



## CROSS-LINGUISTIC STUDY OF SPATIAL ADJECTIVES EXPRESSING HEIGHT IN ENGLISH AND KARAKALPAK

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**Abstract:** *Spatial adjectives play an important role in describing the physical characteristics of objects and the surrounding environment. Among them, adjectives expressing height are widely used in everyday communication and reflect how speakers conceptualize vertical space. This paper presents a cross-linguistic study of spatial adjectives expressing height in English and Karakalpak. The study focuses on the semantic features and usage of the English adjectives high, tall, and low and their Karakalpak equivalents biyik, balent, pas, joqari, and tomen. The research analyzes similarities and differences in meaning, contextual usage, and semantic structure. Special attention is given to how these adjectives describe objects, people, natural phenomena, and abstract concepts. The analysis shows that both languages use vertical spatial adjectives not only in literal meanings but also in metaphorical and figurative expressions. However, the distribution and collocation of these adjectives differ due to linguistic and cultural factors. The results demonstrate that while English often distinguishes between high and tall depending on the type of object, Karakalpak tends to use several adjectives with overlapping meanings depending on context. This study contributes to comparative linguistics and helps better understand how spatial concepts are represented in different languages.*

**Key words:** *spatial adjectives, semantic analysis, height expressions, English language, Karakalpak language, cross-linguistic comparison, vertical space, lexical semantics.*

Language is one of the main tools people use to describe the physical world around them. Spatial vocabulary, particularly spatial adjectives, plays an important role in expressing the position, size, and orientation of objects. Among spatial adjectives, those expressing height are especially significant because they help speakers describe vertical dimensions in relation to objects, people, and environments. Such adjectives reflect not only physical characteristics but also cultural and cognitive perceptions of space. In English, the most common adjectives used to describe height are *high*, *tall*, and *low*. These adjectives differ in their semantic and contextual usage. For example, *tall* is usually used for objects that have a clear vertical dimension such as people, trees, or buildings, while *high* is typically used for objects or positions located at a great distance above the ground, such as mountains or clouds. The adjective *low*, on the other hand, describes objects or positions close to the ground or below a certain level.





In the Karakalpak language, spatial adjectives expressing height include *biyik*, *bálent*, *pás*, *joqarı*, and *tómen*. [1] These adjectives also describe vertical relations but may have broader or slightly different semantic distributions compared to their English equivalents. For instance, *biyik* and *bálent* often refer to great height, while *pás* and *tómen* describe low positions. The adjective *joqarı* may refer to something located above or at a higher level. The purpose of this study is to analyze and compare the semantic properties and usage of spatial adjectives expressing height in English and Karakalpak. Through comparative analysis, the research identifies similarities and differences in how vertical space is conceptualized in both languages. Understanding these differences is important for linguistics, translation studies, and language teaching. Spatial adjectives expressing height are an essential part of vocabulary in many languages. They allow speakers to describe objects, people, and places in relation to vertical space.

In English and Karakalpak, such adjectives share similar basic meanings but differ in usage, semantic nuances, and collocations. [2] In English, the most common spatial adjectives expressing height are high, tall, and low. Although they are often translated similarly in other languages, they are used in different contexts. The adjective tall is mainly used for objects that have a clear vertical shape. For example: The building is very tall. She is a tall woman. There are many tall trees in the forest. In these examples, tall describes objects or people that extend significantly upward. It usually refers to living beings or structures that stand upright. The adjective high is used when referring to objects or positions located far above the ground or another reference point. For instance: The mountain is very high. The plane is flying high in the sky. The shelves are too high for me. Here, the focus is on elevation rather than the shape of the object. The adjective low expresses the opposite meaning of high. It refers to something near the ground or below a certain level: The table is too low. Clouds are hanging low today. The water level is low. In addition to literal meanings, these adjectives are often used metaphorically. For example, high level, low price, or high hopes illustrate abstract uses of spatial vocabulary.

In Karakalpak, spatial adjectives expressing height include *biyik*, *bálent*, *joqarı*, *pás*, and *tómen*. [3] These words also describe vertical relationships but may overlap in meaning. The adjectives *biyik* and *bálent* are commonly used to describe objects with great height. For example: *Bul imarat biyik.* (This building is tall.) *Taylar bálent.* (The mountains are high.) These adjectives can refer to buildings, mountains, or other objects with large vertical dimensions. The adjective *joqarı* usually refers to a higher position or level: *Kitap joqarı polkada tur* (The book is on the upper shelf). The adjectives *pás* and *tómen* express the opposite meaning and describe something located below or near the ground: *Bul orındıq pás* (This chair is low). *Bul jer tómen* (This place is low).



Although English and Karakalpak both use spatial adjectives to describe vertical dimensions, there are several differences. [4] English distinguishes between *tall* and *high* depending on whether the object has a vertical shape. Karakalpak often uses *biyik* or *bálent* for both situations. For example: English: *The building is tall*. Karakalpak: *Bul imarat biyik*. English: *The mountain is high*. Karakalpak: *Tay biyik* or *tay bálent*. Another difference appears in metaphorical usage. English frequently uses spatial adjectives metaphorically, such as *high status* or *low income*. Karakalpak also uses similar expressions, for example *joqarı dáreje* (high level) or *tómen dáreje* (low level). These similarities show that both languages conceptualize vertical space in comparable ways, but the lexical distinctions and contextual preferences differ. Spatial adjectives expressing height are an important part of linguistic systems because they allow speakers to describe objects, people, and environments in relation to vertical space. [4] The comparative analysis of English and Karakalpak spatial adjectives demonstrates that both languages share similar conceptual foundations while also exhibiting specific linguistic differences.

The English language uses several adjectives such as *high*, *tall*, and *low* to describe vertical dimensions. [5] Each of these adjectives has specific semantic and contextual restrictions. For instance, *tall* is mainly used for objects that have a clear vertical form, such as people, trees, or buildings, while *high* is generally used to describe elevation or distance from the ground. The adjective *low* functions as the opposite of *high* and indicates positions close to the ground or below a particular level.

In Karakalpak, spatial adjectives such as *biyik*, *bálent*, *joqarı*, *pás*, and *tómen* are used to express similar meanings. However, the boundaries between these adjectives are not always as strictly defined as in English. For example, *biyik* and *bálent* can often be used interchangeably when describing height. The adjectives *joqarı* and *tómen* are frequently used to indicate relative vertical positions. The study also shows that both languages extend spatial adjectives to metaphorical and abstract meanings. Expressions such as *high level* or *joqarı dáreje* illustrate how vertical spatial concepts are used to represent social, emotional, or intellectual states. Overall, the cross-linguistic comparison of spatial adjectives in English and Karakalpak reveals both universal and language-specific features in the conceptualization of vertical space. Understanding these similarities and differences is valuable for linguistic research, translation studies, and language teaching. Future research may further explore other spatial categories such as depth, distance, and direction in cross-linguistic perspective.

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