

SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES OF COMPLEX SENTENCES: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: Complex sentences represent a sophisticated layer of linguistic organization that is vital for expressing multifaceted thoughts, relationships of dependence, and nuanced connections between ideas. The syntactic structures of such sentences allow speakers and writers to encode logical, temporal, causal, and conditional relationships with remarkable precision, going far beyond the capabilities of simple or compound sentences. Comparing the syntactic structures of complex sentences in Uzbek and English is a profound endeavor that unveils deep-rooted principles of each language, explains much about their typological profiles, and reflects diverse communicative traditions.

Keywords: complex sentence, syntax, subordination, Uzbek, English, clause structure, comparative linguistics, word order.

Complex sentences in both languages serve as a principal means to build cohesion in discourse, facilitate the flow of information, and structure intricate arguments or narratives. Despite sharing this core functionality, English and Uzbek have evolved distinctly different strategies for the formation, ordering, and linking of clauses within complex sentences, shaped by their historical development, grammatical traditions, and communicative preferences. The basic essence of a complex sentence is the combination of a main clause with one or more subordinate clauses. Both English and Uzbek utilize subordination to construct hierarchies of meaning. In English, subordinate clauses often rely on explicit subordinators including subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns. These subordinators are essential not only for connecting clauses but for signaling the precise nature of the relationship—whether it be temporal, conditional, causal, concessive, or purpose-related. Uzbek, as a Turkic and agglutinative language, also uses conjunctions, but its system is augmented by a variety of participial and gerundial forms that allow the incorporation of subordinate meanings directly into the verb morphology [1].

A distinguishing syntactic feature is the word order within complex sentences. English follows a primarily Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure and largely maintains this consistency in both main and subordinate clauses, reflecting its

analytical character. Subordinate clauses can precede or follow the main clause, with punctuation or intonation playing a role in demarcating clause boundaries in writing and speech, respectively. Uzbek, by contrast, adheres to Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order and is characterized by a much greater degree of flexibility in clause sequencing largely due to its reliance on the agglutinative nature, case markers, and a robust system of verbal affixes. Such flexibility allows speakers to manipulate emphasis, information flow, and stylistic effects according to discourse needs rather than rigid syntactic rules. In both languages, the functional diversity of subordinate clauses is marked. English grammarians traditionally classify these clauses into categories such as noun clauses, adjective (relative) clauses, and adverbial clauses. Each clause type is marked by specific conjunctions or relative pronouns, showing a clear differentiation in form that contributes to syntactic clarity and primarily determines clause position and function within the sentence. Uzbek, although accommodating similar logical divisions, often subordinates clauses through non-finite verbal forms—participles, gerunds, and converbs. These forms create extensive multi-clause sentences where subordinate meaning is often implicit, sometimes requiring contextual interpretation for full understanding. The relative rigidity of English complex sentence structure means that subordination is commonly marked at the outset of the clause. Subordinators typically precede the subordinate clause, giving listeners and readers immediate clues about the semantic relationship to follow. Uzbek, by virtue of its marked inflectional morphology, does not always require a conjunction to mark subordination. The dependent status of a subordinate clause may be marked by a non-finite verb ending or by the placement of the clause itself, often at or near the beginning of the sentence for background information or at the end for new or focused information [2].

The formation and use of relative clauses mark another important syntactic contrast. English relative clauses are tightly embedded within the noun phrase, almost always marked by explicit relative pronouns ("who", "which", "that") that serve both to connect clauses and refer back to a noun antecedent. The relative clause usually immediately follows its antecedent. In Uzbek, relative clauses are most often formed by participial constructions that precede the noun they modify. Instead of a relative pronoun, semantic connections are inferred from agreement and word order, resulting in noun phrases that can be much longer and more detailed than in English. This head-final structure reflects a holistic tendency in Uzbek towards placing descriptive information before the primary noun, a feature shared with many other Altaic and Turkic languages. Both languages exhibit a wealth of adverbial clauses, expressing relationships of time, cause, condition, concession, manner, and comparison. English forms adverbial clauses with a diverse set of subordinating conjunctions such as "because", "when", "if", "although", and "as". Each signals a clear semantic relationship and is accompanied by defined word order patterns. Uzbek encompasses

many adverbial clauses through converbal forms, distinct particles, or postpositions, and while conjunctions exist ("chunki", "agar", "qachonki"), the overall system often appears more implicit. Non-finite verbal forms in Uzbek can encapsulate entire subordinate meanings, leading to sentences where subordinate clauses are embedded as part of the verbal complex rather than separate clauses introduced by a conjunction. Regarding clause integration, English shows a preference for hypotactic constructions (overt subordination with explicit markers), particularly in formal and academic discourse. This approach supports logical, stepwise argumentation and is conducive to reader comprehension. Uzbek on the other hand frequently employs both hypotactic and paratactic structures. Parataxis—the linking of clauses without explicit subordination—can be as effective as hypotaxis for expressing logical relationships, especially in spoken communication or more narrative-styled texts [3].

Verb forms in subordinate clauses are another point of differentiation. English typically maintains tense and aspect distinctions within subordinate clauses, matching the requirements of the main clause or the logical sequence of events. Modal verbs are often used to add nuance to subordinate clause meanings. Uzbek, however, may utilize verb forms that are neutral in tense or aspect, relying more heavily on contextual cues or on a system of participles, converbs, and auxiliary verbs. The lack of auxiliary verbs to support tense in Uzbek subordinate clauses can lead to comparatively compressed clause structures, where temporal and aspectual relations are encoded into the main or matrix clause. Another syntactic point is the flexibility in omission or ellipsis of clause elements. English syntax allows ellipsis primarily in informal speech, with many restrictions on what can be omitted without leading to ambiguity. In Uzbek, ellipsis is more pervasive, supported by the language's robust case marking and verbal inflection, allowing for subject and even verb omission when these are understood from context. This sometimes results in high information density within sentences, placing cognitive demands on readers and listeners to infer relationships. Despite these typological contrasts, there are also significant similarities in the purpose and communicative function of complex sentences. Both English and Uzbek use complex sentence structures to convey sophisticated thoughts, express nuanced arguments, and maintain coherence across longer stretches of text. Academic, scientific, legal, and literary genres in both languages depend heavily on a writer's command of complex syntax to build cogent arguments, develop narrative tension, or explain detailed processes [4].

The acquisition and mastery of complex syntactic structures in both English and Uzbek pose substantial challenges to learners, as these require understanding not only of forms but also the subtle pragmatic and stylistic choices available. In-depth awareness of subordination processes, clause ordering, and conjunction usage is fundamental for learners' communicative competence and for achieving clarity, accuracy, and naturalness in both writing and speech. Comparative syntactic studies

are crucial not just for theoretical linguistics but for second language teaching, translation, and cross-cultural communication. Translating complex sentences between English and Uzbek involves more than simply substituting one conjunction for another; it often requires restructuring the entire sentence to fit the logic, syntax, and stylistic norms of the target language. For example, participial or converbial clauses in Uzbek may need to be rendered as full subordinate clauses with explicit conjunctions—and vice versa—when translating into or out of English [5].

The stylistic implications of complex sentence usage must also be considered. English academic writing values explicit logical connectors, clear clause boundaries, and the hierarchical arrangement of ideas, while permitting a range of stylistic flourishes in creative genres. Uzbek writers, meanwhile, have more latitude to vary syntactic patterns, rearrange clause order for emphasis, and employ non-finite verb forms to enrich their sentences, all of which reflect deep-seated cultural attitudes towards communication, narrative style, and the rhythm of information presentation.

Conclusion

The syntactic structures of complex sentences in English and Uzbek demonstrate both striking parallels and fundamental differences. These differences encompass word order, clause integration, subordinator usage, verbal inflection, and stylistic flexibility, all embedded within the broader typological preferences of each language. Both languages use complex sentences to achieve clarity, precision, and cohesion in discourse, although they do so through distinct syntactic means. English favors explicit, linear, and hierarchically organized clauses, relying on fixed conjunctions and rigid word order, while Uzbek makes extensive use of participial constructions, flexible clause order, and agglutinative morphology to encode nuanced relationships between ideas. A deep knowledge of these syntax systems is crucial for linguists, translators, educators, and learners, supporting competence across academic, professional, and personal domains. Understanding the syntactic structures of complex sentences thus remains central to the mastery of any language and to successful cross-cultural communication.

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