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**Сравнительный анализ морфологических особенностей  
и уровня употребления превосходной степени прилагательного  
в таджикском литературном языке XVIII и XX вв.**

*Аннотация:* В статье рассматриваются вопросы сравнительного анализа морфологических особенностей и уровня употребления превосходной степени имени прилагательного в таджикском литературном языке XVIII и XX вв. на примере исторических произведений [1; 2; 10], показано, как эволюционировала исследуемая тема. Отмечается, что в таджикском литературном языке сравнительная и превосходная степени выражаются двумя способами: синтетическим и аналитическим. Делается вывод, что в литературном языке XVIII и XX вв. превосходная степень имени прилагательного проявляется аналитически. Превосходная степень прилагательного образуется с помощью суффикса *-тарин* в языке сравниваемых исторических произведений и имеет как общие черты, так и отличительные особенности. Установлено, что в языке сравниваемых исторических произведений, относящихся к соответствующим периодам, суффикс *-тарин* используется для выражения превосходной степени в [10] дважды (4%), в [1] 35 раз (69%), а в [2] 14 раз (23%).

*Ключевые слова:* прилагательное, превосходная степень прилагательного, морфологические особенности и уровень употребления, исторические произведения, таджикский язык, выражение степеней прилагательных, сравнительный анализ, суффикс *-тарин*, синтетические и аналитические способы

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**Comparative analysis of morphological peculiarities  
and level of usage of superlative degree of adjective  
in the Tajik literary language referring to 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries**

*Abstract:* The given article dwells on the issues beset with comparative analysis of morphological peculiarities and level of usage of superlative degree of adjective in the Tajik literary language referring to 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries on the example of the historical productions [1; 2; 10]. It is noted that in the Tajik literary language comparative and superlative degrees are expressed in two ways: synthetic and analytical ones and the

theme explored is of a long history and passed various periods and evolution throughout its historical development. Adducing the results of the analysis concerned with the theme explored one can come to the conclusion that in the literary language of 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the superlative degree of adjective is evinced analytically. The superlative degree of adjective is formed by dint of the suffix *-tarin* in the language of the compared historical productions, it possesses certain common and distinctive peculiarities, on the whole. Thus, in the language of the compared historical productions belonging to the relevant periods, the suffix *-tarin* is used to express the superlative degree in [10] twice (4%), in [1] 35 instances (69%) and in [2] 14 instances (23%).

*Key words:* adjective, superlative degree of adjective, morphological peculiarities and level of usage, historical productions, Tajik language, expression of degrees of adjectives, comparative analysis, suffix *-tarin*, synthetic and analytical ways

## INTRODUCTION

It is well-grounded that determination of various periods of the history of the language and its high points of development based on both scientific-historic traces and artistic ones we proceed from the assumption of the actual issues in the field of Tajik linguistics. Into the bargain, it is impossible to create commonly accepted standard grammar without dwelling on comprehensive analysis of artistic and scientific-historical legacy [4; 5]. B. Sharifov lays an emphasis upon the importance of canvassing beset with the history of the Tajik literary language in the introduction to his thesis entitled “Morphological Peculiarities of «Bado’-ul-vaqoe’» by Vosifi” as: “the study of the above-mentioned traces enables us to disclose some issues related to modern Tajik literary language (MTLL) and the ways of its prosperity and extension” [16: 4].

The language of historical productions belonging to 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries and created on the territory of Movarounnahr has not been thoroughly discussed, although the formers are numerous being preserved in the manuscripts of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan [3: 58–64]. Hereby, we decided to dwell on the comparative analysis of morphological peculiarities and the level of usage of superlative degree of adjective in the Tajik literary language referring to 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and to make a comprehensive study concerned with the relevant linguistic phenomenon relying on the historical productions written in the centuries in question including «Tuhfat-ul-knoni» (18<sup>th</sup> century), “Ta’rikhi amironi manğitiyau Bukhoro, Isyoni Muqannna” (20<sup>th</sup> century) and “Ta’rikhi inqilobi fikri dar Bukhoro” (20<sup>th</sup> century) and based on the collected materials bearing the above-mentioned traces; here we canvass certain distinctive features of the relevant topic.

**The object** of the corpus of our study is the comparative analysis of morphological peculiarities and the level of usage of the superlative degree of adjective in the Tajik literary language referring to 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries on the example of the historical writings entitled as “Tuhfat-ul-knoni” (18<sup>th</sup> century), “Ta’rikhi amironi manğitiyau Bukhoro, Isyoni Muqannna” (20<sup>th</sup> century) and “Ta’rikhi inqilobi fikri dar Bukhoro” (20<sup>th</sup> century) depicting different historic events of the Tajik nation gradually. The formers in question are considered to be one of the priceless and fundamental historical sources contained a numerous historical facts and evidences belonging to the periods under consideration.

**The aims** of the corpus of our study are:

- to discuss about morphological peculiarities and to determine the level of usage of such kind of grammatical degree of adjective in terms of their function and meaning;

- to compare the relevance of the theme explored with MTLT;
- to dwell on certain distinctive peculiarities of the theme explored.

### **Scientific Novelty**

The given article dwells on the comparative analysis dealing with morphological peculiarities and the level of usage of the superlative degree of adjective in the Tajik literary language referring to 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries on the example of the historical writings [1; 2; 10] in Tajik linguistic studies, for the first time. It is worth stressing the fact that the relevant grammatical degree of adjective in our factological materials are not a uniform in terms of their usage and they are of great importance in the exploration of this category of adjective.

### **Methodology**

In order to make our study convincing a visual method of research was used; at the same time, comparative-historical methods, synchronic and diachronic analysis were resorted to as well.

## **THE MAIN PART**

As a rule, the category of degrees of adjective is expressed by the suffixes *-tar* (comparative) and *-tarin* (superlative) in MTLT. However, they differ from the current state with a number of peculiarities at various stages of the historical development of Tajik literary language, at the initial stage of the evolution of Dari-Tajik language, in particular.

Therefore, a number of studies have been conducted on the history and evolution of the relevant linguistic phenomenon [14: 178; 12: 12; 6: 143]. The adduced consideration show that the use of suffixes *-tar* and *-tarin* in terms of expression is not one and the same at different stages of development of the history of the Tajik language, sometimes it is active and sometimes inactive. Widespread use of such grammatical means is studied by researchers of “The History of Sistan” [11], “Hudud-ul-alam” (11<sup>th</sup> century) [17] and “Ta’rikhi Bayhaqi” (11<sup>th</sup> century) [13] but G. Kamolova asserted that in “Majmu’-ut-tavorikh” (15<sup>th</sup> century) “comparative and superlative degrees of adjective are not formed by virtue of the suffixes *-tar* and *-tarin*” [9: 22] this citation being a testimony of the above-mentioned statements.

At the same time, in the Tajik literary language comparative and superlative degrees are expressed in two ways: synthetic and analytical ones.

### **Discussion**

#### **EXPRESSION OF SUPERLATIVE DEGREE OF ADJECTIVE**

Commonly, the level of usage of the superlative degree of adjective by dint of the suffix *-tarin* is the language of the historical writings belonging to the periods under consideration. Into the bargain, as a result of consideration, research and exploration of scientifico-historical traces of various periods, it became clear that the level of resorting to of the relevant suffix is more limited than that of the suffix *-tar* historically. As well as, the relevant grammatical event is underscored by the researchers of ancient historical treatises. V.S. Rastorguyeva conducted the research beset with this suffix and asserted the fact that “the former in question is characteristic of TLT (Tajik Literary Language) and does not occur in dialects” [11: 59]. O. Sulaymonov lays an emphasis upon the idea of the theme under discussion that “initially, it is worth stressing that the level of usage of the suffix *-tarin* as a means of superlative degree adjective was observed less than that of *-tar* in the corpus of our study” [13: 60; 7: 22].

In the course of conducting the comparative analysis dealing with the theme explored we encountered that the suffix *-tarin* is used to express the superlative degree of adjective in Karminagi's historical writing only twice, including *kamtarin* bandwagon [10: 6/9], *maqhurtarin* mardumon [10: 21/38], however, in ustod Aini's compared creations are resorted to perform this grammatical function more frequently and abundantly in the following set of phrases: *behtarin* ašxoson [1: 144], *mašhurtarin* fasehon va adibon [1: 227], *aziztarinu* giromitarin ayyom [2: 151], *behtarin* ma'muron [2: 117]: Murvist az hazrat-i Risolatpanoh (s), ki aqbahi asmo dar ruz-i qiyomat "maliku-l-amlok" ast va sohib-i in nom *maqhurtarin* mardumon... [10: 21/38]; *Mu'tabartarin-i* manba'ho dar bora-i voqeaho-i Muqanna' nusxa-i asli-i arabi-i "Ta'rix-i Naršaxi" mebošad [1: 258]; ...ba'd az musla kardan (cutting ear and nose. – B.A.) ba *aqbahtarin* vajh-e kušand... [1: 107]; ...*šadidtarin* ahl-i balvo šuda... [2: 194]; Dar ruz-i balvo in mard *ašadtarin-i* šariatxohon bud [2: 203].

Proceeding from the assumption of the above-mentioned evidences one may offer an opinion that ustod Aini used *šadidtarin* and *ašadtarin* to express the superlative degree of adjective and the second example is the Arabic comparative degree based on the model *af'al* and the Tajik formative suffix *-tarin*. The relevant morphological phenomenon is considered to be one of the distinctive peculiarities of both the language of Karminagi's historical writing and MTLL.

Designing on the premise of our detailed observations, one important point can be noted that in ustod Aini's compared historical writings, traditionally, the superlative degree of adjective is formed by means of the suffix *-tarin* from the original Tajik ones: *behtarin* va *odiltarin* podšohon [1: 23], *badtarin* holat [1:122], *buzurgtarin* huquq [2: 254], *saxttarin* azob [2: 207], *bisyortarin* muarrixon [1: 126], *beštarin* viloyatho [1: 202]: ...Nasrullohbiye *behtarin* ma'muron-i buzurg-i ahd-i amir Olimxon bud... [2: 117].

In reference to it, the expression of this degree of the relevant part of speech is performed based on the original Tajik derivative and compound adjectives: *giromitarin* ayyom [2: 151], *bečoratarin* raoyo [1: 140], *paspoatarin-i* ma'muron [1: 138]: ...*rahmdiltarin* amiron-i monğitiya Abdulahad ast... [1: 122].

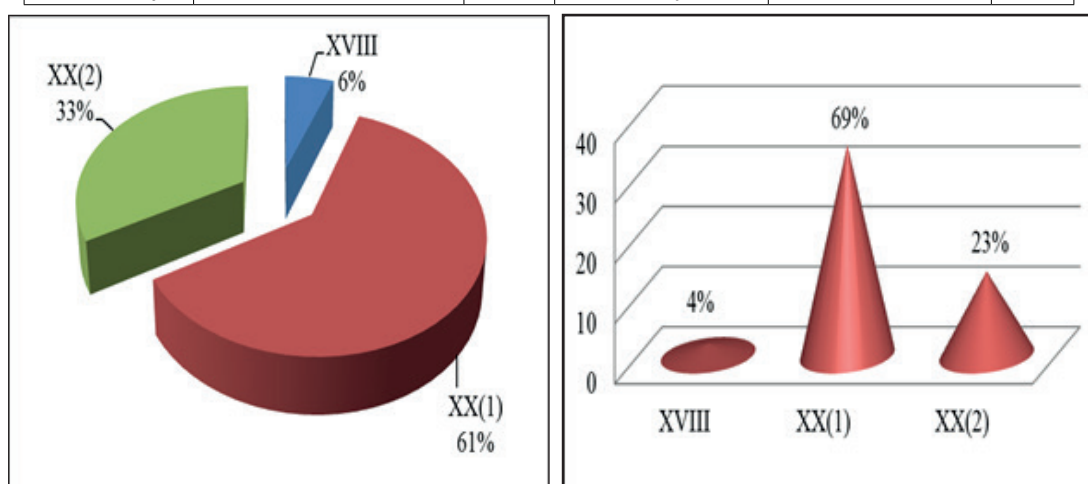
As well as, the superlative degree of adjective is formed by means of series of Arabic borrowed words (*based on the relevant suffix*) in ustod Aini's works: *muhtaramtarin* aholi [1: 141; 2: 111], *faqirtarin* el [1: 143], *muškiltarin-i* in holot [1: 133], *qavitarin-i* podšohon [1: 100], *mullotarin-i* amsol [1, 114], *aziztarin*... ayyom [2: 151], *laziztarin* orzu [2: 207], *mutašaxxistarin* taraqqiparvaron [2: 173]: ...yak-e az tašviqkunandagon ba namoiš va *musirtarin* islohotxohon hamin Sa'li-maxdum bud... [2: 195].

Into the bargain, both in MTLL and in the earlier works, including: "Ta'rikhi Bayhaqi" (the 11<sup>th</sup> century) [13] and "Badoe-ul-waqoe" (the 16<sup>th</sup> century) [16] a number of set of phrases *az in*, *az on*, *az tu*, *az xud*, *az šumo*, *az hama*, *az vay* are resorted to in order to lay an emphasis on the comparative degree of adjective. As a rule, if the above-mentioned components come before the comparative degree, then they participate in the formation of superlative degree one that is, "combination of the composition of *az hama*, *az tamom-i* and the original adjective takes place analytically" [7: 138]. If the above-mentioned compositions come before simple and comparative degrees, then they participate to express the superlative one and the authors of the correlative historical traces use this grammatical means only once based on the model of **comparative degree + composition (az hama-i) + subject**:...amir-i oliša'n bar faroz-i masnad-i komroni, ki ūrun-i atoloqi va *bolotar az hama-i umarost*, mumtoz-i amsolu aqron nišasta... [10: 127/251]; **subject+composition of (az hama-i)+...comparative degree**: ...ayol va atfolašon besarpanoh monda budand, ki in munosibat *az hama-i falokatho saxttar* bud... [1: 184].

Based on the above-adduced examples one can assert that in MTLL, the composition *az hama* is mostly used to express the superlative degree of adjective, but it is rare in the language of the historical traces belonging to the compared periods, but it was noticed by *az hama-i* being one of the most prominent peculiarities of the corpus of our study.

*The level of usage of the suffix -tarin in the language of the compared historical productions belonging to the relevant periods*

Sources	Original Adjectives +-tarin	%	Sources	Level of Usage	%
XVIII	2	6%	XVIII	2	4%
XX(1)	22	61%	XX(1)	35	69%
XX(2)	12	33%	XX(2)	14	23%
<b>R – totally</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>R – totally</b>	<b>52</b>	



In conformity with the above-adduced table and diagram it is known that in the language of the historical traces belonging to the compared periods, the suffix *-tarin* is different in terms of its usage and is used to express the superlative degree of adjective in two cases [10] which is 4% totally.

#### THE RESULT OBTAINED AND CONCLUSION

To sum it up, the comparative analysis of morphological peculiarities and the level of usage of the superlative degree of adjective in the Tajik literary language appertaining to 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries on the example of the historical writings belonging to various centuries, namely “Tuhfat-ul-knoni” (18<sup>th</sup> century), “Ta’rikhi amironi manğitiyau Bukhoro, Isyoni Muqannna” (20<sup>th</sup> century) and “Ta’rikhi inqilobi fikri dar Bukhoro” (20<sup>th</sup> century) is considered to be one of the most comprehensive exploration beset with the relevant linguistic phenomenon. It is worth stressing that comparative and superlative degrees are expressed in two ways in the Tajik literary language: synthetic and analytical ones and the theme explored has a long history and passed various periods and different evolution throughout its development.

Adducing the results of the comparative analysis concerned with the theme explored one can come to the conclusion that in the Tajik literary language of 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the superlative degree of adjective is evinced analytically. On the whole, the superlative degree of adjective is formed by virtue of the suffix *-tarin* in the language of the historical writings of the compared periods and possesses certain common and



distinctive peculiarities in terms of grammatical structure. The level of usage of the suffix *-tarin* is not identical in the corpus of our study, in particular the relevant suffix is used in Karminagi's historical writing only twice, however, in ustod Aini's compared creations it is occurred more frequently and abundantly.

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