A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES OF THE UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative analysis of the historical development and stages of evolution of the Uzbek and English languages. The main focus is on the origin of the two languages, their language families, writing systems, grammatical structures, and lexical characteristics. The article highlights, on a scientific basis, the similarities and differences that have emerged during the process of linguistic development.

Keywords: Uzbek language, English language, comparative linguistics, literary language, historical development, language contact, phonetic system, grammar structure, lexical borrowing, language identity.

Language is one of the most crucial factors in human culture and social development. Every language reflects the historical memory, culture, and worldview of its people. From this perspective, the comparative study of languages belonging to different families is of particular significance in identifying their distinctive developmental features. The Uzbek language belongs to the Turkic family, while English is a member of the Germanic family, and the processes of their formation have been shaped by diverse historical, political, and cultural factors. The development of Uzbek was strongly influenced by Arabic, Persian-Tajik, and Russian, whereas the evolution of English was profoundly enriched by Latin, French, and other European languages. Today, English holds a leading position worldwide as the language of international communication, science, and technology, while Uzbek, as a national language, functions as an important medium of interaction not only within Uzbekistan but also across Central Asia. Therefore, the comparative study of these two languages is relevant not only from a linguistic standpoint but also from a socio-cultural perspective. The primary aim of this article is to analyze the historical stages of development of Uzbek and English, to

identify their similarities and differences, and to highlight the impact of other cultures on their linguistic evolution.

In linguistics, a language family refers to a group of languages that share a common origin and exhibit similar characteristics. For instance, Turkic, Germanic, Slavic, and Romance languages are all considered large language families. Although each language within a family has developed in its own direction, they are united by shared historical roots. Therefore, by comparing different languages, it is possible to identify their similarities and differences.

The Uzbek language belongs to the Turkic branch of the Altaic language family. Today, it is spoken by more than 50 million people. Its historical roots trace back to ancient Turkic written monuments, particularly the "Orxun-Enasoy " inscriptions. Later, Uzbek developed on the basis of Karluk-Chagatai dialects and, during the era of Alisher Navoi, rose to the level of a highly developed literary language.

Agglutinative structure – grammatical meaning is expressed through affixes. For example, in the word ***maktablarimizdan*** ("from our schools"), multiple suffixes are added to a single root, forming new grammatical meanings.

Vowel harmony – in Turkic languages, including Uzbek, harmony of vowels plays an essential role in the phonetic system. This phenomenon means that vowels within a word harmonize with one another. For instance, in the word ***uylar*** ("houses"), the back vowel u determines that subsequent syllables also contain back vowels. Similarly, in ***kitoblar*** ("books"), the vowels ***i*** and ***o*** combine to create phonetic balance within the word. Vowel harmony facilitates easier pronunciation and ensures euphony in speech.

Word order – Uzbek has relatively flexible word order. Since the main meaning of the sentence is conveyed through affixes, the position of words is not strictly fixed. Typically, the sentence follows the structure **Subject + Object + Predicate**, as in ***Salima olma yedi*** ("Salima ate an apple"). Here, ***Salima*** *is the subject, olma the object, and yedi the predicate*. However, the words can be rearranged without changing the core meaning, e.g., ***Olmani Salima yedi*** or ***Salima yedi olmani***. Only emphasis and stylistic nuances vary in such cases.

Germanic languages, including English, are characterized by several typological features, which are most evident in their grammatical structure, verb system, and syntactic properties.

Analytic Structure: One of the most distinctive features of Germanic languages is their analytic nature. This means that grammatical meanings are expressed not mainly through affixes, but rather with the help of auxiliary words, auxiliary verbs, and strict word order. For example, in English, tense forms are formed not by suffixes but by auxiliary verbs*: I will go (Men boraman), I have seen (Men ko'rganman*). In this respect, Germanic languages, especially English, differ from Turkic languages, where grammatical meanings are primarily conveyed through affixes, such as in *boraman, bordim, boryapman.*

Highly Developed Verb Tense System: The verb system in English is extremely rich and complex. It contains not only simple tense forms but also progressive (Continuous), perfect (Perfect), and perfect-progressive (Perfect Continuous) aspects. For example:

I study English – Present Simple (sodda zamon)

I am studying English – Present Continuous (hozirgi davomli zamon)

I have studied English – Present Perfect (hozirgi tugallangan zamon)

I have been studying English for two hours – Present Perfect Continuous (hozirgi tugallangan-davomli zamon)

Such a complex tense system reflects the developed analytic nature of Germanic languages. It allows speakers to express temporal relations with precision and nuance.

Strict Word Order: In Germanic languages, particularly in English, word order is rigidly fixed and plays a crucial role in conveying grammatical meaning. The usual sentence structure is **Subject + Verb + Object**, as in *I read a book (Men kitob o'qidim*). If the word order is altered, the sentence becomes grammatically incorrect: Book I read or Read I book are not considered standard forms. This phenomenon is directly linked to the analytic character of Germanic languages, where grammatical relations are indicated not by affixes but by the strict arrangement of words.

The history of Uzbek writing is rich and marked by several complex stages. In the earliest periods, Turkic peoples used the Old Turkic Orkhon-Enisei inscriptions (7th–8th centuries). This writing system has been preserved in monuments carved in stone. Later, with the spread of Islam, the Uzbek language came to be expressed mainly in the Arabic script. The works of great writers such as Alisher Navoi and Babur were also written in this script. At the beginning of the 20th century, under the influence of the Jadid movement among Turkic peoples, there was a transition toward the Latin script, and from 1929 Uzbek was officially written in Latin letters. However, in 1940, for political reasons, the language was switched to the Cyrillic script. After independence, in 1993, the Republic of Uzbekistan introduced a new alphabet based on the Latin script, and the gradual process of complete transition is still underway today.

The history of English writing has also passed through distinctive stages. In the earliest phase of English, during the Old English period (5th–11th centuries), the runic alphabet brought by Germanic tribes was used. However, as the language developed particularly after the Christianization of England the Latin alphabet began to be widely employed. The Latin script, adapted to the needs of English, has survived to the present day. Over time, under the influence of French, the English writing system underwent many changes, which led to significant divergence between spelling and pronunciation. For this reason, in modern English, the written and spoken forms of many words differ considerably, as in knight, through, island.

The formation of Uzbek and English literary languages covers long historical stages and was shaped under the influence of various social, political, and cultural factors. The roots of the Uzbek literary language go back to ancient Turkic written monuments. The Orkhon-Enisei inscriptions (6th–9th centuries) are of great importance as the earliest written samples of the language and culture of Turkic peoples. Later, works such as Yusuf Khos Khojib's Qutadgu Bilig and Mahmud Kashgari's Devoni Lugoti-Turk further strengthened the foundation of Uzbek literary language. In the 14th-16th centuries, the Chagatai literary

language was formed and reached its peak through the works of the great thinker Alisher Navoi. By proving that the Turkic language was no less rich and expressive than Persian, Navoi created a solid basis for the independent development of Uzbek literary language.

In the 17th-19th centuries, the literary language evolved in different regional directions, with the emergence of literary schools in Khorezm, Bukhara, and Kokand. During this time, writers such as Muqimiy, Furqat, and Ogahiy introduced elements of spoken language into literary expression, bringing it closer to the people. By the 20th century, the Uzbek literary language became standardized, and efforts were made to promote it at the state level. In 1989, Uzbek was granted the status of the state language, and in 1993, the transition to a new Latin-based alphabet was initiated. In the independence period, Uzbek literary language established itself as the main medium in science, education, and governance.

The formation of the English literary language followed a different historical path. Its foundations were laid in the Old English period, beginning in the 5th century, when the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes settled in the British Isles. The epic poem Beowulf stands as a monument of that era's language. Old English was highly synthetic, with a rich system of inflections. Between the 12th and 15th centuries, as a result of the Norman Conquest, English underwent profound changes. Thousands of words from French and Latin enriched the lexicon, while the grammatical system simplified, giving rise to Middle English. Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales played a pivotal role in shaping English as a literary language.

From the 16th to 17th centuries, the Early Modern English period began. The works of William Shakespeare significantly expanded the expressive capacity of the literary language. Pronunciation underwent major shifts, grammar moved toward an analytic structure, and orthography gradually became standardized. By the 18th century, English literary language achieved further standardization, with the creation of dictionaries and grammar handbooks, paving the way for its spread on a global scale.

Uzbek and English literary languages developed through different historical trajectories, both were enriched by great writers, social-political events, and external influences. Uzbek evolved on a Turkic basis, influenced by Persian, Arabic, and Russian, while English developed on a Germanic foundation, widely borrowing words and grammatical features from Latin and French. Today, both stand as standardized literary languages with rich vocabularies and hold their own positions on the international stage.

Grammatical similarities: Both Uzbek and English share the presence of basic parts of speech, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, and numerals. In addition, both languages employ the main syntactic elements of subject, predicate, and object within a sentence structure.

Grammatical differences: Uzbek is an agglutinative language, in which grammatical meanings are primarily expressed through suffixes. For instance, bor-di-m ("I went"), kitob-lar-imiz-da ("in our books") are formed by adding successive affixes to a single root. English, by contrast, is an analytic language, where grammatical meanings are more often conveyed through auxiliary words and strict word order. For example, I have gone, they will come.

Moreover, English possesses a highly developed tense system, including complex forms such as Continuous, Perfect, and Perfect Continuous, while Uzbek tense categories remain relatively simple.

Lexical similarities: Both languages have been strongly influenced by other languages through extensive borrowing. In Uzbek, many loanwords have entered from Arabic, Persian-Tajik, and Russian: maktab (school), adabiyot (literature), telefon (telephone). In English, a great number of words have come from French, Latin, and Greek: education, literature, democracy. Furthermore, globalization has led to the spread of shared modern vocabulary in both languages, such as internet, bank, sport.

Lexical differences: In Uzbek, words of Turkic origin form the core of the vocabulary: ona (mother), ota (father), bola (child), yurak (heart). In English, words of Germanic origin dominate the basic lexicon: mother, father, child, heart. Another key difference is in synonymy: English is abundant in near-synonyms (big – large – huge), whereas in Uzbek synonyms often serve to provide stylistic nuance (katta – ulkan – buyuk).

Phonetic similarities: Both languages consist of vowel and consonant sounds, and their phonetic systems distinguish meaning through these speech sounds. Stress (accent) also plays an important role in differentiating meaning within sentences.

Phonetic differences: Uzbek features vowel harmony, whereby vowels within a word align according to front or back articulation, e.g., uylar, kitoblar. English, however, lacks such a rule, and words often contain a mix of different vowels, e.g., education, beautiful. Another striking difference is in spelling and pronunciation: in English, there is often a significant gap between the two (knight, through), whereas in Uzbek, the orthography is more closely aligned with pronunciation. Stress in Uzbek usually falls on the final syllable (kitoblar), while in English it is less predictable and may appear on the first, middle, or last syllable depending on the word: *TAble, beGIN, deVELopment.*

This comparative study highlights both the commonalities and distinctions in the development of the two languages, providing a valuable theoretical and practical resource for research in linguistics and cultural studies.

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