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Pluralization in English and Kurdish

A Fourth Year Research Project Submitted to the Department of English, College of Language at the University of Salahaddin–Erbil, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of B.A in English language and Literature

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Section One

Introduction

The current research paper entitled “Pluralization in English and Kurdish” is an attempt to deal with comparison in pluralization between English language and Kurdish language. A plural refers to more than one person, object, location, and multiple individuals (Ellis, 2022). Not all languages form plural nouns in the same way, in English language usually by adding a suffix, typically -s or -es, most singular nouns become plural. For examples the singular noun ‘bag’ takes plural form ‘bags’. When a word ends in **sh, ch, s, z, or x**, the plural is usually formed by adding **es** to the end, like batches, clashes, gases, etc. When a word ends in consonant + y, the plural is formed by changing the **y** to **ie** and adding **s**, such as try becomes tries. There are irregular plural nouns, for example man-men, etc.

In Kurdish, if there are more than two people, things, they become plural. In Kurdish language plural nouns are formed in several ways but most singular nouns are made plural by adding a suffix, usually (ان), for example کور-کوران , but if the noun ends in a vowel, the plural is formed differently, that is, the letter (ی) is inserted between the noun and the plural sign, such as ماموستا-ماموستایان (Abdulla, 2013).

The current paper consists of four sections. Section one provides introduction of the research. Section two provides the definition of pluralization

and it sheds light on the types of pluralization in English and how pluralization is formed in English, explains the relationship between Plural nouns and possessive Nouns. In section two, three other important issues, personal pronouns, and reflexive pronouns. Section three is about the definition of pluralization and its types in Kurdish it describes the construction plural, and explains the plural sign in Kurdish. This section provides the number of nouns, and contains main subjects such as plural possessive pronouns, personal pronouns, reflexive pronouns. This section clarifies each one of them separately with many examples. Section four is about the comparison of pluralization in English and Kurdish language, explains the differences and additionally describes the points of similarity between English and Kurdish Pluralization. This comparison of pluralization between English and Kurdish is illustrated by a number of examples and evidence. Finally the research paper ends with conclusion followed by a list of references.

Section Two

Pluralization in English

A plural noun is the form of a noun used to indicate that there are multiple individuals, locations, objects, or ideas. Most nouns can be made plural by simply adding -s or -es to the end. 'Cows' is the plural noun form of cow. There is an irregular plural form for some nouns; for instance, the plural noun of foot is feet, not foots. The main difference between a singular noun and a plural noun is that the amount of the former is just one, whereas the amount of the latter is more than one (Ellis, 2022).

2.1 The Plural Form

There are many plural noun rules, and because we use nouns so generally when writing, it's significant to know all of them. The correct spelling of plurals usually depends on what letter the singular noun ends in (Ellis, 2022).

1. The most popular type of plural noun is when just adding 's' to the end of the word. For Example: Bag becomes bags (Schampfer, Hagen, 2019, p95).
2. If a noun ends with an 'S', 'Sh', 'Ch', 'X' or 'Z', adding the 'es' at the end rather. For Example: Bus becomes Buses, Loss becomes losses, Crash becomes crashes, Pitch becomes pitches, matrix becomes matrixes (Ellis,

2022). However adding the ‘es’ when the noun ends in a consonant (not a vowel) followed by an ‘o’. For Example: potato becomes potatoes (Schampfer, and Hagen, 2019, p95).

3. In some situations, singular nouns ending in –s or –z require that you double the –s or –z prior to adding the –es for pluralization. For Example: Press becomes presses, Fez becomes fezzes (Ellis, 2022).
4. If the singular noun ends in –is, the plural ending is often –es. For Example: analysis becomes analyses, emphasis becomes emphases (Ellis, 2022).
5. If the noun ends with –f or –fe, the f or –fe are frequently changed to –ve before adding the –s to form the plural type. For Example: Wife becomes wives, Knife. Exceptions: Roof becomes roofs (Schampfer, and Hagen, 2019, p95).
6. If the word ends in a consonant and then a ‘y’, we drop the ‘y’ and replace it with ‘ies’. For Example: Activity becomes activities. Nevertheless, if the noun ends in a vowel and then a ‘y’, you need simply add an ‘s’ to make it plural. For Example: key becomes keys (Ellis, 2022).

7. If the singular noun ends in **-o**, add **-es** to make it plural. For Example:
Potato becomes potatoes, Tomato becomes tomatoes. Plural **noun exceptions**: photo becomes photos (Schampfer, and Hagen, 2019, p95).
8. If the singular noun ends in **-us**, the plural ending is often **i**. For Example:
Cactus becomes cacti, focus becomes foci (Ellis, 2022).
9. If the singular noun ends in **-on**, the plural ending is **-a**. for Example:
Phenomenon becomes phenomena, criterion becomes criteria (Ellis, 2022).

2.2 Regular-S Plural vs Irregular Plural Nouns

2.2.1 Regular Nouns

A regular noun simply by adding -s or -es to the end of the word can be made plural. For Example, a regular noun like **day** becomes plural by adding an -s to the end of the word, creating the plural noun days.

It would make our lives as writers so much easier if all nouns followed this simple rule, but some nouns like to be rebels, especially irregular nouns (Nelson and Greenbaum, 2016).

2.2.2 Irregular Plural Nouns

Irregular nouns are nouns that do not change to plurals according to a set rule. An irregular plural noun is a noun that becomes plural without adding -s or -

es to the end of the words. For Example, an irregular noun like *ox* changes into the plural noun *oxen* (Albert, 2022).

Irregular plurals are unpredictable and must be taught separately. It is of course beneficial to be aware of the pluralization in the pertinent languages, particularly Latin and Greek, in many instances where foreign words are involved. (Quirk, and Greenbaum, 1979,). The relationship between regular and irregular plural nouns is clear. For examples: Writers can indicate whether a noun is plural with either regular or irregular noun ends. These nouns have quite varied endings, but they all serve the same function. For instance, if the appropriate ends are utilized, both regular and irregular nouns can be present in the same phrase and still make sense to the reader (Albert, 2022).

Take a look at this sentence that uses both regular and irregular plural nouns:

Joe's dad bought two bikes for his children over the weekend.

Bikes: is a regular plural noun that uses an -s ending to demonstrate that several bikes were bought.

Children: is an irregular plural noun that uses an -ren ending to demonstrate that Joe's father has more than one child.

2.3 Collective Nouns

A collective noun is a word or phrase that identifies a number of individuals or objects while yet being recognized as a singular entity. Although you can count

each individual member of the group, you often consider the group as a whole or as a single unit. Collective nouns are frequently confused with plural nouns since they refer to a variety of things. Collective nouns can also be formed into plural nouns, much as the majority of common nouns (Albert, 2022).

Three subclasses of collective nouns are distinguishable:

- **Specific:** army, clan, class, club, committee, crew, crowd, etc.
- **Generic:** the aristocracy, the bourgeoisie, the clergy, the public
- **Unique:** the Arab League, (the) Congress, the Kremlin, the Papacy, Parliament, the United Nations, the United States, etc.

2.4 Pronouns in English

Pronouns are essentially unique varieties of nouns that are used as the sole or, more frequently, the primary word in a noun phrase. They fall under several categories, which are listed here with examples: (Nelson, and Greenbaum, 2016, p51).

2.5 Personal Pronouns in English

Personal pronouns are pronouns that are employed in sentences to particularly refer to a person, item, animal, or group. All the personal pronouns have difference in person (first, second, third). Most also have important in number (singular, plural) and in case (subjective, objective, genitive). For the personal

pronouns' genitive case, see the possessive pronouns (Nelson, and Greenbaum, 2016, p53).

	subject case	object case
First person		
Singular	<i>I</i>	<i>Me</i>
Plural	<i>We</i>	<i>Us</i>
Second person		
Singular/plural	<i>You</i>	<i>You</i>
Third person		
Singular/ masculine	<i>He</i>	Him
Singular – plural	<i>She</i>	Her
Singular – non personal	<i>It</i>	<i>It</i>
Plural	<i>They</i>	<i>Them</i>

2.6 Reflexive Pronouns in English

Reflexive pronouns in English in person and number, personal and possessive words are similar, but there are no differences in case. While there is just one form of the second person for the personal pronoun you and the possessive pronoun yours, there are separate forms for the second person singular (yourself) and plural (yourselves) (Nelson, and Greenbaum, 2016, p54).

First person		
Singular	Myself	
Plural	Ourselves	
Second person		
Singular	Yourself	
Plural	Yourselves	
Third person		
Singular – masculine	Himself	
Singular - feminine	Herself	
Singular – non personal	Itself	
Plural	Themselves	

Section Three

Pluralization in Kurdish

The word plural is defined as ‘relating to or constituting a class of grammatical forms usually used to denote more than one or in some languages more than two’ and ‘relating to, consisting of, or containing more than one or more than one kind or class (Marf, 2014).

3.1 Number of Nouns in Kurdish

In Kurdish grammar, nouns are divided into singular and plural, as follows:

Singular nouns: A singular noun is a noun that refers to only one person, place, thing, or idea. It is contrasted with plural nouns, which refer to more than one person, place, thing, or idea (Abdulla, 2013, p20).

Plural nouns: A plural noun is a noun that refers to more than one person, things, objects, place, etc. In Kurdish language, a noun form is converted from singular to plural by a specific sign (Abdulla, 2013, p20). As follows:

1. Most singular nouns changes to plural form by adding suffix,(ان)When the nouns converts to plural form, If the last letter of the word is consonant, there is nothing changed ,it is written as the original one (Abdulla,2013, p20). For Example: کور+ان = کوران، کچ+ان= کچان، پیاو+ان= پیاوان

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به‌رووی زه‌ردی هه‌لات و كهوته كیوان

But if the last letter of the word is vowel, in some situations the letter (ی) is added in other situations the (ه) is removed at the end of the word (Abdulla, 2013, p20). For Example: ماموستا + ان becomes ماموستایان, قوتابخانه + ان becomes قوتابخانان, چه‌قوو + ان becomes چه‌قویان

2. If the nouns end with the consonant (ی، ئ، و، أ)، the (ی) is added between nouns and indication plural (Marf, 2014). For Example :

برایانی تو چاویان له مالی خه‌لک نیه	برایان	برا + ان
ئه‌مرو به پێیان رۆشتم	پێیان	پێ + ان
ئه‌و په‌رۆیانه دراون	په‌رۆیان	په‌رۆ + ان

3. In some proper nouns, singular nouns become plural by adding suffixes, ات، ديهات، ميگه‌ل، باخات (Abdulla, 2013, p21). for example: هات، وات، جات، گه‌ل، هه‌ا. كورگه‌ل، سه‌وزه‌وات، ميوه‌جات

3.2. *Collective Nouns*

A collective noun is a noun that refers to a group (of people, animals, things, etc.). It is normally treated as singular (Marf, 2014, p107).

ئه‌و ره‌نگه‌ سه‌وره بوو كه ناسۆی بئندی كورد

مژده‌ی به‌یانی بو گه‌لی دوور و نزیک

In this example, the word (people) is not treated as plural, even though they refer to a group of something (Marf, 2014).

3.3. Pronouns in Kurdish

A pronoun is a part of speech that is used instead of the name of a person or thing. The words used in place of nouns are called pronouns (Abdulla, 2013).

Kurdish language like any other language has pronouns as a part of a speech

3.4. Personal Pronouns in Kurdish

It includes the personal meaning of the animate person, which consists of speaker, audience, and absent person (Abdulla, 2013). In Kurdish, there are two different types of personal pronouns:

3.4.1 Independent Personal Pronouns

This kind includes pronouns that are apparently independent and refer to animate person, they also show people and explain their relationships with others. Central Kurdish has many groups of independent pronouns (Abdulla, 2013). As follows:

کۆ	تاک	کەسهکان
ئێمه	من	یهکههه
ئێوه	تۆ	دووهم
ئێوان	ئهو	سێههه

من دهچم بو زانکۆ. نیمه دهچین بو زانکۆ. تۆ دهچی بو زانکۆ. ئیوه دهچن بو زانکۆ. ئهو دهچیت بو زانکۆ. ئهوان دهچن بو زانکۆ.

3.4.2 Bound Personal Pronoun

This kind include pronouns that are apparently dependent, they are attached verbs or nouns. These pronouns replace independent personal pronouns in speech and writing. Central Kurdish includes four groups of linking personal pronouns (Abdulla, 2013). As follows:

First group: This group is used with the past transitive (م – مان، ت – تان، ی – یان)

برد / بردم – بردمان ، بردت – بردتان ، بردی – بردیان

خویند / خویندم – خویندمان ، خویندت – خویندتان ، خویندی – خویندیان

Second group: This group is used with the past intransitive (م – ین، یت، ی – ن، / - ن

هات / هاتم – هاتین ، هاتیت، ی – هاتن ، هات – هاتن

Third group: This group is used with the present transitive and intransitive. (م – ین،

یت، ی – ن ، ات، یت – ن)

خهوت / خهوتم – خهوتین ، خهوتیت، ی – خهوتن ، خهوت – خهوتن

Fourth group: This group is used with the verb

3.5. *Possessive Pronouns in Kurdish*

It is a type of pronoun in terms of meaning, the owner can be a noun or a pronoun, and is assigned the function of the noun or pronoun in a sentence (Abdulla, 2013).

The normal possessive pronouns are enclitics added to the noun. They take the following forms:

	Singular	Plural
First person	My م	Our نهمه
Second person	Your ت	Your تان
Third person	His/ her/ it's ی	Their یان

3.6. *Reflexive Pronouns in Kurdish*

It is a type of pronoun in terms of meaning, which conveys ownership.

The main form of the reflexive pronouns in Kurdish is (خۆیه) ownership. It is used for all three persons: the first (speaker), the second (listener), and the third (absent)(Abdulla, 2013). It is a semantic type of pronoun that conveys the sense of owner possession. The owner can be a noun or a pronoun and is assigned the function of the noun or pronoun in a sentence (Fossum, 1919).

Singular		Plural	
	خۆم	Myself	خۆمان
	خۆت	Yourself	خۆتان
	خۆى	Himself/herself	خۆيان
			ourselves
			Yourselves
			Themselves

Section Four

4.1. Comparison between English and Kurdish pluralization

English and Kurdish are two different languages in terms of form and function, and also have many differences and similarities in terms of grammar.

English pluralization has two number classes: singular and plural. Basically, in English, a noun which expresses more than one is simply called as plural noun. In this case, English plural nouns have two forms, regular and irregular

Like English number classifications which are divided into singular and plural, Kurdish number class is categorized into two: singular, and plural. English irregular a noun that becomes plural without adding a -s or -es at the end of the words is said to be irregularly plural. An irregular word like *mouse*, for instance, becomes the plural noun *mice*. Unlike English irregular nouns in Kurdish is not irregular nouns, but Kurdish nouns becomes plural through special signs such as (ان), (هات), (جات), and etc.

English regular noun can be made plural by simply adding -s or -es to the end of the word (Albert, 2022). But Kurdish regular noun can be made plural by simply adding (ان) to the end of the word.

However English and Kurdish have some similarities. For example both of them have a collective noun. A collective noun is used to refer to a collection of

people or things. Typical illustrations include: government, حكومهت, Group, دهسته, Family خيزان, Audience, گوینگر, etc.

English personal pronouns are differences between each personal pronoun in person (first, second, third). The majority also distinguish between case and number (singular, plural) (subjective, objective, genitive)(Nelson, and, Greenbaum, 2016).

Kurdish language like English language have a pronouns in a part of a speech, it consists the personal meaning of the animate person, as includes of speaker, audience, and not attended. However Kurdish pronouns are differences between each personal pronoun in person (first, second, third).

Conclusion

The main purpose of this research was to focus on the pluralization in English and Kurdish. The both language there are singular and plural are found number of nouns and pronouns, but. Pluralization is the process of converting nouns or pronouns from singular to plural form. Not all languages alter noun plural forms in the same way. For example pluralization in English language simply adds -s or -es to the end of the majority of nouns will make them plural. But pluralization in Kurdish language is added (ن) to the end of the nouns, but generally the final letter of a singular noun determines how plurals should be spelled. Irregular nouns are nouns that do not convert to plurals according to the rule. English and Kurdish have collective nouns, a group of individuals or objects are referred to collective noun. English and Kurdish have a similarity in Pronouns. Pronouns is a part of speech, it includes speaker, audience and absent person. However, in both languages pronouns are the different according to each personal pronoun in person (first, second, third).

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