

"A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PREPOSITIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES"

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Abstract

This article presents a comparative analysis of prepositions in English and Uzbek languages. The study examines their syntactic functions, semantic features, and the ways grammatical relations are expressed in both languages. The findings show that English relies heavily on prepositions to indicate grammatical and semantic relationships, whereas Uzbek mainly uses postpositions and case endings for the same purpose. The results of the study are significant for linguistic typology, translation studies, and foreign language teaching.

Keywords: prepositions, postpositions, syntax, typology, English language, Uzbek language, comparative analysis.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi predloqlarning qiyosiy tahlili amalga oshiriladi. Tadqiqotda predloqlarning sintaktik vazifalari, semantik xususiyatlari hamda ikki tildagi ifodalanish usullari o'rganiladi. Tahlil natijalari ingliz tilida predloglar

grammatik munosabatlarni ifodalashda muhim o‘rin tutishini, o‘zbek tilida esa bu vazifani asosan ko‘makchilar va kelishik qo‘shimchalari bajarishini ko‘rsatadi. Tadqiqot natijalari tillar tipologiyasini o‘rganish va chet tilini o‘qitish jarayonida muhim ahamiyat kasb etadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: predloglar, ko‘makchilar, sintaksis, tipologiya, ingliz tili, o‘zbek tili, qiyosiy tahlil.

Introduction. Prepositions are an essential part of language structure and play a significant role in expressing grammatical and semantic relationships between words in a sentence. They are used to indicate various relations such as place, time, direction, manner, cause, and possession. In English, prepositions constitute a separate grammatical category and are widely used in both spoken and written communication. Unlike English, the Uzbek language does not possess a fully developed system of prepositions. Instead, grammatical relations are mainly expressed through postpositions and case endings. This typological difference makes the comparative study of English and Uzbek prepositions an important area of linguistic research. Understanding these differences can help language learners avoid common errors and improve translation accuracy. The present study aims to analyze the syntactic characteristics of prepositions in English and compare them with their functional equivalents in Uzbek. The research focuses on identifying similarities and differences in their structure, functions, and usage. The findings of this study may contribute to the fields of comparative linguistics, linguistic typology, translation studies, and foreign language teaching.

Prepositions are one of the most important functional elements in English grammar. They serve to express various semantic and syntactic relationships between words and phrases within a sentence. Through prepositions, speakers can indicate location, direction, time, cause, purpose, manner, and many other relations. Unlike lexical words, prepositions primarily perform grammatical functions and help establish connections between sentence components. English contains a large number of prepositions such as in, on, at, by, for, from, to, with, under, and between. Their meaning often depends on context, which makes them challenging for foreign language learners. For example, the preposition “in” is used

with enclosed spaces and longer periods of time: “The books are in the bag” and “She was born in 2001.” Meanwhile, “on” is generally used with surfaces and specific dates: “The cup is on the table” and “The meeting is on Monday.” In Uzbek, similar meanings are frequently expressed through case endings rather than separate prepositions. For instance, the English sentence “The book is on the table” corresponds to “Kitob stol ustida turibdi,” where the relationship is conveyed through the postpositional construction “ustida.” Likewise, “I live in Tashkent” becomes “Men Toshkentda yashayman,” where the locative suffix “-da” performs a function similar to the English preposition “in.” The study of prepositions is essential in contrastive linguistics because it reveals structural differences between languages. English heavily relies on prepositions as independent words, whereas Uzbek often uses morphological markers and postpositions. Understanding these differences contributes to more effective language teaching and translation practices.

POSTPOSITIONS: Postpositions are grammatical elements that function similarly to prepositions but appear after the noun or noun phrase they govern. They are characteristic of many Turkic languages, including Uzbek. Postpositions help express relationships of place, direction, comparison, purpose, and association. Common Uzbek postpositions include *bilan* (with), *uchun* (for), *kabi* (like), *tomon* (towards), *haqida* (about), and *orqali* (through). For example, in the sentence “Do‘stim bilan bordim,” the postposition “*bilan*” expresses accompaniment and corresponds to the English preposition “with” in “I went with my friend.” Similarly, “Ta’lim haqida maqola yozdim” translates as “I wrote an article about education,” where “*haqida*” corresponds to the English preposition “about.”

A significant distinction between English and Uzbek is word order. English prepositions precede the noun phrase, while Uzbek postpositions follow it. Compare the following examples: English: with my brother Uzbek: *akam bilan* English: about linguistics Uzbek: *tilshunoslik haqida*.

This structural contrast demonstrates the typological differences between the two languages. Although prepositions and postpositions perform comparable semantic

functions, their placement within the sentence reflects broader grammatical patterns. Postpositions contribute to the flexibility and expressiveness of Uzbek syntax. They allow speakers to establish precise relationships between sentence elements while maintaining the agglutinative nature of the language. Consequently, postpositions occupy a central place in Uzbek grammatical structure and deserve careful attention in comparative linguistic research.

SYNTAX

Syntax is the branch of linguistics that studies the arrangement of words and phrases to create meaningful sentences. Every language possesses its own syntactic rules that determine how sentence components are organized. The comparison of English and Uzbek syntax reveals both similarities and substantial differences.

English generally follows the Subject–Verb–Object (SVO) word order. For example, “The student reads a book.” In contrast, Uzbek commonly employs the Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) pattern: “Talaba kitob o‘qiydi.” This difference affects not only sentence structure but also the placement of grammatical markers such as prepositions and postpositions.

From a syntactic perspective, English prepositions usually introduce prepositional phrases that function as adverbials or modifiers. For example, in the sentence “The children are playing in the garden,” the phrase “in the garden” provides information about location. In Uzbek, the same meaning is expressed as “Bolalar bog‘da o‘ynayapti,” where the locative suffix “-da” fulfills a similar syntactic role. Another important feature concerns noun modification. English frequently uses prepositional constructions, whereas Uzbek often employs case endings and postpositions. For instance:

English: the roof of the house

Uzbek: uyning tomi

Here, the genitive suffix “-ning” replaces the English preposition “of.”

The syntactic comparison of English and Uzbek demonstrates how languages can express similar meanings through different structural mechanisms. Such analysis is valuable for understanding cross-linguistic variation and improving second-language acquisition.

TYOLOGY

Linguistic typology is a branch of linguistics that classifies languages according to their structural characteristics. Rather than focusing on historical relationships, typology examines how languages are organized and identifies recurring patterns across the world's languages. From a typological perspective, English and Uzbek belong to different language families and represent different structural types. English is generally classified as an analytic language because it relies heavily on word order and function words such as prepositions. Uzbek, by contrast, is an agglutinative language that expresses grammatical relationships through suffixes attached to word stems.

This distinction is clearly visible in the treatment of spatial and temporal relations. English employs independent prepositions: in the room, on the table, under the bridge

Uzbek often expresses equivalent meanings through suffixes and postpositions: xonada, stol ustida, ko'prik ostida

Typological analysis also highlights differences in sentence structure. English follows an SVO pattern, while Uzbek typically follows an SOV pattern. These differences influence the placement and function of grammatical elements throughout the language.

The typological comparison of English and Uzbek contributes to a deeper understanding of language diversity. It demonstrates that languages may achieve similar communicative goals through different grammatical strategies and structures.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. Comparative analysis is a linguistic method used to identify similarities and differences between two or more languages. In the case of English and Uzbek, comparative analysis provides valuable insights into the functioning of

prepositions, postpositions, and syntactic structures. One of the most notable differences concerns the expression of grammatical relations. English relies heavily on prepositions, while Uzbek frequently uses case endings and postpositions. Consider the following examples:

English: I am going to school.

Uzbek: Men maktabga ketyapman. The English preposition “to” corresponds to the Uzbek dative suffix “-ga.”

English: She lives in Samarkand.

Uzbek: U Samarqandda yashaydi.

Here, the English preposition “in” is represented by the locative suffix “-da.”

Despite structural differences, both languages perform similar communicative functions. They allow speakers to express location, direction, time, possession, and many other relationships. However, the grammatical means used to express these concepts differ considerably. Comparative analysis is particularly important in foreign language education. By understanding the contrasts between English and Uzbek, learners can avoid common grammatical errors and develop greater linguistic awareness. Furthermore, comparative studies contribute to translation theory, intercultural communication, and modern linguistic research.

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of prepositions in English and Uzbek reveals significant structural and functional differences between the two languages. English primarily relies on prepositions as independent grammatical units, whereas Uzbek often expresses similar meanings through case endings and postpositions. Despite these differences, both languages effectively convey spatial, temporal, and logical relationships. The findings of this study demonstrate the importance of understanding typological distinctions in language learning, translation, and linguistic research. A contrastive approach helps learners identify potential difficulties and develop a deeper understanding

of grammatical structures in both languages. Therefore, the study of prepositions remains an important area of research in comparative linguistics and foreign language education.

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