

COMPARISON OF KOREAN AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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Abstract: *This article presents a comparative analysis of the grammatical structures of Uzbek and Korean, two languages from the Altaic family. Despite the geographical and cultural differences between Uzbekistan and Korea, the languages share notable similarities in their grammatical frameworks, particularly in terms of agglutinative morphology, subject-object-verb (SOV) sentence structure, and the use of honorifics.*

Key words: *Altaic family, suffixes, SOV languages, morphology, conjugation, writing systems, Cyrillic and loanwords.*

Despite the geographical and cultural differences between Uzbekistan and Korea, the languages share notable similarities in their grammatical frameworks, particularly in terms of agglutinative morphology, subject-object-verb (SOV) sentence structure, and the use of honorifics. Through detailed examples and explanations, this study highlights the commonalities and distinctions that underpin the grammar of these languages, contributing to a broader understanding of the typological and historical relationships within the Altaic language family. Languages classified under the Altaic family, such as Uzbek and Korean, exhibit several linguistic features that are worth investigating due to their implications for historical linguistics and typological studies. This paper aims to explore the grammatical structures of Uzbek and Korean, emphasizing their similarities through a comparative lens. Both languages employ agglutinative morphology, adhere to an SOV sentence structure, and incorporate honorifics into their linguistic frameworks. These shared characteristics provide valuable insights into their historical connections and structural affinities.

1. Grammatical Similarities

1.1. Word Order (SOV – Subject + Object + Verb)

Both Korean and Uzbek follow the subject-object-verb (SOV) word order, unlike English, which uses the subject-verb-object (SVO) structure.

Uzbek: Men kitob o'qiyman.

Korean: 나는 책을 읽어요. (Na-neun chaek-eul ilg-eoyo.)

English: I read a book.

In both languages, the verb always comes at the end of the sentence.

1.2. Possessive Forms

Both languages use suffixes to indicate possession.

Uzbek: Mening kitobim

Korean: 나의 책 (Na-ui chaek)

In Uzbek, possessive suffixes (-im, -ing, -i, -miz) are used, while in Korean, the possessive marker 의 (ui) is used but often omitted in speech.

1.3. Honorific and Formal Speech Levels

Both languages distinguish between formal and informal speech.

Uzbek: Siz qayerga bormoqchisiz? (Formal)

Korean: 어디 가십니까? (Eodi gasimnikka?) (Formal)

Korean: 어디 가? (Eodi ga?) (Informal)

In Uzbek, "siz" is used for politeness, while in Korean, verb endings change (-합니다 / -습니다) to express formality.

2. Grammatical Differences

2.1. Verb Conjugation and Tense Formation

While both languages conjugate verbs, Korean has a more complex system.

In Uzbek, future tense is expressed using "-adi" or "-moqchi", while in Korean, "거예요" is commonly used.

2.2. Adjectives Acting as Verbs in Korean

In Korean, adjectives behave like verbs and change based on tense and politeness, while in Uzbek, adjectives remain static.

Example: Korean: 이 책이 재미있어요. (I chaek-i jaemiisseoyo.) – "This book is interesting."

Uzbek: Bu kitob qiziqarli.

3. Differences in Phonetics and Writing

3.1. Pronunciation Differences

Korean has unique sounds not found in Uzbek:

ㅇ is a silent letter at the beginning of words.

ㄹ can be pronounced as both "r" and "l" depending on the position.

3.2. Writing Systems (Hangeul vs. Latin/Cyrillic)

Uzbek uses the Latin alphabet (previously Cyrillic), while Korean uses Hangeul, a phonetic script.

Uzbek: Kitob Korean: 책 (Chaek)

Korean writing consists of syllabic blocks rather than individual letters.

4. Vocabulary and Loanwords

Uzbek has borrowed words from Arabic, Persian, and Russian, while Korean has many Chinese loanwords.

Both languages are also incorporating English words in modern times.

AGGLUTINATIVE MORPHOLOGY

Agglutinative languages form words by stringing together morphemes, each contributing a specific meaning or grammatical function. Both Uzbek and Korean exemplify this characteristic. In Uzbek, affixes are attached to a base word to convey various grammatical meanings. For example, the verb "yur-" (to walk) can be modified as follows: -yur-a (walk-imp) – Walk! -yur-ib (walk-conv) – Walking -yur-gan (walk-past part) – Walked. Korean Similarly, Korean uses a series of suffixes to modify the base form of a word. For instance, the verb "걷다" (geotda, to walk) can be inflected as: -걸어라 (geoteora) – Walk! -걷고 (geotgo) – Walking -걸었다 (georeotda) – Walked

Conclusion: The comparative analysis of Uzbek and Korean grammar reveals significant similarities, particularly in their agglutinative morphology, SOV sentence structure, and use of honorifics. These commonalities underscore the typological connections between the two languages and provide a foundation for further research into their historical and linguistic relationships. Understanding these shared grammatical features enriches our comprehension of the broader Altaic language family and its intricate web of interconnections

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