

THE NOUN AND ITS GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES IN ENGLISH
AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article provides a comparative-typological analysis of the noun as a part of speech and its grammatical categories in English and Uzbek. Nouns are a fundamental part of speech in both languages, serving to identify people, places, things, ideas, and phenomena. The study examines grammatical categories such as number, case, gender, definiteness/indefiniteness, and countability in English and Uzbek from a comparative perspective. Based on the typological characteristics of both languages, the means of expressing these categories, as well as their similarities and differences, are analyzed drawing on scholarly literature and existing research.

Keywords: noun, grammatical categories, number category, case category, gender category, definiteness/indefiniteness, countability, comparative typology, English language, Uzbek language.

In linguistics, the noun (*nominal*) is a fundamental part of speech found in all languages. Nouns function as the basic building blocks of language by representing people, places, things, phenomena, and abstract concepts. The typological differences between language families result in distinct characteristics in how grammatical categories of nouns are expressed.

English belongs to the Germanic group of the Indo-European language family and is classified as a fleective language. Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language family and is an agglutinative language. These typological differences lead to significant variations in how grammatical categories of nouns are manifested.

The issue of grammatical categories of nouns has been studied by numerous linguists. Scholars such as B.J. Buronov, A.T. Irisqulov, Sh. Bobojonov, and U.K. Yusupov have provided important insights into the categorical features of nouns in

English and Uzbek. Among foreign linguists, H. Sweet, R. Quirk, D. Crystal, and G. Yule have contributed significantly to the study of noun categories in English.

1. General Characteristics of the Noun as a Part of Speech

In both English and Uzbek, the noun functions as an independent part of speech expressing the meaning of objectivity and possesses grammatical categories such as number and case. Nouns in both languages primarily serve as subjects, objects, and complements in sentences.

The semantic classification of nouns includes the following groups:

Semantic Feature	English Example	Uzbek Example
Concrete nouns	Table, car	Stol, mashina
Abstract nouns	Freedom, fear	Erkinlik, qo'rquv
Countable nouns	Apple, book	Olma, kitob
Uncountable nouns	Water, rice	Suv, guruch
Animate nouns	Man, child	Inson, bola
Inanimate nouns	Rock, building	Tosh, bino
Collective nouns	Family, group	Oila, guruh

2. The Category of Number.

The category of number is a grammatical category that expresses whether one or more than one item is referred to. According to B.J. Buronov, the category of plurality indicates that the number of objects exceeds one, and this category is characteristic of almost all languages.

The Category of Number in English.

In English, the plural form of nouns is primarily formed through the following methods:

1. Affixal method: Through the suffixes -s, -es

- book – books;
- box – boxes;
- match – matches.

2. Spelling rule changes:

- words ending in consonant + y: y - i + es: baby - babies
- words ending in vowel + y: add -s: boy - boys
- words ending in f, fe: f - v + es: wolf – wolves.

3. Suppletive method (root vowel change):

- man - men
- woman - women
- goose - geese
- tooth – teeth.

4. Nouns with identical singular and plural forms:

- sheep - sheep
- fish - fish
- deer – deer.

5. Loanwords from Latin and Greek:

- datum - data
- phenomenon – phenomena.

The Category of Number in Uzbek

In Uzbek, the plural form of nouns is primarily formed through the suffix -lar, which follows vowel harmony rules:

- kitob - kitoblar (books)
- bola - bolalar (children)
- uy - uylar (houses)

According to A.Anorbekova, plurality in Uzbek is expressed through the following methods:

- 1. Morphological method:** Through the suffix -lar
- 2. Lexical method:** Through numerals, quantitative pronouns (*beshta daftar* – five notebooks, *ko 'p odam* – many people)
- 3. Mixed method:** Lexical and morphological methods combined (*ko 'p otalar* – many parents).

Comparative Analysis.

The category of number in English and Uzbek exhibits the following similarities and differences:

Aspect	English	Uzbek
Plural suffix	-s/-es (<i>multiple variants</i>)	-lar (<i>single form</i>)
Spelling rules	Complex, many exceptions	Simple, no exceptions
Suppletive forms	Exist (<i>man/men</i>)	Do not exist
Loanwords	Special rules	Add -lar
Numeral + noun	Plural form (<i>five books</i>)	Singular form (<i>beshta kitob</i>)

One of the most significant differences is observed in the use of nouns with numerals: in English, nouns after numerals always appear in the plural form (*five books*), while in Uzbek, nouns remain in the singular form (*beshta kitob*). This situation causes grammatical interference for learners.

3. The Category of Case

Case is a grammatical category that indicates the relationship of a noun to other words in a sentence. Significant differences exist in how the category of case is expressed in English and Uzbek.

The Category of Case in English

There are various theories regarding the number of cases in English. H. Sweet maintains that English has two cases:

1. **Common Case** – expressed by a zero morpheme:
 - boy, girl, student
2. **Possessive Case** – expressed by the suffix -'s:
 - boy's, girl's, student's

The possessive case has phonetic variants: [s], [z], [iz]. Sometimes this case can also be expressed through the preposition *of* (*my father's room* - *the room of my father*).

The Category of Case in Uzbek

Uzbek has six cases, expressed through suffixes.

Case	Suffix	Example
Nominative	-	mushuk (cat)
Genitive	-ning	mushukning (of the cat)
Dative	-ga	mushukga (to the cat)
Accusative	-ni	mushukni (the cat)
Locative	-da	mushukda (on/in the cat)
Ablative	-dan	mushukdan (from the cat)

Comparative Analysis

The English common case corresponds to the Uzbek nominative case, while the possessive case corresponds to the Uzbek genitive case (*-ning*). The meanings of the remaining Uzbek cases are expressed in English through prepositions.

4. The Category of Gender

The category of gender indicates whether a noun belongs to masculine, feminine, or neuter categories. This category encompasses natural (*biological*) and grammatical (*formal*) gender.

The Category of Gender in English

Modern English largely lacks grammatical gender. Gender is primarily expressed through pronouns:

- he – for male persons
- she – for female persons
- it – for inanimate objects and animals

Some nouns express gender through lexical or morphological means:

- actor/actress, waiter/waitress, lion/lioness

In recent years, there has been a tendency toward gender-neutral forms in English: the use of "they" as a singular gender-neutral pronoun, and gender-neutral occupational titles (*firefighter, police officer*).

The Category of Gender in Uzbek

Uzbek nouns do not possess the category of gender. Most Uzbek grammar books do not include information about the gender category of nouns because this category is completely absent in Uzbek. The pronoun “u” is used for both males and females, as well as for inanimate objects.

In kinship terms, gender is expressed through lexical means: ota/ona (father/mother), aka/opa (older brother/older sister), o’g’il/qiz (son/daughter).

Comparative Analysis

While English lacks grammatical gender, gender distinctions are preserved in the pronoun system. Uzbek, however, lacks even these distinctions. In both languages, gender can be expressed through morphological, syntactic, and lexical means.

5. The Category of Definiteness/Indefiniteness

The category of definiteness/indefiniteness indicates whether an object is known or unknown to the interlocutors.

Definiteness/Indefiniteness in English

In English, definiteness/indefiniteness is expressed through articles:

- indefinite article: a/an
- definite article: the

Example: a book (some book) – the book (that specific book)

Definiteness/Indefiniteness in Uzbek

Uzbek does not have articles. Definiteness/indefiniteness is expressed through word order, context, or suffixes:

- kitob o’qidim. – Indefinite: read some book;
- kitobni o’qidim. – Definite: read the specific book.

The accusative case (-ni) serves as a marker of definiteness.

6. The Category of Countability

Countability is one of the most important semantic features of nouns and shows typological differences between English and Uzbek.

Countability in English

Countable nouns: can be pluralized and used with numbers

- one book, two books
- a car, some cars

Uncountable nouns: cannot be pluralized or used directly with numbers

- water (not two waters, but two bottles of water)
- information (not informations)

Countability in Uzbek

Uzbek also has countable and uncountable nouns, but uncountable nouns can sometimes appear in plural form to indicate varieties or abundance:

- suv – suvlar (*types of water or large quantities*);
- ma'lumot – ma'lumotlar (*pieces of information*).

Comparative Analysis

Aspect	English	Uzbek
Plural of uncountables	Exceptional	Used to indicate varieties
Quantity expressions	Bottle of, piece of, etc.	-lar suffix or context

7. Structural-Semantic Models of Nouns

In English, nouns combine with other words to form various structural-semantic models. M. Bakhtiyarov's research analyzes cognate word combinations.

The structural model of noun phrases is represented as:

N + Prp + X (N – noun, Prp – preposition, X – any word)

Examples:

- look at the other end - (the) look at the other end
- laughed at Scotty - (the) laugh at Scotty
- feel for you - feeling for you

Research shows that structural-semantic models of noun and verb phrases in English can often be transformed into each other. This transformation occurs while preserving the preposition:

V + Prp + X - N + Prp + X

Example:

- looked at the window - (the) look at the window
- smiled with closed eyes - (a) smile with closed eyes

Such models are called "matching models." They demonstrate the semantic and syntactic proximity between noun and verb phrases.

8. Semantic and Lexicographic Analysis of Abstract Nouns

Abstract nouns express intangible concepts such as emotions, qualities, and states. N. Xo'jaqulova's research analyzes the semantic and lexicographic aspects of abstract nouns in English and Uzbek.

Abstract Nouns in English

English abstract nouns are characterized by precision and specificity. They often reflect analytical categorization:

- freedom (political liberty, personal autonomy, freedom of choice)
- happiness, sadness, love

Abstract Nouns in Uzbek

Uzbek abstract nouns often express gradation and generalization. The phenomenon of gradonymy allows abstract concepts to be expressed at varying degrees:

- sabr (patience) – carries deep cultural and philosophical connotations
- ozodlik (freedom) – cultural and historical connotations

Cultural factors play a significant role in expressing abstract nouns. In Uzbek, abstract nouns often reflect collective experiences and social norms, while in English they emphasize individual experiences and attributes.

The comparative-typological analysis of the noun and its grammatical categories in English and Uzbek yields the following conclusions:

1. **Category of Number** – exists in both languages, but the means of expression differ. In English, plural forms are created through various methods (-s/-es, suppletive forms, special rules for loanwords), while Uzbek has a single suffix -lar. The relationship between numerals and nouns also differs between the two languages.

2. **Category of Case** – Uzbek has six cases expressed through suffixes, while English has two cases (common and possessive). Other case meanings are expressed through prepositions in English.

3. **Category of Gender** – grammatical gender is largely absent in English, though gender distinctions are preserved in the pronoun system. Uzbek completely lacks the category of gender.

4. **Category of Definiteness/Indefiniteness** – expressed through articles in English, while Uzbek uses case suffixes and context.

5. **Countability** – exists in both languages, with typological differences observed in the use of uncountable nouns.

6. **Structural-Semantic Models of Noun Phrases** – in English, nouns combine with prepositions to form complex structural-semantic models that can transform into verb phrases.

7. **Abstract Nouns** – exist in both languages, with cultural and cognitive factors playing important roles in their expression. English abstract nouns are characterized by precision and specificity, while Uzbek abstract nouns exhibit gradation and generalization.

These comparative analysis results have important practical implications for teaching English to Uzbek speakers. Taking into account the similarities and differences between the two languages is essential for overcoming grammatical interference, preventing errors, and enhancing learners' communicative competence.

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