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On the Morphological Patterns of Certain Arabic Loanwords Denoting Professions and Personal Nouns

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Abstract: This article analyzes some of the Arabic loanwords that have become part of the Uzbek lexicon, particularly those denoting occupations, based on morphological patterns (weights). The research focuses on words derived from certain Arabic patterns such as ((, فَعّال مُفَعِّل, فَاعِل)) that form occupational nouns, personal names, adjectives, and negative qualities, and on how they have been integrated into the Uzbek language. The study examines changes in meaning, the importance of understanding the root and the morphological pattern for correct comprehension, as well as accurate orthography. In addition, it considers the historical development of these borrowed words, their sources, and the methods by which their semantics can be properly understood.

Keywords: Arabic language, Uzbek language, lexicology, loanwords, occupational nouns, morphological patterns, active participle, semantic change, etymology.

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Introduction

Cultural, scientific, socio-political, and economic relations among different peoples are reflected in their languages. Thus, a portion of the Uzbek lexicon has been enriched by words borrowed from Arabic. This article examines words that have entered the Uzbek language through specific Arabic morphological patterns used to form occupational nouns, their adaptation, semantic shifts, usage in literary sources, and statistical data obtained through scholarly research.

Literature Review

Scholarly works on this subject mainly include research on Arabic morphology, Uzbek lexicology, historical relationships between the two languages, and studies on Arabic loanwords used to express professions. Among these sources are B.Z. Khalidov's textbook *Uchebnik arabskogo yazyka*, early studies on Uzbek lexicology, Arabic-Uzbek dictionaries, and scientific works analyzing Arabic loanwords in classical Uzbek literature. The review of the literature shows that the history, phonetic, morphological, and semantic transformations of Arabic borrowings have been thoroughly investigated by several researchers.

Method and Methodology

This research employs comparative-historical, morphological-structural, and lexical-semantic analytical methods. Arabic morphological patterns and their corresponding Uzbek word forms are compared. Examples taken from texts serve to thoroughly analyze semantic changes and orthographic features. Additionally, statistical data are used to determine the proportion of Arabic loanwords.

The main part

Cultural, scientific, socio-political, and commercial relations among different peoples are inevitably reflected in their languages. It is well known that in the Middle Ages, Arabic was celebrated as the language of science in the East, while Greek and Latin occupied this status in the West. A certain portion of the Uzbek lexicon likewise consists of Arabic words. Initially, Arabic borrowings in Uzbek emerged directly through the introduction of terms associated with Islam and its customs. Subsequently, due to the longstanding linguistic ties between Turkic and Persian-Tajik languages, these Arabic loanwords began to enter indirectly via Persian-Tajik. By the medieval period, the proportion of Arabic-derived words in classical Uzbek literature had surpassed 30%. Among the languages of the Near and Middle East, Persian-Tajik itself experienced the greatest influence from Arabic, with Arabic vocabulary reaching 70–80% in 13th–16th-century Persian-Tajik literature.

Compared to the time of Navoi, the use of Arabic words in modern Uzbek has declined to some extent. However, statistical analyses conducted by researchers suggest that even today the proportion of Arabic loanwords in our contemporary spoken language surpasses 20%. Naturally, this ratio may vary—being higher or lower depending on the speech style and the specific genre in question.

It is well known that Arabic is a fusional language in which, unlike in agglutinative languages, the formation of new words involves internal root modification. In other words, there are specific morphological templates in Arabic, and these templates themselves carry particular semantic properties. For instance, adjectives denoting colors and certain bodily defects are derived from the pattern (أَفْعَل, af‘alu). In Arabic, the majority of words originate from verbal roots. In what follows, we aim to examine some of these Arabic morphological patterns—particularly those used to form profession and personal nouns—that have found their way into the Uzbek language and become fully integrated as loanwords.

On page 283 of the Arabic language textbook *Uchebnik arabskogo yazyka* (Учебник арабского языка), published in 1981 by the “Uqituvchi” Press in Tashkent under the authorship of Boqi Zohidovich Khalidov, there is a brief description of the fa‘olun (فَعّال) morphological pattern used to form occupational nouns in Arabic. A number of occupational and personal nouns derived through this pattern have also entered the Uzbek language.

For instance, the Arabic word najjār (نَجّار), meaning “carpenter,” is formed from the verbal root najara (نَجَرَ), which signifies “to plane, whittle, or smooth.” This term frequently appears in classical Uzbek literature. Today’s Uzbek vocabulary likewise includes several active and widely used occupational nouns that have been borrowed from Arabic through this same fa‘olun pattern.

Verb form	The meaning of the verb form	Words in the ((فعّال) fa‘āl) Pattern Denoting Occupations and Personal Nouns	The Meanings of Words Formed in This Pattern
عطر	To emit a pleasant fragrance	عطُّار attor	A seller of perfumes and cosmetics

صرف	to expend, to grind finely	صَّراف sarrof	a money changer, cashier, or tax collector
غوص	to plunge (into water or a depth)	غوَّاص g’avvos	a diver, one who plunges into water
كشف	to discover, to uncover, to reveal	كشَّاف kashshof	a discoverer, one who uncovers or reveals
بقل	to grow (referring to plants, herbs, and vegetables)	بقَّال baqqol	a greengrocer, vegetable seller
نقش	to carve, to engrave	نقَّاش naqqosh	an engraver, carver
قصب	to cut, to slice, to divide	قصَّاب qassob	a cutter, slicer, or divider (of meat or land)
جرح	to injure, to wound	جرَّاح jarroh	a surgeon

Another example of a word formed using this pattern is *farrosh*, whose root *farasha* means “to spread out.” Historically, the term *farrosh* referred to those employed in royal courts who were responsible for spreading carpets. Over time, the meaning evolved, and today the term *farrosh* is used to describe individuals who sweep streets, courtyards, and gardens, as well as those who clean rooms in offices and institutions.

In addition, several other words derived from this pattern have entered the language which do not denote occupations, but rather indicate personal defects or negative traits. Examples of such words include:

Verb form	The meaning of the verb form	Words in the ((فعَّال) fa‘āl) Pattern Denoting Occupations and Personal Nouns	The Meanings of Words Formed in This Pattern
قلب	to revolve, to rotate, to spin	Qallob قلَّاب	a deceitful, cunning individual who uses various tricks to deceive others; a schemer
كذب	to deceive, to trick, to cheat	Kazzob كذَّاب	liar
غدر	to break one’s promise, to betray	G’addor غدَّار	traitor, cunning individual, swindler
مكر	to deceive, to trick, to cheat	Makkor مكَّار	fraudster, sly, crafty, cunning person

There are certain words in Arabic that carry a negative connotation, but when borrowed into Uzbek their meanings undergo some changes. For example, the Arabic word **battol** (بَطّال), which originally means “an idler, a lazy person,” acquires two distinct meanings in Uzbek:

1. Extremely wicked, cruel, merciless
2. Extremely stubborn, obstinate, contrary

This illustrates that when words move from one language into another, they do not always retain their original meanings exactly.

Additionally, the definite active participle form fo‘ilun, derived from the first verbal stem (I Bāb) in Arabic, is counted among the morphological patterns that produce occupational nouns. A number of occupational terms in Uzbek have also been borrowed through this pattern.

Verb form	The meaning of the verb form	Words in the (فاعل) *fo'ilun* Pattern Denoting Occupations and Personal Nouns	The Meanings of Words Formed in This Pattern
كسب	one who practices a trade or profession	كاسب kosib	craftsman, cobbler
شعر	to feel, to sense	شاعر shoir	poet
نشر	to publish	ناشر noshir	publisher
علم	to know	عالم olim	scholar, scientist
فتح	to open	فاتح fotih	conqueror, victor
حكم	to rule, to govern, to exercise authority	حاكم hokim	ruler, governor
نطق	to speak, to deliver a speech	ناطق notiq	speaker, announcer, orator

Under this pattern, a number of words that express divine attributes, as well as characteristics and qualities of individuals, have also been borrowed into Uzbek.

Verb form	The meaning of the verb form	Words in the (فاعل) *fo'ilun* Pattern Denoting Occupations and Personal Nouns	The Meanings of Words Formed in This Pattern
قدر	to be powerful	قادر qodir	powerful, capable
فضل	to be virtuous	فاضل fozil	virtuous, accomplished
ظلم	to oppress (others), to tyrannize	ظالم zolim	oppressor, tyrant

Furthermore, the definite active participle form *mufa'ilun*, derived from the second verbal stem (II Bāb) in Arabic, is also considered among the morphological patterns that yield occupational nouns. Through this pattern, several terms denoting occupations have been borrowed into the Uzbek language as well.

Verb form	The meaning of the verb form	Words in the (مفعّل) *mufa'ilun* Pattern Denoting Occupations and Personal Nouns	The Meanings of Words Formed in This Pattern
نقّد	to criticize	منقّد munaqqid	critic
درّس	to teach, to conduct a lesson	مدرّس mudarris	teacher, instructor
حرّر	to edit, to correct, to fix errors	محرّر muharrir	editor
نجّم	to read fortunes by the stars, to practice astrology	منجّم munajjim	astrologer
صوّر	to draw (a picture)	مصوّر musavvir	artist, painter
علّم	to impart knowledge, to educate	معلّم muallim	teacher, educator

Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that occupational terms borrowed from Arabic have become an integral part of the Uzbek lexicon. Over time, some words have undergone semantic changes, and certain words have acquired negative meanings. Knowing their etymological foundations, morphological templates, and roots is crucial for orthographic precision, correct semantic understanding, and linguistic analysis. A significant number of Arabic words denoting various occupations have been borrowed into Uzbek and have become an integral part of its lexicon. Understanding the morphological patterns (templates) and the roots of these words is extremely important for accurately grasping their meanings and ensuring correct spelling.

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