

**CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF MORFEMIK PARONYMY IN UZBEK AND  
GERMAN LANGUAGES**

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**Abstract:** Paronyms occupy an important place among lexical units in linguistics. They are words that are similar in form and pronunciation but differ in meaning and context of use. This article analyzes the morpheme structure and semantic meanings of certain derived paronyms in Uzbek and German languages on a scientific basis.

**Keywords:** paronymic pairs, morphological features, morpheme composition, root of the word, suffix.

**Introduction.** Paronyms in linguistics are defined as words that are similar in pronunciation, spelling, and morpheme composition, but differ in lexical meanings or have partially close meanings. This concept originates from the Greek words "para" (beside) and "onuma" (name), expressing the similarity and difference between closely related words. According to linguists, paronyms are an important part of the language's lexical-semantic system. For example, N.P. Kolesnikov considers paronyms as words that are phonetically similar, semantically different, and prone to erroneous substitution in speech [N.P. Kolesnikov, 2012]. Furthermore, Russian linguist O.V. Vishnyakova defines paronyms as "words with similar pronunciation, but stress falling exactly on the same syllable, belonging to the same part of speech, distinguished by additional semantic nuances, and serving the clarity of thought – corelated words" [O.V. Vishnyakova, 2010]. According to her approach, another important characteristic specific to paronyms is their possession of a common core (etymological or morphological root), which in turn provides the basis for considering paronyms as "related" words branching from a single root. This approach is also found in German linguistics. For instance, U. Schnörch, in his research works, evaluates paronymy as an interesting lexical phenomenon, emphasizing that the small difference between paronyms can lead to their easy substitution for one another, consequently causing changes in contextual meaning, and therefore stresses the importance of identifying and systematizing them. At the same time, the linguist substantiates that among the criteria specific to paronyms is their possession of a common (often etymological) root, each expressed with unique (morphological) variables (often different suffixes) [U. Schnörch, 2015]. For example, the paronymic pair farblich-farbig is a suffix+suffix model derived from the noun die Farbe in the noun category. However, unlike Russian and German linguistics, in Uzbek linguistics, not only words with the same core but also words with different cores that are phonetically close are

considered paronyms. Examples include paronymic pairs such as abzal-afzal or sharaf-sharob. Nevertheless, numerous paronymic pairs derived from a single core can also be found in the Uzbek lexical system.

**Main part.** Below, we analyze derived words and paronymic pairs formed from a single core using different suffixes actively used in Uzbek and German languages. Such paronymic pairs, regardless of having the same root, embody the key characteristic of paronyms – semantic differentiation. The paronymic pair jo'yali-jo'yalik in Uzbek is formed with the word-forming suffixes -li and -lik, with the base being common to both paronyms. However, they possess the main characteristic specific to paronyms – semantic difference. Lexicographic analysis shows that the -li suffix, when added to a lexical unit of the noun category, indicates possession of a certain feature, while the -lik word-forming suffix expresses inherent quality. Jo'yali means "appropriate, fitting," while jo'yalik means "acceptable to everyone." Substituting one for the other without knowing both words can damage the contextual meaning. A number of other paronymic pairs are correlated words formed with the word-forming suffixes -lik and -liq. Examples include borlik-borliq, bo'shlik-bo'shliq, oqlik-oqliq, and similar pairs. Lexicographically, borlik expresses existence, being present, while borliq means world, universe. Otabek shu odamning yurak dardi borligini birinchi bilardi (A.Qodiriy) (Otabek was the first to know that this person had heartache). Materializm tabiatni birlamchi, ruhni ikkilamchi deb biladi, birinchi o'ringa borliqni, ikkinchi o'ringa tafakkurni qo'yadi (V.I.Lenin) (Materialism considers nature primary and spirit secondary, placing being first and thought second) [A.Маъруфов, 1974]. In the lexical system of the Uzbek language, words in paronymic relation formed with the suffixes -chiq and -g'ich can also be found. Paronymic pairs such as tayanchiq-tayang'ich, suyanchiq-suyang'ich belong exactly to this category. Although these units are derived from the same base, partial differences in their meanings can be observed. The part of chairs serving for leaning or armrest support is called suyanchiq, while suyang'ich is a less commonly used term referring to a straw device made for leaning, similar to a hassock. Another group of paronymic pairs is formed with the word-forming elements -un/-in and -ul/-il. For example, suyunmoq-suyulmoq, tutinmoq-tutilmoq, and so on. Tutinmoq implies making a pact with someone, becoming close friends or companions, establishing family-like relations. Tutilmoq, on the other hand, means to be caught, to fall into hands, to encounter. All the paronymic pairs listed above reflect the collective characteristics inherent to the linguistic nature of paronymy. All pairs belong to the same part of speech, are very similar in pronunciation and form, and differ in meaning despite being derived from the same base. Due to its highly productive nature, German language contains numerous such paronymic pairs. Particularly, paronymic pairs of the adjective+adjective model, formed from nouns using word-forming suffixes, are quantitatively predominant. Below, we examine such paronymic pairs in German and the differences in their semantics based on examples.

The first type of paronymic pairs is formed with the adjective-forming suffixes -al and -ell, and they are actively used in communication. Paronymic pairs such as Funktional-funktionell, hormonal-hormonell, ideal-ideell, individual-individuell, kriminal-kriminell are derived from a single base but differ in meaning. For example, "funktional" expresses an objective state possessing a function (functional design), while "funktionell" denotes the process of performing a function (functional system); "ideal" means philosophical

perfection, while “ideell” conveys spiritual meaning. “Individual” highlights personal difference, “individuell” emphasizes personal characteristics; “kriminal” relates to criminology, while “kriminell” stresses criminal quality. In German grammar, the -lich suffix is considered a productive word-forming suffix and appears in the following paronymic relations:

a) sinnlich-sinnig: pairs formed with -lich and -ig suffixes in German have subtle morphological and semantic differences, with phonetic similarity causing speech confusion. Both words share the base der Sinn, but differ in meaning: -lich, as an adjective-forming suffix, expresses more subjective, sensory, or relational qualities. For example, zeitlich refers to subjective perception related to time; -ig denotes objective, material, or intellectual properties: zeitig means inherent to time, objective materiality. Morphologically, both form adjectives from nouns, but -lich is more prone to adverbial or predicative use.

b) From das Kind, the paronymic pair kindlich-kindisch is formed with -lich and -isch suffixes, where -lich expresses subjective state or relational qualities (bäuerlich – peasant-like, familial state), while -isch emphasizes stylistic or negative characteristics (bäuerisch – rustic, peasant-style).

c) The next paronymic pair beweglich-bewegbar is formed with -lich and -bar suffixes, sharing the verb base bewegen. Beweglich denotes subjective state or ability (state of mobility), while bewegbar expresses passive possibility through the -bar suffix (can be moved).

d) The empfindlich-empfindsam pair formed with -lich and -sam suffixes is also in paronymic relation, with phonetic similarity leading to speech confusion. -lich forms adjectives expressing subjective state or sensitivity (empfindlich – sensitive, easily offended), while -sam semantically expresses deeper aesthetic or spiritual ability (empfindsam – sensitive, refined spiritual state). Both derive from the verb empfinden, but -sam is less productive and used in literary speech.

e) glücklich-glücklich are correlated words in mutual paronymic relation. Glücklich means happy, while glücklich means bringing happiness. Both adjectives derive from the noun das Glück, with glücklich characteristic of literary style.

The next group consists of words formed with -frei and -los suffixes in mutual paronymic relation: autofrei-autolos, faltenfrei-faltenlos, fehlerfrei-fehlerlos. Paronymic pairs formed with -frei and -los suffixes in German tend toward speech confusion due to morphological symmetry and semantic proximity, having high frequency in modern lexicon. The -frei suffix typically means “free of” and emphasizes potential state (autofrei – car-free zone), while -los expresses “absence or lack,” indicating resultant state (autolos – without cars). Faltenfrei (wrinkle-free, processual freedom) and faltenlos (wrinkle-free), fehlerfrei (error-free) and fehlerlos (error-free) pairs derive from single roots (Auto, Falte, Fehler), with phonetic identity complicating semantic differentiation. These paronyms are widespread in technical and advertising discourse, where fehlerfrei conveys certified reliability, fehlerlos natural perfection; faltenfrei processual freedom in clothing, faltenlos final result.

**Conclusion.** It is evident that in the lexical systems of two non-cognate languages, words in paronymic relations—formed from a single base but differing semantically—are quite common. Comparative study of paronymy in Uzbek and German, especially through morpheme-based

analysis, contributes to a deeper understanding of both languages' lexical systems and better comprehension of paronyms' morphological features.

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