



THE USE OF PUNCTUATION AND CAPITALIZATION IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH SENTENCE STRUCTURE

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Annotation. *This article analyzes the functional role of punctuation marks and capitalization in the written systems of English and Uzbek. The research focuses on structural, grammatical, and stylistic differences between the two languages. Special attention is given to how these orthographic features influence clarity, coherence, and academic writing standards. The study also discusses typical mistakes made by learners and explains why awareness of language-specific rules is essential for effective written communication.*

Key words: *punctuation, capitalization, orthography, English, Uzbek, academic writing, grammar rules.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarining yozma tizimida tinish belgilari hamda bosh harflarning funksional roli tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot ikki til o'rtasidagi strukturaviy, Grammatik va uslubiy farqlarga qaratilgan. Shuningdek, mazkur orfografik vositalarning matn aniqligi, mantiqiyliigi hamda akademik yozuv me'yorlariga ta'siri yoritiladi. Maqolada o'quvchilar tomonidan yo'l qo'yiladigan tipik xatolar ko'rib chiqilib, har bir tilga xos qoidalarni anglash samarali yozma muloqot uchun muhim ekanligi asoslab beriladi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *tinish belgilari, bosh harflar, orfografiya, ingliztili, o'zbektili, akademik yozuv, Grammatik me'yorlar.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье анализируется функциональная роль знаков препинания и заглавных букв в письменных системах английского и узбекского языков. Исследование направлено на выявление структурных, грамматических и стилистических различий между двумя языками. Особое внимание уделяется влиянию орфографических средств на ясность, логичность и академические стандарты письменной речи. В работе также рассматриваются типичные*



ошибки обучающихся и обосновывается необходимость осознания языковых норм для эффективной письменной коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: *знаки препинания, заглавные буквы, орфография, английский язык, узбекский язык, академическое письмо, грамматические нормы.*

INTRODUCTION

Written communication is not limited to vocabulary and grammar alone; it also depends on orthographic conventions such as punctuation and capitalization. These elements guide the reader through the text, signal logical relationships, and prevent ambiguity. Although English and Uzbek share a number of common punctuation symbols, their practical application differs due to structural and grammatical distinctions between the two languages.

For students learning a foreign language, differences in writing conventions often create confusion. Misuse of commas, incorrect capitalization, or mechanical transfer of rules from one language to another may reduce the quality of written work. Therefore, a comparative analysis of punctuation and capitalization in English and Uzbek is necessary to improve linguistic accuracy and academic literacy.

DISCUSSION. Punctuation functions as a visual system that organizes written speech. It prevents ambiguity and guides the reader through logical connections. For example, the sentence “Let’s eat, students” and “Let’s eat students” clearly demonstrates how a missing comma can completely change the meaning of a sentence. This example

illustrates the structural importance of punctuation in English writing.

In English, punctuation rules are highly standardized and closely connected with syntactic structure. For instance, commas are used to separate clauses, introductory phrases, and coordinate elements within a sentence. The incorrect placement of a comma may change meaning or cause misunderstanding. For instance: “When the lesson finished, the students left the classroom.”

If the comma after “finished” is omitted, the sentence becomes less clear and grammatically incomplete according to academic standards.

Another example is: “The teacher explained the rule, and the students took notes.” Here, the comma separates two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. Academic English writing requires strict adherence to punctuation conventions because clarity and precision are prioritized.

In contrast, Uzbek writing demonstrates a slightly different approach. While many punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and question marks are similar to English, their usage may depend more on intonation and meaning rather than strict syntactic patterns. For example: “U keldi, lekingapirmadi.”



Buyerdavergulbog‘lovchiyordamidaqo‘sh ma gap qismlariniajratibturadi. Another example is: “Kelingovqatyeymiz” va “Keling, ovqatyeymiz.” Ikkinchigapdavergulmurojaatnibildiradiv ama‘nonianiqlashtiradi. Uzbek grammar relies extensively on suffixation, which expresses grammatical relations within words. As a result, punctuation sometimes plays a less structurally decisive role compared to English, though it remains important in formal texts.

Capitalization presents one of the most noticeable contrasts between English and Uzbek writing systems. In English, capitalization rules are clearly standardized and consistently applied. The first word of every sentence and all proper nouns must begin with a capital letter. In addition, names of countries, nationalities, languages, months, and days of the week are always capitalized.

For example, in English:

“We have a seminar on Monday in September.”

“She speaks English and Russian.”

In Uzbek, however, capitalization rules are more limited. While proper nouns and the first word of a sentence require capital letters, names of months, nationalities, and languages are usually written in lowercase. For instance:

“Biz sentabroyidadushanbakuniuchrashamiz.”

“U inglizvarustillaridagaplashadi.”

Another important difference can be observed in title writing. In English academic titles, major words are capitalized, such as:

“The Role of Punctuation in Academic Writing.”

In Uzbek, only the first word and proper nouns are capitalized:

“Akademikyozuvdatinishbelgilarini ngroli.”

These distinctions often cause interference errors among bilingual learners, especially when they transfer English capitalization habits into Uzbek writing.

From a pedagogical perspective, understanding these distinctions is crucial. Teachers should emphasize comparative practice and encourage students to analyze real examples in both languages. Awareness reduces mechanical translation habits and helps learners produce grammatically accurate and stylistically appropriate texts.

APPENDIX

1. Punctuation – marks like periods (.), commas (,), question marks (?), and exclamation points (!) that show pauses, separate ideas, and clarify meaning.

2. Capitalization – writing the first letter of sentences, proper nouns (names of people, places, or things), and titles in uppercase letters.

3. Grammar rules – guidelines for combining words correctly in sentences, including proper word order, verb forms, tenses, and subject-verb agreement.

4. Orthography – the standardized system of writing in a particular language, including rules of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Orthographic norms differ across



languages and reflect historical and grammatical development.

5. Academic Writing – a formal style of written communication used in educational and research contexts. It

requires clarity, logical organization, correct grammar, and adherence to punctuation and capitalization conventions.

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