

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE “-ING” SUFFIX IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: DIVERGENT PURPOSES IN SIMILAR PROMINENCE

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Abstract:

The “-ing” suffix in English and Uzbek holds a prominent role in each language, but it serves fundamentally different linguistic functions. In English, the suffix predominantly forms the present participle, gerunds, and verbal nouns. Conversely, in Uzbek, while “-ing” is not used in verb morphology, a sound-alike suffix, “-ng” or “-ning,” performs essential nominal and genitive functions. This article compares the functions of “-ing” in English with those of “-ning” in Uzbek, illustrating the differences and uncovering intriguing insights into language evolution and morphology.

Key words: Uzbek, English, suffix, morphology, verbal noun, participle, gerund, comparative linguistics.

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The “-ing” suffix in English is integral to both verbal and nominal structures, widely used in forming gerunds and participles, creating continuous verb forms, and denoting progressive aspects. For English learners, especially those from non-Indo-European languages like Uzbek, the various applications of “-ing” often present challenges. However, the Uzbek suffix “-ning” functions differently, marking possessive or genitive cases, linking nouns to denote ownership or association. This study aims to explore these differences, considering how this shared but functionally diverse suffix reflects broader linguistic features unique to English and Uzbek.

The “-ing” Suffix in English

The English suffix “-ing” has three primary uses:

1. Present Participle Formation

o In English, “-ing” attaches to verbs to form present participles, indicating ongoing action when combined with auxiliary verbs like “be.” For instance:

“She is reading.”

“They are running.”

2. Gerund Formation

o The “-ing” suffix creates gerunds, verbal nouns that can act as the subject or object within a sentence. Examples include:

“Reading improves comprehension.”

“She enjoys painting.”

3. Adjective and Verbal Noun Usage

o Besides forming verb-related structures, “-ing” can transform verbs into adjectives, expressing a state of being:

“An inspiring teacher”

“A challenging task”

Through these uses, the “-ing” suffix is central in conveying progressive or continuous aspects, reflecting an action-in-progress and linking nominal forms to actions.

The Suffix “-ning” in Uzbek

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Unlike English, Uzbek does not incorporate an "-ing" form as part of its verb morphology. However, the suffix "-ning," a homophone of the English "-ing," holds substantial importance. It marks genitive possession and links nouns in possessive constructions:

1. Genitive Case Marker

o The "-ning" suffix in Uzbek denotes ownership, equivalent to the possessive "'s" in English. For example:

Kitobning muallifi – "The author of the book"

Ota-onaning e'tibori – "Parents' attention"

2. Relational Function

o The suffix "-ning" also establishes relational meaning between two nouns, often employed in place of English prepositions:

Do'stimning uyiga – "To my friend's house"

Mashinaning kaliti – "The key of the car"

By marking possession and relational contexts, the "-ning" suffix in Uzbek emphasizes the relationships between nouns rather than actions or continuous forms.

Comparative Analysis of the "-ing" Suffix in English and Uzbek

Both languages exhibit a strong reliance on their respective suffixes, yet with contrasting linguistic roles. The "-ing" suffix in English functions within the verbal system to denote progressive aspects and verbal nouns, integral to tense formation and nominal actions. Meanwhile, the "-ning" suffix in Uzbek serves possessive and associative purposes within the nominal system, a core aspect of Uzbek syntax where verb forms typically remain unmarked for continuity.

One interesting parallel can be observed in English gerunds and Uzbek noun possession structures, as both express nominalized ideas connected to actions. For instance, the English gerund phrase "Reading books enhances knowledge" could parallel the Uzbek possessive structure Kitob o'qish bilimni oshiradi, where "o'qish" functions as a verbal noun akin to the English gerund. However, while English relies on suffixes for verb tense and aspect, Uzbek verbs indicate aspect primarily through auxiliary verbs or context, not through an equivalent of "-ing."

Linguistic and Pedagogical Implications

The differences in these two languages' uses of "-ing" carry notable pedagogical implications. For Uzbek speakers learning English, grasping the English "-ing" forms requires understanding the difference between English verb and noun morphology versus Uzbek's noun-centric use of "-ning."

Conversely, English speakers learning Uzbek may initially perceive "-ning" as a marker for continuous action due to its phonological similarity to "-ing" but must adapt to its role in possessive structures. Such cross-linguistic analysis highlights the unique pathways languages take in evolving morphological systems to meet grammatical needs.

Conclusion

The study of the "-ing" and "-ning" suffixes in English and Uzbek underscores the diversity in linguistic systems. Despite their phonological similarities and prominence, the functions diverge dramatically. This comparative analysis offers valuable insights into morphological and syntactical structures in English and Uzbek, encouraging a deeper exploration of how languages develop unique methods to express possessiveness, continuity, and nominal actions.

Foydalanilgan adabiyotlar ro'yxati:

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