plural: some words, especially nouns denoting a group of people, can be used in a general sense without the plural suffix (student - students).

2. Syntactic Features of the Number Category

In English and Uzbek, number affects the syntactic functions of nouns in a sentence.

2.1. The syntactic role of number in English

In English, the singular or plural form of a noun affects other components of a sentence, especially the verb:

Singular noun with singular verb: The boy is running.

Plural noun with plural verb: The boys are running.

In addition, some plural nouns can be used as a single noun (The news is shocking), while some are always plural (scissors, trousers).

2.2. The syntactic role of number in Uzbek

In Uzbek, the number category has almost no effect on the form of the verb:

Singular noun with verb: The boy is running.

Plural noun with verb: The children are running.

Despite the plural marker, the verb in Uzbek is usually singular, which is an important difference from English. Also, the plural form can sometimes be redundant:

The children came. (Although the plural noun is used, the verb remains singular.)

The children came. (The verb is also used in the plural, but this is less common.)

3. Semantic and Pragmatic Features of Number

3.1. Semantic changes of number in English

In English, number sometimes leads to semantic changes:

Words that have different meanings in the plural:

Work (ish) – Works (arlar)

Advice (maslahat) – Advices (konuniy akuniy akuniy)

Water (suv) – Waters (suv)

Also, the differences between mass nouns (uncountable nouns) and count nouns (countable nouns) in English determine which nouns the number can be applied to grammatically.

3.2. Semantic changes of number in Uzbek

Some nouns in Uzbek can also have different meanings in the singular and plural forms:

Leaf (single leaf) – Leaves (all leaves of a tree)

Adam (one person) – Odamlar (many people)

Moli (property) – Mollar (animals)

Also, in Uzbek, uncountable nouns rarely take the plural suffix (forms such as suvlar, völkär are used only stylistically).

4. Comparative Typological Conclusion

General Results:

Although the number category in Uzbek and English is an important grammatical factor determining the singular and plural forms of nouns, the methods of its expression differ significantly.

In English, number affects the agreement between nouns and verbs, while in Uzbek this phenomenon is less common.



In Uzbek, the category of number is often semantically and pragmatically understood through context, while in English it is expressed by specific grammatical indicators.

The results of this study helped to identify common and specific features between the morphological and syntactic systems of Uzbek and English. In the future, this topic can be studied in a broader context, for example, by comparing it with other Turkic or Germanic languages.

Conclusion

The category of number is expressed differently in Uzbek and English, and each language has its own grammatical and semantic laws. While in Uzbek the concept of number is expressed simply in singular and plural forms, in English this process is more complicated and there are many exceptions. The results of this study may be useful for future comparative grammatical studies.

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