

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NUMBER CATEGORY IN ENGLISH AND KARAKALPAK

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**Abstract.** This article focuses on investigating category of number in the English and Karakalpak languages as one of the grammatical categories of the language. Nowadays the comparative-contrastive studies have become more topical in modern linguistics. The linguistic features of singularity and plurality in the angles of expression and content features have been not investigated enough in the English and Karakalpak languages. In the framework of this article the forms of expressing plurality will be discussed.

**Key words:** singularity, plurality, category of number, differences and similarities of non-relative languages, lexical way, morphological and syntactic way, comparative and contrastive analyses and etc.

The purpose of this article is revealing the specific elements of plurality in English and Karakalpak languages, i.e. to compare and identify the peculiarities of number category, differences and similarities of analyzed languages.

Nouns are initially considered in their singular form and are modified to become plurals. This process is referred to as pluralization. The category of number presents a classic example of a binary privative grammatical opposition. This category is expressed by the paradigmatic opposition of two forms: the singular and the plural. The strong member in this opposition, the plural, is marked by special formal marks, the main of which is the productive suffix –(e)s which exists in three allomorphs – [s], [z], [iz], e.g.: *cats, boys, roses* and etc.

The term —productive means that new nouns appearing in English form the plural with the help of this suffix. Examples: “*Do rats eat bats, I wonder?*”-*asked Alice (L. Carrol “Alice in Wonderland”).*

*Oziptı shubar bayraqtan,*

*Köz aydın baysın begleri (Epos “Alpamis”)*

In these examples singular nouns *rat*, *bat* are made plural by simply putting *-s* at the end or by means of morphological way. In the second example the plural form of a noun was formed by adding an affix *-ler*. In modern Karakalpak affixes *-lar*, *-ler* form plurality of countable nouns [8; 119].

According to M. I. Rasulova category of plurality can be expressed in Modern English [3; 82] by following ways:

- morphological;
- phono-morphological;
- syntactic.

As specified by Murphy's reference book [2; 156], English plurality of nouns is usually expressed with inflexion – s(es): *desk – desks; lady – ladies*. At the same time a lot of English nouns' plural form is given with zero inflexion (*deer, sheep*) or changing the morphemes (*foot - feet; man - men*), or with the adding suffixes (*child-children*). The grammarians as Murphy, Maclin also single out the following type of plural form in irregular nouns: *loaf-loaves; shelf – shelves*.

In English the nouns, such as *sheep, fish, deer* have the same forms in the singular and the plural or have a plural form homonymous with the singular. However, if we use these nouns in plural form by adding suffix *-s*, they express not only the meaning of the plural, but also give an idea about various groups, types, and species of objects. Examples: *On the table there are apples, plums and other fruits* [5; 16].

*Uyrek, ǵazlı Aral shuwlap,*

*Balıqları oynar tınbay.*

- Here, suffix *-s* in English and *-lar* in Karakalpak added to the nouns in both languages give a collective meaning to a noun with a substantive meaning and express the meaning of different varieties or species of fruit or fish in Karakalpak and English (*fruits, balıqlar*).

The Karakalpak language is synthetic and agglutinative language which has a type of morphological structure, where words are built with the help of suffixes. In the Karakalpak language forms of nouns' plurality are also expressed by means of the suffix "-lar" (*kitap - kitaplar*). At the same time, this suffix of plurality with the verbs conveys the meaning of respect to elder people - *atamlar keldi*, or it can be used as means of politeness [6].

In other side this suffix can be used in the following cases in Karakalpak:

1. to strengthen the meaning of the words: *Shawqimnan baslarim awirip ketti.*
2. to generalize the meaning: *Bul jurttan neshe-neshe Alpamislar ótpegen.*
3. to express irony with reflexive pronouns: *Aqiri ózleri kelipti da.*
4. to express approximate time: *Nókisge saat onlarda jetip baraman.*

Thus, the suffix -lar brings various semantic loans.

In both English and Karakalpak languages we can find examples of suppletive forms: *person - people* in English; *adam - xaliq, alaman* in Karakalpak. In addition, in English the irregular nouns are considered as singular and plural at the same time: *fish, deer, sheep* and etc.

In Karakalpak we can see the words with general meaning *jámiyet, insaniyat, duniya* which are used in singular form in spite of their plural meaning. Example: *Insaniyat usı kunge jetemen degenshe qansha sinawlardı basınan keshirmedi.* In this example the noun's meaning is plural, but the verb is given in singular form.

Some English nouns retain the Latin-Greek formation of plurality as *datum – data, oasis – oases, formula- formulae, scheme – schemata*. But the words as *mathematics, linguistics* and *news* are not in plural form, although there are included the -s inflection in English.

In both languages there are also abstract words which bring singular form: *friendship, love, faith, conscience, etc.* On the contrary, there are words in plural forms. According to Alice Maclin's reference guide, "some nouns are never used

in the singular or preceded by a number" [1; 213]: e.g. *means, news*. In Karakalpak it is difficult to meet the words in only singular form due to the polysemantic meaning of plurality.

If we analyze plurality built with a lexical way, we can see the similarities in the usage of nouns. But the verb forms can be differentiated. The collective nouns are used to express plurality in English: *The team is doing project. Scotland are playing football. I prefer English food*. On contrary, in Karakalpak the nouns *tuye, qoy* express the meaning of plurality in below-mentioned examples, though they don't have plural suffixes *-lar, -ler*.

- *Tuye kimdiki, babajan?*
- *Alpamistay erdiki.*
- *Qoy kimdiki, babajan?*
- *Alpamistay erdiki (Epos "Alpamis")*

In English the word "police" is used every time in plural form: *The police have noticed a strange man* or *I had no idea the police were so devilishly prudent*. However, the word "advice" is used in the singular form in English.

The plural form is also expressed with countable and uncountable nouns. Countable: *There are many books on the table*. Uncountable: *How much time do you have? Or I don't have much money*. In Karakalpak the uncountable nouns are usually used in singular form and cannot be considered as type of the quantity: *Bazardan qant, duz satip aldım* (sugar and salt in English).

In English there are a lot of collocations like *a bunch of flowers, a pile of magazines, a herd of cattle*. Nevertheless, those collocations' plurality is expressed in a lexical way. There are also words which show singularity of some things with additional words: *a pair of, a sack of, a piece of* and etc.

In Karakalpak we can see the same examples: *bir qushaq gul, bir qisim topiraq, bir topar adamlar*. Example: *Awıl arasındaqı atızlardıń kóbisinde aydın-aydın suw bar*.

The major proper of the Karakalpak plurality is seen in using a syntactical way for its expression, that is not in English at all. This form of plurality in Karakalpak can be expressed with the combination of noun and a pair of adjectives: *dáste-dáste gul, bálent tawlar*. This type of plurality is made only through the relation between the quantifiers and the noun.

Thus, the English and Karakalpak languages have variety forms of plurality, but there are specific morphological and semantic features which can be found out through comparison and contrast.

The comparative-contrastive analysis shows that in both languages (English vs. Karakalpak) plural forms of the nouns are expressed by morphological ways. In English the most productive way is adding the morpheme -s, but in the Karakalpak language are suffixes. Concerning the lexical way of expressing plurality, we revealed that it is used in a wider range in Karakalpak than English.

It was found also that in Karakalpak we meet the syntactic way of expressing plurality, because the Karakalpak language is an agglutinative type of the languages.

Besides, some nouns forms are related to singularity (but not all time) in the aspect of content (meaning) of a set of items. Using means of expressing plural forms are not identical in the English and Karakalpak languages.

Structural elements of words, combinations in the compared languages are different. At the same time the compared languages have universal elements in collective nouns, which means a set of things/objects (*crew, family* in English and *semiya, jámiyet, topar, xaliq* in Karakalpak). At the same time the Karakalpak language is specified with using the singular form in collected meaning. In the Karakalpak language abstract nouns in the plural form receives the concrete meaning, having its lexical meaning. Nouns in its semantics have content nuance of collection. Some nouns denoted things in the plural form change their meaning, breaking the relationship between semantic correlated

forms of singular and plurality. Therefore, the structural forms of quantity expressing are different from their content especially.

Results of investigation show that morphological, lexical and syntactic properties of nouns' plurality in each language have its own peculiarities from position of functions carrying out. So, the comparative-contrastive studies are conducted for lingua-didactic aims.

To conclude, the material will be useful for realizing the differences and similarities between two different languages in the aspect of expressing plurality and will be taken into consideration in ELT for Karakalpak students.

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