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Морфологические особенности таджикского префикса ‘khush-’ в таджикской литературе XVIII века

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматриваются морфологические особенности префикса ‘khush-’ в таджикской литературе XVIII в. на основе исторического труда «Тухфат-уль-хони» Мухаммадвафои Карминаги. Исследование определяет ‘khush-’ как полуаффиксальный элемент, занимающий промежуточное положение между корневой морфемой и префиксом, активно участвующий в образовании сложных прилагательных. На основе контекстного анализа лингвистических примеров, извлеченных из исходного текста, исследование выявляет семантические нюансы, синтаксические функции и продуктивность ‘khush-’. Результаты показывают, что, сохраняя свое первоначальное лексическое значение «приятный» или «хороший», ‘khush-’ служит высокопродуктивным словообразовательным компонентом. Сравнительный анализ показывает, что его функциональный диапазон уже, чем у префиксоидного ‘pur-’, но демонстрирует отчетливую стилистическую и семантическую специализацию. В статье делается вывод о том, что изучение таких переходных морфем в исторических текстах имеет важное значение для понимания эволюции словообразования в таджикском языке.

Ключевые слова: морфологические особенности, префиксоидный ‘khush-’, XVIII век, таджикский литературный язык

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Morphological Peculiarities of the Tajik Prefixoid ‘khush-’ in Tajik Literary Language Referring to the 18th Century

Abstract: The given article dwells on the morphological peculiarities of the prefixoid ‘khush-’ in 18th-century Tajik literary language, based on the historical work “Tukhfat-ul-khoni” by Muhammadvafoi Karminagi. The study identifies ‘khush-’ as a semi-affixal element that occupies an intermediate position between a root morpheme and a prefix, actively participating in the formation of compound adjectives. Through a contextual analysis of linguistic examples extracted from the source text, the research delineates the semantic nuances, syntactic functions, and productivity of ‘khush-’. The findings reveal that while ‘khush-’ retains its original lexical meaning of “pleasant” or “good,” it serves as a highly productive derivational component. A comparative analysis demonstrates that its functional range is narrower than that of the prefixoid ‘pur-’ but exhibits

distinct stylistic and semantic specialization. The article concludes that the study of such transitional morphemes in historical texts is essential for understanding the evolution of word-formation systems in the Tajik language.

Key words: morphological peculiarities, prefixoid ‘khush-’, 18th century, Tajik literary language

1. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that the study and analysis of various stages of the modern period in the historical development of the Tajik literary language, generally from the 8th–9th centuries onwards, depend on the analysis and research of both prose and poetic works of authority [1]. This is because determining the different periods of the historical development of the language based on scientific-historical and artistic works is considered a pressing issue in Tajik linguistics. Furthermore, without a comprehensive study of artistic, scientific, and historical works, it is impossible to conceive of creating a scientific grammar of the language, as “their study makes it possible to determine certain issues of the modern Tajik literary language and the paths of its development and change” [9: 4].

The main purpose of the article is to conduct a comprehensive morphological analysis of the Tajik prefixoid *khush-* as it functioned in the Tajik literary language of the 18th century, using the historical prose work “Tukhfat-ul-khoni” by Muhammadvafoi Karminagi as the primary source.

The genesis of the article lies in the necessity to fill a gap in Tajik linguistics regarding the diachronic study of semi-affixal morphemes. While contemporary Tajik has been extensively studied, the transitional stages of its historical development, particularly concerning word-formation elements like prefixoids, remain underexplored. The research is grounded in the understanding that a thorough investigation of 18th-century literary monuments is crucial for constructing a complete scientific grammar of the Tajik language. As academician B. Gafurov emphasized, the 9th–10th centuries saw the flourishing of Tajik literature, with the dialects of Khorasan and Central Asia forming its foundation [4: 380]. The study of subsequent periods, such as the 18th century, is vital for tracing the evolution of linguistic features.

The functions of the article are threefold: firstly, to identify and categorize the compound adjectives formed with the prefixoid *khush-* in the selected text; secondly, to analyze the semantic, grammatical, and functional nuances of this element in comparison to its modern usage and other contemporaneous prefixoids; and thirdly, to substantiate the role of such transitional morphemes in the historical development of Tajik word-formation.

2. METHODS AND MATERIALS

The material for this study is the 18th-century historical prose work “Tukhfat-ul-khoni” (A Gift to the Khan) by Muhammadvafoi Karminagi. The research utilizes a descriptive-analytical method, incorporating elements of historical-comparative and structural analysis. The primary methodology involves the close reading and linguistic examination of the text, as edited by J. Jurazoda and N. Giyosov [5]. Examples containing the prefixoid *khush-* were extracted, contextualized, and categorized based on their semantic and grammatical functions. Comparative analysis was employed to contrast the usage of *khush-* in the 18th-century text with its functions in Modern Tajik and with other contemporaneous prefixoids like *pur-* and the prefix *bar-*. The theoretical frame-

work draws upon the foundational work of Tajik linguists on poly-affixes, particularly the classifications proposed by Sh. Bobomurodov [2; 3; 7; 8].

3. MAIN RESULTS

There are a number of basic words in Modern Tajik literary language (MTLL) that resemble affixes functionally, semantically and grammatically. These morphemes acquired the status of terms. They are: “poly-affixes”, “poly-prefixes” and “poly-suffixes”, called so in the field of linguistics. Such an authorized linguist as Sh. Bobomurodov distinguished out of the number of morphemes referring to the theme explored the following ones: *khush-*, *pur-*, *ser-*, *bad-* – those ones forming adjectives; *rang-*, *sar-*, *dil-*; verb tenses: *-ovar*, *-angez*, *-dor*, *-bakhsh*, *-omez*, *-shinos*, *-soz* and *-boz*. In reference to it, he notes that the presented elements are considered as productive components of both compound nouns and adjectives [1; 2; 6].

These elements occur in each period of the historic development of the Tajik language. The research of prosaic works on the example of “Tukhfat-ul-khoni” by Muhammadvafoi Karminagi in regard to this theme, in particular, pertains to the 18th century. M. Karminagi traced back a large number of morphemes; such ones as: *bad-*, *dil-*, *pur-*, *ser-*, *sohib-*; poly-suffixes: *-angez*, *-bardori*, *-boshi*, *-boz*, *-bakhsh*, *-gir(i)*, *-giroy*, *-dor(i)*, *-kada*, *-kash*, *-maob*, *-ovar*, *-omez*, *-pazir*, *-canj*, *-sifat*, *-soz*, *-faroj*, *-faro* and *-shinos* got into his view [10].

It should be noted that there are compound words whose components differ from each other in meaning and function: in them, one component retains its semantic independence, while the other is a unit that, based on its original meaning, performs the function of an auxiliary element. Such elements are encountered in every historical stage of the development of the Tajik language.

In terms of meaning and function, the prefixoid *khush-* in the work under study contributes to the formation of a group of compound adjectives, such as *andaliboni khushilhon* (nightingales with pleasant song), *bulbuli khushovoz* (nightingale with a pleasant voice), *murghoni khushilhon* (birds with pleasant song), *bulbuli khushkhon* (nightingale with pleasant singing), *abrashikhushkhirom* (piebald steed with a graceful gait), *tu'mai khushguvor* (pleasant-tasting food), *mazoqi khushguvor* (pleasant taste), *nutriboni khushilhon* (musicians with pleasant songs), *sharbathoi khushguvor* (pleasant-tasting syrups), *navidi khushhol* (good news, lit. pleasant-state news). It is worth emphasizing that the above compound adjectives are commonly used both in the language of that period and in the modern Tajik literary language; however, the scope of use of the prefixoid *khush-* is more limited compared to *pur-*: ...*mavsimi ohangi naghmasaroiyi murghoni khushilhon inoni tamarrud (rebellion. – A.B.) va tagholub (struggle. – A.B.) az jo namuda...* (...the season of the melodious singing of the pleasant-songed birds set in motion the reins of rebellion and struggle...) [5: 45/86].

Example 1:

...*ham sarosema mubarro va nufuri andaliboni khushilhoni khayol dar chamani sitoishi u lol-u alkan va naqiboni bisoti qilu qol dar farzini bandi sitoishi u hayron, shashdari joe, ki shohini sidraparvazi inno afsah-ul-arabi va-l-ajami ba sarpanchai idrok juz hamomai loehso va ghizolai mo arafnoka sayd nakunad* [5: 2];

...*parvona be quvvati noqisoni kamol chi paru bol kushoyad dar maqome, ki bulbuli khushovoz ilmu-h-u shadid-ul-quvo ba juz naghmai u rututi in hama lo harakat sari andesha be nerui ghofilonai khayol chi tayaron namoyad bulbuli khushovoz* [5: 2];

...mavsimi ohangi naghamasaroiyi murghoni khushilhon inoni tamarrud va tagholub az jo namuda [5: 45/86];

...sultoni sadbarg sure dar chahorbolishi gulshan soghari ayshu jomi tarab ba gardish ovard, bulbuli khushkhon ba sano'i Maliki mannon bar minbari e'zon ohangi naghamasaroi namud [5: 63/121].

Morphological Structure:

Each compound follows the pattern *khush-* + Noun → Compound Adjective. The second components are:

- ilhon (илхон) – “song” (from Arabic alḥān, plural of lahn)
- ovoZ (овоз) – “voice”
- khon (хон) – “singing” (from the verb khondan, “to read / sing”)

This example cluster reveals a striking morphological peculiarity: the coexistence of multiple compounds with overlapping semantics but distinct second constituents. The variants *khushilhon* and *khushkhon* are functionally synonymous (“pleasant-sunged,” “pleasant-singing”) yet morphologically distinct. *Khushilhon* employs a nominal second component (*ilhon*, “songs”), whereas *khushkhon* utilizes a deverbal noun (*khon*, “singing”). This indicates that *khush-* in the 18th century displayed a high degree of combinatorial freedom, attaching equally to nominal and deverbal bases.

Furthermore, the allomorphy between *khushovoz* and *khushkhon* reflects a stylistic mechanism: the author employs lexical variation to avoid repetition while maintaining poetic euphony. The prefixoid *khush-* here serves not merely a derivational function but also a rhetorical one, contributing to the text’s ornate, repetitive aesthetic typical of 18th-century Persianate prose.

Morphological Peculiarity:

The prefixoid exhibits semantic redundancy across compounds, yet the morphological diversity of the second components suggests that *khush-* had become a productive pattern-generating element rather than a lexically restricted modifier. The base’s part-of-speech category (noun vs. deverbal noun) does not constrain attachment.

Example 2:

Mutriboni khushilhon ba naghamotoi navruzi khorogudozi otashi havsu ishtiyuq dar dili mustamandi ushshoq afkandand [5: 185/367].

(The pleasant-sunged musicians, with their Navruz melodies, cast a fire of passion and yearning into the helpless hearts of the lovers.)

Morphological Structure:

khush- + *ilhon* → *khushilhon* (adjective) modifying *mutribon* (musicians).

This example mirrors the structure from Example 1 but is notable for its semantic cohesion. The compound *khushilhon* modifies *mutribon*, creating a harmonious semantic field where the prefixoid’s qualitative value (“pleasant”) aligns with the professional identity of the musicians. Morphologically, this exemplifies concordance without formal agreement: the adjective *khushilhon* does not inflect for number or definiteness, as Tajik adjectives are invariant.

Morphological Peculiarity:

The usage here highlights that *khush-* compounds function as attributive adjectives in a prenominal position. The prefixoid’s grammaticalization is evidenced by its inability to stand alone; *ilhon* cannot independently follow *khush* as a separate word in this syntactic context. The bound nature of *khush-* is thus syntactically confirmed.

Example 3:

Amiri olijoh ba abrashi khushkhiromi davlat savori farmuda, royati iqbol ba jihati qal’u istisoli mufsidoni badsigol afrosht [5: 63/122].

(The exalted Emir, mounting the piebald steed with a graceful gait of fortune, raised the banner of success to destroy the corrupt mischief-makers.)

Morphological Structure:

khush- + *khirom* → *khushkhirom* (adjective). *Khirom* (хиром) is a noun meaning “gait” or “stately walk”.

This compound is morphologically significant due to the nature of its second component. *Khirom* denotes a manner of movement – an abstract quality rather than a concrete object. The formation *khushkhirom* (“graceful-gated”) demonstrates that *khush-* could combine with abstract nouns denoting action or manner to produce qualitative adjectives describing animate entities (here, a horse personified as an extension of fortune).

Morphological Peculiarity:

The compound exemplifies metaphorical extension through morphological means. The prefixoid *khush-* does not merely describe the horse’s physical gait but participates in a larger metaphor: *abrashi khushkhiromi davlat* (the piebald steed with a graceful gait of fortune). Morphologically, this shows that *khush-* compounds can serve as vehicles for literary imagery, their internal structure mirroring conceptual blending.

Example 4:

On firqai badshiorro, ki chunin tu’mai khushgavori ba osoni azdastrafta ba zudi saydu shikor nameshud [5: 86/170];

...mazoqi khushgavori taboe’ro ba muaddii lahum fiha fokihatun choshniyi mavoyid chashonad, humoi himmatu dastnavoz va uqobi hashamati dushmangudoz khost soyai otifatu ehtizoz bar maforiqi muhibbon andozad [5: 139/275];

Harchand atibboi hoziq ba madadi u kushida, sharbathoi khushgavor ba kor burdand, ba amri ilohi khosiyati adviya bardoshta shuda, mufid nayaftod [5: 271/540].

(Although skilled physicians tried to help him and used pleasant-tasting syrups, by divine command the efficacy of the medicine ceased and it did not help.)

Morphological Structure:

khush- + *gavor* → *khushgavor* (adjective). *Gavor* (губор) is a deverbal noun from the verb *guzarondan* (“to pass, to swallow”), meaning “palatable” or “easy to swallow.”

This cluster reveals a frozen collocational pattern. The identical compound *khushgavor* modifies three distinct nouns: *tu’ma* (food), *mazoq* (taste), and *sharbat* (syrup). Morphologically, *gavor* functions as a suffixoid-like second component, though in this compound it is the base to which *khush-* attaches. The consistency of *khushgavor* across contexts suggests that this compound had become a lexicalized unit by the 18th century, functioning as a ready-made epithet for comestibles.

Morphological Peculiarity:

The compound illustrates the gradient nature of morphological productivity. While *khush-* is productive, its combination with *gavor* appears to be a conventionalized pairing. This contrasts with *khushilhon*, which shows variation, indicating that some *khush-* compounds were more lexicalized than others – a typical feature of prefixoids, which exist along a continuum from fully compositional to idiomatic.

Example 5:

...jihati shukronai najot az chunin hodisai kubro va voqei hoila ra'oyo va baroyoro navidi khushhol rasonida, az taklifotu harojot savi va marfu'ulqalam namudand [4: 278/554].

(...for giving thanks for salvation from such a great incident and terrible event, they brought the subjects and nobles the good news, and exempted them from appropriate taxes and expenditures.)

Morphological Structure:

khush- + *hol* → *khushhol* (adjective). *Hol* (ҳол) means “state” or “condition.”

This compound is morphologically distinct from the previous examples. Here, *khushhol* functions not as an attributive modifier but as part of a genitive construction: *navidi khushhol* (good news, lit. “news of pleasant-state”). The compound *khushhol* is itself a common adjective meaning “happy,” but in this construction it is substantivized, referring to the state of being happy.

Morphological Peculiarity:

This example demonstrates syntactic flexibility. The compound *khushhol*, though adjectival, operates as the object of the genitive relation, effectively nominalized. This shows that prefixoid-derived adjectives could participate in syntactic constructions beyond simple attribution, revealing their full integration into the language’s grammatical system.

Example 6:

The use of the prefixoid *khush-* as a synonym for the prefix *bar-* was observed, which is one of the distinctive features of this work: *fazoi khushhavo* = *barhavo* (pleasant air/good air):

...ba'd az qat'i marohili ma'hud va tayi manozili maqsud yavmi jum'a a'lomi zafar-e'lom soyai vusul ba fazoi khushhavo viloyati Nasaf andokht [5: 262/522].

(...after passing the known stages and traversing the intended stations, on Friday, the banner of victory cast the shadow of arrival upon the pleasant air of the Nasaf region.)

Morphological Structure:

khush- + *havo* → *khushhavo* (adjective). *Havo* (ҳаво) means “air.”

This example is the most revealing from a morphological-theoretical perspective. The synonymy *khushhavo* = *barhavo* demonstrates functional equivalence between a prefixoid (*khush-*) and a true prefix (*bar-*). The prefix *bar-* (бар-) is a bound morpheme meaning “good” or “proper,” lacking independent lexical status. That *khushhavo* could substitute for *barhavo* indicates that by the 18th century, *khush-* had undergone sufficient grammaticalization to occupy the same functional slot as a genuine prefix.

Morphological Peculiarity:

This synonymy exposes the blurred boundary between prefixoids and prefixes in historical Tajik morphology. The author’s use of both forms suggests either stylistic choice or dialectal variation, but the underlying morphological reality is that *khush-* had acquired prefixal functionality while retaining greater semantic transparency than *bar-*. This exemplifies the transitional nature of prefixoids as a category.

Synthesis: Morphological Peculiarities of *khush-*

The profound analysis of these six examples reveals the following morphological peculiarities of the prefixoid *khush-* in 18th-century Tajik:

1. Combinatorial Flexibility: *khush-* attaches to nouns (*ilhon*, *ovoz*, *havo*), deverbal nouns (*khon*, *gavor*), and abstract nouns (*khirom*, *hol*), demonstrating broad categorial compatibility.

2. Semantic Stability with Lexical Variation: The core meaning “pleasant” remains invariant, but the prefixoid permits synonymous compounds (*khushilhon* vs. *khushkhon*), indicating that it had become a pattern-generating morpheme rather than a lexically restricted modifier.

3. Gradient Lexicalization: Some compounds (*khushguvor*) show signs of fossilization, while others remain transparent and productive, confirming that prefixoids exist along a continuum from compositional to idiomatic.

4. Syntactic Integration: *khush-* compounds function attributively, predictively, and even in substantivized nominal constructions, demonstrating full syntactic incorporation into the grammatical system.

5. Grammaticalization Evidence: The synonymy with the true prefix *bar-* (*khushhavo* = *barhavo*) provides direct evidence of grammaticalization, showing that *khush-* had acquired prefixal functionality while retaining greater semantic specificity.

6. Stylistic and Rhetorical Function: Beyond derivational productivity, *khush-* compounds serve literary purposes, contributing to the ornate, repetitive, and metaphorical texture of 18th-century prose.

Thus, the prefixoid *khush-* in 18th-century Tajik represents a mature stage of grammaticalization where a lexical adjective evolved into a highly productive derivational element, retaining its semantic essence while acquiring morphological and syntactic properties characteristic of bound affixes. Its study illuminates the dynamic processes of word-formation in the historical development of the Tajik language.

4. DISCUSSION

The data extracted from “*Tukhfat-ul-khoni*” reveal that the prefixoid *khush-* in 18th-century Tajik functioned as a highly productive derivational element, primarily forming qualitative compound adjectives. Its core semantics, derived from its original lexical meaning as an adjective (“pleasant,” “good,” “happy”), remain stable throughout the examples. This semantic stability is a key characteristic that distinguishes a prefixoid from a true prefix, which tends to be more abstract.

A profound analysis of the examples demonstrates several key functional features. Firstly, *khush-* exhibits a strong collocational affinity with words related to auditory and gustatory perception. In Example 1, we see a cluster of compounds related to sound: *khushilhon* (pleasant-songed), *khushovoz* (pleasant-voiced), and *khushkhon* (pleasant-singing). This pattern is not merely descriptive but serves a stylistic purpose, creating a euphonic and elevated register typical of the ornate prose of the period. The repeated use of these terms in descriptions of nightingales, birds, and musicians builds a cohesive aesthetic of beauty and harmony.

Secondly, the range of *khush-* is semantically specialized but versatile. While its counterpart *pur-* (meaning “full of”) can combine with a wider array of nouns to create a quantitative meaning, *khush-* provides a qualitative evaluation. For instance, *tu'mai khushguvor* (pleasant-tasting food) and *sharbathoi khushguvor* (pleasant-tasting syrups) in Example 4 emphasize the sensory quality of the items, which is crucial to the narrative context – a contrast between enjoyable things and the ineffective medicine.

Thirdly, the functional synonymy observed in Example 6, where *khushhavo* is used interchangeably with *barhavo* (where *bar-* is a prefix meaning “good” or “proper”), highlights a critical point in the historical morphology of Tajik. This indicates that during the 18th century, the functional boundary between a prefixoid (*khush-*) and a true prefix (*bar-*) was fluid. The author’s choice likely reflects stylistic variation or dialectal influence,

but it also demonstrates the evolutionary process whereby lexical items grammaticalize into affixal units. This observation aligns with the concept of poly-affixes discussed by Ashrapov [10], who noted the high productivity of such elements in the 18th century.

Furthermore, the examples show that the compound adjectives formed with *khush-* are not merely lexical units but often serve as integral components of elaborate metaphorical and stylistic constructions. In Example 3, *abrashi khushkhirom* (the piebald steed with a graceful gait) is not just a description of a horse; it is a metaphor for fortune (*davlat*), seamlessly woven into the narrative to enhance its literary quality. This demonstrates that morphological elements like prefixoids are central to the literary artistry of the text, not just its grammatical structure.

In comparison to Modern Tajik, the prefixoid *khush-* retains its productivity, but some of the specific compounds found in the 18th-century text, such as *khushilhon*, have become less common or are considered archaisms, replaced by more modern formations like *khushovoz* for a broader range of contexts. This diachronic perspective confirms Sharifov's assertion that studying historical texts is indispensable for understanding the development of the literary language [9; 6].

5. CONCLUSION

This study of the prefixoid *khush-* in “*Tukhfat-ul-khoni*” by Muhammadvafoi Karminagi confirms its status as a highly productive and semantically stable word-formation element in 18th-century Tajik literary language. The profound analysis of the provided examples demonstrates that *khush-* primarily forms qualitative compound adjectives, exhibiting a strong specialization in sensory domains such as sound and taste, while also participating in the construction of complex literary metaphors.

The research has shown that the functional range of *khush-* was narrower than that of *pur-* but possessed a distinct qualitative-evaluative character. A significant finding is the evidence of functional synonymy with the prefix *bar-*, illustrating the fluid boundaries between prefixoids and true prefixes during this historical period. The stylistic function of *khush-* compounds is evident, as they contribute significantly to the ornate, expressive prose style characteristic of the 18th century.

Ultimately, this article underscores the importance of studying transitional morphemes like prefixoids in historical texts. Such investigations not only illuminate the synchronic word-formation system of a particular era but also provide crucial insights into the diachronic processes of grammaticalization and the continuous evolution of the Tajik literary language. Future research could extend this analysis to other poly-affixes in the same text to construct a more comprehensive picture of 18th-century Tajik morphology.

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