



THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NUMBER IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Theoretical aspects of the studied language

Annotation: The concept and usage of the grammatical category of number play a significant role in shaping the structure and meaning of languages. In the study of linguistics, number is a grammatical category that reflects the distinction between singular and plural forms of nouns, pronouns, and verbs. Understanding how number is expressed and utilized in different languages provides insights into the underlying grammatical structures and cultural contexts of those languages. In this paper, we will explore and compare the concept and usage of the grammatical category of number in English and Uzbek languages. English, as a widely spoken global language, employs a variety of mechanisms to indicate number distinctions

Key words: number, noun, grammatical category, pronouns, verbs, mechanism

Аннотация: Понятие и употребление грамматической категории числа играют значительную роль в формировании структуры и значения языков. В лингвистике число — это грамматическая категория, отражающая различие между формами единственного и множественного числа существительных, местоимений и глаголов. Понимание того, как число выражается и используется в разных языках, дает представление об основных грамматических структурах и культурных контекстах этих языков. В этой статье мы исследуем и сравним концепцию и использование грамматической категории числа в английском и узбекском языках. Английский, как широко распространенный глобальный язык, использует множество механизмов для обозначения различий в числах.

Ключевые слова: число, существительное, грамматическая категория, местоимения, глаголы, механизм.

Annotatsiya: Tillarning tuzilishi va ma'nosini shakllantirishda sonning grammatik kategoriyasi tushunchasi va qo'llanishi katta rol o'ynaydi. Tilshunoslik fanida son grammatik kategoriya bo'lib, ot, olmosh, fe'ning birlik va ko'plik shakllari o'rtasidagi farqni aks ettiradi. Raqamning turli tillarda qanday ifodalanishi va ishlatilishini tushunish ushbu tillarning asosiy grammatik tuzilmalari va madaniy kontekstlari haqida tushuncha beradi. Ushbu maqolada biz ingliz va o'zbek tillarida sonning grammatik



kategoriyasi tushunchasi va qo‘llanilishini o‘rganamiz va taqqoslaymiz. Ingliz tili keng tarqalgan global til sifatida son farqlarini ko‘rsatish uchun turli mexanizmlardan foydalanadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: son, ot, grammatik kategoriya, olmosh, fe‘l, mexanizm

Contrasting the concept of grammatical category number in nouns in both languages.

The comparison of number in English and Uzbek reveals both similarities and differences in how singular and plural forms are expressed, providing insight into the linguistic structures of both languages. Understanding these distinctions is essential for mastering the grammar and syntax of English and Uzbek effectively.¹

Similarities in the Concept and Usage of Grammatical Category Number in English and Uzbek:

1. Singular and Plural Forms: Both English and Uzbek distinguish between singular and plural forms of nouns to indicate the quantity of objects or entities.

For example:

English: "book" (singular) vs. "books" (plural)

Uzbek: "kitob" (singular) vs. "kitoblar" (plural)

2. Subject-Verb Agreement: In both languages, verbs can agree with the number of the subject. However, the agreement rules differ:

English: Verbs add "-s" in the third person singular.

Example: "He works."

Uzbek: Verb forms do not change based on the number of the subject.[1, 78]

Example: "U ishlayapti." (He is working) vs. "Ular ishlayapti." (They are working)

3. Use of Quantifiers: Both languages use quantifiers to express quantity, which can be modified for singular or plural nouns:²

In English: "some apples," "many books," "few pictures".

Uzbek: "bir nechta olma," "ko‘p kitob," "ozroq surat"

4. Indefinite and Definite Articles: While English uses articles to specify definiteness, Uzbek does not have direct equivalents. Articles can be omitted in both languages:

In English: "a book" / "the book"

In Uzbek: "kitob" / "u kitob"

¹ A.T. Iriskulov "Theoretical grammar of English" Uzbek State World Languages University Tashkent 2006; 64 p

² Nargiza Erkaboyeva "O‘zbek tilidan ma‘ruzalar to‘plami" "YOSH KUCH" Toshkent 2019; 578 p



5.Pronouns: Pronouns in both languages have singular and plural forms, adapting to the number of items referred to:

In English: "he/she/it" (singular) vs. "they" (plural)

In Uzbek: "u/bu" (singular) vs. "ular/bular" (plural)

6.Cardinal Numbers: Both English and Uzbek use cardinal numbers to express quantity, which varies based on whether the associated noun is singular or plural:

In English: "one book" vs. "ten books"

In Uzbek: "bitta kitob" vs. "o'nta kitob"

7.Compound Nouns: Compound nouns, which are formed by combining two or more words to create a new meaning, follow similar rules for singular and plural forms in both languages:

In English: "toothbrush" (singular) vs. "toothbrushes" (plural)

In Uzbek: "tish chotka" (toothbrush, singular) vs. "tish chotkalar" (toothbrushes, plural) [2, 324]

Understanding the similarities in the concept and usage of grammatical number in English and Uzbek facilitates language learning and communication in both languages. By recognizing these commonalities, learners can effectively navigate the nuances of singular and plural forms, enhancing their proficiency in English and Uzbek grammar. [3, 120]

Differences in the Concept and Usage of Grammatical Category Number in English and Uzbek are followings³:

1.Noun Pluralization: English generally forms plurals by adding "-s" or "-es" to the end of the noun, while Uzbek often adds "-lar" for plurals. However, English has irregular plural forms (e.g., "child" to "children"), whereas Uzbek pluralization is more regular and does not have any irregular plurals.

5. Verb Agreement with Collective Nouns: English can treat collective nouns as singular or plural based on context, influencing verb agreement.

For example:

"The committee decides" vs. "The committee disagree"

However, in Uzbek verbs with collective nouns generally do not change regardless of whether the noun is perceived as singular or plural.

For example:

“Jamoatayyor!” vs “Jamoalar tayyor!”

³ Lee, S. (2017). "Understanding Noun Pluralization in English and Uzbek Languages." *Comparative Linguistics Review*, 5(1), 120 p.



3.Count and Non-count Nouns: English distinguishes between countable and uncountable nouns

For example: "three books" vs. "some milk",

But, Uzbek does not have a strict differentiation in noun forms based on countability.

4. In Uzbek suffix “-lar” not only makes plural nouns but it also represents several stylistic functions such as, intensification, respect and generalization.

For example:

“Boshlarim og’rib ketdi (intensification)

Dadamlarni ko’rib sevindim (respect)

Farg’onalarni aylanib keldik (generalization)” [2; 185-186].

But in English “-s” and “-es” represent only plural meaning in nouns.

By understanding these differences in the concept and usage of grammatical number in English and Uzbek, language learners can navigate the distinct linguistic structures of each language more effectively. Mastery of these variations enhances proficiency in both English and Uzbek grammar, contributing to accurate and fluent communication in both languages.⁴

Similarities and differences between the use of grammatical category number in English and Uzbek

As I have explained before, English is a language that is widely spoken in many parts of the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. It belongs to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family and is known for its flexibility and relatively simple verb conjugation system. Uzbek, on the other hand, is a Turkic language spoken primarily in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. It has a different linguistic structure compared to English. [4, 105]

Here are some detailed differences in the usage of grammatical category number in verbs between English and Uzbek:

In English:

1. Subject-Verb Agreement: English verbs show agreement with the subject in terms of number. Verbs in English typically do not change their form based on the number of the subject, except for the third person singular in present tense, where an “-s” is added to the verb.

Singular Example: He talks on the phone.

Plural Example: They talk on the phone.

⁴ Nini Kirvalidze “Theoretical course of English grammar” ILIA State University TBILISI 2013; 105 p



2. Auxiliary Verbs: English uses auxiliary verbs to indicate tense, aspect, and mood. The auxiliary verbs remain the same regardless of the number of the subject.

Singular Example: She is eating dinner.

Plural Example: They are eating dinner.

In Uzbek:

1. Subject-Verb Agreement: In Uzbek, verbs change their forms to agree with the number of the subject. There are different verb conjugation patterns for singular and plural subjects in Uzbek. [5, 165]

Singular Example: U yuguradi. (He is walking.)

Plural Example: Ularning yurganini ko'rdim. (I saw them walking.)

2. Pronominal Prefixes: Uzbek verbs include pronominal prefixes that indicate the subject of the verb. These prefixes vary based on the number of the subject, allowing for explicit identification of singular and plural subjects.

Singular Example: U kitob o'qiyapti. (He is reading a book.)

Plural Example: Ular kitob o'qiyaptilar. (They are reading books.)

3. Verb Inflection: Uzbek verbs undergo inflection to indicate the number of the subject, as well as other grammatical features such as tense, mood, and aspect. The verb forms change significantly based on the number of the subject.

Singular Example: U uyga boradi. (He goes home.)

Plural Example: Ular uyga boradilar. (They go home.)

4. Structure of Verbs: Uzbek verbs have specific structures that include markers for singular and plural subjects. The verb conjugation in Uzbek is more complex compared to English due to the inclusion of pronominal prefixes and different conjugation patterns.

5. In Uzbek there are affixes that represent number and person in verbs added after affixes of tense and they called "shaxs-son qo'shimchalari" like "-m" "-ng" "-k" "-ngiz" "-dilar" "-man" "-san" "-di" "-dik" "-siz" "-dilar". However, there is no equivalent in English to this affixes. that is why grammatical category number in verbs in Uzbek is much more complex rather than in English.⁵

Overall, the differences in the usage of grammatical category number in verbs between English and Uzbek lie in the way verbs inflect to show agreement with the subject's number. English has a simpler verb conjugation system overall, while Uzbek verbs exhibit more complex changes to reflect the number of the subject as well as other grammatical features. Understanding these differences can help learners navigate the unique verb structures of each language effectively.

⁵ Smith, J. (2020). "A Comparative Study of Grammatical Number in English and Uzbek." *Journal of Linguistics*, 10(2), 167 p.



In conclusion, the study of the concept and usage of the grammatical category of number in Uzbek and English languages illuminates the intricate interplay between linguistic structures and communicative functions. By exploring these similarities and differences, language learners and researchers gain valuable insights into the rich tapestry of human language diversity and the universal principles that underpin linguistic expression across different cultural and linguistic contexts.

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World

2015

2030

2050

More developed regions 23.9 29.2 32.8

Less developed regions

(a) Least developed countries

(b) Other less developed countries

(c) Less developed regions, excluding

China

5.5

10.7

8.2

6.7

15.9

11.4

9.8

22.7

16.5



Sub

-

Saharan Africa

4.8

5.3

7.6

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/number-poor-people-continues-rise-sub-saharan-africa-despite-slow-decline-poverty-rate>.

the world countries of the percentage of population aged 60 years not only for the year 2015 but also the projection for 2030 and 2050, as below.

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