

**ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКАЯ, ПРИКЛАДНАЯ И СРАВНИТЕЛЬНО-СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНАЯ
ЛИНГВИСТИКА/THEORETICAL, APPLIED AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS**

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.60797/RULB.2025.72.12>

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MORPHOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF THE DEGREES OF ADJECTIVES IN
TAJIK AND ENGLISH**

Research article

Abstract

The given article dwells on the comparative analysis of morphological peculiarities of the degrees of adjectives in Tajik and English. It systematically examines the formation, function, and contextual nuances of positive, comparative, and superlative degrees in both languages, highlighting their respective morphological strategies. Through a sentence-by-sentence comparative analysis, the research explores how notions of comparison and extremeness are expressed, identifying convergences and divergences in the grammatical systems of these two typologically distinct languages. The findings aim to deepen the understanding of adjectival morphology in both Tajik and English, offer insights into cross-linguistic semantic equivalence, and provide practical guidance for translation between the languages.

Keywords: Tajik and English languages, adjectives, degrees of comparison, comparative, superlative, morphology, comparative linguistics.

**СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ОСОБЕННОСТЕЙ СТЕПЕНЕЙ
ПРИЛАГАТЕЛЬНЫХ В ТАДЖИКСКОМ И АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ**

Научная статья

Аннотация

В данной статье представлен сопоставительный анализ морфологических особенностей степеней прилагательных в таджикском и английском языках. Систематически рассматриваются образование, функционирование и контекстуальные нюансы положительной, сравнительной и превосходной степеней в обоих языках, выделяя соответствующие морфологические стратегии. Посредством попредложного сопоставительного анализа в исследовании изучается выражение понятий сравнения и экстремальности, выявляются сходства и расхождения в грамматических системах этих двух типологически различных языков. Результаты исследования направлены на углубление понимания морфологии прилагательных в таджикском и английском языках, прояснение межъязыковой семантической эквивалентности и предоставление практических рекомендаций по переводу между этими языками.

Ключевые слова: таджикский и английский языки, прилагательные, степени сравнения, сравнительная, превосходная степень, морфология, сравнительное языкознание.

Introduction

1.1. Background

Adjectives, as a crucial part of speech, enable speakers to describe, qualify, and compare nouns, enriching descriptive language and conveying precise information. A fundamental aspect of adjectival morphology is the expression of degrees of comparison — positive, comparative, and superlative — which allow for the grading of qualities. While the semantic concept of comparison is universal, the morphological and syntactic mechanisms employed by languages to express these degrees vary significantly. Tajik, an Indo-Iranian language with a rich literary tradition, and English, a Germanic language, offer distinct paradigms for adjectival gradation [6, P. 64], [7, P. 58]. Understanding these differences is not merely a matter of linguistic classification but is essential for accurate comprehension, effective communication, and particularly, for nuanced translation between these two languages [8].

1.2. Research Problem and Significance

Despite general linguistic descriptions of adjectival degrees in both Tajik and English, a focused, in-depth comparative analysis, particularly one grounded in a substantial literary corpus like “Reminiscences” by Sadriddin Aini remains less explored. Existing research often provides isolated grammatical descriptions or general comparative statements without delving into the intricate morphological peculiarities, semantic subtleties, and the specific challenges encountered in cross-linguistic rendering within authentic textual contexts [1].

Research methods

Corpus Selection: The primary corpus is “Reminiscences” by Aini. This choice is justified by its literary significance, its rich and authentic Tajik language, and its extensive descriptive passages which are likely to contain a wide array of adjectival forms, including those in various degrees of comparison. A reputable published English translation of the chosen work will be used for comparative purposes, or where an official translation is lacking or deemed insufficient for fine-grained linguistic analysis, the researcher will provide expert translations [9], [10].

Data Collection:

1. *Systematic Identification:* The entire Tajik text of “Reminiscences” will be thoroughly read to identify all instances of adjectives in their positive, comparative, and superlative degrees.

2. *Extraction and Annotation:* Each identified instance will be extracted along with its complete sentence and its corresponding page number in the Tajik edition of “Reminiscences” [4], [5].

3. *English Equivalents:* For each extracted Tajik sentence, its English translation (from the published translation or the researcher's own expert rendition) will be obtained and noted [2], [3].

Main results and discussion

3.1. Comparative Analysis of Adjectival Degrees in Tajik and English: on the example of “Reminiscences” by Aini

Hereby, the study presents a direct comparative analysis of the systems for expressing adjectival degrees in Tajik and English, drawing upon empirically derived examples from “Reminiscences” by Aini. The analysis of each example adheres to the detailed comparative structure established in the methodology.

3.1.1. Comparison of positive degrees and their translation

So, the consideration of positive degree adjectives in the corpus of our study reveals consistent patterns in their morphological formation across both Tajik and English.

Example 1

Дар ҳаёти ман як рӯзи рангин буд [1, P. 90] – There was a *colorful* day in my life.

Based on the above-adduced sentence, one can assert that the adjective *рангин* functions in the positive degree. Morphologically, it is derived from the noun *ранг* + the suffix *-ин*. In this sentence, it serves as an attributive adjective, directly modifying the noun *рӯз*. The English adjective *colorful* also represents the positive degree. Its morphological structure involves the derivation from the noun *color* + the suffix *-ful*. Syntactically, it directly modifies the noun *day*, mirroring the attributive function of its Tajik counterpart.

Thus, the relevant instance demonstrates a high degree of both formal and semantic equivalence. The parallel morphological derivation through suffixation (noun + suffix to adjective) and the identical attributive syntactic function contribute to a robust cross-linguistic correspondence in both structure and meaning.

3.2. Comparison of comparative degrees

The corpus of our study considers the morphological and syntactic mechanisms employed by these languages to express comparative degrees of adjectives, with particular attention to the use of the Tajik suffix *-тар* versus English *-er* or *more*, and the comparative markers *аз* versus *than*.

3.2.1. Synthetic comparative: Tajik *-тар* vs. English *-er*

Example 2

Хонаи мо аз хонаи ҳамсоя қуҳнатар буд [1, P. 200] – Our house was *older* than the neighbor's house.

The adjective *қуҳнатар* is the comparative form of *қуҳна*. Its formation is synthetic, achieved by affixing the suffix *-тар* to the positive degree. The explicit comparison is marked by the preposition *аз*, which precedes the noun phrase denoting the entity of comparison *хонаи ҳамсоя*. The English adjective *older* is the synthetic comparative form of *old*, derived by adding the suffix *-er*. The explicit comparison is similarly marked by the conjunction *than*, preceding *the neighbor's house*.

Thus, the adduced example demonstrates a very high degree of formal, functional, and semantic equivalence. Both Tajik and English predominantly utilize synthetic suffixation for the formation of comparative adjectives from monosyllabic or short disyllabic bases, and both employ distinct lexical items *аз/than* to introduce the comparative complement.

3.2.2. Analytic comparative: Tajik “бештар + adjective” vs. English “more + adjective”

Example 3

Ин масъала аз дигарон бештар муҳим буд [1, P. 60] – This issue was *more* important than the others.

The comparative expression *бештар муҳим* employs an analytic construction, combining the comparative adverb *бештар* with the positive degree adjective *муҳим*. The comparative complement is introduced by *аз дигарон*. The English counterpart *more important* also relies on an analytic construction, utilizing the adverb *more* preceding the positive degree adjective *important*. The comparison is explicitly marked by *than the others*.

This instance exhibits high functional and semantic equivalence. Both languages demonstrate a shared preference for analytic (periphrastic) constructions when forming comparatives from adjectives that are typically polysyllabic or of non-indigenous origin, employing functionally analogous adverbs *бештар/more* to denote increased degree.

3.2.3. Irregular comparative forms

Example 4

Ҳолати ӯ аз пештара хубтар шуд [1, P. 300] – His condition became *better* than before.

The adjective *хубтар* is the comparative form of *хуб*. Notably, in Tajik, this comparative is formed regularly via the suffix *-тар*. The comparison is established with *аз пештара*. The English adjective *better* is the irregular, suppletive comparative form of *good*. The comparative complement is introduced by *than before*.

Into the bargain, the above-mentioned example highlights high functional and semantic equivalence in conveying the comparative meaning. However, a significant morphological divergence is observed: the Tajik form *хубтар* is morphologically regular, whereas its English equivalent *better* is a classic instance of an irregular comparative.

3.3. Comparison of Superlative Degrees

This subsection analyzes the morphological and syntactic strategies employed by Tajik and English for expressing superlative degrees of adjectives, comparing the Tajik suffix *-тарин* and periphrastic *аз ҳама* constructions with English *-est*, *most*, and analogous phrasal elements like *of all* or *in the world*.

3.3.1. Synthetic Superlative: Tajik “-тарин” vs. English “-est” / “most”

Example 5

Ин рӯзи хотирмонтарин дар ҳаёти ман буд [1, P. 290] – This was *the most memorable* day in my life.

The superlative adjective *хотирмонтарин* is derived synthetically from *хотирмон* via the suffix *-тарин*. The English equivalent, *most memorable*, employs an analytic (periphrastic) construction (*most* + positive adjective), consistent with English morphology for polysyllabic adjectives. Seemingly, a monosyllabic Tajik base (e.g., *калонтарин/biggest*) would typically correspond to an English synthetic form (e.g., *biggest*). High functional and semantic equivalence is observed, as both forms effectively convey the highest degree. However, a formal morphological divergence exists for this specific adjective, with Tajik using synthetic suffixation where English employs analytic periphrasis.

3.3.2. Analytic Superlative: Tajik “аз ҳама + Positive Adjective” vs. English “the most + Positive Adjective”

Example 6

Ў аз ҳама мардони деҳа боақл буд [1, P. 111] – He was *the most intelligent man* in the village.

The analytic superlative *аз ҳама боақл* combines the intensifier *аз ҳама* with the positive adjective *боақл* denoting the highest degree within the group *мардони деҳа*. The English analytic counterpart, *the most intelligent* uses *the most* + positive adjective *intelligent* mirroring the Tajik periphrastic structure for polysyllabic adjectives in group emphasis. Very high functional, semantic, and formal equivalence is observed in these parallel analytic superlative strategies.

3.3.3. Irregular Superlative Forms**Example 7**

Ин дастури беҳтарин барои зиндагии ман буд [1, P. 95] – This was *the best* instruction for my life.

The superlative *беҳтарин* is derived from *хуб* through regular *-тарин* suffixation. In contrast, the English equivalent *best* is the irregular, suppletive superlative of *good*. While conveying identical superlative meaning (high functional/semantic equivalence), a notable formal divergence exists in morphological regularity: regular suffixation in Tajik versus irregular lexicalization in English, illustrating distinct historical morphological patterns for high-frequency adjectives.

Conclusion

Thus, the corpus of our study systematically compared adjectival degrees in Tajik and English, detailing their formation, function, and semantic nuances. While sharing the conceptual framework of comparison, they exhibit distinct morphological realizations: Tajik uses suffixes *-тар*, *-тарин* and analytic *аз ҳама*, while English employs suffixation *-er*, *-est* and periphrasis *more*, *most*, alongside irregular forms. “Reminiscences” by Aini exemplified these distinctions, highlighting parallels in synthetic and analytic strategies and underscoring the importance of morphological and syntactic understanding for translation equivalence. The research deepens appreciation for both languages and offers insights for linguistics, language learning, and translation.

Конфликт интересов

Не указан.

Рецензия

Все статьи проходят рецензирование. Но рецензент или автор статьи предпочли не публиковать рецензию к этой статье в открытом доступе. Рецензия может быть предоставлена компетентным органам по запросу.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Review

All articles are peer-reviewed. But the reviewer or the author of the article chose not to publish a review of this article in the public domain. The review can be provided to the competent authorities upon request.

Список литературы / References

1. Айни С. Ёддоштҳо. Ҷилди 2 / С. Айни. — Душанбе : Адиб, 2018. — 600 с.
2. Бобомуродов Ш. Луғати мухтасари калимасозии забонии адабии тоҷик: дастури таълим / Ш. Бобомуродов, А. Муъминова. — Душанбе : Маориф, 1983. — 120 с.
3. Грамматикаи забони адабии ҳозираи тоҷик. — Душанбе : Дониш, 1985. — 356 с.
4. Косимова М.Н. История таджикского литературного языка (IX–X вв.) / М.Н. Косимова. — Душанбе, 2003. — 490 с.
5. Расторгуева В.С. Опыт сравнительного изучения таджикских говоров : монография / В.С. Расторгуев. — Москва : Наука, 1964. — 187 с.
6. Усманова М.Э. Английский флективный гомоморф «-er» и его эквиваленты в таджикском языке / М.Э. Усманова, М. Абдуллоев // Вестник Таджикского государственного университета права, бизнеса и политики. Серия гуманитарных наук. — 2019. — № 2 (79). — С. 58–64.
7. Ashrapov B.P. Some Views on the Usage of Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives in the Tajik Literary Language Referring to 17th–18th Centuries / B.P. Ashrapov // Bulletin of Dagestan State University. Series 2: Humanities. — 2022. — Vol. 37. — № 3. — P. 58–64.
8. Biber D. Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English / D. Biber [et al.]. — 2nd edition. — Harlow : Pearson Education, 2013. — 1204 p.
9. Sattorova M.A. A Comparative Analysis of Adjectival Degree Morphology in Tajik, Chinese, and English / M.A. Sattorova // In Situ. — 2025. — № 2. — P. 92–95.
10. Zayniev D. The Polysemy of the Colour Term *White* in English, Russian, Tajik and Uzbek / D. Zayniev // Explorations in English Language and Linguistics. — 2019. — Vol. 7. — № 2. — P. 112–134.

Список литературы на английском языке / References in English

1. Ayni S. Yoddoshto. Ҷилди 2 [Reminiscences. Vol. 2] / S. Ayni. — Dushanbe : Adib, 2018. — 600 p. [in Tajik]
2. Bobomurodov Sh. Lughati mukhtasari kalimasozii zaboronii adabii tojik [Concise dictionary of word formation of the Tajik literary language] : a textbook / Sh. Bobomurodov, A. Mu'minova. — Dushanbe : Maorif, 1983. — 120 p. [in Tajik]
3. Grammatikai zaboni adabii hozirai tojik [Grammar of the modern Tajik literary language]. — Dushanbe : Donish, 1985. — 356 p. [in Tajik]
4. Kosimova M.N. Istoriya tadjhikskogo literaturnogo yazyka (IX–X vv.) [History of the Tajik literary language (9th–10th centuries)] / M.N. Kosimova. — Dushanbe, 2003. — 490 p. [in Russian]
5. Rastorgueva V.S. Opyt sravnitel'nogo izucheniya tadjhikskikh govorov [Experience of comparative study of Tajik dialects] : monograph / V.S. Rastorgueva. — Moscow : Nauka, 1964. — 187 p. [in Russian]

6. Usmanova M.E. Angliiskii flektivnyi gomomorf "-er" i ego ekvivalenty v tadzhikskom yazyke [English inflectional homomorph "-er" and its equivalents in the Tajik language] / M.E. Usmanova, M. Abdulloev // Vestnik Tadzhijskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta prava, biznesa i politiki. Seriya gumanitarnykh nauk [Bulletin of the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics. Series of Humanities]. — 2019. — № 2 (79). — P. 58–64. [in Russian]
7. Ashrapov B.P. Some Views on the Usage of Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives in the Tajik Literary Language Referring to 17th–18th Centuries / B.P. Ashrapov // Bulletin of Dagestan State University. Series 2: Humanities. — 2022. — Vol. 37. — № 3. — P. 58–64.
8. Biber D. Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English / D. Biber [et al.]. — 2nd edition. — Harlow : Pearson Education, 2013. — 1204 p.
9. Sattorova M.A. A Comparative Analysis of Adjectival Degree Morphology in Tajik, Chinese, and English / M.A. Sattorova // In Situ. — 2025. — № 2. — P. 92–95.
10. Zayniev D. The Polysemy of the Colour Term *White* in English, Russian, Tajik and Uzbek / D. Zayniev // Explorations in English Language and Linguistics. — 2019. — Vol. 7. — № 2. — P. 112–134.