

THE STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF AFFIXAL MORPHEMES IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

Khaydarova Iroda Anarbayevna

doctoral student at the Samarkand state institute of foreign languages, Uzbekistan

irodaxa@gmail.com

Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive examination of the structural and semantic classification of affixal morphemes in the Uzbek language, emphasizing its agglutinative morphological system. It explores how affixal morphemes—particularly suffixes, prefixes, interfixes, infixes, and circumfixes—function in modifying the grammatical and lexical properties of root words. Structurally, the paper outlines the positional behavior of affixes and their role in recursive morphological construction, while semantically it distinguishes between inflectional, derivational, and formative functions. The interaction between structure and meaning is analyzed to show how affixes contribute to the language's expressive potential. The study also highlights phonological phenomena such as vowel harmony and morphotactic sequencing, which further illustrate the cohesive integration of affixes in Uzbek word formation. This analysis contributes to the understanding of Uzbek morphology and offers insights relevant to language learning, linguistic theory, and computational processing.

Keywords: Uzbek language, affixal morphemes, agglutinative morphology, suffixes, prefixes, inflectional affixes, derivational affixes, word formation, vowel harmony, morphotactics, linguistic structure, semantics, morphology, morphophonemics.

The Uzbek language, a prominent member of the Turkic language family, is characterized by its agglutinative nature, where words are formed by the linear addition of morphemes, each carrying distinct grammatical or semantic information. This morphological richness allows for the creation of complex word forms and nuanced expressions. Central to this morphological system are affixal morphemes, which, when attached to root words, modify their meanings and grammatical functions. Understanding the structural and semantic classifications of these affixal morphemes is crucial for linguistic analysis, language learning, and computational applications [1].

Structural Classification of Affixal Morphemes

The structural classification of affixal morphemes in the Uzbek language is grounded in their positional relationship with the root morpheme. Uzbek, being an agglutinative language, makes extensive use of affixation as a means of modifying the grammatical form or meaning

of words. Unlike fusional languages, where a single morpheme might encode multiple grammatical features, Uzbek affixes are generally monofunctional—each morpheme conveys one specific grammatical or semantic function [2]. Structurally, affixal morphemes in Uzbek are classified into several main types:

1. Prefixes (Old qo‘shimchalar)

Prefixes are affixes that are attached to the beginning of a root word. In contrast to many Indo-European languages like English, where prefixes are common (e.g., un- in unhappy), the use of prefixes in Uzbek is relatively limited and often the result of lexical borrowings or specific stylistic formations. Nevertheless, some pre-root elements derived from Persian and Arabic have been integrated into the language and may function similarly to prefixes. For example, in certain academic or technical terminologies, elements like no- (meaning “non-” or “not”) may appear before adjectives (e.g., noyaxshi meaning “not good”), though these are often seen as separate particles rather than true affixes [3].

2. Suffixes (Yopishuvchi qo‘shimchalar)

Suffixation is by far the most productive and central affixal process in Uzbek. Suffixes attach to the end of root morphemes and serve a wide array of grammatical and derivational functions. They can indicate:

- **Grammatical relations**, such as case markers (kitobda – “in the book”; kitobdan – “from the book”).
- **Number**, such as the plural suffix -lar (kitoblar – “books”).
- **Possession**, such as -im, -ing, -i for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person singular possessive respectively (kitobim – “my book”).
- **Verb tense and mood**, such as -di (past), -yapti (present continuous), -sin (imperative) [4].
- **Derivation**, like turning nouns into professions with -chi (o‘qituvchi – “teacher”) or forming adjectives from nouns with -li (suvli – “watery”).

Suffixes can be attached sequentially, forming chains that encode multiple layers of meaning. For example, in o‘quvchilaringizdan (“from your students”), we find a root (o‘q) and several suffixes in the following order: -uv (nominalizer), -chi (agentive), -lar (plural), -ingiz (2nd person plural possessive), -dan (ablative case marker). Each suffix contributes a single functional element, and their order follows specific morphotactic rules [5].

3. Infixes (Ichki qo‘shimchalar)

Infixation—the insertion of a morpheme within the root—is rare in Uzbek and generally considered unproductive. However, remnants of infixation may be observed in older or more

fossilized forms of Turkic vocabulary. In modern standard Uzbek, infixation does not function as a standard morphological process. Some linguists argue that what may appear as infixes are better analyzed as parts of root variants or phonological alterations [6].

4. Interfixes (Bog'lovchi qo'shimchalar)

Interfixes are affixes used to link two roots or stems together, particularly in compound word formation. While not as clearly demarcated as in languages like Russian, interfix-like elements in Uzbek may appear in compound constructions to ease pronunciation or clarify morphological boundaries. An example is found in the compounding process such as yozuv-taxtasi (writing-board), where -v- functions as a phonological bridge.

5. Circumfixes (Oldi-orqa qo'shimchalar)

Circumfixes consist of a combination of prefix and suffix elements that jointly function as a single grammatical unit. Although true circumfixes are rare in Uzbek, certain periphrastic constructions or intensive verb forms might be interpreted functionally as circumfixal. For instance, the negation pattern ema(s)...-man in yozmayman (I do not write) shows elements before and after the verb stem, creating a kind of circumfix-like construction with combined semantic effect [7].

6. Multiple Affixation and Hierarchical Structuring

An essential aspect of Uzbek affixation is its capacity for recursive or multiple affixation. This means that several suffixes can be appended to a root in a strict, rule-governed order, with each affix modifying the meaning or grammatical category of the word. The morphological hierarchy generally observes the order:

Root + Derivational Affix(es) + Inflectional Affix(es)

For example:

ish (work) → ishchi (worker) → ishchilar (workers) → ishchilarda (in the workers)

Each step represents an additional affixal layer, with suffixes closely adhering to the root and building meaning outward. This agglutinative stacking is a hallmark of Turkic morphology and provides clarity and regularity in the language's grammatical system.

7. Phonological Considerations

Structurally, affixes in Uzbek are subject to vowel harmony and consonant assimilation rules. Vowel harmony ensures that affix vowels match the front or back quality of the root vowel.

For example:

- kitob (book) + -lar → kitoblar (books)
- bola (child) + -lar → bolalar (children)

This feature highlights the interdependence between the root and the affix and further strengthens the structural integration of morphemes in word formation [8].

Semantic Classification of Affixal Morphemes

Semantically, affixal morphemes in Uzbek are categorized based on their function:

1. **Inflectional Affixes:** These affixes modify a word to express grammatical features such as tense, mood, aspect, person, number, case, and gender without changing the word's core meaning or class. For example, the suffix "-lar" denotes plurality, as in "kitoblar" (books).
2. **Derivational Affixes:** These affixes create new words by altering the meaning or grammatical category of the root. For instance, adding "-chi" to "kitob" (book) forms "kitobchi" (bookseller), changing a noun to denote a profession [10].
3. **Formative Affixes:** These affixes are used to form specific grammatical constructions or to derive certain verb forms.

The semantic impact of affixation in Uzbek is significant, as it allows for the creation of a wide array of word forms and meanings from a single root, facilitating expressive and precise communication. For example, the word "o'quvchiman" (I am a student) demonstrates how multiple affixes can be combined to convey complex grammatical information [9].

Interaction Between Structure and Semantics

The structural position of an affix often correlates with its semantic function. For example, suffixes are predominantly used for inflectional purposes, while prefixes and other affix types may serve derivational functions. The interplay between structure and semantics in affixation contributes to the richness and flexibility of the Uzbek language.

The structural-semantic classification of affixal morphemes in Uzbek reveals a complex and nuanced system that underpins the language's morphological richness. Understanding these classifications enhances our comprehension of Uzbek's linguistic structure and informs various applications, from language education to computational linguistics. As the Uzbek language continues to evolve, ongoing research into its morphological systems will remain essential for preserving its linguistic heritage and facilitating effective communication.

References:

1. Kuronov D. Fundamentals of literary theory. -Tashkent, Akademnashr, 2018. 480 p.
2. Yuldoshev K. Open word. - Tashkent, Tafakkur. 2019. 687 p.

3. Yuldoshev K, Yuldosheva M. Fundamentals of artistic analysis. - Tashkent, Kamalak. 2016. 461 p.
4. Yuldasheva, D. B. Organization of terms as a factor for the improvement of economic sciences [Article]. Euroasian Research Bulletin, 2021. International scientific journal, Volume 2.
5. Pope C., & Golub J. (2019). Preparing tomorrow's language arts teachers today: Principles and practices for infusing technology. Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education. citejournal.org/vol1/iss1/currentissues/article1.htm
6. Kandelaki T.L. Semantics and motivation of terms. / T.L. Kandelaki. - M.: Nauka, 2021. - p.168.
7. Hojiyev A. O'zbek tilida so'z yasalishi tizimi. – Toshkent, 2007;
8. Rahmatullayev Sh. Hozirgi adabiy o'zbek tili. – Toshkent, 2006. –b.115.