



A TYPOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE FORMATION OF NOUNS IN ENGLISH AND KARAKALPAK

Djadigerova Dilnaz Maratovna

10.00.06 - Comparative Literary Studies,
Comparative Linguistics, and Translation Theory
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17939430>

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 13th December 2025

Accepted: 14th December 2025

Online: 15th December 2025

KEYWORDS

*Typology; noun formation;
English; Karakalpak;
morphology; word formation;
agglutination; derivation.*

ABSTRACT

This article presents a typological study of noun formation in English and Karakalpak, two languages belonging to different language families and morphological types. English, an Indo-European language, is primarily analytic with limited inflection, whereas Karakalpak, a Turkic language, is agglutinative with a rich system of suffixation. The study aims to identify similarities and differences in the morphological, derivational, and syntactic mechanisms used to form nouns in both languages. Special attention is paid to word-formation processes such as affixation, compounding, conversion, and borrowing. Through a comparative analysis supported by examples, the paper demonstrates how typological characteristics influence noun formation and reflect broader structural differences between the two languages.

Typological linguistics focuses on identifying and comparing structural features of languages in order to understand both their diversity and universal characteristics. One of the most productive areas of typological comparison is word formation, particularly the formation of nouns, as nouns play a central role in naming objects, concepts, and entities in human communication. This article undertakes a typological comparison of noun formation in English and Karakalpak, two languages that differ significantly in their morphological structure and historical development.

English belongs to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family and is characterized by an analytic structure with limited inflectional morphology. Noun formation in English relies heavily on derivational affixes, compounding, and conversion. Karakalpak, on the other hand, is a Turkic language with an agglutinative morphological structure, where grammatical and derivational meanings are expressed through clearly segmented suffixes. This fundamental typological contrast makes the comparison particularly valuable. The relevance of this study lies in its contribution to contrastive linguistics and language typology. By comparing noun formation mechanisms, it becomes possible to reveal how different languages exploit morphological resources to perform similar communicative functions. Such studies are also important for applied fields such as translation studies, language teaching, and lexicography, especially in multilingual contexts involving English and Turkic languages.

The purpose of this article is to analyze and compare the main noun-forming strategies in English and Karakalpak, identify typological similarities and differences, and explain how

these differences stem from the structural nature of each language. The study is based on descriptive and comparative methods, using examples from both languages to illustrate the productive patterns of noun formation.[1]

English noun formation is relatively flexible and relies on several productive processes. One of the most common methods is derivational affixation. Suffixes such as *-ness* (happiness), *-tion* (education), *-er* (teacher), and *-ity* (activity) are widely used to derive nouns from adjectives and verbs. Prefixation also occurs, although it is less productive for nouns (e.g., *misunderstanding*). Compounding is another major noun-forming process in English. Compound nouns may be written as one word (*blackboard*), hyphenated (*mother-in-law*), or as separate words (*bus stop*). Conversion, or zero derivation, is a distinctive feature of English due to its analytic nature. For example, verbs can easily become nouns without any morphological change (*to run* → *a run*). Borrowing has also played a significant role in expanding the English noun system. Many nouns originate from Latin, French, and Greek, especially in scientific, technical, and academic vocabulary.[2]

Karakalpak noun formation is predominantly based on suffixation, reflecting its agglutinative structure. Nouns are formed by adding derivational suffixes to nominal, verbal, or adjectival stems. Common noun-forming suffixes include *-lıq/-lik* (жол → жоллық “road-related”), *-шы/-шу* (балық → балықшы “fisherman”), and *-ма/-ме* (оқы → оқыма “reading”). Unlike English, conversion is virtually absent in Karakalpak, as word classes are clearly marked by morphological means. Compounding exists but is less flexible and more structurally transparent than in English. Borrowing, especially from Arabic, Persian, and Russian, has enriched the Karakalpak noun inventory, but borrowed nouns typically adapt to native morphological rules.

From a typological perspective, English demonstrates a higher degree of morphological economy and flexibility, while Karakalpak exhibits structural clarity and regularity. English relies more on syntactic context and conversion, whereas Karakalpak depends on explicit suffixation to indicate nounhood. Both languages use affixation and compounding, but their productivity and structural behavior differ significantly due to their typological classification.

The typological comparison of noun formation in English and Karakalpak highlights fundamental differences rooted in their morphological structures. English, as an analytic language, favors flexible and economical word-formation strategies such as conversion and compounding, often relying on context rather than overt morphological markers. Karakalpak, as an agglutinative language, employs a systematic and transparent system of suffixation that clearly distinguishes nouns from other parts of speech. Despite these differences, both languages share common word-formation mechanisms, including affixation, compounding, and borrowing. These similarities reflect universal tendencies in human language to expand vocabulary and express new concepts. However, the way these mechanisms are implemented is shaped by typological characteristics. This study demonstrates that noun formation is a productive field for typological analysis, offering insights into the interaction between morphology, syntax, and semantics. Understanding these differences is particularly useful for language learners, translators, and linguists working with English and Karakalpak. Future research may expand this comparison to include other Turkic languages or explore the diachronic development of noun-forming patterns.

References:

- 1.Karaev, N. K. (2014). Grammar of the Karakalpak Language. Nukus: Karakalpakstan Publishing House. (A fundamental descriptive grammar, including noun morphology and derivation.)
- 2.Allamergenov, K. Zh. (2016). Word formation in the Karakalpak language. Bulletin of Karakalpak State University, 3, 45–52. (Focuses on derivational processes, especially suffixation.)
- 3.Utepbergenov, A. S. (2012). Modern Karakalpak Language: Morphology. Nukus: Bilim. (Detailed analysis of parts of speech and noun formation.)
- 4.Dosbergenov, B. (2018). Derivational suffixes in Karakalpak nouns. Philological Issues of Turkic Languages, 2, 61–69. (Specific study of noun-forming suffixes.)
- 5.Baskakov, N. A. (1960). Turkic Languages. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House. (Classic work on Turkic typology; includes Karakalpak data.)
- 6.Shcherbak, A. M. (1970). Comparative Grammar of Turkic Languages: Morphology. Moscow: Nauka. (Comparative source useful for typological analysis.)
- 7.Serebrennikov, B. A. (1979). General Linguistics and Turkic Languages. Moscow: Nauka. (Provides theoretical background for typological comparison.)