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MORPHOLOGICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF DERIVATION IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Abstract. This article examines the morphological and semantic features of derivation in the Uzbek language, with particular attention to the role of derivational affixes in lexical expansion and the formation of new lexical units. The study considers derivation as a systematic linguistic process involving the interaction of a derivational base, affix, formal structure, and semantic transformation. Particular attention is paid to productive derivational models used in the formation of nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Examples of formations involving affixes such as *-chi*, *-lik*, *-li*, *-siz*, and *-la* are analyzed to demonstrate the relationship between morphological structure and lexical meaning. The article also discusses derivational productivity as a dynamic phenomenon influenced by scientific, technological, social, and cultural developments. In addition, the potential relevance of derivational analysis to corpus and computational linguistics is highlighted, particularly in relation to morphological analysis, electronic lexicography, and Uzbek language technologies. The study demonstrates that derivation constitutes an important mechanism of lexical development in Uzbek and reflects the systematic interaction of morphological, semantic, and functional factors.

Keywords: Derivation, Uzbek Language, Word Formation, Derivational Morphology, Derivational Affix, Lexical Expansion, Derivational Model, Morphological Productivity, Semantic Change, Corpus Linguistics.

Derivation is one of the fundamental mechanisms through which languages expand their lexical resources and express new concepts, objects, qualities, actions, and relationships. In the Uzbek language, derivation plays a particularly important role because of the productive nature of its agglutinative morphological system. New lexical units are frequently formed through the combination of a lexical base and a derivational affix, while the resulting derivative may acquire not only a new grammatical category but also a new semantic function. Therefore, the study of derivation in Uzbek requires attention to both its morphological structure and its semantic consequences.

In linguistic theory, derivation is generally understood as a process through which a new lexical unit is created from an existing linguistic base. The newly created unit is not simply a modified form of the original word; rather, it normally represents a new lexical item with a distinct meaning and, in many cases, a different part-of-speech status. This distinction is important for understanding the difference between derivation and inflection. Inflection normally changes the grammatical form of an existing word without creating a new lexical item, whereas derivation contributes to the formation of a new lexical unit. For example, in Uzbek, the word *ish* “work” can serve as a derivational base for *ishchi* “worker”, *ishla-* “to work”, *ishchan* “hard-working” and *ishsiz* “unemployed”. Each derivative is semantically related to the original lexical base, but each has acquired an additional semantic component through the derivational process.

The agglutinative structure of Uzbek facilitates the identification of derivational relations. In an agglutinative language, grammatical and derivational meanings are frequently expressed through relatively distinct affixes. This makes it possible to identify the structural components of a derivative and examine the relationship between the base and the newly formed lexical unit. The structure of a derived word can therefore be represented schematically as a derivational base + derivational affix, although more complex derivatives may contain several successive derivational operations. Such formations demonstrate that derivation in Uzbek is not an isolated morphological phenomenon but a systematic process capable of producing extensive word families.

One of the most productive areas of Uzbek derivation is nominal derivation. A large number of nouns are formed through suffixation. The suffix *-chi*, for instance, is highly productive and can denote a person associated with an activity, occupation, or sphere of work. The formation *ish* → *ishchi* illustrates the relationship between an activity and a person engaged in that activity. Similar patterns can be observed in formations such as *savdo* → *savdogar* and other occupational or functional nouns. Another productive suffix is *-lik*, which frequently forms abstract nouns expressing a state, quality, relationship, or social concept. For example, *do'st* → *do'stlik* expresses the abstract relationship of friendship, while *yaxshi* → *yaxshilik* denotes the abstract notion of goodness. These examples show that derivational affixes do not merely attach formal material to a lexical base; they perform specific semantic functions.

Adjectival derivation is also highly productive in Uzbek. The suffix *-li* can be used to form adjectives expressing the possession of a particular quality or characteristic. Thus, *bilim* → *bilimli* denotes a person or entity possessing knowledge, while *mazmun* → *mazmunli* expresses the presence of content or meaning. Conversely, the suffix *-siz* generally expresses absence or lack of the characteristic represented by the base. The contrast between *bilimli* and *bilimsiz*, for example, illustrates how derivational morphology can create semantically opposed lexical units from the same base. Such derivational oppositions contribute significantly to the expressive and nominative potential of Uzbek vocabulary.

Verbal derivation represents another important component of the Uzbek derivational system. The suffix *-la* is among the productive means of forming verbs from nominal or adjectival bases. For instance, *ish* → *ishla-* expresses the performance of work, while other formations demonstrate how a nominal concept can be transformed into an action or process. Through such formations, derivation enables speakers to transform static concepts into dynamic events and processes. The productivity of verbal derivation is particularly significant for the development of terminology and the adaptation of new concepts to the grammatical and lexical structure of Uzbek.

The semantic dimension of derivation deserves particular attention. A derivative usually preserves a semantic connection with its base, but its meaning is not always completely predictable from the meanings of its components. In some cases, the derivational affix contributes a relatively stable semantic meaning. For example, *-siz* commonly indicates absence, whereas *-li* indicates possession. However, in other cases, lexicalization may occur, and the meaning of a derivative may become more specialized than the simple combination of the meanings of the base and affix. Consequently, derivational analysis should consider both regular morphological patterns and lexical-semantic developments.

Another important characteristic of Uzbek derivation is derivational productivity. Not every affix that historically functioned as a word-forming element remains equally productive in contemporary Uzbek. Some affixes continue to participate actively in the creation of new words, while others have become restricted to particular lexical groups. Productivity is therefore a dynamic phenomenon that reflects changes in society, culture, technology, science, and communication. The emergence of new concepts creates a continuous demand for new lexical units, and derivational mechanisms provide speakers with economical ways of naming these concepts.

Contemporary Uzbek provides numerous examples of derivational processes associated with scientific, technological, social, and media-related developments. New concepts may be expressed through native derivational resources, combinations of existing lexical elements, or the adaptation of borrowed vocabulary to Uzbek morphological patterns. This interaction between borrowing and derivation demonstrates that lexical development does not occur through a single mechanism. Borrowed lexical bases may become integrated into Uzbek word-formation patterns and subsequently participate in further derivational processes. As a result, the boundaries between lexical borrowing, adaptation, and derivation can become particularly significant for contemporary linguistic research.

From a structural perspective, Uzbek derivation can therefore be analyzed through several basic components: the derivational base, the derivational affix, the formal structure of the derivative, and the semantic relationship between the base and the derivative. A derivational model can be understood as a recurrent structural and semantic pattern according to which new words are formed. For example, the model "noun + *-chi* → noun" can express a person associated with a particular activity, whereas the model "noun + *-lik* → noun" frequently produces an abstract concept. Similarly, "noun + *-li* → adjective" expresses possession of a characteristic, while "noun + *-siz* → adjective" generally expresses its absence.

The study of such models is important because it allows derivation to be examined systematically rather than through isolated examples. A derivational model represents a relationship between form and meaning and demonstrates the productivity of a particular word-formation mechanism. By identifying productive models in contemporary Uzbek, researchers can determine which morphological resources are most actively involved in lexical expansion and which semantic categories are most frequently expressed through derivation.

Derivation also contributes to the organization of lexical relations within the language. A single lexical base can generate a network of related derivatives, creating what may be described as a derivational word family. For example, the base *ish* can participate in several derivational relationships, producing words associated with a person, activity, quality, or absence of employment. Such networks demonstrate that the Uzbek lexicon is not simply a collection of independent words but a structured system in which lexical units are connected through formal and semantic relations.

In addition, derivational processes may contribute to stylistic differentiation. Certain derivatives are neutral and widely used in everyday communication, while others may be characteristic of scientific, administrative, literary, journalistic, or colloquial discourse. The distribution of derivatives across functional styles can therefore provide valuable information about the relationship between morphology and discourse. A comprehensive analysis of derivation should consequently consider not only morphological structure and lexical semantics but also the communicative contexts in which derivatives are used.

The investigation of Uzbek derivation is particularly relevant in the context of modern computational and corpus linguistics. Automatic identification of derivational relations can contribute to the development of Uzbek morphological analyzers, electronic dictionaries, language-learning technologies, search systems, and natural language processing applications. Since Uzbek is morphologically rich and highly agglutinative, computational systems need to distinguish between inflectional and derivational morphology in order to analyze word structure accurately. A database of derivational bases, affixes, models, and semantic relations could therefore serve as an important linguistic resource for the development of Uzbek language technologies.

In conclusion, derivation is a central mechanism of lexical expansion in the Uzbek language. Its importance is determined by the interaction of morphological productivity, semantic development, lexical organization, and communicative needs. Uzbek derivation demonstrates a

systematic relationship between lexical bases and newly formed units, while derivational affixes contribute specific grammatical and semantic meanings. The analysis of derivational models such as noun-to-noun, noun-to-adjective, noun-to-verb, and adjective-to-noun formations makes it possible to identify the productive mechanisms underlying the development of the Uzbek lexicon. At the same time, the dynamic nature of contemporary vocabulary requires derivation to be studied as an evolving process influenced by technological, social, scientific, and cultural changes. Further research based on corpus data and computational analysis may provide a more precise description of derivational productivity and contribute to the creation of comprehensive digital resources for Uzbek morphology and lexicography.

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