SUBJECT–PREDICATE IDENTIFICATION IN ENGLISH: IMPLICATIONS FOR TRANSLATION PRACTICE

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Abstract. Accurate identification of subject–predicate relations is a foundational requirement for successful translation into English, particularly from languages with flexible word order and rich morphology such as Uzbek. While subject–predicate structure has been extensively discussed in descriptive and theoretical grammar, its direct methodological relevance to translation practice remains underexplored. This article reworks and extends a prior course paper by reframing the analysis of English subject–predicate groups through a translation-oriented lens. Drawing on structural, functional, and contrastive linguistic approaches, the study proposes a methodology for identifying subject–predicate relations in source texts and preserving or strategically restructuring them in English translation. The paper combines qualitative sentence analysis with contrastive examples from English and Uzbek to demonstrate how syntactic misidentification leads to translation shifts, ambiguity, or loss of emphasis.

Keywords: *subject–predicate structure; English syntax; translation methodology; contrastive linguistics; Uzbek–English translation.*

Annotatsiya. Subyekt-predikat o'rtasidagi munosabatlarni aniq belgilash ingliz tiliga sifatli tarjima qilishning muhim metodologik asoslaridan biri hisoblanadi, ayniqsa so'z tartibi nisbatan erkin hamda morfologik jihatdan rivojlangan o'zbek tili kabi tillardan tarjima jarayonida. Subyekt–predikat tuzilmasi tavsifiy va nazariy grammatika doirasida keng tadqiq etilgan bo'lsa-da, uning tarjima amaliyotidagi bevosita metodologik ahamiyati hanuzgacha yetarlicha yoritilmagan.

Mazkur maqolada ilgari bajarilgan kurs ishi qayta ko'rib chiqilib, ingliz tilidagi subyekt–predikat guruhlarini tahlil qilish tarjimashunoslik yondashuvi asosida qayta talqin etiladi. Tadqiqotda strukturaviy, funksional va qiyosiy lingvistik yondashuvlarga tayangan holda, manba matnlarda subyekt–predikat munosabatlarini aniqlash hamda ularni ingliz tiliga tarjima qilish jarayonida saqlab qolish yoki zaruratga ko'ra strategik jihatdan qayta tuzish metodologiyasi taklif etiladi. Maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridan olingan qiyosiy misollar asosida olib borilgan sifat tahlili orqali sintaktik birliklarning noto'g'ri aniqlanishi tarjimada ma'no siljishlari, noaniqliklar yoki axborot urg'usining yo'qolishiga olib kelishi asoslab beriladi.

Kalit so'zlar: *subyekt–predikat tuzilmasi; ingliz tili sintaksisi; tarjima metodologiyasi; qiyosiy tilshunoslik; o'zbek–ingliz tarjimasi*

Translation is not merely the replacement of lexical units from one language with those of another; it is a complex process of transferring meaning, structure, and communicative intent across linguistic systems. At the core of this process lies sentence structure, and more specifically, the relationship between subject and predicate. In English, where grammatical relations are largely expressed through fixed word order and auxiliary constructions, accurate identification of subject–predicate groups is essential for producing clear and natural translations.

For translators working from Uzbek into English, this task presents particular challenges. Uzbek allows relatively free word order and often encodes grammatical relations morphologically through suffixes, which permits subject omission when person and number are recoverable from the verb. English, by contrast, generally requires an explicit subject and relies heavily on syntactic position to signal grammatical roles.

Subject–Predicate Relations in English and Translation In modern English grammar, the sentence is conventionally divided into two principal components: the subject and the predicate. The subject functions as the syntactic anchor of the clause, determining agreement with the finite verb. The predicate, centered on the verb, expresses an action, process, or state attributed to the subject.

From a translation perspective, this division is significant because it determines how information is distributed within a clause. Translators must recognize grammatical subjects and their communicative role in discourse.

Methodology. This study adopts a translation-oriented methodological framework combining descriptive grammar, contrastive analysis, and syntactic parsing. The analysis proceeds in four stages: source-text parsing, predicate classification, contrastive mapping, and translation restructuring.

Analysis and Discussion. The analysis demonstrates that many translation errors originate at the stage of syntactic interpretation rather than lexical choice. Uzbek sentences with omitted subjects frequently lead to incomplete English clauses unless subject–predicate relations are reconstructed explicitly. The analysis demonstrates that many translation errors originate at the stage of syntactic interpretation rather than lexical choice. In particular, difficulties arise when subject–predicate relations are not explicitly realized in the source text, as is frequently the case in Uzbek. Due to the language's rich morphological system and relatively flexible word order, grammatical subjects may be omitted or displaced without causing ambiguity in the source language; however, such structures require careful reconstruction in English.

For example, in the Uzbek sentence *Kecha kitob oʻqildi*, the predicate *oʻqildi* encodes tense and voice, while the subject remains implicit. A literal rendering such as *Yesterday was read a book* is syntactically unacceptable in English. Accurate translation requires the translator to reconstruct the subject–predicate relation explicitly, resulting in *A book was read yesterday* or, depending on context, *Someone read a book yesterday*. This example illustrates the necessity of identifying the predicate as the starting point for grammatical reconstruction in English.

Similarly, in sentences such as *Talabalar tomonidan maqola yozildi*, surface word order may obscure the grammatical subject. Although *talabalar* appears prominently, the true subject of the passive construction is *maqola*, which must be preserved in English as *The article was written by the students*. Misidentification of the subject can

lead to incorrect voice selection and grammatical agreement errors in the target language.

Accurate subject–predicate identification also enables translators to produce stylistically natural English sentences. In the example *Bugun darsda yangi mavzu tushuntirildi*, a structurally accurate but stylistically marked translation (*Today in the lesson a new topic was explained*) can be improved through restructuring: *A new topic was explained in class today*. Here, correct identification of the subject allows flexibility in organizing adverbial elements without compromising meaning.

Beyond grammatical structure, subject–predicate relations interact closely with **functional sentence perspective**, particularly the distribution of theme and rheme. In Uzbek, information structure is often conveyed through word order, while English relies more heavily on syntactic position and fixed clause patterns. Consider the sentence *Bu masalani professor hal qildi*, where *bu masalani* functions as the theme and *professor* carries rhematic emphasis. A neutral English translation (*The professor solved this problem*) preserves both grammatical relations and communicative intent.

When the focus shifts, as in *Masalani professor hal qildi*, the rhematic emphasis on *professor* becomes more pronounced. To reflect this in English, structural transformation may be required: *It was the professor who solved the problem*. Such restructuring demonstrates that maintaining communicative equivalence sometimes necessitates departure from surface syntactic correspondence.

Failure to account for theme–rheme organization can result in pragmatic distortion. In *Yangi loyiha kecha taqdim etildi*, the subject *yangi loyiha* represents the thematic element, while the temporal adverbial belongs to the rheme. An inaccurate rendering such as *Yesterday was presented a new project* disrupts both grammatical form and information flow. The corrected translation, *The new project was presented yesterday*, preserves subject–predicate relations while maintaining the original information structure.

These examples confirm that subject–predicate identification and functional sentence perspective are interdependent processes in translation. Systematic syntactic

analysis enables translators to reconstruct implicit subjects, select appropriate voice, and preserve communicative emphasis. As a result, grammatical accuracy and discourse coherence are jointly maintained in the target text.

This study demonstrates that accurate identification of subject–predicate relations is not merely a grammatical exercise but a fundamental component of professional translation competence. In the context of Uzbek–English translation, where the two languages differ significantly in word order, subject expression, and morphological marking, failure to correctly identify syntactic roles can result in structural distortion, semantic ambiguity, or pragmatic misrepresentation in the target text.

The findings confirm that many translation inaccuracies originate at the pre-translation stage, specifically during syntactic parsing of the source text. Uzbek sentences with implicit or morphologically encoded subjects require conscious reconstruction in English, where grammatical completeness and clarity depend on the explicit realization of subject–predicate relations. This reinforces the importance of analytical reading and grammatical awareness prior to lexical substitution.

Furthermore, the study emphasizes the pedagogical importance of integrating contrastive syntactic analysis into translator training. Teaching students to identify predicates, determine grammatical subjects, and assess their communicative roles can significantly improve translation accuracy and stylistic naturalness, while also developing flexibility in restructuring sentences according to target-language norms.

In conclusion, subject–predicate identification should be regarded as a core methodological skill in translation studies rather than a purely theoretical issue. Future research may extend this approach through corpus-based analysis, additional language pairs, or deeper investigation of the interaction between subject–predicate relations and information structure (theme–rheme). Strengthening this grammatical awareness

ultimately contributes to higher-quality translation and more effective intercultural communication.

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