

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CASE SYSTEMS IN UZBEK AND GERMAN LANGUAGES

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### **Introduction**

In the language system, grammatical categories are among the main tools that regulate speech. One of the most important of these categories is the case category, which determines the grammatical functions of nouns in a sentence and their relationships with other words. Through cases, syntactic-semantic relations such as subject, object, possession, direction, and others are expressed. Therefore, the case system plays an important role in understanding the grammatical structure of any language. Uzbek and German belong to different typological groups: Uzbek is an agglutinative language, while German belongs to the inflectional (fusional) language type. This difference is clearly reflected in the expression of case. In Uzbek, cases are mainly formed by attaching suffixes to nouns, whereas in German they are expressed through changes in articles, nouns, and pronouns. Despite these differences, in both language systems the primary function of case is to clarify grammatical relations within the sentence structure. In modern comparative linguistics, comparing structurally different languages makes it possible to identify their common and distinctive features. A comparative study of the case systems in Uzbek and German is particularly important both theoretically and practically for Uzbek-speaking learners of German. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the grammatical and functional aspects of the case category based on the two languages. The case category is not only morphological and syntactic but also a semantically and typologically significant part of the language system. Modern comparative linguistic studies show that although cases are expressed differently across languages, their primary function is to clarify the relationships between subject and object and to make sentence meaning clear. In Uzbek, cases are formed through an agglutinative mechanism and, together with relatively free word order, ensure semantic clarity. In German, cases interact with articles and noun forms and are connected with gender and number, which increases morphological complexity. These aspects provide an important basis for comparative and typological analysis and help develop effective approaches for Uzbek speakers learning German.

### **Main Part**

The case category is a central grammatical means that determines the function of nouns and related units in a sentence. It clarifies syntactic relations (subject, object, possession, direction, etc.) and ensures comprehensibility of speech. Comparative linguistics emphasizes that the expression of case is directly related to the typological

characteristics of a language. In this respect, comparing Uzbek (agglutinative) and German (inflectional) reveals their common and distinct grammatical mechanisms.

### **The Case System in Uzbek**

In Uzbek, nouns are used in six main cases: nominative, genitive, accusative, dative, locative, and ablative. They are formed by adding suffixes to the noun and clearly define relationships between words. For example, the accusative case expresses the direct object, the dative indicates direction, and the genitive shows possession. This morphological marking allows relatively free word order, since the grammatical role is determined by the suffix.

### **The Case System in German**

In German, there are four main cases: nominative, accusative, dative, and genitive. Cases are often expressed through changes in articles and noun forms (e.g., *der – den – dem – des*). In this system, cases determine the type of object depending on verb valency and prepositions. Gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) and number influence case forms, making grammatical distinctions more subtle.

### **Comparative Analysis**

In Uzbek, cases are expressed through purely morphological means — suffixes — whereas in German they are expressed through an inflectional paradigm involving coordinated changes in articles, nouns, and pronouns. Uzbek does not have a gender category, while in German gender is closely connected to case. Nevertheless, in both languages the main function of case is the same: to clarify subject–object relations, possession, and direction within the sentence. Thus, although the mechanisms of expression differ, their functional load is similar. This comparative perspective provides important methodological conclusions for teaching German to Uzbek speakers: explaining the German article-centered model through comparison with the Uzbek suffix-centered model makes learning more effective. Verb valency plays an important role in the functioning of case systems. In German, some verbs require the accusative case, while others require the dative, for example, *helfen* (dative) and *sehen* (accusative). This shows that case depends not only on the noun but also on the grammatical requirements of the verb. In Uzbek, verb government is also important, as certain verbs require the accusative or dative case, for example, *kitobni o'qimoq* (to read a book – accusative) and *maktabga bormoq* (to go to school – dative). The relationship between prepositions/postpositions and case is also significant in comparative analysis. In German, prepositions require specific cases (*mit* + dative, *für* + accusative), strengthening the dependence of case on syntactic environment. In Uzbek, postpositions function together with case suffixes, such as *bilan* (with), *uchun* (for), and *haqida* (about), which are often used with particular case forms. Semantically, cases also perform important functions. In Uzbek, the ablative case can express cause, source, or comparison. In German, the dative and genitive can express

relation, possession, or cause. This demonstrates that cases carry not only grammatical but also semantic meaning. From a typological perspective, the Uzbek case system is formally simpler but functionally broad. The German system is formally more complex due to the interaction of gender, number, and case. Nevertheless, both systems serve to ensure communicative clarity. Cases do not merely mark syntactic roles but also convey semantic meaning. For example, in Uzbek, the ablative case indicates source or cause, as in *Kitobdan ma'lumot oldim* (“I obtained information from the book”) or *Do'stdan yordam so'radim* (“I asked a friend for help”). In German, the genitive expresses possession or relation, e.g., *Das Buch des Lehrers* (“the teacher’s book”) or *Wegen des Regens* (“because of the rain”). Thus, although the semantic functions differ, their communicative role remains the same: clarifying meaning and ensuring comprehensibility. Additional analysis shows that when Uzbek speakers learn German, comparing the agglutinative mechanism with the inflectional system facilitates understanding. For example, *Kitobni o'qidim* corresponds to *Ich habe das Buch gelesen*, illustrating the analogy between the Uzbek accusative and the German accusative object. The harmony between prepositions and case also increases semantic precision and reduces errors. These aspects are of practical importance in comparative linguistics research. Using a contrastive method, Uzbek and German grammatical structures can be directly compared, reducing errors and clarifying syntactic relations. For instance, German verbs that require the accusative (*sehen, haben*) correspond to the Uzbek accusative case. The communicative approach involves learning language through practical speech. Students reinforce case and article usage by creating sentences, asking questions, and engaging in dialogue exercises.

### Conclusion

This article comparatively analyzed the grammatical structure, functional roles, and syntactic functions of the case category in Uzbek and German. The study showed that in Uzbek cases are expressed through morphological suffixes and allow relatively free word order, whereas in German cases are expressed through changes in articles and noun forms and are linked to gender and number. The results demonstrate that although the morphological mechanisms differ, the main communicative function of cases — clarifying syntactic relations and marking subject–object relations — is the same in both languages. Verb government and the interaction with prepositions/postpositions further enhance the semantic and syntactic importance of cases. Consequently, the research provides a methodological basis for teaching German to Uzbek speakers and has theoretical and practical significance for comparative linguistics and typological studies. The findings confirm that although the mechanisms of morphological and syntactic expression differ, the semantic role and communicative function of cases remain identical — clarifying syntactic relations within the sentence and ensuring comprehensibility. In Uzbek, agglutinative suffixes demonstrate semantic

clarity and flexible word order, while in German, the inflectional system reinforces grammatical complexity through the interaction of articles and noun forms. Furthermore, comparative analysis shows that the interaction of cases with prepositions/postpositions and verb government helps learners understand the language more deeply. These aspects are significant both for developing effective teaching approaches for Uzbek speakers learning German and for advancing theoretical and practical research in comparative linguistics and typology.

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