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## SYNTACTIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UZBEK AND TAJIK LANGUAGES

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### Abstract

This article provides a comparative linguistic analysis of the syntactic levels of the Uzbek and Tajik languages. It examines the typological similarities and differences resulting from the historical interaction between the Turkic (Uzbek) and Iranian (Tajik) language families. The study highlights that while both languages share fundamental syntactic categories—such as types of syntactic connections, sentence parts, and text structure—they differ significantly in their realization models. Specifically, the paper contrasts the "modifier+head" structure predominant in Uzbek with the "head+modifier" pattern often found in Tajik. Furthermore, the morphological expression of syntactic relations (cases and postpositions in Uzbek versus prepositions in Tajik) is analyzed. The article concludes by noting that while the basic syntactic structures remain distinct, there is a strong convergence in the formation of compound and complex sentences, largely due to the borrowing of conjunctions from Tajik into Uzbek.

**Keywords:** Uzbek language, Tajik language, comparative syntax, linguistic typology, syntactic models, modifier-head relation, prepositions, postpositions, compound sentences, paratactic connection, hypotactic connection, linguistic interference.



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## Introduction

Both commonalities and differences characteristic of the Uzbek and Tajik languages exist at their syntactic level. The commonality at the syntactic level of the Uzbek and Tajik languages consists primarily of the fact that the linguistic phenomena present in the syntactic system of the Uzbek language are also characteristic of the Tajik syntactic system. In particular, the two types of syntactic connection (coordination and subordination), word phrases, word combinations, simple and compound sentences, and text constitute the syntactic systems of both Uzbek and Tajik.

Furthermore, sentence parts and their types, along with all syntactic phenomena related to sentence parts, exist in the syntactic structure of both languages. There is also no significant difference in the scientific-theoretical interpretation of such syntax-related phenomena. The main difference in the syntactic structure of the Uzbek and Tajik languages is observable in the plane of expression of syntactic phenomena: the realization patterns (models) of syntactic structures are not identical in Uzbek and Tajik<sup>1</sup>. In the syntactic structure of the Uzbek language, syntactic units specific to its system are formed in accordance with the typical appearance of the syntactic structure of Turkic languages: this typical appearance is characterized by the "modifier + head" (broadly defined) structure. Based on this common pattern (model), units of communicative and non-communicative character, whose parts rely on subordinate connection, are formed<sup>2</sup>. For example, the object and adverbial modifier come before the predicate in a sentence (object+predicate, adverbial modifier+predicate); the attribute comes before the part expressed by a noun (attribute+subject//head, attribute+predicate//head, attribute+object//head, attribute+adverbial modifier//head, attribute+attribute//head).

According to syntactic views prevailing in recent years, although the subject is considered the absolute dominant part of the sentence, it is being interpreted as a sentence part that is subordinate to and expands the predicate. Accordingly, it can be said that the "modifier + head" order exists in the subject-predicate relationship

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<sup>1</sup> Saitov Suxrob Djumaydillayevich, AQSH va O'zbek adabiyotida adabiy ta'sir va milliy mentalitet. ijtimoiy fanlarda innovatsiya onlayn ilmiy jurnali Jild:04 Nashr: 01 | Yanvar - 2024 ISSN: 2181-2594. 143-148 betlar

<sup>2</sup> SS Djumaydillayevich - Czech Journal of Multidisciplinary Innovations, 2024.



## ***Modern American Journal of Linguistics, Education, and Pedagogy***

**ISSN (E):** 3067-7874

Volume 01, Issue 09, December, 2025

**Website:** usajournals.org

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in Uzbek as well. In traditional views specific to the nature of syntactic phenomena, the subject-predicate combination, which forms the grammatical basis of the sentence, is considered to have emerged in the "head-modifier" order (e.g., *Qush sayradi* – The bird sang; *Ukam – talaba* – My brother is a student), etc.

In the Tajik language, the formation patterns of certain syntactic units of non-communicative character differ from those of the Uzbek language. Not all of them are realized in the broad "modifier + head" pattern, as corresponds to Uzbek. In particular, attributive phrases emerge according to the "head + modifier" pattern. For example: *xonai nav* – new house, *maktabi ibtidoi* – primary school, *sharoiti qulay* – comfortable condition, etc. This order is also dominant in the possessive form of attributive phrases: *кумобу баподарам* – my brother's book, *сӯҳбаму уҷмодон* – the teachers' conversation, etc.

Uzbek and Tajik languages do not differ in terms of the structure of simple sentences and their grammatical basis. The state of inversion, which appears due to the requirements of speech, is almost the same in the construction of simple sentences in these two languages<sup>3</sup>. In the usual normative system of simple sentences in Uzbek and Tajik, the predicate comes after the subject. In the state of inversion, this order takes the form of "predicate + subject". E.g., *Keldi bahor, gul bahor* (Came spring, flower spring).

Syntactic relations between functional parts of simple and compound sentences are expressed through various morphological forms of the word and auxiliary words, accompanied by a subordinate intonation. In this matter, too, there is commonality in the syntactic structure of Uzbek and Tajik languages. In both Uzbek and Tajik, homogeneous parts of a simple sentence and predicative parts of compound (paratactic) sentences are combined using coordinating conjunctions.

The distinction between the Uzbek and Tajik languages can be seen in the issue of functionally dependent elements (parts) of the simple sentence structure and their formation. In the Uzbek language, dependent elements of the simple

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3 Djumaydillayevich, Suxrob S. "The Problem of Comic Type Creation in O.henry's Works." American Journal of Pedagogical and Educational Research, vol. 22, 7 Mar. 2024, pp. 7-9.



sentence structure, especially the object and adverbial modifier, are formed using the accusative, dative, locative, and ablative cases. Additionally, they are expressed through analytic forms of words. Postpositions play an important role in the expression of functional elements like the object and adverbial modifier using analytic word forms.

In the Tajik language, however, unlike the Uzbek language, functional elements of the simple sentence structure characterized as objects and adverbial modifiers are expressed using analytic forms of words with prepositions (known as *пешоянд*).

- *Ба об омадам* – I came to water (for water).
- *Аҳмад маҳдум ба ин ҷо барои дамгирӣ меомад* (С.Айни) – Ahmad Makhdum used to come here to rest.
- *Аз Урганҷ то Тахиятош дар масофаи бештар аз ду сад километр роҳи оҳан кашида шудааст* (А.Деҳоти) – A railway of more than two hundred kilometers has been laid from Urgench to Takhiatash.

Syntactic relations expressed through postpositions in Uzbek are expressed in Tajik by means of independent words that have turned into auxiliary words (prepositions/adpositions), such as *ақиб, боло, баъд, байн, берун, дарун, пеш, тараф, сӯй, тағ, гирд, назд, қариб, зер, миён, паҳлу, бар, рӯ, даст, сар, лаб*. Examples:

- *Роҳи оҳан аз болои кўпрук мегузарад* – The railway passes over the bridge.
- *Дар пеши Жамила ягон кас набуд* – There was no one in front of Jamila.
- *Суҳбат асосан байни Қори-ака ва мезбон мегузафт* (Ф.Мукҳаммадиев) – The conversation took place mainly between Қори-ака and the host.
- *Он ба тарафи Тахиятоши кўҳна омад* (А.Деҳоти) – He came towards old Takhiatash, etc.

Although prepositions (*пешоянд*) are numerous and active in the Tajik language, auxiliary words with the character of postpositions (*пасоянд*) also exist. Such auxiliary means include *-ро, кати//қати, барин, боз*. These form parts of simple sentences like objects and adverbial modifiers and express syntactic relations associated with them:



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- *Гулру кўзаро гурифт* – Gulru took the jug.
  - *Ман бародарам кати омадам* – I came with my brother.
  - *Ман шумо барин шуданро мехоҳам* – I want to become like you.
  - *Ман як ҳафта боз аз дарс маҳрум шудам* – I have been deprived of the lesson for a week.

In the first of the examples cited, the auxiliary *-po* (postposition/suffix) performed the function of the accusative case suffix in Uzbek<sup>4</sup>. The auxiliary *кати* used in the next sentence corresponds to the postposition *bilan* (with) in Uzbek. The auxiliary *барин* in the third sentence performs the function of the suffixes *-day//dek* (like/as) considered as form-building suffixes in Uzbek. The function and meaning of the auxiliary *боз* in the very last sentence equate to the function and meaning of the postposition *buyon* (since/for) in Uzbek.

In terms of classification and structure of compound (paratactic) and complex (hypotactic) sentences, the syntactic structure of Uzbek and Tajik languages does not differ. Compound sentences are formed in both Uzbek and Tajik using conjunctions such as *ҳам, аммо, лекин, гоҳо, гоҳ-гоҳ, хоҳ-хоҳ, на-на, ё-ё*.

- *Дар он наздиқиҳо на деҳа буд, на девор, на дарахт, на киштзор* (С.Айни) – In that vicinity there was neither a village, nor a wall, nor a tree, nor a field.
- *Дар ҳамин вақт асп аз дастам жудо шуд, лекин дастам сўзиш мекард* (С.Айни) – At that moment the horse got away from my hand, but my hand was hurting, etc.

The exact same feature can be seen in the formation of complex sentences (with subordinate clauses). In both Uzbek and Tajik, a large portion of complex sentences are formed with the participation of subordinating conjunctions such as *-ки, зеро, зероки, чунки, токи, чунонки, гўёки, агар, агарчи*.

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<sup>4</sup> Saitov Suxrob Djumaydillayevich, (2024). Contents of scientific views on the US school of storytelling and O.Henry's creation. journal of education, ethics and value, 3(1), 363-368.



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## ANALYSIS:

The article presents a structured comparison of the syntactic systems of Uzbek and Tajik, breaking the analysis down into three distinct layers:

### 1. Structural Realization Models (Word Order):

The analysis identifies a fundamental divergence in how syntactic units are constructed.

- **Uzbek (Turkic model):** Adheres to a strict "Modifier + Head" (Attribute + Noun, Object + Verb) structure. The defining element always precedes the defined element.
- **Tajik (Iranian model):** Frequently utilizes a "Head + Modifier" structure (e.g., Izofat constructions like китоби бародарам), though it also shares the subject-predicate order found in Uzbek.
- **Significance:** This distinction highlights that despite centuries of contact, the deep grammatical logic of Uzbek has not been fully overridden by Tajik syntax regarding phrase construction.

### 2. Morpho-Syntactic Expression (Connective Means):

The text contrasts the tools used to link words.

- **Uzbek:** Relies on a synthetic-analytic system using case suffixes (accusative, dative, etc.) and postpositions (bilan, uchun).
- **Tajik:** Relies primarily on an analytic system using prepositions (ба, аз, дар), though it retains some postpositional markers (-ро, кати).
- **Observation:** The analysis shows that while the function of these elements is identical (marking objects or adverbials), the form and position relative to the noun differ strictly according to the typological nature of each language.

### 3. Convergence in Complex Syntax:

The analysis reveals that the strongest point of syntactic convergence lies in conjunctions.

- The article notes that the methods for forming compound and complex sentences are nearly identical.



## *Modern American Journal of Linguistics, Education, and Pedagogy*

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 01, Issue 09, December, 2025

Website: usajournals.org

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- Crucially, Uzbek has borrowed a vast array of subordinating and coordinating conjunctions (лекин, чунки, ки, агар) from Tajik (and Arabic via Tajik).

- Implication: This suggests that while the internal structure of simple sentences remains distinct, the "macro-syntax" (how sentences are joined into complex thoughts) in Uzbek has been significantly "Tajikized."

It is worth emphasizing specifically that these conjunctions, which are active in forming compound and complex sentences, were borrowed into the Uzbek language from the Tajik language. They are currently viewed as native form-building grammatical means of the Uzbek language's syntactic structure. Some of them originally belonged to the Arabic language but were borrowed into Uzbek through the medium of the Tajik language.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it can be said that, excluding materials of certain dialects or sub-dialects, the mutual influence specific to the syntactic structure of Uzbek and Tajik languages is much weaker and less active compared to the mutual influence specific to levels other than syntax.

1. **Fundamental Commonality:** The Uzbek and Tajik languages share a broad theoretical syntactic framework, including identical classifications of sentence parts, types of connection (coordination/subordination), and sentence categories.

2. **Typological Stability:** Despite close contact, the languages retain their unique typological "blueprints" regarding phrase formation. Uzbek maintains the Turkic left-branching structure (Modifier+Head), while Tajik often employs the Iranian right-branching structure (Head+Modifier).

3. **Divergence in Auxiliary Tools:** The primary difference in expressing dependency is the Uzbek reliance on case endings and postpositions versus the Tajik reliance on prepositions. However, Tajik does exhibit some influence from Turkic structures through the use of specific postpositions (e.g., барин, кати).

4. **Convergence in Conjunctions:** The most significant syntactic overlap is found in the system of conjunctions. Uzbek has absorbed the Tajik system of linking words for compound and complex sentences, treating these borrowed conjunctions as native grammatical tools.



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5. Hierarchy of Influence: The study concludes that syntactic influence between the two languages is present but is notably weaker and less active than lexical influence. The syntactic core of each language remains largely resistant to change, with the exception of sentence-linking mechanisms.

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***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,  
Education, and Pedagogy***

**ISSN (E): 3067-7874**

**Volume 01, Issue 09, December, 2025**

**Website: usajournals.org**

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