

## Studying the Category of Number in Schools with Uzbek As the Language of Instruction

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### Abstract

*The article examines the category of number as one of the key grammatical categories of modern language, functioning in the system of nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs and other parts of speech. Particular attention is paid to the specifics of expressing the singular and plural in the Uzbek language and the difficulties of assimilation when teaching Russian in schools with the Uzbek language of instruction. Typological differences between the inflectional system of the Russian language and the agglutinative nature of the Uzbek language, which determine the discrepancy between logical and grammatical number, are analyzed. The work summarizes the views of classical and modern researchers of Uzbek linguistics (M. Koshgari, A. Fitrat, A. Gulyamov, F. Safarov, etc.), reveals morphological, syntactic and lexical-semantic ways of expressing the plural.*

Keywords: Number, category, part of speech, form, language, agglutinative, inflection.

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### 1. Introduction

The category of number is one of the most important and significant grammatical categories, not only for nouns, but also for adjectives, pronouns, verbs, and some other parts of speech. Studying this grammatical category plays a crucial role in developing students' grammatical literacy, especially in bilingual settings or when studying Russian as a second language. In Uzbek-language schools, working with the category of number requires a special approach that takes into account the typological differences between the official language, Uzbek, and, of course, Russian.

The meaning of the plural in Uzbek as a grammatical category within the group of nouns, adjectives, pronouns,

and verbs is examined in works on practical grammar. Modern interpretations of the category of number do not fully correspond to the peculiarities of the Uzbek language. Therefore, studying the category of number, based on the agglutinative nature of the Uzbek language, determining its historical foundations, cognitive and stage-by-stage development, and analyzing its verbal implementation is a pressing task today.

Mahmud Koshgari, for example, in his work “Devan meadow and t - Turk” (Collection of Turkic Dialects) [3] mentioned the affix -lar in expressing the plural in Turkic languages. In this work, he emphasized the importance of -lar in expressing the plural in Turkic languages. Reflections on the expression of the plural in the Uzbek

language can also be found in the work of Abdurauf Fitrat "Rules of the Uzbek language - an experiment. The first book: Sarf " [8]. These categories were first studied by Professor A. Gulomov [1].

In his article "The Microfield of Number-Quantity and Its Linguistic-Speech Characteristics in the Uzbek Language," F. Safarov addressed the issue of expressing the plural in the Uzbek language as an area [6] of grammatical, lexical, syntactic, phonetic, and non-technical means, all of which are analyzed together. The primary goal of this work is quantitative analysis aimed at investigating the structure, content, function, and application of field instruments.

In the textbook "Modern Literary Uzbek Language", published by Rakhmatullaev in 2006, he expressed some thoughts on the expression of the plural in the Uzbek language. The textbook and teaching aid "Modern Uzbek Literary Language", published by a group of scholars (R. Saifullaeva et al.) in 2007, 2009 and 2010, contain extensive information on the meaning of the plural [7]. The meaning of the singular and plural, which, in their opinion, is in contradiction, and the system of forms expressing this meaning constitute the category of

grammatical number.

A. Gulyamov is one of the scholars who specifically studied the meaning of the plural in Uzbek linguistics and examined this issue in detail in his treatise, "The Category of the Plural in the Uzbek Language." These include the plural expressed by adverbs (for example, gu l lar (flowers), gulimiz (our flower), gullatdik (blooming)), and the plural expressed by individual words and phrases (for example, biz (we), ko'p odam (many people), shoda-shoda marvarid (many pearls)). According to A. Gulyamov , although they all express the meaning of the plural, from a grammatical point of view they are different phenomena: "If we consider the question logically, then people, many people, few people, and the people all mean a multitude, a collection."

From a grammatical perspective, the expressions and formations of these nouns differ, and it becomes clear that they belong to completely different categories. Clearly, a linguist distinguishes between logical and grammatical plurals and does not include all means of expressing this meaning in grammatical plural forms. The plural markers for parts of speech in the Uzbek language can be presented in table form.

**Table No. 1.**

**Forms of expression of singular and plural parts of speech in the Uzbek language**

<b>N</b>	<b>Forms of expression</b>	<b>Singular number ( birlik Shakli )</b>	<b>Plural ( k o'plik shakli ).</b>
<b>Morphological expression (agglutination)</b>			
	Noun ( ot ) (using the affix + <i>lar</i> )	<i>Bola (child)</i>	<i>Bola+ lar (children)</i>
	Verb ( fel ) (change by persons and numbers) <i>+man, +san, + ti , + miz , + siz , + lar</i>	<b>yozmoq</b>	
		<b>Present time ( Hozirgi zamon )</b>	
		Yozyap+man , Yozyap+san , Yozyap+ti	Yozyap+miz , yozyap+siz , yozyapti+lar
		<b>Past tense( O ' tgan zamon )</b>	

	<b>+m, + ng , +i,+k,+ giz ,+ lar</b>	Yoz+dim , Yoz+ding , Yoz+di	Yoz+dik , yoz+dingiz , yozdi+lar
	<b>+ moqchiman , + moqchisan , + moqchi , + moqchimiz , + moqchisiz , + moqchilar</b>	<b>Future tense( Kelasi zamon )</b>	
		Yoz+moqchiman , Yoz+moqchisan , Yoz+moqchi	Yoz+moqchimiz , yoz+moqchisiz , yoz+moqchilar
	In collective nouns (most), formed with the <b>affix -chilik</b>		ko ' p + <b>chilik</b>
	Adjective ( sifat )	<i>Qanday odam ? (what? what ? what? what? person/people) What kind of people?</i>	<i>Qanday odam+ lar ?  Qanday odam+ lar+ ga ?</i>
<b>Pronoun ( olmosh )</b>			
A )	Personal ( kishilik )	<i>Men / sen / u</i>	<i>Biz/ siz / u+ lar</i>
B)	Index marks ( ko'rsatkich )	<i>Bu</i>	<i>Bu+ lar</i>
C)	Interrogatives ( so'roq )	<i>Kim/ nima / qanday / qancha ?</i>	<i>Kim + lar / nima + lar ?</i>
D)	Negative ( bo'lishsizlik )	<i>Hech kim / hech narsa / hech qanday / hech qaysi</i>	
E)	Indefinite ( gumon )	<i>Kimdir / nimadir / allanima / allaqancha</i>	<i>Kim + lar +dir / nima+ lar +dir /</i>
	Possessive and relative pronouns in the Uzbek language are expressed using various grammatical means.		

A)	The genitive case of a personal pronoun in combination with the possessive a -fix of the defined noun	<i>Men+ing uyim</i> <i>Sen+ing uying</i> <i>U+ning uyi</i>	<i>Biz+ning uyi+ miz</i> <i>Siz+ning uyi+ ngiz</i> <i>U+lar+ning uy+ lari</i>
B)	Some possessive affixes	<i>Uy+im</i> <i>Uy+ing</i> <i>Uy+i</i>	<i>uyi+ miz</i> <i>uyi+ ngiz</i> <i>uy+ lari</i>
C)	Pronoun <i>o'z</i> and possessive a affixes	<i>o'z uyim</i> <i>o'z+ing+ning uying</i> <i>o'z+i+ning</i>	<i>o'z+imiz+ning uyimiz</i> <i>o'z+ingiz+ning uyingiz</i> <i>o'z+lar+i+ning uy+lar+i</i>
D)	A affix – <i>Niki</i>	<i>uy men+iki</i> <i>uy sen+iki</i> <i>uy u+niki</i>	<i>Uy biz+niki</i> <i>Uy siz+niki</i> <i>Uy u+lar+niki</i>
<b>Numeral</b>			
A)	Quantitative ( <b>Miqdor son</b> ):	<i>bir</i> (one),	<i>ikki</i> (two), <i>o'nta</i> (ten pieces)
B)	- fractional ( <b>Kasr son</b> )	First the denominator is named (in the original case), then the numerator: <i>uchdan bir</i> (1/3 one-third)	
C)	-collective ( <b>Jamlovchi son</b> )		Formed with the suffix <b>-ov</b> or <b>-ala</b> : <i>ikkalasi</i> ( both ) , <i>beshala</i> (all five).
D)	– Separating ( <b>Taqsim son</b> ):	Formed with the suffix <b>-adan</b> : <i>bittadan</i> ( one by one).	

E)	Ordinal ( <b>Tartib son</b> ):	<b>are</b> formed by adding the suffix - <b>nchi</b> or -inchi : birinchi ( first),	<i>ikkinchi</i> (second)
<b>Lexical expression</b>			
	The aggregate consists only of the content, they do not have the grammatical indicator of plural (collective noun), but are grammatically considered singular.	<i>el xalq (people), qo'shin (troop), poda (herd) suruv (herd)</i>	<i>el (people), qo'shin (squad), poda (herd) suruv (herd)</i>
<b>Syntactic representation (logical thinking)</b>			
A)	These are compounds formed by joining words indicating quantity with nouns	<i>gul</i>  <i>tog '</i>	<i>( dasta-dasta gul (bouquets of flowers), baland tog'lar (high mountains)</i>
B)	With agglutinative properties in the Uzbek language, no grammatical means are used	<i>o 'quvchi</i>	<i>besh o 'quvchi (five students)</i>

A peculiarity of the Uzbek language is that when combined with a cardinal numeral, the noun often remains in the singular ( besh kitob - five books), and ordinal numerals can take case endings, like nouns.

An analysis of the category of number in the Uzbek language reveals its complex and multilayered nature, conditioned by the interaction of morphological, syntactic, and lexical-semantic means of expressing quantitative relations. It has been established that in Uzbek, grammatical and logical number do not always coincide, a consequence of the agglutinative structure of the language and the specific nature of its semantic organization. Plural can be expressed by affixes (-lar) , syntactic constructions, and lexical means, with nouns often retaining their singular form despite having a logically plural meaning.

The identified features of the category of number are of fundamental importance for the methods of teaching Russian in Uzbek-language schools, as typological differences between Russian and Uzbek languages become a source of interference errors among students. This requires a targeted comparative approach, the development of a conscious distinction between logical and grammatical number, and the gradual acquisition of number forms in the context of speech activity. The study's results confirm the need to consider the national and linguistic specifics of students and can serve as a theoretical basis for the development of effective methodological models for teaching the category of number in a bilingual setting.

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