

ADJECTIVES IN ARABIC NAHIVI AND THE ADJECTIVE CLASS IN UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This article analyzes the adjective class of the Arabic and Uzbek languages from a comparative-typological perspective. The semantic, morphological, and syntactic characteristics of the adjective (al-na't) relation in Arabic grammar and the distinctive features of the adjective class in Uzbek are examined. The similarities and differences in adjectival formation, case agreement, the degree category, and syntactic functions in both languages are clarified.

Keywords: Arabic grammar, adjective (n'at), Uzbek language, adjective class, comparative analysis, degree of adjectives, agreement, relative adjective, morphological aspect.

Introduction

In linguistics, comparative-typological research is of particular importance, as it allows for the identification of similar and different aspects of languages with different systems. Arabic and Uzbek languages are fundamentally different from each other genetically: Arabic belongs to the Semitic languages family, while Uzbek belongs to the Turkic languages group. However, a superficial layer of lexical and semantic connections exists between the two languages, and due to historical relations, over a thousand words have been borrowed into Uzbek from Arabic to function as adjectives.¹

A comparative study of the adjective categories in Arabic and Uzbek is among the issues that have not yet been fully researched in this field. Existing textbooks

¹ Ibrohimov S., Yo'ldoshev M. Modern Uzbek Literary Language. – Tashkent: O'qituvchi, 2009. – P. 112.

and manuals primarily describe the internal system of the Arabic language. In the "Textbook of the Arabic Language" prepared by B.Z. Khalidov, grammatical categories are also explained in the context of the Uzbek language, but a systematic comparative analysis is not provided.²

This article is dedicated to determining the semantic-grammatical nature of the adjective (al-naʿt) in Arabic syntax, the structure of the adjective class in Uzbek, and their common and distinguishing features. The purpose of the study is to comparatively examine the morphological, syntactic, and semantic parameters of the adjective category in both languages.

The concept of adjective and its types in Arabic grammar.

In Arabic linguistics, the main phenomenon expressing the adjectival relation is called naʿt or sifat. In classical Arabic grammar, al-naʿtis defined as an independent noun that specifies the characteristic of a preceding noun (mawṣūf – the described one). According to the basic rules of Arabic syntax, the naʿt must agree with the head noun (mawṣūf) in four categories: gender (jins), number (ʿadd), case (iʿrāb), and definiteness/indefiniteness (al-taʿrīf wa-t-tankīr).

In A. Abdujabborov's "Arabic Language" textbook, it is emphasized that more than twenty suffixes are used to form adjectives from three-consonant verbs.³ Their main morphological features are as follows: the faʿil suffix – definite degree adjective (sima faʿil); The فَعِيل form – in the passive sense; مَفْعَال, فَعَال, فَعُول, فَعُول – intensive (hyperbolic) adjective forms (صيغة المبالغة). For example: عالم (knowledgeable) → عَالِم (omniscient); صادق (truthful) → صَادِق (truth-teller, truthful).

Adjectives denoting color and physical characteristics have a separate morphological pattern: in the masculine gender they are in the form أَفْعَل, and in the feminine gender (muannas) they are in the form فَعْلَاء. For example: أَحْمَر (red, masculine) → حَمْرَاء (red, feminine); أَشْهَل (blue-eyed, masculine) → شَهْلَاء (blue-eyed, feminine). This أَفْعَل-فَعْلَاء pattern is fundamentally different from the adjective-formation patterns in Uzbek.

² Khalidov B.Z. The Arabic Language: A Textbook for Higher Education Institutions. – Tashkent: Fan, 1977. – 173 pp.

³ Abdujabborov A. The Arabic Language: A Textbook for University Students (Reprint). – Tashkent: Tashkent Islamic University Publishing-Printing Complex, 2015. – P. 47.

Adjectives denoting mental and physical states follow the فَعْلَان (masculine) and فَعْلَى (feminine) patterns: غَضْبَان/غَضَبَى – angry; عَطْشَان/عَطْشَى – thirsty. Although these forms are semantically equivalent to Uzbek emotional adjectives (quvnoq, g'amgin, ezgin), they are formed morphologically in a completely different way.

Relative adjectives in Arabic and their corresponding forms in Uzbek.

In Arabic, adjectives that express relation—relative adjectives (nisba, al-nisba)—are formed by adding the suffixiyy- to the end of a noun.⁴ This suffix corresponds to the -li, -dagi, and -ga-oid constructions in Uzbek: misriy- Egyptian. (Egyptian); خَشَبِيّ – made of wood (wood+iy); عِلْمِيّ – scientific (science+iy). Relative adjectives are a productively used category in both languages, and in Arabic the final ة (tā' marbūṭa) is dropped: siyāsah → siyāsī (siyosiy). In Uzbek, however, the suffix is added directly to the noun: siyosat → siyosiy.

Similarly, in Arabic, you can form a noun from an adjective by adding the suffix ة: عِلْمِيّ (ilmiy) → عِلْمِيَّة (ilmiylik); وَطَنِيّ (vatanparvar) → وَطَنِيَّة (vatanparvarlik). In Uzbek, however, the -lik suffix is used in this case. Thus, both languages allow creating an abstract noun from a comparative adjective, but the morphological means differ.

Category of adjective degrees.

In Arabic, the comparative degree of adjectives formed from three-consonant roots is expressed in the form أَفْعَلُ وزن with the particle مِنْ.⁵ For example: زَيْدٌ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ يَزِيدٍ – "Zayd is older than Yazid"; أَنْتَ أَجْمَلُ مِنْهُمْ – "You are more beautiful than them.". The superlative degree is expressed in the form of أَفْعَلُ fully agreeing with the noun, or in the form فُلَانٌ (feminine, plural fū'lāyāt): al-ibnu l-akbar – "the eldest son."

In Uzbek, the comparative degree is formed with the -roq suffix: katta → kattaroq; the superlative degree is formed with the eng word: eng katta, eng chiroyli. The Arabic suffix أَفْعَلُ combines the possibilities of Uzbek's -roq and eng in a single morphological pattern, which is an important typological feature that distinguishes the two languages from each other.

From Arabic adjectives of color and physical properties (the أَفْعَلُ/فَعْلَاء stem), comparative adjectives, and four-consonant verbal participles, to form comparative or superlative degrees, are أَكْثَرُ (more/most), أَشَدُّ (stronger/most

⁴ Versteegh K. The Arabic Language. – Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2001. – P. 58.

⁵ Wright W. A Grammar of the Arabic Language. 3rd ed. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1896. Vol. I. – P. 142.

intense), The words أَقَلَّ (lesser/least) and أَكْثَرُ (more/most) are attached to a noun or a verb stem. This is partially similar to Uzbek: in Uzbek, too, simple adjectives are formed with -roq/eng, while complex adjectives are expressed through auxiliary words.

The syntactic function of the adjective.

In Arabic grammar, the syntactic position of the adjective (naʿt) is fundamentally distinctive: the adjective always comes after the noun it modifies. For example: طَالِبٌ مُجْتَهِدٌ - "diligent student" (literally: "student diligent"). In this case, the *naʿt* (adjective) agrees with the *mawṣūf* (noun) in gender, number, case, and definite/indefinite status.

In Uzbek, however, the adjective comes before the modified noun and does not take any case, gender, or number endings: «tirishqoq talaba» - «hardworking student», «katta xona» - «big room», «qizil gul» - «red flower». In Uzbek, the adjective is morphologically invariable, expressing degree only with certain suffixes.⁶ This fundamental typological difference constitutes one of the most important grammatical distinctions between Semitic and Turkic languages.

In Arabic, an adjective can also function as a predicate adjective: الطَّالِبُ مُجْتَهِدٌ - "The student is diligent." In this case, if the linking verb (كَانَ or another auxiliary verb) is omitted, the adjective functions as a direct predicate. In Uzbek, adjectives can also function as predicative modifiers, but they are usually used with the particle -dir or the verb "bo'lmoq" (to be): "The student is diligent."

Morphological Asymmetry and Common Features.

If we compare the morphological structure of adjectives in Arabic and Uzbek, the following asymmetry becomes apparent: The adjective class in Arabic is morphologically rich (with categories of gender, number, case, and definiteness), whereas the adjective class in Uzbek is morphologically neutral (with no grammatical gender, number, or case categories). As W. Wright points out in "A Grammar of the Arabic Language," the adjective in Arabic is a form of the noun class, fully reflecting all the noun categories.⁷

In both languages, adjectives have the following common features: 1) expressing quality, attribute, or state; 2) being added to a noun as a modifier; 3) the ability to

⁶ Grammar of the Uzbek Language. Vol. I: Morphology / Editor-in-Chief A. N. Tixonov. – Tashkent: Fan, 1975. – P. 210.

⁷ Wright W. A Grammar of the Arabic Language. 3rd ed. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1896. Vol. II. – P. 263.

function as a predicate; 4) the ability to form comparative adjectives; 5) the categories of comparative and superlative degree.

In Uzbek, adjectives are classified morphologically into simple (qizil, katta, yaxshi) and compound (qovoq rangli, ko'k-yashil), as well as derived forms created with suffixes (-li, -dor, -kor, -simon). In Arabic, adjectives are divided into two main types: true adjectives (non-relational) and relational adjectives (al-nisba).⁸

Conclusion: The comparative analysis carried out allows for the following conclusions:

In Arabic, the adjective (n't) always comes after the noun it modifies and agrees with it in gender, number, case, and definite/indefinite form; in Uzbek, however, the adjective comes before the noun and does not agree.

In Arabic, there are more than twenty morphological patterns for forming adjectives; in Uzbek, adjectives are formed mainly through suffixes (-li, -dor, -kor, -simon, etc.). Although the Arabic superlative adjective forms (صيغة المبالغة) have semantic equivalents in Uzbek, they are expressed differently morphologically. Furthermore, the comparative adjective (النسبة/nisba) is an active phenomenon in both languages, expressed in Arabic with the suffix -iy and in Uzbek with the suffixes -li, -dagi, and -lik.

The degree category exists in both languages: while the Arabic form أَفْعَل expresses both comparative and superlative degrees, in Uzbek the suffixes -roq and -eng are used separately. Another noteworthy aspect is that the adjective category in both languages shares the common feature of functioning as a predicate, but there is a significant difference in the means of expression.

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⁸ Versteegh K. The Arabic Language. – Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2001. – P. 72.

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