

## DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the main differences in the use of synonyms in English and Uzbek. The study compares synonyms from a linguistic perspective, focusing on their semantic, stylistic, contextual, and emotional aspects. In English, synonyms often derive from different etymological sources and are associated with formal, neutral, or informal registers, whereas in Uzbek, synonyms mainly serve expressive and emotional functions and are used more freely in everyday speech. The article also highlights idiomatic restrictions, effective usage, and the expressive potential of language. The findings contribute to more effective use of synonyms in language learning and translation between English and Uzbek.

### **Keywords**

synonyms, English language, Uzbek language, semantic differences, stylistic differences, contextual usage, emotional coloring, language comparison, translation.

## РАЗЛИЧИЯ В УПОТРЕБЛЕНИИ СИНОНИМОВ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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### **Аннотаци**

В данной статье анализируются основные различия в использовании синонимов в английском и узбекском языках. Исследование сравнивает синонимы с лингвистической точки зрения, обращая внимание на их семантические, стилистические, контекстуальные и эмоциональные аспекты. В английском языке синонимы часто происходят из разных этимологических источников и связаны с формальными, нейтральными или неформальными регистрами, тогда как в узбекском языке синонимы в основном выполняют выразительную и эмоциональную функцию и используются более свободно в повседневной речи. Также подчеркиваются идиоматические ограничения,

эффективное использование и выразительные возможности языка. Результаты исследования способствуют более эффективному использованию синонимов при изучении языка и переводе между английским и узбекским.

### **Ключевые слова**

синонимы, английский язык, узбекский язык, семантические различия, стилистические различия, контекстуальное употребление, эмоциональная окраска, сравнение языков, перевод.

## **INGLIZ VA O'ZBEK TILIDA SINONIMLARNING QO'LLANISHIDAGI FARQLAR.**

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### **Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida sinonimlarning qo'llanilishidagi asosiy farqlar tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot sinonimlarni lingvistik nuqtai nazardan taqqoslab, ularning semantik, stilistik, kontekstual va hissiy jihatlariga e'tibor qaratadi. Ingliz tilida sinonimlar ko'pincha turli etimologik manbalardan kelib chiqib, rasmiy, neytral yoki norasmiy registrlar bilan bog'langan bo'lsa, o'zbek tilida sinonimlar asosan ekspressiv va emotsional vazifalarni bajaradi va kundalik nutqda erkinroq qo'llaniladi. Maqolada shuningdek, idiomatik cheklovlar, samarali foydalanish va tilning ekspressiv imkoniyatlari ta'kidlangan. Topilmalar til o'rganish va ingliz va o'zbek tillariga tarjima qilishda sinonimlardan samaraliroq foydalanishga yordam beradi.

### **Kalit so'zlar**

sinonimlar, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili, semantik farqlar, stilistik farqlar, kontekstual qo'llanish, emotsional rang berish, til solishtirish, tarjima.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Language is a dynamic system that allows humans to convey thoughts, emotions, and ideas in diverse ways. Vocabulary is a key component of any language, and within it, synonyms play a crucial role in enriching communication and providing stylistic and expressive variety. Synonyms are words with similar or identical meanings, yet their usage often depends on context, connotation, and stylistic considerations. Understanding these nuances is essential for effective communication, translation, and language learning.

In English, synonyms often originate from different etymological sources, primarily Germanic or Latin/French. This etymological diversity results in

distinctions in formality, tone, and usage. For example, “ask” (Germanic origin) is neutral and common in daily speech, while “inquire” (Latin/French origin) is more formal and used in official or academic contexts. Similarly, “help” (Germanic) and “assist” (Latin) convey the same basic meaning but differ in stylistic register.

Uzbek, in contrast, has synonyms derived from Turkic, Persian, and Arabic sources. While stylistic differences exist, they are often less rigid than in English. For instance, the words *go'zal*, *chiroyli*, and *husnli* all describe beauty, but the choice depends on poetic, colloquial, or neutral contexts. Uzbek synonyms often carry emotional coloring and expressive nuance, making them flexible in everyday communication.

This study aims to systematically analyze and compare the use of synonyms in English and Uzbek, focusing on semantic, stylistic, contextual, and emotional features. Highlighting these differences can assist language learners, translators, and linguists in choosing appropriate synonyms and achieving more precise, nuanced, and culturally sensitive communication.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Synonyms are words that share similar or identical meanings; however, they are rarely completely interchangeable in all contexts. Each synonym carries subtle nuances in meaning, stylistic register, emotional coloring, or collocational restrictions that influence its appropriate use. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective communication, especially in academic writing, professional discourse, and literary expression.

In English, synonyms often originate from different etymological backgrounds, primarily Germanic or Latin/French. This origin affects the formality, tone, and emotional implication of the word. For instance, *childish* suggests immaturity and carries a slightly negative connotation, while *childlike* emphasizes innocence and a positive quality associated with children. Similarly, words such as *ask* (Germanic origin) and *inquire* (Latin/French origin) both mean to request information, but *inquire* is more formal and typically used in official or academic contexts. Such distinctions make careful word choice essential to convey the intended meaning accurately.

In Uzbek, the situation is somewhat different. Synonyms are often more interchangeable in daily speech, although some differences in nuance or style still exist. Words like *katta*, *ulkan*, and *buyuk* all convey the meaning of “large” or “great.” While *buyuk* carries a more poetic, honorific, or literary connotation, *katta* and *ulkan* are more neutral and common in everyday language. For example:

- *katta xona* – “a large room” (neutral)
- *ulkan bino* – “a huge building” (neutral/formal)

- *buyuk shoir* – “a great poet” (poetic or honorific)

The relative flexibility of Uzbek synonyms allows speakers to choose words based on context, stylistic preference, or emphasis, rather than being strictly limited by register or formality. Additionally, Uzbek synonyms often carry emotional coloring or expressive nuances, which makes them particularly useful in poetry, literature, and oral storytelling. For example, describing a person as *go'zal*, *chiroyli*, or *husnli* all conveys beauty, but *husnli* has a more literary or classical tone.

In any language, synonyms are not only differentiated by meaning but also by stylistic features, which influence their appropriateness in various contexts. In English, the choice of synonym is often guided by stylistic considerations such as formality, tone, and register. Words of Germanic origin, such as *ask*, *help*, and *buy*, are typically neutral or colloquial, making them suitable for everyday conversation and informal writing. In contrast, synonyms of Latin or French origin, such as *inquire*, *assist*, and *purchase*, are more formal and are commonly used in official documents, academic writing, or professional communication. For example:

- “I asked him about the report.” (neutral, informal)
- “I inquired about the report.” (formal, official)

These stylistic distinctions are critical because using a synonym with an inappropriate register can lead to misunderstandings or make the text sound unnatural. For instance, writing *utilize* instead of *use* in casual emails may appear overly formal or pretentious.

In Uzbek, synonyms also exhibit stylistic variation, but these distinctions are generally less rigid than in English. Common Uzbek synonyms often differ in poetic, emotional, or literary coloring rather than strict formal vs. informal registers. For example:

- *go'zal* – neutral and widely used in everyday speech; e.g., *go'zal uy* (“a beautiful house”)
- *chiroyli* – neutral, slightly more common in descriptive contexts; e.g., *chiroyli bog'* (“a beautiful garden”)
- *husnli* – poetic or archaic, often used in literature or classical expressions; e.g., *husnli shoir* (“a beautiful/renowned poet”)

The choice of synonym in Uzbek is often determined by the speaker's or writer's desire to evoke a certain emotional effect, create a poetic atmosphere, or fit the communicative context. Unlike English, where register and etymology strongly influence synonym selection, Uzbek allows for more flexibility in everyday use. This flexibility is especially evident in literature, folklore, and oral traditions, where a single concept can be expressed with multiple synonymous words to convey nuance, rhythm, or emotional impact.

Synonyms are often influenced not only by meaning and style but also by the context in which they appear and the collocations they form. In English, many synonyms are restricted by specific contexts or collocational patterns, which makes them only partially interchangeable. For example, native speakers say “*make a decision*” rather than “*do a decision*”, even though both *make* and *do* can denote action in other contexts. Similarly, phrases like “*powerful engine*” or “*strong argument*” are natural, while “*strong engine*” sounds awkward, despite *strong* and *powerful* having similar meanings. These restrictions are due to established linguistic patterns, semantic compatibility, and idiomatic usage, making it essential for language learners and writers to be aware of collocational norms.

In Uzbek, context and collocation restrictions are generally weaker. Synonyms such as *katta*, *ulkan*, and *buyuk* can often replace each other without violating grammatical or idiomatic rules. For example:

- *katta xona* / *ulkan xona* / *buyuk xona* – all convey “a large room” without sounding incorrect.
- *katta bogʻ* / *ulkan bogʻ* / *buyuk bogʻ* – all acceptable depending on context, with minor differences in tone or emphasis.

This flexibility allows Uzbek speakers to communicate effectively without being constrained by strict collocational rules. The language’s tolerance for synonym substitution in various contexts contributes to its expressiveness and adaptability, particularly in oral communication, storytelling, and literary works. However, subtle differences in nuance or register may still influence synonym choice, especially in formal writing or poetry.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synonyms not only share meanings but also often carry subtle emotional or connotative differences that affect how a message is perceived. In English, these distinctions are particularly important because a slight shift in word choice can alter the tone or emotional impact of a sentence. For example, the words *thin*, *slim*, and *skinny* all refer to a lack of body fat, yet they carry different connotations. *Slim* is generally perceived positively, suggesting elegance and health, while *skinny* often has a negative or critical undertone, implying frailty or unattractiveness. Similarly, *childish* implies immaturity in a negative sense, whereas *childlike* conveys innocence and charm. Such nuances highlight the importance of selecting synonyms carefully in English writing and communication.

In Uzbek, synonyms often convey more vivid emotional and expressive nuances. For instance, the words *ozginagina*, *oriq*, and *chayir* all describe thinness, but differ in intensity and emotional coloring:

- *ozginagina* – slightly thin, neutral tone, often used in descriptive contexts

- *oriq* – thin, slightly critical or concerned tone
- *chayir* – very thin, often with an expressive or poetic nuance

This expressive richness is a distinctive feature of Uzbek synonym usage. Uzbek speakers can choose among several synonyms not only to convey the literal meaning but also to reflect emotional subtleties, social attitudes, or aesthetic effects. For example, describing a person as *go'zal*, *chiroyli*, or *husnli* all denotes beauty, but *husnli* adds a poetic or classical emotional tone, suitable for literature or formal praise.

The origin of words plays a significant role in the use and stylistic connotations of synonyms in both English and Uzbek. In English, etymology strongly influences synonym usage. Words of Germanic origin, such as *ask*, *help*, and *buy*, are typically basic, neutral, or colloquial, and are used in everyday communication. In contrast, Latin or French borrowings, such as *inquire*, *assist*, and *purchase*, are formal or academic and are commonly found in official documents, scholarly writing, and professional discourse. For example:

- *ask* (Germanic) – “I asked him a question.” (neutral, everyday speech)
- *inquire* (Latin/French) – “I inquired about the results of the study.” (formal, academic/professional)

These differences show that etymology not only affects the meaning of a word but also its stylistic suitability and the social context in which it is used. Using a Germanic synonym in a formal academic context may sound informal or even inappropriate, whereas using a Latin/French synonym in casual speech can sound overly formal or pretentious.

In Uzbek, synonym usage is also influenced by word origins, but the effects are generally less rigid than in English. Uzbek synonyms come from Turkic, Persian, and Arabic sources. Words from different origins often coexist freely in daily communication, and speakers can select among them for stylistic, expressive, or poetic reasons. For example:

- *yordam* (Persian origin) and *ko'mak* (Turkic origin) both mean “help” or “assistance” and can often be used interchangeably.
- *ilm* (Arabic origin) and *bilim* (Turkic origin) both mean “knowledge,” though *ilm* may appear more formal or literary, while *bilim* is common in everyday speech.

This coexistence of synonyms from multiple origins provides Uzbek speakers with expressive flexibility, allowing them to adapt word choice according to context, register, or emotional effect. Unlike English, where etymology often dictates formality and collocational constraints, Uzbek allows more freedom, making it easier to switch between words of different origins without breaking grammatical or idiomatic norms.

## SUMMARY

This study has examined the differences in the use of synonyms in English and Uzbek, highlighting semantic, stylistic, contextual, emotional, and etymological aspects. In English, synonym choice is often constrained by subtle differences in meaning, register, and collocational patterns, as well as by etymology, which distinguishes formal Latin/French borrowings from neutral or colloquial Germanic words. Contextual and idiomatic restrictions, along with nuanced emotional connotations, make careful word selection essential for effective communication in both spoken and written English.

In contrast, Uzbek synonyms tend to be more flexible and interchangeable in everyday speech. While stylistic, poetic, or emotional distinctions exist, they are generally less rigid than in English. Borrowed words from Persian and Arabic coexist freely with native Turkic terms, allowing speakers to choose synonyms according to expressive, emotional, or literary considerations. Uzbek also displays a rich emotional and poetic coloring in synonym usage, enhancing expressiveness in literature, oral storytelling, and everyday communication.

Overall, the comparison demonstrates that English synonym usage emphasizes precision, register, and etymological influence, while Uzbek provides greater flexibility and expressive freedom. Understanding these differences is essential for language learners, translators, and linguists, as it facilitates accurate communication, nuanced expression, and culturally appropriate usage between the two languages.

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