

GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF FUNCTION WORDS IN KARAKALPAK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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In English grammar books, function words are words that have little lexical or ambiguous meaning and express grammatical relationships which is totally matched with the definitions in Karakalpak language.

Grammar is traditionally subdivided into two inter-related studies: Morphology and Syntax. Morphology is the study of how words are formed out of smaller units called morphemes while syntax is concerned with how words are strung together to form larger units of expressions such as (partial) Phrases, Clauses, and (full) Simple Sentences. [3;3]

“Word” can be defined as a morphological unit that contains some amount of meaning that can be conceptualized: *tree/bush, car/bike, book/paper, walk/run, sleep/wake, fast/slow, etc.*). Such word meanings are referred to as being **Lexical** (“word-based”) in so far that they express substantive concepts. A second aspect of morphology contains parts of words which carry no meaning. This latter aspect of morphology functions in such a way as to transmit grammatical information only--information not relevant to the stem word. This second type of morphology is termed **Functional** (“non-word based”) and is represented in words usually as **Inflections**. [3;4] Function words require that speakers (or writers & readers) possess *shared social knowledge* in order to know what the function word means (If I say to you, “Give this book to her,” you and I both have to know what person I mean by ‘her.’

Grammarians have given function words a bad name. Charles Fries (1977), who gave us this term, had noted that function words began life with a different name – *empty words*. While today we have retained the term for its other, “better” half – *content words* – we are always still left with a feeling that function words are *words without content*. However, to define function words it is still best to first define what content words are. In other words, a text with content words alone would not be a very good piece of communication. A text is a combination of content and function words and a good text is one which combines content and function words well. [7.51]

Function and lexical words are the important in English. They have the main point to build a phrase or a sentence. Kennedy. G (2003:58) states that “there is a fundamental distinction between function words (sometimes called „grammatical words“ or „structural words“) and content words (sometimes called „lexical words“). There are about 250 function words in English (e.g. the, and, of, a, in, to, it, is, was, that – these ten words alone make up over 20 per cent of all the words we ever use)”. [4;4]

Function words include pronouns, prepositions, articles, conjunctions, and auxiliary verbs. Whereas the average native English speaker has an impressive vocabulary of well over 100,000 words, fewer than 400 are function words (Baayen, Piepenbrock, & Gulikers, 1995). This deceptively trivial percentage (less than 0.04%) of our vocabulary accounts for over half of the words we use in daily speech (Rochon, Saffran, Berndt, & Schwartz, 2000). Despite the frequency of their use, they are the hardest to master when learning a new language (Weber-Fox & Neville, 2001). [6;347]

Function words:

- **pronouns** (he, she, it, what, which, that...)
- **determiners** (the, a, an)
- **auxiliary verbs** (do, is, am, have, got...)
- **coordinators** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
- **subordinators** (although, when, because,)
- **prepositions** (in, by, on, beside...) [5;1]

There are several features of function words in English language:

- Function words are a **closed class**; new function words rarely come into existence.

- Function words are usually short.
- Function words are used frequently.
- Function words have little meaning outside a sentence (or outside the surrounding sentences in a text).
- Function words are processed mostly outside of conscious awareness (for example, people have no idea, consciously, how often they use the pronoun “I”).
- Function words require that speakers (or writers & readers) possess *shared social knowledge* in order to know what the function word means (If I say to you, “Give this book to her,” you and I both have to know what person I mean by ‘her.’ [5;2])
- From internet resources function words can be explained that the easiest way for beginning composition students to understand what **function words** are is to think of them as words whose meaning you can’t look up in the dictionary. The meaning of a function word comes largely from the sentence it’s in, or from the surrounding sentences.

Function words are not only very common, they also have a central part in linking content words together and uttering grammatical meanings. Function words are said to belong to „closed classes“, which do not admit new words. Typical of function words have many senses. The Oxford English Dictionary gives over eight meanings of when, 40 meanings of in and over 60 meanings of . A few function words such as whence and whilst are not frequent. [4;11]

Function words largely serve a grammatical purpose in a sentence — some people call them “**glue words**.” [6;348]

Now let’s look up the features of function words in Karakalpak language.

Function words (*Kómekshi sózler*) are a type of part of speech that has lost its original lexical meaning and definitively transitioned to auxiliary function. However, their lexical meanings have become completely obscured over the last periods and their usage in the language faces with significant changes. As a result, they lose their original lexical meanings and express only abstract grammatical meanings. [1;3] It means that both definitions in English and Karakalpak languages are almost the same and their role that perform in grammar is also equal.

Function words are divided into three categories based on their grammatical meaning and function in Karakalpak language. They are *tirkewishler*, *danekerler*, *janapaylar*. [2;219]

- Tirkewishler (siyaqli, son, keyin)
- Danekerler (óytkeni, biraq, sonliqtan, sebepli)
- Janapaylar (ham, tek, da, de)

Function words can be described that some function words retain in their full lexical meaning in Karakalpak grammar books. In such cases, these words are not attached to other meaningful words instead of they can be used independently.

There are the main characteristics of function words:

1. They do not express a complete lexical meaning on their own as they are auxiliary grammatical meaning is realized only when combined with meaningful words.
2. Function words do not change by adding word-changing and word-forming suffixes.
3. Function words are not as a sentence member. [1;4]

Let’s have some more samples of function words in a clause which are in bold that given from different grammar activity books in English and Karakalpak:

1. Onı ákelgen atlılar awılğa sińgennen **keyin** barıp háreketler baslanadı. (T. Qayıpbergenov)
2. Deni saw adamğa qanday jumıs bolsa da paydalı **jáne** jaǵımlı bola beredi . (Sh. Rashidov)
3. Many people eat cereal **for** breakfast.
4. Ted goes **to** the gym **and** exercises three times a week.

Thus, function words have the same grammatical features and roles in a sentence in English and Karakalpak language.

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