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COMPARATIVE SYNTACTIC STUDY OF SLANG EXPRESSIONS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This article investigates the syntactic characteristics of slang expressions in Uzbek and English from a comparative linguistic perspective. Slang represents a dynamic component of language that reflects social interaction, cultural identity, linguistic creativity, and the communicative preferences of particular speech communities. Although slang has traditionally been examined in terms of vocabulary, semantics, and word formation, its syntactic organization also provides important insights into the structural and functional properties of informal communication. The primary objective of this study is to identify the similarities and differences in the syntactic structures of slang expressions in Uzbek and English and to determine how the grammatical characteristics of the two languages influence their formation and use. Particular attention is given to ellipsis, syntactic reduction, phrase structure, word-order variation, incomplete constructions, and conventionalized expressions. The study adopts a comparative approach that considers both the formal organization of slang expressions and their communicative functions in context.
Keywords: Slang expressions, comparative syntax, Uzbek language, English language, syntactic structure, linguistic comparison, ellipsis, syntactic reduction, word order, informal discourse, sociolinguistics, pragmatic function.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada o‘zbek va ingliz tillaridagi sleng birliklarining sintaktik xususiyatlari qiyosiy-lingvistik nuqtayi nazardan tadqiq etiladi. Sleng tilning dinamik qatlamlaridan biri bo‘lib, muayyan nutq jamoalarining ijtimoiy munosabatlari, madaniy o‘ziga xosligi, lingvistik ijodkorligi va kommunikativ ehtiyojlarini aks ettiradi. Sleng an’anaviy ravishda leksik-semantik xususiyatlar hamda so‘z yasalishi nuqtayi nazaridan o‘rganilgan bo‘lsa-da, uning sintaktik tashkil topishi norasmiy muloqotning strukturaviy va funksional xususiyatlarini aniqlashda ham muhim ahamiyat kasb etadi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi o‘zbek va ingliz tillaridagi sleng birliklarining sintaktik tuzilishidagi o‘xshash va farqli jihatlarni aniqlash hamda har ikki tilning grammatik xususiyatlari ularning shakllanishi va qo‘llanishiga qanday ta’sir ko‘rsatishini yoritishdan iborat. Tadqiqotda ellipsis, sintaktik qisqarish, so‘z birikmalarining tuzilishi, so‘z tartibidagi o‘zgarishlar, to‘liq bo‘lmagan konstruksiyalar va turg‘unlashgan ifodalarga alohida e’tibor qaratiladi. Qiyosiy tahlil jarayonida sleng birliklarining formal tuzilishi bilan bir qatorda ularning kontekstdagi kommunikativ vazifalari ham hisobga olinadi.
Kalit so‘zlar: Sleng birliklari, qiyosiy sintaksis, o‘zbek tili, ingliz tili, sintaktik tuzilish, lingvistik qiyoslash, ellipsis, sintaktik qisqarish, so‘z tartibi, norasmiy diskurs, sotsiolingvistika, pragmatik vazifa

INTRODUCTION

Language functions not only as a means of exchanging information but also as a complex social and cultural system through which speakers construct identities, establish interpersonal relationships, and express their attitudes towards the surrounding world. Within this system, slang occupies a distinctive position as a dynamic form of informal language use characterized by lexical innovation, semantic flexibility, expressive potential, and context-dependent interpretation.

Slang expressions emerge and circulate within particular social environments, reflecting the communicative practices of different groups and the continuous interaction between language and society. Their linguistic significance extends beyond vocabulary because the ways in which slang expressions are combined, shortened, and incorporated into utterances reveal important features of syntactic organization and pragmatic communication.

In contemporary linguistics, the investigation of slang has increasingly moved beyond the description of individual words towards a broader examination of its structural, functional, and sociolinguistic characteristics. Slang expressions may occur as individual lexical items, multiword phrases, elliptical constructions, shortened clauses, or conventionalized conversational patterns. Their interpretation frequently depends on shared knowledge, communicative context, and the relationship between interlocutors. Consequently, the syntactic study of slang provides an opportunity to investigate how speakers employ grammatical resources creatively while maintaining communicative effectiveness in informal interaction. It also enables researchers to distinguish between grammatical structures that are specific to particular languages and tendencies that arise from the general requirements of spontaneous communication.

The comparative study of Uzbek and English slang is particularly relevant because the two languages differ substantially in their grammatical organization. Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language family and is characterized by agglutinative morphology, extensive suffixation, and a predominant subject–object–verb (SOV) word order. English, a Germanic language, generally follows a subject–verb–object (SVO) pattern and relies on a different combination of word order, auxiliary verbs, and morphological resources to express grammatical relationships. These typological differences provide a productive basis for examining how syntactic structures are organized in informal language and how speakers adapt grammatical patterns to particular communicative situations. For example, the English expression “Coming?” can function as an abbreviated conversational question corresponding to “Are you coming?” In Uzbek, the expression “Kelyapsanmi?” conveys a similar communicative meaning but constitutes a grammatically complete interrogative construction. This contrast demonstrates that expressions with comparable communicative functions do not necessarily exhibit the same syntactic structure. Similarly, the Uzbek sentence “Ketyapman” can convey the meaning of “I am leaving” without an overt subject pronoun because the verb form provides information about the speaker. English generally requires an explicit subject in a comparable declarative construction. Such differences illustrate the importance of distinguishing genuine syntactic reduction from grammatical patterns licensed by the structure of an individual language.

1. Theoretical foundations of slang from a syntactic perspective

Slang is an essential component of informal communication that reflects the social, cultural, and linguistic characteristics of a speech community. Although slang is traditionally studied from lexical and semantic perspectives, its syntactic features also deserve particular attention. The syntactic structure of slang expressions demonstrates how speakers adapt grammatical patterns to communicate emotions, establish social relationships, and convey information efficiently. A comparative analysis of Uzbek and English slang reveals both universal tendencies and language-specific structural characteristics.

In English, slang frequently appears in shortened sentences, elliptical constructions, imperative structures, and unconventional combinations of words. For example, the expression “You coming?” is a shortened form of “Are you coming?”. The auxiliary verb is omitted, but the communicative meaning remains clear in an informal context. Similarly, “Got it?” functions as a shortened version of “Have you got it?” or “Do you understand?”, depending on the situation. Such constructions illustrate the tendency of informal English to reduce grammatical elements when the context makes the intended meaning understandable.

Uzbek informal speech demonstrates comparable tendencies. For instance, “Kelyapsanmi?” means “Are you coming?”, while “Tushundingmi?” means “Did you understand?” or “Have you understood?”. In everyday conversation, speakers may also use shortened contextual forms such as “Kelyapsan?” and “Tushunding?”. These examples illustrate how informal communication can involve the reduction or omission of certain grammatical markers while preserving the central message.

However, the structural differences between English and Uzbek must also be considered. English generally follows a subject–verb–object (SVO) word order, whereas Uzbek predominantly follows a subject–object–verb (SOV) pattern. Consequently, slang expressions may exhibit different word-order patterns even when they perform similar communicative functions.

2. Ellipsis and sentence reduction in Uzbek and English slang

Ellipsis is one of the most common syntactic features of informal language. It involves the omission of words or grammatical elements that can be inferred from the context. In slang and colloquial speech, ellipsis helps speakers communicate rapidly and maintain a natural conversational rhythm.

In English, expressions such as “Coming with us?”, “Wanna go?”, and “Need a hand?” demonstrate different types of sentence reduction. The first expression omits the subject and auxiliary verb found in the full sentence “Are you coming with us?”. The second uses “wanna”, an informal representation of “want to”, while the third omits the subject and auxiliary verb from “Do you need a hand?”. Although these expressions are common in informal communication, their acceptability depends on context, register, and the relationship between speakers.

Uzbek informal speech also makes extensive use of ellipsis. For example, “Biz bilan borasanmi?” means “Are you going with us?”, while “Biz bilan-chi?” may mean “What about coming with us?” in an appropriate conversational context. The expression “Yordam kerakmi?” means “Do you need help?” and does not require an explicitly expressed subject. In Uzbek, the subject can often be omitted because verbal endings and the surrounding discourse provide sufficient information about the participants.

A significant difference between the two languages concerns grammatical marking. English often relies on word order and auxiliary verbs to indicate grammatical relationships, whereas Uzbek uses agglutinative morphology, including personal and interrogative suffixes. For example, the Uzbek form “Ketyapman” means “I am leaving.” The first-person subject men is not explicitly expressed because the verbal ending identifies the speaker.

In English, the corresponding sentence normally requires the subject pronoun: “I am leaving.” This difference demonstrates that syntactic reduction in Uzbek can be supported by grammatical information encoded within the verb.

3. Word order and syntactic flexibility

Word order plays an important role in distinguishing the syntactic characteristics of Uzbek and English slang. English generally maintains a relatively fixed word order, particularly in declarative sentences. Uzbek allows greater flexibility because grammatical relations are frequently indicated through case endings and other morphological markers.

For example, the standard English sentence “I like this song” follows the SVO pattern. In informal communication, a speaker might say “Love this song!”, omitting the subject and auxiliary element while retaining the main lexical verb. This construction is particularly common in digital communication, comments, and casual conversations.

In Uzbek, the corresponding expression may be “Bu qo‘shiqni yoqtiraman” (“I like this song”) or, in a more informal context, “Zo‘r qo‘shiq!” (“Great song!”). The second example represents a shift from a complete verbal clause to a nominal expression that communicates a positive evaluation. It illustrates how informal language frequently favors concise structures that express attitudes and emotions without requiring a full sentence.

Another example is the English expression “That movie? Total trash!” The sentence uses a short topical element followed by an evaluative noun phrase. In Uzbek, a comparable conversational structure is “U kino-chi? Umuman rasvo!” (“That movie? Absolutely terrible!”). Although the lexical and grammatical details differ, both examples demonstrate the use of fragmented structures to emphasize an opinion.

These examples suggest that syntactic flexibility in slang is not simply a matter of changing word order. It also involves the use of fragments, topicalization, incomplete clauses, and expressive constructions that are interpreted through context.

4. Interrogative and Imperative structures in slang

Questions and commands are particularly important in informal communication because they help speakers request information, express attitudes, and influence the behavior of others. In slang, these functions are often realized through shortened interrogative structures and direct imperatives.

In English, expressions such as “What’s up?”, “You good?”, and “Chill!” are widely used in informal interaction. “What’s up?” functions as a greeting or a request for information about someone's situation. “You good?” is an informal interrogative construction corresponding approximately to “Are you okay?” or “Are you all right?”. The imperative “Chill!” means “Relax!” and is commonly used to encourage someone to remain calm.

Comparable communicative functions can be observed in Uzbek informal speech. Expressions such as “Nima gap?” (“What’s up?”), “Yaxshimisan?” (“Are you okay?”), and “Tinchlan!” (“Calm down!”) are used in everyday communication. Depending on the relationship between speakers and the conversational situation, these expressions may sound friendly, concerned, impatient, or commanding.

The comparison shows that both languages use concise interrogative and imperative constructions in informal contexts. Nevertheless, their grammatical realization differs. English questions often involve auxiliary verbs or subject–auxiliary inversion, although informal speech frequently omits these elements. Uzbek questions commonly employ the interrogative particle -mi or other question-forming structures, as illustrated by “Yaxshimisan?”. Thus, similar communicative purposes are achieved through language-specific grammatical mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

The comparative syntactic study of slang expressions in Uzbek and English demonstrates that informal language is a dynamic linguistic phenomenon shaped by grammatical structures, communicative purposes, and sociocultural factors. Although the two languages differ considerably in their grammatical organization, both employ syntactic strategies that enable speakers to communicate efficiently, express emotions, and establish informal social relationships.

The analysis has revealed several similarities between Uzbek and English slang. These include the frequent use of ellipsis, shortened interrogative constructions, imperative expressions, sentence fragments, and context-dependent utterances. Such structures allow speakers to convey meaning without necessarily producing grammatically complete sentences. Expressions such as “You coming?” in English and “Kelyapsanmi?” in Uzbek illustrate how comparable communicative intentions can be expressed through different grammatical mechanisms.

At the same time, the comparison highlights important structural differences. English generally follows the subject–verb–object word order and frequently relies on auxiliary verbs in interrogative constructions. Uzbek predominantly follows the subject–object–verb pattern and uses an agglutinative grammatical system in which suffixes express personal, interrogative, and other grammatical meanings. Consequently, subject omission and sentence reduction may operate differently in the two languages. For example, the Uzbek expression “Ketyapman” communicates the meaning of “I am leaving” without an explicitly expressed subject, whereas standard English normally requires the subject pronoun.

The findings also suggest that slang should not be regarded exclusively as a collection of informal lexical items. Its syntactic dimension includes the organization of phrases and clauses, the omission of grammatical elements, the use of non-sentential expressions, and the adaptation of grammatical patterns to particular communicative situations. Digital communication further encourages brevity and the use of context-dependent constructions, although spelling abbreviations and lexical slang should be distinguished from specifically syntactic phenomena.

In conclusion, a comparative approach to Uzbek and English slang provides valuable insights into the relationship between grammatical structure and informal communication. The similarities identified in the two languages reflect common communicative needs, while their differences demonstrate the influence of language-specific grammatical systems. Further research could examine naturally occurring conversations, social media discourse, and youth communication to establish more systematic classifications of slang constructions and determine how their syntactic features vary according to age, social group, communicative context, and language use.

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