

**A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN UZBEK SOCIAL  
MEDIA DISCOURSE**

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**Abstract**

In today's society, social media has become a site for grammatical and orthographic errors in comments under Uzbek Instagram posts, providing a window into how informal digital communication influences written language use. The findings reveal that social media discourse contains a high frequency of deviations from standard Uzbek, with subject–verb agreement errors emerging as the most common category, followed by sentence fragments and spelling inaccuracies. In addition, phonetic spelling, vowel substitution, and consonant confusion occur.

The results demonstrate that users often transfer oral speech patterns directly into writing and grammatical accuracy. Such tendencies contribute to the normalization of non-standard forms in online environments. These patterns highlight the strong impact of digital practices on contemporary Uzbek writing and reflect a gradual shift toward informal linguistic norms in public online communication. While platforms like Instagram promote spontaneous expression, they also play a significant role in shaping language habits, particularly among younger users. Therefore, raising awareness about standard language norms and integrating digital literacy into education may help preserve grammatical accuracy and support clearer communication in Uzbek online discourse.

**Keywords:** Uzbek social media writing, Instagram comments, spelling errors, grammar, informal digital communication, language change, online literacy, written language patterns.

**Introduction**

Social media can be a good sample for making errors in writing communication, where language is produced and shared without professional editing. Because of this characteristic, social media texts provide reliable data for linguistic error analysis. Comments published under Instagram posts are particularly suitable for such analysis, as they represent spontaneous and informal language use. In the Uzbek digital environment, Instagram is widely used to engage with the public, which makes comments under posts a relevant source for studying grammatical accuracy in online public discourse.

In linguistics, deviations from standard language norms are commonly referred to as errors. Richards (1985) explains that error analysis focuses on identifying and examining errors produced by language users to understand patterns of language use. Similarly, Khansir (2012) emphasizes that error analysis is concerned with describing and interpreting errors to reveal learners' linguistic competence. Crystal (1987) further states that error analysis involves the

systematic identification and classification of unacceptable language forms using linguistic principles. Brown (2000) defines an error as a noticeable deviation from the grammar of adult or native speakers, emphasizing that errors are not merely mistakes but indicators of incomplete linguistic competence. He notes that analyzing errors enables researchers and learners to identify the sources of these deviations and implement corrective strategies, thereby improving language accuracy.

These definitions indicate that error analysis is not only about correcting mistakes, but about understanding how and why errors occur. Errors are frequently found in written language because writing requires greater cognitive effort than speaking. Nunan (1989) points out that writing is a complex cognitive activity that demands control over multiple linguistic components, including grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure. Grammar, as the foundation of effective communication, plays a crucial role in ensuring clarity and accuracy of meaning. When grammatical rules are not applied correctly, the intended message may become unclear or misleading.

Previous research has examined grammatical errors in various written texts, such as student essays, translations, and academic writing. One such study is Aminjonov (2026), who conducted a corpus - based error analysis of written essays by Uzbek English learners. Additionally, Kutlimuratova (2021) analyzed essays using totals, percentages and basic descriptive statistics to examine grammatical errors. These studies report frequent errors related to subject-verb agreement, verb forms, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation. However, grammatical errors in Uzbek social media discourse have received limited scholarly attention. In particular, comments under Instagram posts remain underexplored, despite their increasing influence on public language use.

Based on this research gap, the present study aims to analyze grammatical errors in Uzbek social media discourse by focusing on comments under Instagram posts. The study examines errors related to verb agreement, case usage, word order, spelling and sentence construction. Although these comments primarily function to express opinions and reactions, they also reflect current tendencies in informal digital language use. Therefore, analyzing such errors contributes to a deeper understanding of how informal digital practices affect written Uzbek in online public communication.

### **Literature review**

During the past few decades, social media and internet platforms have grown rapidly, continuously introducing new features to enhance user interaction and experience. This technological evolution has facilitated convenient communication, easy to access to information and the global spread of content making digital engagement a central aspects of contemporary society. Kullolli and Trebicka (2023) emphasize that social media plays a significant role in identity formation and social interaction of Generation Z. These platforms function not only as communication tools for exchanging information but also environments for self-expression, creative exploration and building online communities. As a result, many users engage with social media platforms and constant errors have emerged, such as grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, tone issues, and even word choice.

Due to the number of errors, researchers and grammar analysts have expanded their research to understand how these posts under comments exhibit errors. Just as the study by Yadagiri (2020) notes that digital communication has significantly influenced writing habits, particularly

among younger users and specifically students, showed an increasing use of informal grammar. For instance, improper use of abbreviations, non-standard punctuation and fragmented sentences. The study suggests that communication on digital platforms prioritises speed and brevity over proper grammar, often breaking grammar rules. As a consequence of frequent digital communication, the adoption of informal grammar will lead users to incorporate these conventions into their writing. Moreover, Armayanti and Kamal (2024) argue that grammatical deviations on social media often reflect community norms and different demographics are influenced by different factors, often leading to unconventional language patterns, slang and punctuation errors. According to Al-Jarrah et al. (2019), also highlights that many students actively use digital platforms to familiarize themselves with the language. However, this would also mean they are at a disadvantage in terms of grammar competence despite actively using it in real life (Heng 2020).

### Methodology

This study employed a descriptive research design to analyze grammatical errors made by users on social media. A qualitative content analysis approach was used to systematically examine the linguistic patterns in user-generated content. The study targeted active online users by collecting a purposive sample of publicly accessible comments from popular social media platforms, including Instagram posts. The dataset included 35 comments under instagram posts.

The collected data were categorized and analyzed to identify common grammatical errors and their frequencies. Frequency counts and percentages were calculated to quantify the distribution of error types. The analysis followed the framework proposed by Ellis and Barkhuizen (2005) which includes identification and classification errors.

### Results and Discussion

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of Grammatical Error Types in Uzbek Social Media Discourse

| No | Error Category            | Incorrect Spelling    | Correct Spelling         | Root Cause                              |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1  | Consonant Confusion (X/H) | xamma, xali, xam      | hamma, hali, ham         | Phonetic neutralization in spoken Uzbek |
| 2  | Vowel Substitution (O'/U) | buldi, tug'ri, kurdim | bo'ldi, to'g'ri, ko'rdim | Phonetic simplification & typing speed  |
| 3  | Diacritic Omission (G')   | galaba, gidirish      | g'alaba, qidirish        | Mobile device keyboard constraints      |
| 4  | Colloquial Contractions   | qib bo'ldim, bopti    | qilib bo'ldim, bo'libdi  | Direct transfer of oral speech patterns |

|   |                      |                       |                     |   |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| 5 | Phonetic Adaptations | keliyapti, boriyapman | kelyapti, boryapman | Influence of regional dialects in writing |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|

As shown in Table 1, the most frequent error types involve confusion between the consonants “X” and “H”, such as writing “xamma” instead of “hamma” or “xali” instead of “hali”, and another is “ham” or “xam”. This type of error occurs because the distinction between these sounds is often neutralized in informal spoken Uzbek, leading users to transfer spoken pronunciation directly into written form. Another common error pattern is the interchange of the vowels “ o ’ ” and “u”. For example: “bo’ldi” written as “buldi” or “to’g’ri” written as “tug’ri”, “ko’rdim” or “kurdim”, “g’alaba” or “galaba”. These mistakes reflect phonetic simplification and the influence of rapid typing, particularly on mobile devices, where diacritical marks are often omitted for convenience. Furthermore, the data show frequent instances of phonetic spelling, where words are written exactly as they are pronounced rather than according to standard orthographic rules. Examples include colloquial forms such as “qib bo’ldim” instead of “qilib bo’ldim” or “keliyapti” written as “kelyapti”. This tendency demonstrates the strong influence of oral speech patterns on written communication.

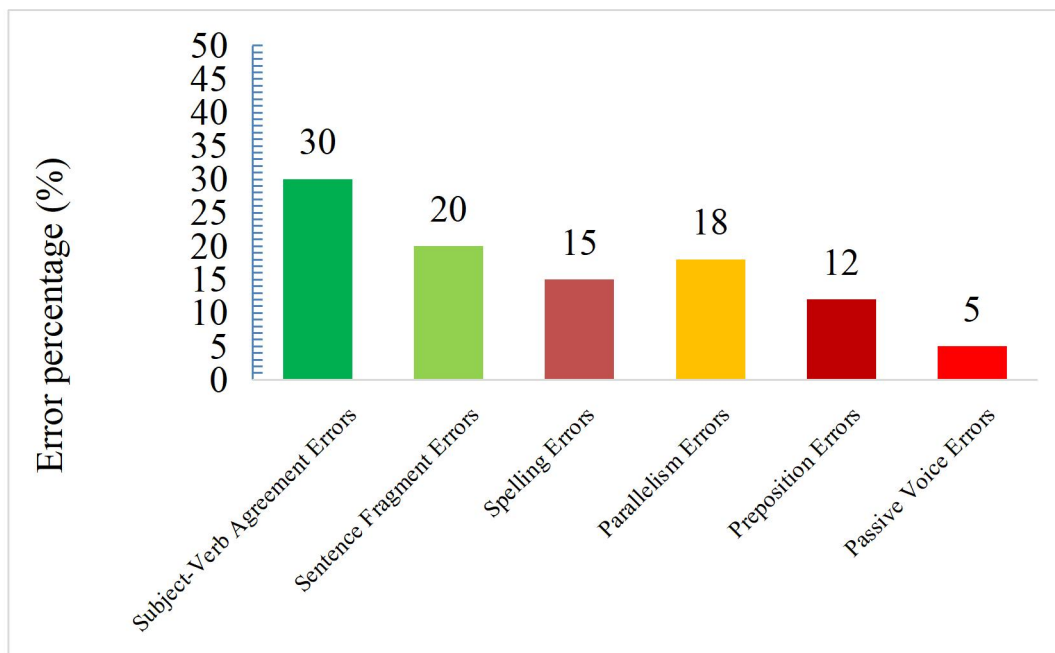


Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of Grammatical Error Types in Uzbek Social Media Discourse

Based on the Figure 1, the analysis of 35 comments collected from Instagram posts reveals a high frequency of grammatical and orthographic deviations in Uzbek social media discourse. The identified errors were classified into six major categories based on their linguistic characteristics. Subject–verb agreement errors accounted for the largest proportion of all observed inaccuracies, at 30% of the total dataset. Sentence fragment errors followed at 20%, indicating a strong tendency toward incomplete syntactic constructions in online writing. Spelling errors accounted for 15% of errors, reflecting instability in orthographic norms in digital communication. Parallelism errors accounted for 18%, while preposition-related errors made up 12% of the data. Passive voice errors were the least frequent, occurring in only 5% of the analyzed comments.

The prevalence of subject–verb agreement errors can be attributed to the informal, spontaneous nature of social media communication. Instagram comments often function as informative, expressive or promotional texts and users tend to prioritize speed, brevity and engagement over strict grammatical accuracy. As a result, grammatically incorrect forms can spread quickly and gain acceptance, particularly among younger users. Therefore, analyzing grammatical errors in Uzbek social media discourse is essential not only for linguistic documentation but also for raising awareness of the importance of maintaining standard language norms in digital communication.

### **Limitations and directions for further research**

The study focused only on Instagram comments and does not represent all forms of Uzbek digital communication. The purposive sampling method and relatively small dataset may limit the generalizability of the findings. Future research could include larger dataset and additional social media platforms for broader comparison. Moreover, the study primarily analyzed textual content, overlooking multimedia elements such as images, videos and emojis, which may also influence communication patterns. It also did not consider demographic factors like age, gender, or location, which could affect language use and interaction styles. Additionally, the impact of evolving social media features and platform algorithms on user engagement was not explored, leaving room for further investigation. Addressing these aspects in future studies could provide a more comprehensive understanding of Uzbek digital communication trends.

### **Conclusion**

The examination of comments on Uzbek Instagram illustrates that social media significantly impacts written language often causing deviations from established norms. Errors in subject-verb agreement and phonetic substitutions are notably frequent, showing the direct transfer of spoken habits into writing. These patterns indicate a gradual shift toward more relaxed linguistic practices in online communication. Although social media platforms promote spontaneity and personal expression, they also facilitate the acceptance of non-standard language forms, particularly among younger users. Additionally, the study identifies recurring patterns of phonetic spelling, consonant confusion (X/H), vowel substitution (O'/U), and omission of diacritics in user comments. Overall, these tendencies suggest that Uzbek social media users often prioritize immediacy and expressiveness over strict adherence to grammatical norms, highlighting the influence of digital communication on written Uzbek.

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