

FACTORS DETERMINING THE COMPARATIVE DIFFERENTIATION AND USE OF SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation

Synonyms are an essential part of any language, providing speakers with multiple ways to express similar meanings with slight differences in nuance, style, or usage. In the context of English and Uzbek, two linguistically distinct languages, the differentiation and use of synonyms are influenced by several linguistic, cultural, historical, and social factors. A comparative analysis between the two languages reveals these influences on how synonyms evolve and are applied in different contexts.

Keywords: synonym, English, analysis, nuance, historical, difference, context.

Introduction

One of the first factors determining the differentiation of synonyms in both languages is their historical and etymological development. English, being a Germanic language, has been significantly influenced by Latin, French, and Old Norse. This influence has resulted in a rich vocabulary, often featuring synonyms that stem from different origins. For instance, synonyms like ask (Anglo-Saxon origin) and inquire (Latin origin) coexist, with subtle differences in formality and usage.

Analysis and results

In contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic language, has undergone major influence from Persian, Arabic, and Russian due to historical interactions, particularly during periods of Islamic expansion and Soviet rule. This has enriched the Uzbek lexicon, introducing multiple layers of vocabulary, including synonyms from different linguistic roots. For example, the Uzbek words *ahmoq* (Persian origin) and *nodon* (Arabic origin)



both mean “fool” yet their use depends on context, tone, and the formality of the conversation.

Cultural factors significantly impact the choice and use of synonyms in both English and Uzbek. In English, synonyms often reflect cultural subtleties related to politeness, social hierarchy, and interpersonal relationships. For instance, while die is neutral, words like pass away or depart are used in more sensitive or formal contexts to soften the expression. In Uzbek, social norms tied to respect, seniority, and politeness also shape the use of synonyms. The use of honorifics and respectful terms is common when addressing elders or people of high social standing. For example, ketmoq means 'to leave,' but a more respectful version might be tashrif buyurmoq, which carries a formal and respectful tone. This shows how synonymous expressions can vary depending on the social and cultural context of the speaker.

The structure of a language also plays a pivotal role in the differentiation of synonyms. English is analytic, meaning it relies on word order and auxiliary verbs to convey meaning, while Uzbek is an agglutinative language, relying on suffixes to modify the meanings of words. This structural difference means that in Uzbek, the choice of synonym often depends on the specific suffixes attached to the root word. For instance, in English, happy and joyful can be used interchangeably, but the differentiation lies in formality and connotation. In Uzbek, the word xursand (happy) can take on different nuances through suffixes like xursandchilik (happiness) or xursandqilmoq (to make someone happy). Thus, the morphological richness of Uzbek creates layers of meaning within synonyms that extend beyond simple word substitution.

Connotation plays a crucial role in the use of synonyms in both languages. In English, words like slim and skinny both describe someone who is thin, but slim has a positive connotation, suggesting attractiveness, while skinny may carry negative connotations of unhealthiness. Similarly, in Uzbek, the words ozg‘in and nozik both mean thin, but ozg‘in might imply frailty or weakness, while nozik can imply delicacy and elegance. Understanding the emotional weight and connotations of synonyms is essential for speakers to choose the most context-appropriate word. Both English and Uzbek speakers navigate these emotional subtleties, ensuring that the choice of synonym aligns with the intended tone of the conversation.

Formality is another key factor differentiating synonyms in both languages. In English, words like start and commence differ mainly in their level of formality,



with commence being used in more formal contexts. Similarly, Uzbek also distinguishes between formal and informal speech, with different synonyms used depending on the level of formality required. For example, boshlamoq (to begin) is an informal way to express 'starting,' whereas kirishmoq is more formal and might be used in official or ceremonial contexts. This sensitivity to formality is often tied to the social or professional context in which a word is used. Formal occasions or written documents in both languages demand more refined vocabulary choices, while informal settings allow for more relaxed, colloquial expressions.

The influence of other languages is significant in both English and Uzbek, contributing to synonym differentiation. English borrows heavily from Latin, French, and Greek, while Uzbek incorporates elements from Persian, Arabic, Russian, and, more recently, English. This borrowing leads to the existence of multiple synonyms with different shades of meaning. For instance, in English, freedom (Germanic origin) and liberty (Latin origin) are synonyms with slight contextual differences. In Uzbek, the Russian influence during the Soviet era introduced many loanwords, resulting in pairs like traktor (from Russian) and traktorka (Uzbek diminutive form), which refer to a tractor but with differing levels of familiarity and tone.

Finally, regional dialects and local variations influence synonym use in both English and Uzbek. In English, British and American variants of the language often use different synonyms for the same concept. For instance, flat is common in British English, while apartment is used in American English. Similarly, in Uzbek, dialectal variations play a significant role. The southern dialect might use different synonyms than the northern regions due to cultural and historical differences. For example, the word for "child" can be bola in the standard dialect, but in some regions, farzand or o'g'il bola might be more common.

Conclusion

The comparative differentiation and use of synonyms in English and Uzbek are shaped by a variety of factors, including historical influences, cultural norms, linguistic structures, and regional variations. While both languages offer a rich synonymic vocabulary, the nuances governing synonym use differ due to these underlying factors. For learners of both languages, understanding these distinctions is crucial for achieving fluency and conveying meaning with precision and



sensitivity. By exploring the factors discussed, language learners and linguists alike can gain deeper insights into how synonyms operate across English and Uzbek, ultimately improving cross-linguistic understanding and communication. This article provides a structured overview of the primary factors influencing synonym differentiation in English and Uzbek, comparing and contrasting key linguistic and cultural elements in both languages. Let me know if you'd like to explore more specific examples or delve into any section in further detail!

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