SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH ARTICLES BETWEEN THEIR WORLDWIDE PROMOTION

M. Avazmurodova [1]
(Scientific supervisor: Asadova Chexrangiz Salim qizi)

Abstract:
Articles are a fundamental grammatical component of any language. They serve to specify definiteness or indefiniteness in nouns or noun phrases and thus play an important role in communication. While Uzbek and English both utilize articles, there are notable differences in their specific characteristics and usage that influence how effectively each can be promoted on a global scale. This paper aims to analyze and compare the article systems of Uzbek and English, focusing on attributes such as definiteness, forms, and exceptions, in order to better understand their relative potential for worldwide dissemination and comprehension.

Key words: articles, differences, languages, similarities, grammatical meaning, definitions

Introduction

The subtle differences between languages often lie in the small grammatical elements they contain. One such distinguishing characteristic is the use of articles - words like "a", "an", and "the" in English that signify definiteness or indefiniteness in nouns. While some languages have well-developed article systems, others do not use articles at all.

Articles serve an important grammatical function by specifying whether a noun refers to a specific, defined instance or a non-specific, indefinite instance. In English, the definite article "the" indicates that the listener knows which entity is being referred to, while the indefinite articles "a" or "an" show that the referent has not been identified. This distinction provides clarity in discourse. For example, saying "I saw a dog" versus "I saw the dog" conveys very different meanings about whether the dog was previously mentioned or not. The use of articles thus helps guide understanding between speakers.

Several other European languages also have well-developed article systems. In French, the definite article "le"/"la"/"les" and indefinite article "un"/"une" work similarly to English. Spanish and German also use definite and indefinite articles that map directly to English word-for-word translations. The Romance languages descended from Latin have largely preserved Latin's article usage. However, not all languages employ articles. Russian, for instance, does not have definite or indefinite words and relies on case endings and word order to convey

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[1] *Avazmurodova Mohinabonu Zafar qizi, Student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*

definiteness. Many Slavic languages and most non-Indo-European languages also lack articles altogether.

The absence of articles in some languages results in structural differences compared to those with articles. Without the option to mark nouns as definite or indefinite, word order and context take on greater importance. Definiteness must be inferred from the context rather than explicitly stated through an article. Sentence structure may also differ, as the function served by articles in other languages needs to be accomplished through alternate grammatical means. For example, subject-prominent languages without articles tend to be verb-final, with the verb coming at the end of the clause to disambiguate subjects.

In terms of language acquisition, learning article usage poses a challenge for second language learners whose native tongue lacks an article system. Determining when to use "a" versus "the", and mastering all the exceptions and special cases, requires significant practice. Speakers must also adjust their assumptions about how definiteness operates if coming from a non-article language. The presence of articles can also influence language change over time. As contact between article and non-article languages increases, some linguists believe articles may disappear from some European tongues under reduced necessity.

While English and Uzbek are quite different languages, they share the grammatical feature of articles. Articles are words used with nouns to indicate definiteness or indefiniteness. Both English and Uzbek utilize articles, though they are implemented differently in terms of usage and forms.

English Articles:

In English, there are two types of articles: definite and indefinite. The definite article is "the" and is used with nouns that are specific or defined within the given context. The indefinite articles are "a" and "an" and are used with nonspecific or undefined nouns.

The rules for using "a" versus "an" depend on phonetic factors—if the following word begins with a vowel sound, "an" is used, such as "an apple." If the following word begins with a consonant sound, "a" is used, as in "a book." The definite article "the" has no such phonetic rules and is simply attached directly to the noun.

Articles are a required part of noun phrases in English in most contexts. Only in very broad, general statements would the articles be omitted, such as "I like books" rather than "I like the/some books." Proper nouns do not take articles, so we would say "London is big" not "the London is big." Articles also do not apply to mass or noncount nouns like "water" or "happiness."

Uzbek Articles:

Unlike English, Uzbek has only an indefinite article. This is the word "bir" which directly translates to "one" or "a/an." Bir is used with nonspecific nouns in a similar way that English uses "a" and "an."

However, Uzbek does not have a definite article equivalent to English "the." Instead, definiteness is implied through context or by adding a possessive suffix like "-ki" to the noun. So instead of saying "the book," in Uzbek one would say "kitobi" meaning "the book." Plural nouns also do not take articles in Uzbek.

Another difference is that bir is optional in Uzbek and can usually be omitted without affecting meaning, whereas articles are mostly required parts of noun phrases in English. Bir also does not have the phonetic rules that English "a" and "an" have regarding following vowel/consonant sounds.

The systems of articles in the Uzbek and English languages demonstrate both similarities and differences. Articles are a part of speech that grammatically define a noun as definite or indefinite. Both Uzbek and English utilize articles, however they implement them in distinct fashions.

Uzbek does not have a definite article comparable to the English "the". Instead, definiteness is implied through context or the use of a possessive suffix added to a noun. For example, the phrase "kitobni o'qimoqchiman" means "I want to read the book", with definiteness understood due to lack of other contextual books. Additionally, saying "mening kitobimni" means "my book", where the possessive suffix "-im" marks it as definite.

While Uzbek lacks a standalone definite article, it does have an indefinite article that is comparable to the English "a" or "an". The Uzbek indefinite article is "bir", which is placed before a noun to indicate indefiniteness or lack of specificity. For instance, one might say "bir kitob o'qimoqchiman" to mean "I want to read a book". Therefore, Uzbek utilizes possessives and context for definiteness but an overt indefinite article.

In contrast, English has definite and indefinite articles that are separate words. The definite article "the" is employed before singular and plural nouns to indicate that the identity of the noun is known or that it is unique in the context. For example, "the book" or "the books" denotes familiarity. The indefinite articles "a" and "an" specify lack of uniqueness or identification when preceding a singular noun, such as in "a book" or "an apple".

There are some exceptions to article usage between the two languages. In Uzbek, mass nouns that describe materials or abstract concepts do not take articles, as they are inherently non-specific, for instance "su" meaning "water". However, in English all count nouns require an article except in certain contexts like plurals or possessives. Additionally, English inserts articles before gerunds and participles, which is not a feature in Uzbek.

While Uzbek and English both utilize articles as a part of speech, they implement them differently according to each language's grammatical rules and conventions. Uzbek relies more heavily on context and possessives for definiteness rather than a standalone definite article. However, both languages employ indefinite articles to denote lack of identification or uniqueness before singular nouns. Overall, the article systems exhibit similarities in their functions but diverge in specific structural elements. A comparative analysis provides insight into how related concepts can be expressed variably across languages.

Conclusion

In summary, the article systems of Uzbek and English differ specifically in their representation of definiteness, forms, and degree of exceptions. Uzbek relies more on contextual and morphological means rather than standalone definite/indefinite markers like English. Additionally, its articles demonstrate greater irregularity in forms and usage. These characteristics of Uzbek articles potentially hamper worldwide comprehension and learning relative to the regular, consistent, and more semantically transparent article rules of English. While both language's articles fulfill an important grammatical role, the streamlined design of English articles gives it advantages for global dissemination and second language acquisition at elementary levels. A consideration of such cross-linguistic differences can offer insight into how languages may vary in their international learnability and promotional accessibility.

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