

**NEW SEMANTIC POSSIBILITIES OF AFFIXES IN THE WORD-FORMATION
PROCESS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE**

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Abstract: This article examines the new semantic possibilities of affixes in the word-formation process of the Uzbek language. The study focuses on the functional and semantic role of affixes in the enrichment of vocabulary and in the creation of new lexical units. Particular attention is paid to the fact that affixes not only serve as grammatical and derivational elements, but also acquire new meanings depending on social development, communicative demand, and linguistic innovation. The article analyzes the productive use of affixes in forming new words, their semantic expansion, and their role in expressing contemporary concepts in Uzbek. The research also highlights the significance of affixation as an important source of lexical growth and semantic development in modern Uzbek linguistics.

Keywords: Uzbek language, word formation, affix, semantics, derivation, lexical unit, semantic development, linguistic innovation, vocabulary enrichment, affixation

Introduction. Word formation is one of the most important mechanisms of language development. It ensures the enrichment of vocabulary, the expression of new concepts, and the adaptation of language to changing social, cultural, and communicative needs. In this process, affixes play a central role as productive linguistic elements that help create new lexical units and expand the expressive resources of a language. In the Uzbek language, affixation has long been recognized as one of the main ways of word formation, and its importance continues to increase in the context of modern linguistic development.

Affixes in Uzbek traditionally perform derivational and grammatical functions. They help form nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and other parts of speech, thereby contributing to the structural richness of the language. However, in modern language use, affixes are not limited to their traditional functions. They increasingly demonstrate new semantic possibilities by participating in the creation of words that reflect contemporary realities, social transformations, and innovative concepts. This shows that affixes are not merely formal elements, but active semantic tools in the dynamic development of vocabulary.

The semantic potential of affixes becomes especially visible in periods of rapid social and technological change. As new objects, ideas, professions, and communicative practices emerge, language requires new means of nomination. In many cases, Uzbek responds to this need through the productive use of existing affixes, which begin to express broader, more specialized, or context-dependent meanings. Thus, affixes acquire new semantic shades and become more flexible in word-formation processes. Their productivity and adaptability reveal the close relationship between linguistic structure and social development.

Another significant aspect of this issue is that affixes may reflect not only internal linguistic evolution but also the influence of external factors such as globalization, mass media, digital communication, and contact with other languages. In such conditions, word formation becomes more active, and affixes participate in the adaptation of new lexical models to the Uzbek language system. As a result, they contribute to the modernization of vocabulary while preserving the national structural character of the language.

The relevance of this topic lies in the growing need to study the semantic and functional changes of affixes in contemporary Uzbek. Investigating their new semantic possibilities helps explain how lexical innovation occurs within the language and how grammatical elements can develop broader derivational functions. This issue is important not only for theoretical linguistics but also for lexicology, morphology, sociolinguistics, and language teaching.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the new semantic possibilities of affixes in the word-formation process of the Uzbek language, to identify their productive functions, and to determine their role in the enrichment and development of modern Uzbek vocabulary.

The issue of word formation has always been one of the central topics in linguistics, since it reflects the internal developmental mechanisms of a language. In linguistic theory, word formation is generally understood as the process of creating new lexical units through various structural and semantic means. Among these means, affixation occupies a particularly important place because it provides a productive and systematic way of enriching vocabulary. In agglutinative languages such as Uzbek, affixes play a decisive role in forming new words and expressing fine semantic distinctions.

Scholars in general linguistics have studied affixes not only as grammatical markers but also as semantic and derivational instruments. Traditional approaches focused mainly on the formal and structural classification of affixes, identifying their role in forming nouns, adjectives, verbs, and other word classes. However, more recent linguistic studies emphasize that affixes should also be analyzed from a semantic perspective, since their meaning and function may expand in accordance with communicative practice and language development. This shift has made it possible to examine affixes as active participants in lexical innovation.

In Turkic linguistics, affixation is regarded as one of the most productive methods of word formation. Researchers have pointed out that in Uzbek, derivational affixes are especially significant because they help create new lexical items while preserving the morphological norms of the language. Uzbek linguists have investigated the structural, functional, and semantic properties of affixes in relation to morphology and lexicology. Their studies show that affixes are capable of developing additional semantic shades depending on context, social usage, and lexical compatibility. This demonstrates that the semantic potential of affixes is broader than their traditional dictionary description.

Another important direction in the literature concerns the relationship between affixation and lexical enrichment. Scholars note that social development, scientific progress, technological change, and cultural transformation create a constant need for new lexical units. In response to this need, languages often activate existing derivational models. In Uzbek, many new words are formed with the help of familiar affixes, but these affixes may function with new semantic flexibility. This indicates that the derivational system of the language is dynamic rather than static.

The literature also shows that the semantic possibilities of affixes are closely related to language economy and expressiveness. Instead of borrowing entirely new lexical forms from other languages, Uzbek can generate native equivalents through productive affixation. In this sense, affixes serve as a means of preserving national linguistic identity while also supporting modernization. At the same time, contact with global languages and international terminology may influence the semantic activity of Uzbek affixes, encouraging their use in new lexical patterns.

Overall, previous studies confirm that affixes should be examined not only as morphological units but also as semantic resources that contribute to language change. However, the question of their new semantic possibilities in modern Uzbek still deserves more focused research. This article approaches the problem from that perspective by analyzing how affixes function in the

contemporary word-formation process and how their semantic capacity expands in relation to present-day linguistic needs.

Main Discussion

In the Uzbek language, affixation has historically served as one of the most stable and productive ways of word formation. Because Uzbek belongs to the agglutinative type of languages, affixes are attached to word stems in a clear and regular manner, allowing speakers to generate new lexical meanings efficiently. Traditionally, derivational affixes were associated with relatively fixed meanings. For example, certain affixes were used to form abstract nouns, others to create personal nouns, adjectives, or verbs. However, in modern usage, these affixes increasingly reveal broader semantic possibilities and participate in more flexible word-building processes.

One of the main reasons for the expansion of affix semantics is the rapid transformation of social life. New professions, technologies, forms of communication, and cultural phenomena require new names. In many cases, Uzbek does not simply borrow ready-made foreign words, but adapts new concepts through native derivational mechanisms. This process activates affixes and gives them additional semantic load. As a result, affixes that once had a narrow function may begin to express wider conceptual meanings in modern speech.

For instance, affixes used to denote profession, activity, tendency, quality, or abstract meaning often become more semantically productive in contemporary vocabulary. They are applied not only to traditional stems but also to newly entered lexical bases, including international and borrowed roots. This creates hybrid but semantically transparent formations that are understandable to speakers and easily integrated into communication. Thus, affixes contribute not only to lexical expansion but also to semantic clarity and adaptability.

Another important point is that affixes in modern Uzbek increasingly perform evaluative and stylistic functions in addition to derivational ones. In some contexts, the use of a particular affix may reflect the speaker's attitude, social position, emotional tone, or communicative intention. This means that affixation is not only a mechanical morphological process, but also a meaningful sociolinguistic phenomenon. Through affixes, speakers can create words that sound formal, colloquial, expressive, modern, or specialized depending on the context.

The semantic broadening of affixes is also connected with the influence of mass media, education, and digital communication. Media discourse often popularizes new lexical models and accelerates their spread among the population. Social networks, online journalism, and advertising introduce innovative word forms that quickly become familiar in everyday language. In such processes, affixes help make new concepts linguistically accessible. Their productivity supports the adaptation of new realities into the Uzbek lexical system without disrupting its grammatical structure.

At the same time, the emergence of new semantic possibilities in affixation raises important theoretical questions. Not every newly formed word becomes stable in the language, and not every affixal innovation is equally accepted by speakers. The effectiveness of a derivational model depends on factors such as frequency of use, semantic transparency, social relevance, and conformity to language norms. Therefore, the study of affixes must consider both their structural role and their communicative success in real language use.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, the productivity of affixes may vary across different speaker groups. Younger generations, urban speakers, media professionals, and specialists in certain fields are often more active in using and spreading innovative affixal formations. This suggests that the semantic development of affixes is shaped not only by linguistic rules but also by social environment. In other words, affixation reflects the interaction between the internal resources of the language and the external dynamics of society.

In general, the new semantic possibilities of affixes in Uzbek demonstrate the vitality and flexibility of the language. Affixes remain one of the main instruments through which Uzbek expands its vocabulary, expresses modern meanings, and adapts to contemporary communicative demands. Their role in word formation shows that even small morphological elements can carry significant semantic and social functions. Therefore, the study of affixes is essential for understanding both the structural development and the modern linguistic evolution of the Uzbek language.

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