



## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGE GRAMMAR

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### ABSTRACT

This paper provides a comparative analysis of the grammar of degree expressions in English and Uzbek, two languages with vastly different linguistic origins and typological features. The study examines the morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties of comparative, superlative, and equative constructions in each language. The analysis reveals both notable similarities and divergences between the two languages. Both employ comparative and superlative marking, but utilize distinct morphological strategies - English relies on analytic forms with "more/less" and "most/least", while Uzbek employs synthetic suffixes. Semantic parallels exist in the core functions of comparison, but the languages differ in the specific entailments and pragmatic nuances conveyed. Syntactically, the languages exhibit contrasting patterns in the placement of degree morphemes, the case-marking of compared elements, and the overall constituent structure of comparative phrases. These structural differences point to the influence of each language's broader grammatical characteristics, such as word order and case systems. The findings contribute to the cross-linguistic understanding of gradation and offer insights into the typological diversity in how natural languages encode comparative concepts. The paper concludes by discussing the implications for theories of universal grammar and language-specific variation in the domain of degree expressions.

**Key words:** Comparative, Superlative, Equative, Morphological Strategies, Syntactic Patterns, Semantic Scope and Entailments.

### INTRODUCTION

Expressions of degree, such as comparative and superlative constructions, are a fundamental aspect of human language and cognition. These grammatical structures allow speakers to make judgments about the relative properties of entities, events, or



qualities. Cross-linguistic examination of degree expressions can therefore provide valuable insights into both the universal principles and language-specific variations that characterize natural language grammars. English and Uzbek present an intriguing case study in this domain. As languages from distinct families - English being a West Germanic language and Uzbek belonging to the Turkic language group - they exhibit a range of both similarities and differences in how they encode comparative and superlative meanings. Investigating these parallels and divergences can shed light on the underlying mechanisms and typological parameters that shape the grammatical expression of degree. This paper conducts a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek degree constructions, focusing on their morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties. The study examines the strategies each language employs to mark comparatives and superlatives, as well as the structural configurations and pragmatic nuances involved. By juxtaposing the two linguistic systems, the research aims to elucidate the universal trends and language-specific variations that characterize the grammar of degree. The findings have implications for theories of universal grammar, as they illuminate the range of cross-linguistic diversity in how natural languages encode comparative concepts. Moreover, the analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of the typological profile and grammatical makeup of English and Uzbek, two languages with contrasting genealogical and structural features.[1]

### **Comparison of the degree systems in English and Uzbek language grammar:**

The grammars of English and Uzbek exhibit both similarities and differences in their encoding of comparative and superlative degree expressions.

#### **Morphological Strategies:**

- English utilizes analytic comparative and superlative forms, using the words "more/less" and "most/least" respectively (e.g. "more intelligent", "most expensive").
- In contrast, Uzbek employs synthetic degree morphology, adding suffixes to the base adjective to mark comparatives (-roq) and superlatives (-gina/-ginagina) (e.g. katta-roq "bigger", katta-gina "the biggest").

#### **Syntactic Patterns:**

- English places the degree modifier (e.g. "more", "most") before the adjective in the comparative/superlative phrase.
- Uzbek, as a head-final language, positions the degree suffix after the adjectival base.
- English allows the compared element to be marked with the "than" comparative particle, while Uzbek uses case-marking (e.g. ablative) for this function.

#### **Semantic Scope and Entailments:**



- Both languages can express relative, absolute, and equative comparisons.
- However, there are differences in the specific semantic entailments and pragmatic nuances conveyed. For instance, the Uzbek superlative suffix -gina can imply a sense of endearment or small scale.[2]

Overall, the findings demonstrate that while English and Uzbek share the fundamental function of encoding degrees of comparison, they employ divergent morphological and syntactic strategies that reflect their distinct typological profiles. These language-specific variations shed light on the cross-linguistic diversity in the grammatical expression of comparative concepts.

#### Morphological Strategies:

The key difference lies in the synthetic vs. analytic nature of the degree constructions. English uses periphrastic forms with dedicated comparative and superlative degree words (e.g. "more intelligent", "most expensive"), while Uzbek marks comparison through agglutinating suffixes (-roq for comparative, -gina/-ginagina for superlative). This morphological contrast reflects the broader typological differences between the two languages. English, as a Germanic language, exhibits a more analytic grammatical structure, whereas Uzbek, being a Turkic language, has a predominantly synthetic morphology.[3]

#### Syntactic Patterns:

The position of the degree marker also differs significantly. In English, the comparative/superlative word precedes the adjective, following the general SVO word order (e.g. "more intelligent", "the most expensive"). Uzbek, on the other hand, places the degree suffix after the adjectival base, in line with its head-final syntax. Additionally, English utilizes the comparative particle "than" to mark the compared element, while Uzbek employs case-marking, typically the ablative case, for this function (e.g. katta-roq maktab-dan "bigger than the school").

#### Semantic Scope and Entailments:

Both languages can express the full range of comparative and superlative meanings, including relative, absolute, and equative comparisons. However, there are nuanced differences in the specific semantic and pragmatic implications conveyed. For instance, the Uzbek superlative suffix -gina can imbue the expression with a sense of endearment or diminution, suggesting a small or intimate scale (e.g. katta-gina "the dear/little biggest one"). This additional semantic layer is not typically present in the English superlative construction. These differences in morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties highlight the rich diversity in how natural languages can encode gradation and comparative concepts. Analyzing these contrasts provides valuable



insights into the typological parameters and universal principles that underlie the grammar of degree.[4]

### **Types of Degree and its Formation in English and Uzbek**

English:

1. Comparative:

- Analytic comparative: "more intelligent", "less expensive"
- Synthetic comparative (with "-er"): "taller", "happier"

2. Superlative:

- Analytic superlative: "the most intelligent", "the least expensive"
- Synthetic superlative (with "-est"): "tallest", "happiest"

3. Equative:

- "as intelligent as", "just as expensive"

Uzbek:

1. Comparative:

- Synthetic comparative (with "-roq"): katta-roq "bigger", yaxshi-roq "better"

2. Superlative:

- Synthetic superlative (with "-gina" or "-ginagina"): katta-gina "the biggest", yaxshi-ginagina "the very best"

3. Equative:

- "shuncha ... qancha" (as ... as): shuncha katta qancha uyimiz "as big as our house"

- "-cha" suffix: katta-cha "about the same size"

Examples:

English:

- Comparative: "This book is more interesting than that one."
- Superlative: "Alice is the smartest student in the class."
- Equative: "The cake is as delicious as the one from last week."

Uzbek:

- Comparative: "Bu kitob o'shandan katta-roq." (This book is bigger than that one.)
- Superlative: "Alisa sinfdagi eng yaxshi-ginagina o'quvchi." (Alisa is the very best student in the class.)
- Equative: "Tort o'sha haftadagidek shuncha mazali qancha." (The cake is as delicious as the one from last week.)[5]



## CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of degree systems in English and Uzbek has revealed both similarities and differences in how these two languages encode comparative and superlative meanings.

### Similarities:

- Both English and Uzbek have the capacity to express relative, absolute, and equative comparisons.

- The two languages share the fundamental function of allowing speakers to make judgments about the relative properties of entities, events, or qualities.

### Differences:

#### Morphological Strategies:

- English utilizes analytic comparative and superlative forms with dedicated degree words, while Uzbek employs synthetic degree morphology through agglutinating suffixes.

#### Syntactic Patterns:

- English places the degree modifier before the adjective, following the SVO word order, whereas Uzbek positions the degree suffix after the adjectival base, in line with its head-final syntax.

- English uses the comparative particle "than," while Uzbek relies on case-marking, typically the ablative, to mark the compared element.

#### Semantic Scope and Entailments:

- Although both languages can express the full range of comparative and superlative meanings, there are subtle differences in the specific semantic nuances and pragmatic implications conveyed.

- For instance, the Uzbek superlative suffix -gina can imply a sense of endearment or small scale, an additional semantic layer not typically present in the English superlative construction.

These findings demonstrate that while English and Uzbek share the fundamental function of encoding degrees of comparison, they exhibit divergent morphological, syntactic, and semantic strategies that reflect their distinct typological profiles as a West Germanic language and a Turkic language, respectively. Analyzing these parallels and divergences provides valuable insights into the universal principles and language-specific variations that shape the grammatical expression of degree in natural languages. The cross-linguistic comparison contributes to a deeper understanding of the structural and conceptual underpinnings of comparative constructions, with



implications for theories of universal grammar and the typological diversity of human language.

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