

Evaluative Affixes in Uzbek Literary Discourse in The Novel «Shaytanat» By Tohir Malik

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Received: 12 February 2026; **Accepted:** 09 March 2026; **Published:** 31 March 2026

Abstract: The article examines the pragmatic connotations of emotional affixes in Uzbek literary discourse based on a contextual analysis of fragments from Tohir Malik's novel "Shaytanat". The study focuses on suffixes that express evaluative and emotive meanings rather than purely grammatical or nominative derivation. Particular attention is given to the suffixes -gina and -cha, as well as the pragmatically modified use of the comparative suffix -roq when it functions as a marker of subjective approximation or mitigated evaluation. The analysis demonstrates that emotional affixation in Uzbek literary language performs important pragmatic functions such as softening evaluative judgments, expressing empathy, and conveying the narrator's subjective stance.

Keywords: Pragmatic connotation, affixation, Uzbek language, emotional affixes, literary discourse, contextual analysis.

Introduction: Affixation plays an important role in the morphological system of the Uzbek language. Besides grammatical and word-formation functions, affixes often convey pragmatic and expressive meanings. In literary discourse, they may serve as markers of emotional evaluation, speaker attitude, and subjective interpretation.

This study examines the pragmatic functions of emotional affixes in Uzbek literary discourse through a contextual analysis of selected fragments from Tohir Malik's novel "Shaytanat". The analysis focuses on suffixes that express subjective perception, mitigated evaluation, and emotional nuance. Purely nominative derivation is excluded, and attention is given only to affixal forms whose meanings become pragmatically significant within the sentence context.

METHODOLOGY

The research is based on contextual analysis of linguistic units extracted from selected passages of the novel "Shaytanat". The methodological framework combines elements of morphological analysis and

pragmatic interpretation.

A key principle of the study is the contextual approach to affix analysis. Emotional or evaluative meanings of affixes cannot be reliably determined by examining isolated words. Instead, each affixal form must be analyzed within the full sentence in which it appears. Only through contextual interpretation can the pragmatic connotation of the affix be identified.

The analysis follows several steps:

1. Identification of affixal forms in the selected text.
2. Determination of their morphological structure.
3. Examination of the sentence context in which the form appears.
4. Interpretation of the pragmatic function of the affix within that context.

The study focuses primarily on the suffixes -gina and -cha, which often function as emotional or evaluative markers in Uzbek. In addition, the comparative suffix -

roq is analyzed when it acquires a pragmatic meaning such as approximation or mitigated evaluation (similar to “somewhat,” “rather,” or “kind of” in English). Cases where -roq expresses purely grammatical comparison are not included in the analysis. One of the expressive emotional suffixes in Uzbek literary discourse is -gina, which often conveys attenuated evaluation, empathy, or subjective perception. For instance, the narrator describes the appearance of a house in the following way:

(1)“Uy tashqi tomondan qaraganda harobgina ko‘rinadi.”

(Malik 1993: 22)

The adjective harobgina consists of the base harob (“ruined” or “dilapidated”) and the emotional suffix -gina. In this context the suffix does not merely indicate diminution. Instead, it softens the negative evaluation of the described object. The narrator does not present the house as completely ruined but rather as modest and slightly shabby. Thus, the suffix introduces a pragmatic nuance of mitigated evaluation. A similar function can be observed in another fragment describing the same building:

(2)“Tashqarisidan g‘aribgina ko‘ringan uy ichkarisi ham shu ahvolda ekan.”

(Malik 1993: 22)

Here the adjective g‘aribgina contains the emotional suffix -gina, which adds a connotation of sympathy or pity. The narrator’s description implies that the house appears poor and neglected, yet the evaluation is presented in a softened manner. Such usage illustrates how emotional affixes contribute to the expressive dimension of narrative description. Another example occurs in the following sentence:

(3)“Osongina tashrih tufayli bu ozorli darddan qutulganiga shukr qildi.”

(Malik 1993: 21)

In this case, the adverb osongina expresses the speaker’s subjective perception of the event as unexpectedly simple. The suffix emphasizes the narrator’s emotional reaction rather than the objective difficulty of the action. In literary discourse, such forms may even carry a subtle ironic implication when the apparent simplicity of the situation later proves deceptive. These examples demonstrate that the suffix

-gina functions as a pragmatic marker that softens evaluations, introduces empathy, and reflects the narrator’s emotional stance.

Another affix that acquires pragmatic significance in narrative discourse is -cha, which frequently expresses approximation or conversational estimation. This function can be observed in the following sentence:

(4)“Uzunasiga ellik qadamcha keladigan hovli ishkomdan iborat edi.”

(Malik 1993: 22)

The noun qadamcha derives from qadam (“step”) with the suffix -cha, indicating approximate quantity. In this context, the narrator does not measure the yard precisely but provides an estimated distance. The use of -cha contributes to the naturalness of the narrative by simulating spontaneous observation. Thus, the suffix introduces a pragmatic nuance of subjective approximation, creating an effect of conversational realism in the description of the setting.

Although the comparative suffix -roq normally expresses grammatical comparison, it may acquire pragmatic functions in literary discourse when no explicit comparison is present. For example, in another fragment of the narrative we find the expression:

(5)“Asadbek Elchinni avval ham durustroq bilmas edi.”

(Malik 1993: 20)

The adjective durustroq contains the comparative suffix -roq, yet the sentence does not involve comparison between two degrees of knowledge. Instead, the phrase conveys the meaning “not knowing someone properly” or “not knowing someone well enough.” In this context the suffix functions as a pragmatic modifier that softens the evaluation. A similar usage appears in the sentence:

(6)“Kayfiyati chatoqroq bo‘lsa — yoqasiga qistirar edi.”

(Malik 1993: 20)

Here the form chatoqroq expresses an intensified but still mitigated description of the character’s mood. Rather than a strict comparative meaning (“worse”), the suffix conveys the idea of “rather bad” or “somewhat unpleasant.” The pragmatic function of the affix therefore lies in expressing subjective evaluation.

Another example illustrates the pragmatic use of the comparative suffix -roq in narrative discourse:

(7) “Anvar unga yaxshiroq tikildi, shunday jadidni eshitgan edi.”

(Malik 1993: 88)

The adjective *yaxshiroq* is formed from the base *yaxshi* (“good”, “well”) and the comparative suffix *-roq*. In its primary grammatical function, the suffix *-roq* indicates a higher degree of quality in comparison with another state or action. However, in this context the form does not express a strict comparison. Instead, it conveys the meaning of a more attentive or focused gaze.

Within the narrative context, the phrase *yaxshiroq tikildi* implies that Anvar looked more carefully or examined the person more closely. The comparative suffix therefore functions pragmatically as an intensifying marker that signals increased attention rather than an objective comparison. This usage reflects a common feature of Uzbek conversational and literary discourse in which the suffix *-roq* acquires a subjective evaluative nuance, approximating meanings such as “more closely,” “more carefully,” or “a bit more attentively.” Thus, the suffix *-roq* in this example illustrates how comparative morphology may extend beyond its grammatical role and participate in the expression of pragmatic meaning within literary narration.

The analysis of emotional affixes in the selected fragments of *Shaytanat* demonstrates that affixation in Uzbek literary language frequently carries pragmatic meanings that extend beyond morphology. Emotional suffixes such as *-gina* and *-cha* contribute to the narrative tone by introducing evaluative nuance, empathy, or subjective perception.

Furthermore, even affixes that are traditionally classified as grammatical markers may acquire pragmatic functions in discourse. The comparative suffix *-roq* illustrates this phenomenon when it expresses approximate or mitigated evaluation rather than strict comparison. These findings highlight the importance of contextual analysis in the study of affixation. Morphological forms cannot be fully understood without considering their role within the communicative environment of the text. In literary discourse, affixes often operate as subtle indicators of emotional perspective and narrative voice.

CONCLUSION

The present study demonstrates that emotional affixes

play a significant role in shaping the pragmatic dimension of Uzbek literary discourse. Through contextual analysis of fragments from *Tohir Malik’s Shaytanat*, the research shows that suffixes such as *-gina* and *-cha* function as markers of emotional evaluation, subjective perception, and conversational tone. In addition, the comparative suffix *-roq* may acquire pragmatic meanings when used without explicit comparison, serving as a mitigator of evaluation or a marker of approximation.

These findings confirm that the pragmatic potential of affixation in Uzbek deserves greater attention in linguistic research. Future studies may expand the analysis to other literary works and investigate the interaction between morphological markers and discourse strategies in Uzbek narrative prose.

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