

## MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSING OF DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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### *Abstract:*

This paper provides an in-depth comparative analysis of the morphological processing of demonstrative pronouns in English and Uzbek, two languages from distinct linguistic families. Demonstrative pronouns such as «this,» «that,» «these,» and «those» in English, and their equivalents in Uzbek, serve crucial roles in indicating spatial relations, proximity, and definiteness. The study analyzes their morphological structures, syntactic roles, and semantic distinctions, with a focus on how these pronouns are processed by native speakers.

*Key words:* morphological processing, demonstrative pronouns, English language, Uzbek language, linguistic typology, proximity markers, language acquisition.

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Introduction. Demonstrative pronouns, such as «this» and «that» in English and «bu» and «u» in Uzbek, are essential for communication as they help speakers refer to specific entities, distinguishing objects based on spatial proximity and definiteness. In both languages, demonstratives signal whether the referent is near or far from the speaker or listener. While English is an Indo-European language, belonging to the Germanic branch, Uzbek is a member of the Turkic language family. The morphological structures of these languages differ significantly, which influences how demonstrative pronouns are processed and used.

This article aims to provide a detailed comparison of the morphological and syntactic processing of demonstrative pronouns in English and Uzbek. By exploring their structural forms, functions, and meanings, we can uncover both the universal and language-specific features that shape demonstrative pronoun use. Additionally, understanding how native speakers of these languages process these forms offers valuable insights into the cognitive aspects of language and cross-linguistic variations. The implications of this comparison are particularly relevant for linguistic typology, cognitive linguistics, and second language acquisition.

Analysis and results. English demonstrative pronouns operate within a relatively simple morphological framework, yet they perform multiple syntactic and semantic functions. There are four primary demonstratives in English: «this,» «that,» «these,» and «those,» which can be classified based on two primary parameters:

Number: Singular («this,» «that») vs. Plural («these,» «those»)

Proximity: Near the speaker («this,» «these») vs. Far from the speaker («that,» «those»)

In English, demonstrative pronouns do not undergo inflection for case or gender, making them relatively simple from a morphological perspective. The forms are fixed, with the primary distinction being number and proximity. English relies heavily on word order

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and syntactic position to express the grammatical roles of demonstratives, often using context or accompanying determiners for clarity.

English demonstrative pronouns serve as both pronominal (replacing nouns) and determiner functions. When used pronominally, demonstratives replace the noun phrase:

This is my book (proximity, singular).

Those are my shoes (distance, plural).

In determiner function, they modify a noun directly:

This book is mine (proximity, singular).

That car is yours (distance, singular).

Additionally, demonstrative pronouns can convey contrast and emphasis, particularly in spoken English where intonation plays a key role in signaling specificity.

In Uzbek, demonstrative pronouns are more complex due to their morphological features and grammatical rules. The basic demonstratives include «bu» (this, near) and «u» (that, far), but Uzbek also has additional forms to express distinctions in location and definiteness.

Uzbek is an agglutinative language, meaning that demonstrative pronouns can be modified through affixation. Unlike English, where demonstratives are largely invariant, Uzbek demonstratives can take suffixes to indicate plurality, case (nominative, accusative, dative, etc.), and possession. For example:

☐ Bu (this) + lar (plural marker) → bular (these).

☐ U (that) + ni (accusative case marker) → uni (that [object]).

Additionally, Uzbek uses vowel harmony in affixation, where the vowel in the suffix harmonizes with the vowel in the root, making the morphological system more complex.

In Uzbek, the agglutinative nature of the language means that cognitive processing of demonstratives involves not only recognizing the base form but also interpreting the affixed morphological elements. Uzbek speakers process demonstrative pronouns with an additional layer of morphological parsing, as the affixes provide critical grammatical information. The vowel harmony rules and suffixation patterns require cognitive attention to both phonological and syntactic details, which can make processing slightly more complex compared to English.

The primary morphological difference between English and Uzbek demonstratives lies in the level of complexity. English demonstratives are relatively simple, with fixed forms that do not change based on grammatical case or gender. In contrast, Uzbek demonstratives are morphologically rich, with case, number, and sometimes possessive markers being added to the base forms. In both languages, demonstratives function pronominally and as determiners, yet the agglutinative structure of Uzbek allows for greater flexibility in sentence construction. English relies more on word order and context to convey meaning, while Uzbek's affixation system enables more precise grammatical relations. The differences in morphological processing between English and Uzbek have important implications for second language acquisition. English speakers learning Uzbek may find the complex affixation system and vowel harmony rules challenging, while Uzbek speakers learning English must adapt to a more rigid word order and context-based interpretation of demonstratives.

Conclusion. The morphological processing of demonstrative pronouns in English and Uzbek reveals significant linguistic and cognitive differences. While English relies on simplicity and fixed forms, Uzbek's agglutinative structure offers a more morphologically intricate system. These differences not only shape the way speakers of each language use demonstratives but also influence how second language learners acquire these forms. Future research could further explore how these morphological and syntactic distinctions impact real-time language processing and comprehension across different linguistic contexts.

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