

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF QUALITATIVE ADJECTIVE INFLECTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS IN ENGLISH AND ASTORI DIALECT OF SHINA LANGUAGE: A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The study is a morphological analysis in order to explore similarities and differences of adjective inflections and their functions in English language and in Astori dialect of Shina language. Inflections of adjectives have been taken as the stand point of this study. Findings of the study revealed that Shina is highly inflected language as compared to English. Adjectives in English are inflected to show the degrees (comparative, superlative). On the other hand in Shina, to express degrees like comparative and superlative, separate words are used as; "dango", "lawo dango", "pooroneo dango" here the words "lawo" and "pooroneo" show the degrees but the inflections "ngo" shows the masculine gender. The study revealed that in Shina it is necessary for adjectives to agree with the noun they describe and follow, that is, they need to agree with the noun in gender and number. For example, if the noun that follows an adjective is singular and masculine, the adjectives, most of the time, take the inflection "-o", as in "dudooro" (masculine singular circular), and if the noun is masculine and plural, the adjective takes the inflection "-ay" as in "dudooray" (masculine circular plural). When the noun, which is being modified by an adjective, is feminine and singular, the adjective takes the inflection "-i", and when the noun is feminine and plural, it takes the inflection "-iye" as in "naayi" for singular feminine (new) and "naaiye" for feminine plural (new).

Keywords. Inflections, derivation, prefix, suffix, adjectives, Shina/Astori.

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Introduction

This study basically deals with inflections of adjectives and their functions in Astori dialect of Shina language specifically focussing on the dialect spoken in Chilum. Adjectives, in nearly all the dialects of Shina including Astori dialect, usually precede the noun which they modify, and they agree with it in number and gender (Schmidt and Kohistani 2008:100, Bailey 1924:63). Consider the following set of adjectives ending in consonants which inflect for number and gender.

Table No. 1 list of some shina adjectives and english translation

		Description of Adjectives					
Adjective number		Singular			Plural		
Gender		Phonetic symbols	Romani zed spelling	English	Phonetic symbols	English	Romanized spelling
		Masculine	dodu:ɾɒ	dudooro	Circular	dodu:re	Circular
	Feminine	dodu:ɾɪ	dudoori	Circular	dodu:ɾije	Circular	dudooriye
	Masculine	p ^h u:ʃɒ	phoosho	Empty	p ^h u:ʃe	Empty	phooshay
	Feminine	p ^h u:ʃɪ	phooshi	Empty	p ^h u:ʃije	Empty	phoosiye
	Masculine	gɔtɒmɒ	gutumo	Deep	gɔtɒme	Deep	gutomay
	Feminine	gɔtɒmɪ	gutomi	Deep	gɔtɒmije	Deep	gutomiye
	Masculine	dɒŋɒ	dango	Tall	dɒŋe	Tall	dongay
	Feminine	dɒŋɪ	dongi	Tall	dɒŋije	Tall	dangiye
	Masculine	ekɒɒ	ekalo	Alone	ekɒle	Alone	ekalay
	Feminine	ekɒɪ	ekali	Alone	ekɒɪje	Alone	ekaliye
	Masculine	na:ɒɒ	naawo	New	na:	New	naa
	Feminine	na:ɪ	naayi	New	na:ije	New	naaiye
	Masculine	tʃəwɪ:	chawōō	Cold	tʃəwê	Cold	chawāy

Feminine	tfəwî:	chawî	Cold	tfəwîje	Cold	chawîy
Masculine	siɓ	siyo	Fine/nice	sije	Fine/nice	siyay
Feminine	si:	see	Fine/nice	si:je	Fine/nice	seeiye

All the, Shina Astori, adjectives listed in the table above end in vowels “-o”, “-i”, or “-ee” for singular masculine and feminine genders respectively, and all the adjectives end in “-ay” for plural of masculine gender whereas they end in “-iye” for plural of feminine gender except “naao” which ends in ‘-aa’ for plural of masculine gender.

Adjective Noun Agreement in Shina

Agreement of adjectives in Shina depends on the noun that follows them in a sentence. If the noun that follows an adjective is singular in number, the adjective, most of the time, takes the inflection “-o”, and if the noun following an adjective is plural, the adjective takes the inflection “-ay”. Same is the case for determination of gender. When the noun that follows an adjective is masculine and singular in number, the adjective, most often, takes the inflection “-o”, whereas if the noun following an adjective is feminine and singular, it is inflected with the suffix “-i”. When a masculine plural noun follows an adjective, the suffix “-ay” is added to the adjective, and when a feminine plural nouns follows an adjective, it takes the inflection “-iye”. The following table illustrates agreement of adjective with noun in number, and gender:

Table No. 2 some shina adjectives, inflections and their functions

Description of Adjectives							
Adjective number		Singular			Plural		
	Gender	Phonetic symbols	Romanized spelling	Inflection	Phonetic symbols	Inflection	Romanized spelling
	Masculine	dodu:rɒ	dudooro	“-o”	dodu:re	“-ay”	dudooray
	Feminine	dodu:ri	dudoori	“-i”	dodu:rje	“-iye”	dudooriye
	Masculine	p ^h u:fɒ	phoosho	“-o”	p ^h u:fe	“-ay”	phooshay
	Feminine	p ^h u:fi	phooshi	“-i”	p ^h u:fije	“-iye”	phoosiye

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Masculine	gɔtɔmɒ	gutumo	“-o”	gɔtɔme	“-ay”	gutomay
Feminine	gɔtɔmɪ	gutomi	“-i”	gɔtɔmɪje	“-iye”	gutomiye
Masculine	dɔŋɒ	dango	“-o”	dɔŋe	“-ay”	dongay
Feminine	dɔŋɪ	dongi	“-i”	dɔŋɪje	“-iye”	dangiye
Masculine	ekɔɒ	ekalo	“-o”	ekɔle	“-ay”	ekalay
Feminine	ekɔɪ	ekali	“-i”	ekɔɪje	“-iye”	ekaliye
Masculine	na:ɔɔ	naaɔo	“-o”	na:	“-aa”	naa
Feminine	na:ɪ	naayi	“-i”	na:ɪje	“-iye”	naaiye
Masculine	tʃəwɪ:	chawōō	“-oo”	tʃəwê	“-ay”	chawāy
Feminine	tʃəwî:	chawî	“-i”	tʃəwîje	“-iye”	chawîy
Masculine	sɪɒ	siyo	“-o”	sɪje	“-ay”	siyay
Feminine	sɪ:	see	“-i”	sɪ:je	“-iye”	seeiye

Astori Dialect

With about 70,000 speakers, the Astori dialect is one of the major varieties of the Shina language. Astorians, or the inhabitants of Astore in this research, are regarded as Dardo Tibetans. They moved from Chilas to Astore as a result of a conflict between two factions. Between Bote and Matshuke, two Chilasi tribes, there was an internal conflict (Dardistan, 1986:61). Astori dialect exhibits the impact of the Chilasi dialect; nevertheless, this dialect has also been influenced by English, the national language of Urdu, and the standard dialect. Because code switching and code mixing are frequent occurrences in Astore, Astorians have a

remarkable capacity for adopting and understanding the different dialects of the same language or other languages, such as English, Urdu, and Balti, among others (Hussain et al., 2024). However, it is important to highlight that the Astori dialect may soon rank among the separate dialects if the problem of code mixing and code flipping is not stopped. The Shina language has several inflections, according to "Mrs. Zaffar Waqar Taj's thesis, (2007), which asserts that more inflections and derivations may be found in the Shina language." Astori is one of the dialects that speakers of standard dialect and speakers of other dialects may understand well, despite being more inflected than the other Shina dialects.

Not every language in the world has inflections in the same way. The number of word inflections that indicate various grammatical functions varies greatly between the world's languages.

A different term in another language may convey the same meaning as something that one language uses the aid inflection to communicate.

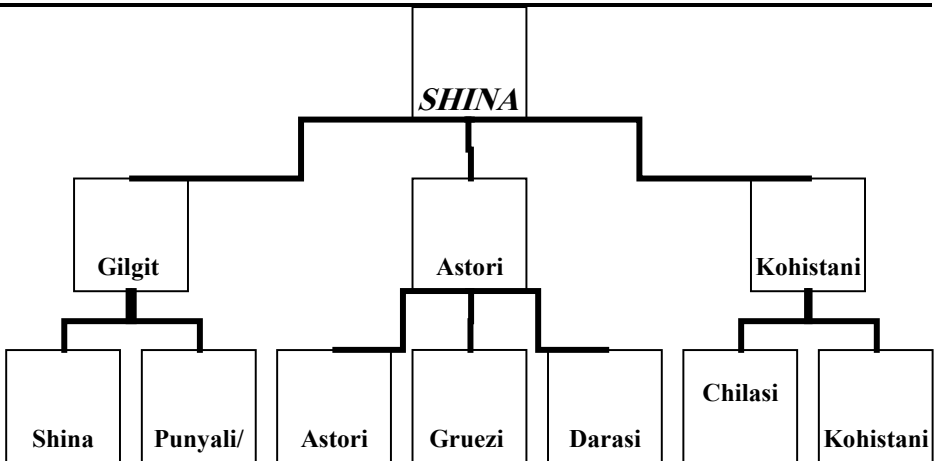
For instance, inflections are used in English to indicate noun plurals (boy, boys, cat, cats, and so on); whereas, in Shina, some noun plurals are indicated with different words (manoozo man, jak men).

Not all languages experience this; only those that are isolating languages with little to no morphology, like Yoruba and Vietnamese. English is not one of these languages. It is regarded as an analytical language (analytic languages are those in which morphology has a little function). Because of its extensive morphology, the Shina Astori dialect can be classified as polysynthetic (Haspelmath, M., & Sims, A. D., 2010). Polysynthetic languages have an exceptionally high degree of morphology. There are inflections for some Shina words. Structure-wise, the Shina language shares some parallels with English because certain verbs in the Shina (Astori dialect) are inflected similarly to English verbs to indicate person and tense.

A Brief Introduction of Shina Language

A Dardic language, Shina (also known as Tshina) is spoken by a vast majority of people in Gilgit Baltistan (previously known as Northern Areas of Pakistan). The valleys of Astore, Chilas, Dareil, Tangeer, Gilgit, Ghizer, and some areas of Baltistan and Kohistan are home to speakers of several Shina dialects. Additionally, it is spoken in the Jammu and Kashmiri Laddakh valleys and Gurez Drass (Kargil). The primary Shina dialects are:

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Given that Shina lacks a standard writing system and documented alphabets, it is exceedingly challenging to solve the riddle of where the language began in terms of its accurate historical background. Scholars have been making every attempt to determine the historical roots of the Shina language, but due to divergent opinions, their efforts have only been somewhat successful. According to some experts, the Shina language, which is spoken in various dialect groups in Gilgit Baltistan, is an Indo-Aryan language of the Dardic group (Hussain et al., 2024). Gilgiti Shina is the name given to the dialect used in the major valley of "Gilgit." Gilgiti Shina is regarded as the mainstream Shina dialect due to the highest number of speakers because Gilgit town is the socioeconomic center of the region and home to the majority of speakers, Gilgiti Shina is regarded as the standard dialect of Shina.

Objectives

- To explore inflections of Adjectives and their grammatical functions in Astori dialect of Shina language

Research Question

- How are adjectives inflected in Astori dialect of Shina language and what grammatical functions these inflections show?

Literature Review

The purpose of this study is to compare the grammatical functions and adjective inflections in the Astori dialect of Shina with the English language. In morphology, which is the study of words' internal structure, inflections are examined. The reason why morphology and syntax are closely connected is that words are often inflected based on the sentence's syntactic structure. Since inflections are the main focus of morphology and they demonstrate grammatical functions through affixes, morphology may be thought of as a subfield of grammar

The study of morphology examines how words are constructed by combining morphemes, which are minimum units of speech with meanings or grammatical functions that cannot be further subdivided. Morphemes that exhibit distinct grammatical functions are called inflections. Verbs are inflected to show the tense (write, wrote), number of the subject in a sentence (I, we, they, you go; he/she goes), and aspect (perfective and imperfective) (I am writing). Nouns are inflected to express number (singular, plural, e.g., bat bats) and noun case (e.g., Boy, boy's, boys'). (Oxford University Press, 1999) states that adjectives in English are inflected to show degree, i.e., comparative or superlative (tall, taller, tallest)."

Since derivations function differently in a sentence than inflections do, and because experts use different terminology to refer to them, it is important to discuss them briefly in order to fully understand inflections. As was mentioned in the introduction, we add extra letters, or affixes, to show grammatical function in a sentence.

Inflections in Astori Dialect of Shina Language

The Astori dialect of Shina contains several inflections that indicate various purposes. For instance, nouns can be employed as subjects or objects and can take on different inflections. Since "Aslamo gosh aelay hoon" uses the inflection "-mo" as a subject and indicates possession, it also indicates that the topic of the discussion is a man. On the other hand, Shina, the Astori dialect, contains many more inflections than modern English. Nouns in English can be inflected to indicate possession or merely plural. For example, the inflection "-s" indicates only plural in the sentence "Boys are playing cricket." However, when a noun is employed as an object, it does not take on the inflection "Seema likes Ahmed." Nouns in Shina (Astori) are inflected when they are either employed as subjects or Nouns in Shina (Astori) are inflected when they are employed as the sentence's subject or object, as in "Seemasey Ahmedadey khosh thein." In this instance, the sentence's object is Ahmed, which has been inflected with the suffix "-adey."

Derivational and Inflectional of Shina (ASTORI) and Other Languages.

It is important to address inflectional and derivational in a specific and methodical manner to make the topic more vivid, as it was covered in the introduction, wherein inflections are defined as the additional letter or letters in a base lexeme to demonstrate the distinct grammatical functions via suffixes or prefixes. Additions of suffixes or prefixes to a basic lexeme might be derivational or inflectional. The morphologists refer to these inflectional and derivational suffixes and prefixes as derivational meaning and inflectional values.

Derivational Suffixes or Prefixes

Derivational suffixes or prefixes are extra letters that alter a word's class. For example, they can occasionally turn a verb into a noun and are typically

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positioned near to the base, as in "read, reader." In this case, the suffix -er converted the verb "read" into the noun "reader."

Adjective Inflections and Their Functions

English adjectives include inflectional forms that indicate the degrees (comparative, superlative), such as tall, taller, and tallest. In Shina, distinct terms such as "dango", "lawo dango", and "pooroneo dango" are used to convey degrees such as comparative and superlative. In this case, the words "lawo" and "pooroneo" indicate the degrees, while the inflection "ngo" indicates the masculine gender. This is explained in detail in the analysis that follows.

Analysis

1. Saima is tall. (English)

Inflections of adjectives show degrees like comparative and superlative. In English positive degree is not inflected as in above English sentence 1, adjective "tall" has not been inflected to show any particular function but it simply tells the quality of noun "Saima".

1. Saima dangi heen. (Shina)

In Shina positive degree of adjective is also inflected as in Shina sentence 1, adjective "dangi" is inflected by "-i", but it does not show any degree of adjective, it shows that the noun which it describes is singular and feminine.

2. Saleem is taller than Ali. (English)

English adjectives are inflected by adding "er" to show the comparative degree as in English sentence 2 from the table 3 inflection "er" shows the comparative degree of the adjective "tall" which means it enhances its degree.

2. Saleem lawo dango hoon. (Shina)

In Shina adjectives are not inflected to show the degrees but they are inflected to show the number and gender which they modify. To show the degrees of adjectives a separate word is used in Shina language as sentence 2, the word "lawo" is used to show the comparative degree and the inflection "-o" shows the noun, to which this adjective is being used, is singular and masculine.

3. Mehwish is the tallest. (English)

When English adjectives are inflected by adding "-est" , it shows the superlative degree of the adjective which means the noun, to which it is used, has the highest degree of being tall from the all. Adjective inflections in English usually perform a single function that is they show the degrees of adjectives.

3. Mehwish pooro neo dangi heen. (Shina)

It has been already mentioned that Shina adjectives are not inflected to show degrees but to show degrees, separate word is used. It can be observed from the sentence 3 that to show the superlative degree of adjective "dangi", two separate

words "pooro" and "neo" have been used. To show superlative degree, another word "lagi lawo/layi" is also used. In this case, the sentence will be "Mehwish lagi layi dangi heen".

4. He brought a circular stone. (English)

In English, adjectives have nothing to do with the noun that follows it regarding its gender and number, that is, adjective in English is not inflected to agree with the noun in number and gender.

4. Zosay dudooro butek adow. (Shina)

In Shina, adjectives are also inflected to show agreement in number and gender with the noun that follows the adjective. As in the Shina sentence above, the adjective is inflected with "-o" which shows that the noun "butek" is singular and it also shows that the noun is masculine gender.

5. He brought circular stones. (English)

English sentence 5 shows that the adjective "circular" is not inflected even though the noun "stones" which it modifies is in plural. The adjective is same when it is with a singular noun or a plural noun.

5. Zosay dudoodray bati adow. (Shina)

In the Shina sentence 5, it can be seen that the inflection "-ay" has been added to the adjective "dudooro" to show that the noun "bati" is plural and it is taken as masculine in Shina language.

6. Saleem's bag is empty. (English)

In the sentence above the adjective "empty" has not been inflected. The noun "bag" is singular and it is neuter gender.

6. Saleemo basta phoosho hoon. (Shina)

In the sentence above, the Shina adjective "phoosho" has the inflection "-o" in order to show that the noun which follows the "phoosho" is masculine and it is singular in number.

7. Saleem took an empty basket. (English)

In this sentence, the adjective "empty" has again been used with a noun which is taken as neuter in English, but the adjective has not been inflected as in English adjective are not usually inflected.

7. Saleemsay phooshi tokeri ginee gow. (Shina)

In Shina the adjective "phoosho" has been inflected as "phooshi" by adding the inflection "-i" to show that the noun "tokeri" is singular and the same inflection also shows that the noun is taken as masculine in Shina.

8. My carpet is new. (English)

8. Mayi chharee naayi heen. (Shina)

The Shina noun "chhari" is taken as feminine and it is singular in number. To show the number of the noun "chhari" the adjective has been inflected as "nayi" by adding the inflection "-yi" which indicated that the noun "chhari" is singular and it also tells that the noun is masculine. Whereas the English

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adjective "new" has not even been inflected to show the number or gender of the noun "carpet".

9. I sold new carpets. (English)

9. Musay naaiye chhariye krinyas. (Shina)

In sentence 9, it can be seen that the English adjective "new" describes a plural noun "carpets", but the noun has not inflected as it is not essential in English for an adjective to agree with the noun in number and gender. In contrast, In Shina the adjective needs to agree with noun in number and gender as the Shina adjective "naaiye" has been inflected with an addition of "-iye" which shows that the noun "chhariye" which is being described by the adjective is plural and it also shows that the noun is feminine in gender.

10. Your friend is nice. (English)

10. Tho saanti siyo hoon. (Shina)

The English noun "friend" can be used for female or male that's why it is known as common gender. The adjective "nice" which describes the common noun "friend" is not inflected as it is not bound to be inflected to show any additional grammatical function, it just describes the noun. Similarly, the Shina adjective "saanti" can also be used to a female or a male individual, and the inflection "-o" added to the adjective "siyo" which describes the noun "saanti" shows that the noun sannti is masculine and it is singular in number. It can be concluded that in Shina adjectives also show the gender and number if the noun does not show.

Conclusion

Adjectives in English are inflected to show the degrees (comparative, superlative). On the other hand in Shina, to express degrees like comparative and superlative, separate words are used as; "dango", "lawo dango", "pooroneo dango" here the words "lawo" and "pooroneo" show the degrees but the inflections "ngo" shows the masculine gender. In Shina, it is necessary for Shina adjectives to agree with the noun they describe and follow, that is, they need to agree with the noun in gender and number. For example, if the noun that follows an adjective is singular and masculine, the adjectives, most of the time, take the inflection "-o", as in "dudooro" (masculine singular circular), and if the noun is masculine and plural, the adjective takes the inflection "-ay" as in "dudooray" (masculine circular plural). When the noun, which is being modified by an adjective, is feminine and singular, the adjective takes the inflection "-i", and when the noun is feminine and plural, it takes the inflection "-iye" as in "naayi" for singular feminine (new) and "naaiye" for feminine plural (new).



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