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## AFFIXAL FORMATION OF DIMINUTIVES IN ENGLISH AND KARAKALPAK LANGUAGES

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**Annotation:** The article examines formation and classification of diminutive nouns in English and Karakalpak and identify similarities and differences of them in both languages. The term "diminutive forms" refers to the addition of a derivational suffix, mostly to a noun, which results in a new noun form conveying the general meaning of 'little' whether literally or metaphorically. This form can also express intimacy, familiarity, endearment and even lack of respect. Diminutives exist in two languages and they use affixes or affixation to form diminutives. They contribute to the richness of language to get a new or an additional vocabulary.

**Key words:** diminutive, subjective form of nouns, subjective evaluation, suffix, synthetic, analytic, possessive forms, endearment, affectionate, denote, add.

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматривается образование и классификация уменьшительных форм существительных в английском и каракалпакском языках, а также выявляются их сходства и различия в обоих языках. Под термином «уменьшительно-ласкательные формы» понимается присоединение словообразовательного суффикса, преимущественно к существительному, в результате чего образуется новая форма существительного, передающая общее значение слова «маленький», буквально или метафорически. Эта форма также может выразить близость, знакомство, нежность и даже неуважение. Уменьшительные формы существуют в двух языках и используют аффиксы или аффиксацию для образования уменьшительных слов. Они способствуют обогащению языка, получению нового или дополнительного словарного запаса.

**Ключевые слова:** уменьшительно-ласкательный, субъективная форма существительных, субъективная оценка, суффикс, синтетический, аналитический, притяжательные формы, ласкательность, ласковый, означать, добавить.

**Annotatsiya:** Maqolada ingliz va qoraqalpoq tillarida otlarning kichraytirish shakllarining shakllanishi va tasnifi ko'rib chiqiladi, shuningdek, ularning har ikki tildagi o'xshash va farqli tomonlari aniqlanadi. "Kichik shakllar" atamasi asosan otga hosila qo'shimchasining qo'shilishini bildiradi, natijada "kichik" so'zining umumiy ma'nosini to'g'ridan-to'g'ri yoki majoziy ma'noda bildiruvchi otning yangi shakli hosil bo'ladi. Bu shakl, shuningdek, yaqinlik, tanishlik, mehr va hatto hurmatsizlikni ifodalashi mumkin. Kichraytiruvchi shakllar ikki tilda mavjud bo'lib, kichraytuvchi so'zlarni hosil qilish uchun affiks yoki affiksatsiyadan foydalanadi. Ular tilni boyitish va yangi yoki qo'shimcha lug'atga ega bo'lishga yordam beradi.

**Tayanch so'zlar:** kichraytiruvchi, otning sub'ektiv shakli, sub'ektiv baho, qo'shimcha, sintetik, analitik, egalik shakllari, mehribonlik, mehribon, anglatish, qo'shish.

### INTRODUCTION

Many languages have a special way to talk about things (usually people) with tenderness, love, endearment, or familiarity – this is usually referred to



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linguistically as the “diminutive.” A diminutive form of a word implies that something is small, cute, loved, or special. It is often used when referring to children, but it is also used to express love and affection, even with adults. Diminutives are also sometimes used to shorten long words or phrases in casual speech.

A diminutive is a formation of a word used to convey a degree of smallness of the object or quality named, encapsulation, intimacy, or endearment.

The diminutive is a linguistic construction or a linguistic phenomenon which is common both in English and Karakalpak. The 'Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary', for example, defines a diminutive as a word or an ending of a word that shows that somebody or something is small.

The term "diminutive forms" refers to the addition of a derivational suffix, mostly to a noun, which results in a new noun form conveying the general meaning of 'little' whether literally or metaphorically. For example, 'kitchenette' is a small kitchen and 'booklet' is a small book. Moreover, the new form is quite capable of expressing the feeling with which the person or thing referred to is regarded. Accordingly, this form can express intimacy, familiarity, endearment and even lack of respect. Diminutive forms exist in many languages; yet each language has its own unique way of realizing and expressing these forms. For instance, in Karakalpak the diminutive form of 'kitap' (a book) is 'kitapsha' (a small book, booklet). Anyhow, the diminutive forms underlie, in one way or another, some important processes of word formation and they are undoubtedly loaded with a rather wide range of meaning besides smallness, of course.

The term ‘diminutive’ comes from the Latin word “diminutives”, that means ,small’ or ,little’. In linguistics diminutive (smallness) is viewed from two angles: semantic (the concept of smallness with various emotive shades) and grammatical (comprising an affix (suffix) with a diminutive meaning).

Diminutivity was investigated in more than fifty languages. In English diminutives were examined by A.O. Buryakovska, S.Sh. Isakova, L.K. L.Yu. Reznichenko, K. Schneider and others.

There are three principal theories of the development of diminutive’s semantics. The first one confirms the existence of ‘general Germanic suffixes of subjective evaluation’ and admits the historically based tendency towards diminution in all Germanic languages. Another theory points out that diminutivity is not typical of Germanic languages and the existence of this category in English is caused exclusively by the influence of borrowings from other languages. However, A.O. Buryakovska makes a conclusion that the semantics of diminutives





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in English is of Germanic origin, although it develops under the influence of close contacts with various linguocultures.

The diminutive suffixes -ine, -ette, -otte are borrowed from French, -y, -ee, -ie, -ey – from Scottish dialect, -let – from Middle English, from Middle French -elet, from -el, diminutive suffix (from Latin -ellus) + -et. There are also diminutive suffixes of Italian and Spanish origin (-etto, -etti; -illa, -illo). Subjective forms of nouns in the Karakalpak language were studied as noun forming affixes.

N.A. Baskakov in the "Word Formation" section of the "Short Karakalpak language course book" in 1932 introduced the suffix -shaq/-shek into the list of affixes, and he also showed that this affix has diminutive meaning.

N.A. Baskakov included the affixes -qai/-qei, -y, -shıq/-shik, -shaq/-shek, -sha/-she, -aq/-ek to the diminutive affixes.

A. Kidirbayev introduced the suffixes -sha/-she, -shıq/-shik, -shaq/-shek, -alaq/-laq and the word "zhan" to noun forming affixes.

In the latest academic grammar, the diminutive forms are considered in the formation of nouns, and the affixes -sha/-she, -shaq/-shek, -shıq/-shik, -alaq/-laq, -y/-pan are shown.

The stylistic function of the subjective forms of nouns in the Karakalpak language were mentioned for the first time in A. Bekbergenov's book on stylistics, where the author explained the means of expressing subjective meaning: "1) expressing the diminutive meaning ; 2) expressing the meaning of respect and politeness; 3) expressing the meaning of affection, admiration, 4) expressing the meaning of pejorativeness, sarcasm" and gave examples of them.

The participation of the means of expressing subjective meaning (affixes, words with emotional meaning) in the formation of personal names in the Karakalpak language and their functions are discussed in a book by O. Sayimbetov. The first considerable study of subjective forms of nouns has been recently done by G. Bekbergenova. In her doctoral thesis she studied the nature, semantics, ways of expression and stylistic features, ethnoculturological peculiarities of subjective evaluative forms of nouns in modern Karakalpak language.

The author identified the functional significance of affixation, case and possessive forms of nouns, suffixes of plural form, compound words, paired and repeated nouns in modern Karakalpak language, combinations of some parts of speech with a noun (the use of the verb "degen" with a noun, the numeral "birew", particles "mysh/-mish-/emish") and proved that in oral speech, forms of subjective evaluation of Karakalpak language give additional emotional and expressive



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coloring, such as diminution, endearment, respect, humiliation, belittlement, irony, ignoring, contempt, hatred.

From linguistic point of view the formation of forms of subjective evaluation by synthetic (special affixes and affixoids) and analytical methods (abbreviated proper names, a combination of proper names with kinship terms, compound words (paired and repeated words) and using grammatical categories (case and possessive forms) were proved.

According to the expressed meanings G.Bekbergenova divided subjective evaluation forms of nouns into such forms as diminutiveness, affectionateness, respect, politeness, encouragement, pejorativeness and irony and the expression of these meanings using special diminutive affixes— sha/-she, -shaq/-shek, -shyq/-shik, affectionate affixes— gene, -shaq, -laq, -tay, forms-ay/-ey, -y, -ake/-eke, -shaq/ -shek, expressing respect, politeness, encouragement, affixoids—zhan, -khan, -tay,-ake/-eke, initial case, possessive forms, also by combining names with kinship terms, abbreviations of names, paired and repeated words and phenomena of word composition.

## METHODS

The subjective evaluation forms of nouns in the Karakalpak language can also have all kinds of emotional and expressive coloring. The impact of words is strong and sharp in the subjective form of insults such as derogation, endearment, respect, pejorativeness, ridicule, and such words create positive or negative opinions and images in a person.

The explanation of the meaning of the subjective evaluation of increasing, belittling, endorsing, enlarging, strengthening with the help of various affixes - morphemes is very common in the Karakalpak language, as in other languages.

## RESULTS

Diminutives in English can be formed either synthetically (by means of affixation, predominantly, suffixation), or analytically (by means of adjectives denoting smallness or littleness), or by means of other processes such as reduplication, truncation (clipping) and compounding.

Diminutiveness in English is a linguistic phenomenon which can find expression in different levels of language – morphological, lexical, phraseological. The semantics of diminutiveness can be expressed not only on the level of morphology (affixation, clipping, partial reduplication) but also on the syntactical level (rhyming, diminutive wordgroups). Diminutiveness conveys the meaning of small or little size, amount, quantity, power, value, importance, etc. which are often accompanied by different emotional





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nuances. However, the meaning of 'small' or 'little' is not absolute and depends on personal evaluation. As Schneider puts it, "it must be emphasized that smallness [...] depends entirely on the category in question. A small elephant, for instance, is still considerably larger than a large mouse".

Diminutives can be found in all national variants of English, but are more characteristic for Scottish, American or Australian English than British English. Of great linguistic interest is the process of 'backborrowing' when diminutive forms and means of diminutive expression are borrowed by British English from American, Australian and other national variants of English. Diminutives in English can be derived by the following semantic classes where common nouns are the base words: nouns referring to persons: kinship terms, appearance, age, gender, profession, job, social status, nationality; nouns referring to animals: size, names, pet names; nouns referring to plants; nouns referring to everyday objects; nouns referring to natural phenomena; nouns referring to time, weight, mass; etc. In addition to nouns, other word classes can also be diminutivized in English, e.g. adjectives (short >shorty), verbs (weep >weepie), adverbs (alright >alrightie), and, arguably, exclamations (Lord! >Lordy!). Overwhelmingly, however, the base words are nouns. Adjectives are also used frequently, but verbs, adverbs and exclamations occur extremely rarely. The two most common means for diminutive formation in English are by means of affixation (suffixation as more frequent than prefixation) and by means of periphrastic constructions. Based on these two processes, Schneider distinguishes two types of diminutive formation in English: 1) 'morphological' or 'synthetic' diminutives, and 2) 'syntactic' or 'analytic' diminutives.

The standard grammatical form of diminutive suffixation is word base + derivational suffix (any inflectional suffixes are added to the right of derivational suffix(es)), as in i.e. pig-let-s.

Diminutive suffixes in English consists of -ie, -ette, -let, -ling, -kin, -een, -en, -(e)rel, -et, -o, -a, -s, -er, -poo and -pegs. -y

Research and grammatical descriptions of the suffix -y/-ie, (also -ey) describe it as a marker of familiarity or endearment, its main function being to form hypocoristics such as Annie, Johnny, Susie, etc., while secondly it is applied in child language. Also they are used in kinship terms, such as mummy, daddy, granny, etc. The -y spelling is English in origin, whereas the -ie is Scottish. The Scots dialect is particularly rich in words of this type; laddie and lassie are the most conspicuous and familiar examples.



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## **-ie;-y**

Suffixes: -ie; -y have a Scottish spelling and it is uniquely added to many nouns: John = Johnny, Ann = Annie, Robert = Bobbie, Catherine = Kitty, bird = birdie, sweet = sweetie, dark = darkie.

This suffix is added to masculine and feminine personal proper nouns, common nouns and adjectives as well.

## **-ette**

It comes from French and it is still in active use: room = roomette, statue = statuette, balcon = balconette, kitchen = kitchenette, novel = novelette, cigar = cigarette.

It is used for diminutivisation of object nouns, that is nouns referring to architecture, interior design, furnishings, and furniture (balconette, kitchenette), which gain the feature of being small.

## **-let**

The suffix -let is often considered a Germanic suffix but some linguists consider it to be of French origin. Suffix -let is frequently used with nouns denoting things rather than persons: a piglet (= a young pig); circlet (= a small book); a wavelet ( a ripple or small wave); an eyelet ( a small hole); a droplet ( a tiny drop); a booklet( a small book) a froglet ( a small frog); a leaflet ( a small plant leaf); a starlet (a young actress with a promising career ahead of her); a streamlet (a small stream). It is used for diminutivisation of objects and animals.

## **-ling**

The Old Germanic suffix **-ling** usually denotes the young of animals, as found in *duckling*, *codling* and *gosling* similar to the use of the diminutive -let. It is extensively used with different kinds of words denoting animals and plants:

Prince = princeling, nurse = nurseling, weak = weakling, suckle = suckling, darling = dear +ling (a cherished or a person who is dear to one), sterling = star + ling (from the small stamped on the coin), shilling = shield + ling, gosling = goose + ling ( a young goose), a duckling = duck + ling ( a young duck), catling = cat + ling, seedling = seed + ling.

## **-kin**

The suffix -kin is a Dutch borrowing, cognate to German -chen, coming into English in the 1300s. It carries the meaning of 'small' and 'charming'. It can also be used in ironic contexts or for diminutivisation of first names in order to form address terms: Simon = Simkin, Thomson = Tomkin, cat = catkin, baby = babykin, lamb = lambkin.

## **-erel;-rel**





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This suffix is typically originated in loan words from French. It mostly denotes animals: kest = kestrel, cock = cockrel, mack = mackerel. **Clipping** is accompanied by suffixation (or pseudo-suffixation), generally with the addition of the <-ie> suffix: if vegetables can be clipped into veg, it can also be clipped into veggies, etc. Sometimes truncation and affixation can occur together, as with formations expressing intimacy or smallness, so called diminutives: Mandy – Amanda, Andy-Andrew, Charlie-Charles, Patty- Patricia, Robbie –Roberta, etc. In colloquial speech, clippings tend to end in a familiar suffix pronounced /I/ (and spelled –ies or –y): Gerry- Gerald, Monty- Montgomery, Lizzie- Elizabeth, Loony – lunatic, telly – television, poly- polytechnic.

The semantics and pragmatics of clipping and diminutives is complex. These processes are typically used to express one or more of these notions:

- a- small size
- b- close emotion – positive
- c- close emotion – negative
- d- familiarity (with the entity referred to, and/or with the addressee).

Truncated names and clippings are used to express familiarity, whereas diminutives are used to express familiarity as well as a (usually) positive attitude towards the person or thing referred to.

In Karakalpak language diminutives are mostly formed from nouns and adjectives and the number and scope of diminutive suffixes are limited. This includes the affixes -sha/ - she, - shaq/ - shek, - shyq/ - shik, etc.

## **-sha / - she**

As a diminutive affix -sha/-she has form-building feature. For example: er+she,(small saddle) korpe+she,(small quilt) musin+she( small figure(sculpture work)) xaykel+she (small statue), dorba+sha (small bag), bel+she(small shovel), sandiq+sha(small chest),quti+sha( small box), etc.

As form-building affix, it forms nouns with diminutive meaning from the following words and determines that these subjects are small in comparison with the main ones:

- 1.the names of the subjects of the domestic industry and denotes diminutive meaning. er+she,(small saddle) korpe+she,( small quilt), etc.
- 2.Affix-sha/-she is added to the nouns, denoting the names of plants and forms diminutive meaning. For example: putaq+sha(small shrub), na'l+she(small sprout), zhapiraq+sha ( leaflet),etc.



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3.- sha/-she is added to the nouns, signifying knowledge and trade and has diminutive meaning. For example: kitap+sha (booklet), da'pter+she (small notebook),etc.

4.Affix-sha/-she is added to the nouns denoting the meaning of space and forms diminutive meaning: maydan+sha( small playing field), qorg'an+sha(small fortress, ataw+sha(islet), qala+sha(townlet), baq+sha (small garden), diywal+sha (small wall), etc.

5. - sha/-she is added to the nouns, signifying the name of animals and their children or their small species : gunan+sha (kolt), o'giz+she (bull-calf) and others.

6. Suffix -sha/-she is added to the nouns meaning various geometric shapes and show their small size and volume: zhuldyz+sha,(starlet), siziq+sha (small line), shen'ber+she ( small circle, circlet), qayiq+sha (small boat),etc.

7. Affix-sha/-she is used to denote residential buildings, farms, industry, military enterprises, as well as a part of an item: bo'lim+she (small part),man'lay+sha(small door head) shabaq+sha (small perch), shaqap+sha (subdivision), etc.

8. In some cases, this affix is added to a noun expressing respect for women and means not only a diminutive meaning, but also denotes respect.: khan+sha, khanim+sha,( in the meaning of lady, Madam,missis) etc.

## **-shaq / - shek**

In the modern Karakalpak language, the affix -shaq/-shek is added to the names of some animals and gives a caressing meaning. For example: qulin+shaq (foal),tayin+shaq ( foal in the second year), tulki+shek(pup), etc.

These nouns mean a baby horse or foal and express a diminutive meaning. This affix is also added to other nouns and gives a diminutive meaning to the subject expressed by the noun: sho'p+shek, gu'd+shek, etc.

## **-shyq / - shik**

This affix is unproductive in the Karakalpak language.It can be found in the following cases:

1) Affix-shyq/-shik is added to nouns denoting household items and shows a diminutive meaning. For example: saray+shyk (small palace) tu'yin+shik ( small knot), kap+shyk (small bag).

In the words tuyinshik, kapshyk there is no special expressive meaning, they also have a meaning different from the main one.

2) shyq / - shik is used to show high objects low: du'mpe+shik (hillock), to'be+shik (hillock), uyin+shik ( small pile of rocks), etc.





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3) This affix is also added to the names of nouns and expresses diminutive meaning: qil+shiq (little wool), tal+shiq (filament), etc.

4) It is added to the names of places and shows a diminutive meaning: ko'l+shik (small lake), etc.

Sometimes the affix -shyq/-shik is used to express the small form of plants: tu'bir+shik (stump), bala+shyk (young sprouts), etc.

In the Karakalpak language this affix is unproductive compared to other affixes.

## **-ek / -k**

In the Karakalpak language, this affix is unproductive and does not always express a subjective meaning : tiken+ek (thorn), a'yn+ek (window), egiz+ek (twin), kozgenek (hole), tuyirtpek (lump), etc.

## **-gene/-kene**

In the Karakalpak language, the form of this affix is often used, it means caressing, admiration, love: shashkene, basgene, júrekgene, etc.

## **- laq, - alaq**

This affix usually serves to explain the diminutive meaning. But it is unproductive, it is joined only to a few words: qyzalaq, botalaq, shaqalaq and others. Suffixes - laq, - alaq are mainly added to the names of animals and mean the meaning of "cub". For example: bota- botalaq - camel puppy, qyz-qyzalaq - girl, little daughter.

## **- tay**

This suffix is used mainly when caressing children: For example: genjetay, boketay – baby.

## **Truncation**

Truncation is a form of clipping.

## **- sh**

The affectionate meaning is also expressed with the help of the suffix -sh, which is added to the short names of girls and boys: Tazagul - Tazash, Biybisanem - Biybish, Zhumagul - Zhumash, Abdimurat - Abish and others. If this affix is added to proper names of adult people, the affectionate meaning is lost.

Shortening of names or truncation is used to show affection to the person and there are such affixes as -sh, ash, -ish, -esh, -osh, ake, -eke, an, -on, -chik, -ochka, -echka, -ik, -ok, -ya, yok, -ka: Timosh, Máke, Miron, Gulechka, Isok, Bibka, Qalyok, Rustik etc.

Affixes an, -on, -chik, -ochka, -echka, -ik, -ok, -ya, yok, -ka are borrowed from Russian.

## **CONCLUSION**



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This study concluded that the suffixes used to express diminution in English are accounted for according to their attested productivity in the language to date, ranging from high to low. Altogether, the inventory of diminutive suffixes in English consists of -ie, -ette, -let, -ling, -kin, -een, -en, -(e)rel, -et, -o, -a, -s, -er, -poo and -pegs. Diminutive forms of nouns in the Karakalpak language are expressed by means of diminutive affixes. These include the affixes-sha/ -she, -shak/ -shek, -shyk/ -shik, -gene/-kene, -ek /-k -laq, -lek, -alaq, -elek, , -tay, -ay, -y, , -sh, etc. and give a diminutive meaning to a person, object, animal names, etc. and create a new form.

It has been found that there are more differences than similarities between the two languages on formation of diminutive. However, they are drastically different concerning the morphological process involved. English basically uses suffixations and prefixations while Karakalpak depends entirely on affixations where some strict patterns that are essentially determined by the morphology of words to be diminuted are followed.

A large number of diminutive prefixes are used concurrently in both languages to refer to the concept of smallness in size and status, and relative smallness as well. Both languages contribute to the richness of language in diminutive formation to get a new or an additional vocabulary.

In both languages, diminutive forms are often used in artistic style, in folklore works, in oral colloquial style (especially affectionate forms), they are almost never used in the style of official, scientific and technical literature.

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