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SPECIFIC FEATURES OF ADJECTIVES IN FRENCH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Annotation: Adjective expresses the quality, characteristic, or feature of a thing, object, or person. Adjectives are an important part of speech in any language, including Uzbek and French. This article discusses the specific features of adjectives in Uzbek and French languages from the morphological, lexical, semantic, and syntactic perspectives.

Keywords: adjective, lexicology, morphology, positive degree, comparative degree, superlative degree, determiner, subject-predicate, lexical-semantic category, gender and number agreement, grammatical agreement.

Introduction. Adjectives are a part of speech that express the characteristics or features of a noun. An adjective primarily conveys the attribute of a subject or, to some extent, an action. The concept of an attribute includes features such as character, color, taste, shape, size and others. For example, in the phrases “green tree”, “big house”, “fast running”, the words “green”, “big” and “fast” function as adjectives. These are semantic groups of adjectives, which are based on certain semantic and grammatical characteristics.

The study of adjectives in linguistics dates back to ancient times. In works such as Mahmud Kashgari’s *Devon-u Lug’ati Turk*, Mahmud Zamakhshariy’s “*Asos-ul Balog’a*”, “*Muqaddimat-ul Adab*”, and Alisher Navoi’s “*Muhokamat-ul Lug’atayn*” the features of adjectives expressing attributes, their stylistic functions, and the various metaphors and literary techniques that generate different types of adjectives are discussed. Adjectives, in particular, play a significant role in ensuring the subtlety and clarity of expression in speech. In the section of lexicology in linguistics, the lexical meaning of adjectives, their synonyms, antonyms, and aspects of polysemy are analyzed, while in morphology, the grammatical structure, classification, and degrees (positive, comparative, superlative) of adjectives are examined. Studying the morphological features of adjectives helps in understanding the general structure of the language and the interrelations in speech. In Uzbek linguistics, scientific research on adjectives emerged in the second half of the 1940s. For example, in 1947, Z. Ma’rufov defended a candidate dissertation on “The Degrees of Adjectives in the Uzbek Language”, in 1950, G’. Abdurahmonov defended a dissertation on “Substantivation (Nominalization) of Adjectives in Modern Uzbek”, and in 1955, O. Madrahimov defended a dissertation on “Adjectives and Newly Formed Adjectives in the Uzbek Language”.

In 1957, O. Madrahimov’s article titled “On the Issue of Adjectives and Newly Formed Adjectives in the Uzbek Language” was published¹.

¹ Мадрахимов О. Ўзбек тилида сифат ва янги ясалган сифатлар масаласига доир//ЎзФА ахбороти, ижтимоий фанлар серияси, Т.:1957. – Б. 41-47.

Main part. The adjective as a part of speech can be analyzed through its unique characteristics in morphological, lexical, semantic, and syntactic aspects.

From a morphological perspective, adjectives have various forms, and they possess distinguishable degrees, methods of formation, and usage situations. The morphological feature of adjectives is their category of degree. The differentiation of adjectives based on comparison with a simple degree is called "degree of adjectives". There are the following types of adjective degrees:

Positive degree: This refers to the expression of a quality of an object without comparing it to anything else. Adjectives in this degree do not have degree-marking affixes. For example: bright, good, heavy, agile, soft, tall, straight.

Comparative degree: This shows whether the quality is greater or lesser than in the positive degree by comparing it. Adjectives in the comparative degree are usually formed with the suffix -roq: bigger, smaller, bluer, taller, more charming, spicier.

The comparative degree usually arises when two objects, events, phenomena, or situations are involved. In this case, the quality of the objects being compared is expressed in the form of "...-ga nisbatan (qaraganda) ...-roq" or "...-dan (ko'ra) ...roq": The wind today is stronger compared to yesterday. The mulberry is shorter than the poplar. Honey is sweeter than sugar.

The comparative degree of an adjective expresses that something is more than the simple degree, meaning it is higher. For example: the biggest, the fastest, the most beautiful, very beautiful, incredibly happy, extremely high, extremely grateful, very pleasant, extremely cunning, miserably stingy, how magnificent, extremely dark.

Lexically, adjectives express various meanings and are represented through the systems defined in the language:

Synonyms: Adjectives with similar meanings. For example: big and grand, fast and young.

Antonyms: Adjectives that express opposite meanings. For example: good and bad, fast and slow.

Semantically, adjectives are used to express the quality, condition, or characteristic of an object. In the 1960s, the linguist M. Sodiqova made a significant contribution to the study of adjectives in terms of their semantic, grammatical, and stylistic aspects through her monograph titled "Adjective in contemporary Uzbek Language". In her research, "Grammar of the Uzbek Language" the scholar divides the meanings of adjectives into six distinct groups:

- a) Colors: red, green, white, blue;
- b) Shape: big, small, narrow;
- c) Taste: sweet, salty, bitter;
- d) Shape (again): round, circular;
- e) Character and personality: good, excellent, foolish, quarrelsome;
- f) State or condition: sick, poor, rich².

From a syntactic perspective, in Uzbek, adjectives are often used as determiners or descriptive modifiers, meaning they do not perform the role of the predicate in a sentence but rather describe other words (usually nouns). In the textbook "The Uzbek Language" (1993), the following concise information is provided about adjectives: "An adjective indicates the quality of an object and is characterized by the positive, comparative, diminutive, and augmentative degrees, and in a sentence, it functions as a determiner"³.

² Содиқова М. Сифат// Ўзбек тили грамматикаси, икки томлик, 1-том. Т.: Фан, 1976. – Б. 301.

³ Nazarov K., Sayfullayeva R., Ubaydullayeva M. O'zbek tili (ixtisoslik grammatikasi). –Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 1993. – B.30.

In French, adjectives can change morphologically. That is, they must agree with the gender (masculine, feminine) and number (singular, plural) of the noun they modify. Adjectives in French often agree with the noun in terms of both gender and number. For example: un homme intelligent (a smart man). In this example, since the noun is masculine, there is no change in the adjective. However, when the noun is feminine, both the noun and the adjective must agree: une femme intelligente (a smart woman). Similarly: des hommes intelligents (smart men) / des femmes intelligentes (smart women). In these cases, both the noun and the adjective agree in gender and number. Typically, the feminine form of adjectives is created by adding an -e to the masculine form of the adjective.

un cahier bleu - une robe bleue

un tableau noir - une nuit noire

un cahier bleu - une robe bleue.

In French, adjectives are also graded. The comparative and superlative degrees are often expressed with auxiliary words like “plus” and “le plus”.

Positive degree (le Positif): grand (big).

Comparative degree (le Comparatif): plus grand (bigger).

Superlative degree (le Superlatif): le plus grand (the biggest).

In French, adjectives syntactically function as modifiers (e.g., Il nous a raconté une histoire intéressante – He told us an interesting story) and predicates (e.g., L’histoire qu’il nous a racontée est intéressante – The story he told us is interesting)⁴. Typically, adjectives follow the noun, but this order can sometimes change. Depending on their position, adjectives can alter the meaning of the sentence:

Un grand homme – A great man.

Un homme grand – A tall man.

Adjectives in both languages semantically represent various meaning groups. In Uzbek, adjectives are often used to describe the external or internal characteristics, color, size, and condition of an object. For example, phrases like katta uy (big house), yoqimli odam (pleasant person), and yashil daraxt (green tree) illustrate the semantic specificity of adjectives.

In French, adjectives also express meaning groups such as color, shape, size, and speed. However, they can sometimes have different meanings depending on the context. For instance, the word beau (beautiful) can refer not only to external appearance but also to moral or inner beauty. Such semantic variations occur more frequently in French.

Conclusion. There are both similarities and differences between adjectives in French and Uzbek. In both languages, adjectives play an important role in describing the characteristics of objects. However, their grammatical forms and semantic features differ. In French, adjectives must agree in gender and number, whereas in Uzbek, adjectives are morphologically simpler and are often used in an unmarked form. A deeper study of the unique grammatical and semantic aspects of adjectives in both languages helps to better understand their role and significance within the language systems.

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⁴ A.E.Mamatov, M.M.Mirxoliqov, A.S.Asqarov. Fransuz tilining amaliy grammatikasi. – Т.: “Fan texnologiya”, 2015. – Б.34.

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