

## THE STUDY OF THE DIMINUTIVE CATEGORY IN LINGUISTICS

**Hikmatkhon Ziyodkhon qizi Madixanova**

Doctoral student at Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages

### Abstract

This article is dedicated to the study of the diminutive category in linguistics. Through the examination of the morphological and semantic properties of language, it demonstrates how expressions of smallness, delicacy, warmth, or affection are formed. The article explores various directions and studies on diminutiveness in linguistics, particularly its use in Uzbek and other languages. It analyzes the morphological structure of diminutive forms, their semantics, and their role in socio-cultural contexts. Additionally, the article discusses the role of diminutivism in language change, its scientific definitions in linguistics, and its practical applications.

The theoretical and practical significance of studying diminutiveness, as well as new approaches to it in the context of linguistic research, are concluded. The presence of diminutiveness in many languages (including Uzbek) and its communicative role, as well as its potential for semantic changes, are analyzed.

**Keywords:** Diminutiveness, morphology, semantics, linguistics, Uzbek language, expressions of smallness, socio-cultural context, linguistics

### Introduction

The diminutive category in linguistics holds significant importance in the fields of semantics, morphology, and pragmatics. Diminutive forms are used to express smallness, politeness, affection, or delicacy. In Uzbek and other languages, diminutiveness is manifested not only through morphological affixes but also through semantic changes. This article is dedicated to the study of the diminutive category in linguistics. It analyzes the characteristics of diminutives in the Uzbek language, their morphological structure, and semantic role, and provides brief information on how this category has been studied in other languages.

The diminutive category is widely studied in various branches of linguistics, including morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics, and pragmatics. Diminutive forms in language reflect meanings such as smallness, uniqueness, politeness, or physical and emotional delicacy. In Uzbek, diminutiveness is often formed using affixes. For example, adding "-chik" or "-jon" to the word "kitob" (book) changes its meaning to "small book" or "beloved book."

Additionally, diminutive forms may vary according to the social context. For example, in Uzbek, diminutive forms for words used for children, such as "bola" (child), "bolajon" (dear child), "yigitcha" (young boy), and "qizcham" (little girl), not only express smallness but also convey affection and warmth. These semantic features of diminutiveness play an important role in the study of Uzbek linguistics.

The diminutive category is significant not only from a linguistic perspective but also from a social and cultural standpoint. In different languages, diminutive forms are shaped according to specific cultural norms and traditions. For example, in Uzbek, diminutiveness is used to express affection, warmth, and grace when referring to small or delicate things. This reflects the Uzbek cultural values of friendly and affectionate communication.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, diminutive forms are frequently used in interpersonal communication. They are commonly used in conversations with young children, close friends, or within the family circle. In this way, language expresses warmth and friendship. Furthermore, the use of diminutive forms requires an understanding of language change and the introduction of new approaches in linguistics.

The diminutive category in Uzbek is linguistically rich. Diminutive forms are mainly created using affixes such as "-chik," "-jon," "-cha," and "-cha." These forms are widely used in communication with children or to express affection. For example, the word "guli" (flower) can be turned into "guljon" (beloved flower), and the word "kitob" (book) can be transformed into "kitobchik" (small book).

Moreover, the diminutive category carries specific semantic meanings in Uzbek. For example, the word "yigit" (young man) becomes "yigitcha" (a small young man) to express not just smallness but also affection and warmth. The changes in diminutive forms usually enhance the social function of language, increasing sincerity in communication.

In the study of diminutiveness, modern linguistics is developing new approaches. In addition to morphological and semantic analysis, pragmatic and sociolinguistic research is also introducing changes. For example, in pragmatics, the communicative functions of diminutive forms are explored, including how these forms perform empathic, referential, and impactful tasks.

The diminutive category is of great importance in linguistics, as it helps to illuminate the morphological, semantic, and pragmatic aspects of language. In Uzbek, diminutiveness not only expresses small things or persons but also plays a significant role in understanding the cultural and social context of language. Through diminutive forms, people express warmth, affection, politeness, and delicacy. This category's study also calls for new research and approaches in contemporary linguistics.

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