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SYNTACTIC PATTERNS OF YOUTH SLANG IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This article examines the syntactic patterns of youth slang in Uzbek and English, focusing on the structural features, grammatical transformations, and communicative functions of informal expressions used by young people. Youth slang represents a dynamic component of language that reflects social identity, cultural values, group affiliation, and changes in everyday communication. The study aims to identify similarities and differences in the syntactic organization of youth slang in the two languages. Particular attention is paid to sentence simplification, ellipsis, abbreviation, the omission of grammatical elements, unconventional word order, and the use of fixed and semi-fixed expressions in informal communication.
Keywords: Youth slang, syntax, syntactic patterns, Uzbek language, English language, comparative linguistics, sociolinguistics, ellipsis, sentence structure, informal communication, digital discourse**.**

O'ZBEK VA INGLIZ TILLARIDA YOSHLAR SLENGINING SINTAKTIK MODELLARI

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada o‘zbek va ingliz tillaridagi yoshlar slengining sintaktik modellari, ularning strukturaviy xususiyatlari, grammatik o‘zgarishlari hamda norasmiy muloqotdagi kommunikativ vazifalari qiyosiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Yoshlar slengi tilning dinamik qatlamlaridan biri bo‘lib, yoshlarning ijtimoiy o‘ziga xosligi, madaniy qadriyatlari, muayyan guruhga mansubligi va kundalik muloqotidagi o‘zgarishlarni aks ettiradi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi o‘zbek va ingliz tillarida qo‘llanadigan yoshlar slengining sintaktik tashkil topishidagi o‘xshash va farqli jihatlarni aniqlashdan iborat. Maqolada gaplarning soddalashuvi, ellipsis hodisasi, qisqartmalar, grammatik elementlarning tushirib qoldirilishi, nostandart so‘z tartibi hamda turg‘un va qisman turg‘un birikmalarning qo‘llanishiga alohida e’tibor qaratiladi.
Kalit so‘zlar: Yoshlar slengi, sintaksis, sintaktik modellar, o‘zbek tili, ingliz tili, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, sotsiolingvistika, ellipsis, gap tuzilishi, norasmiy muloqot, raqamli diskurs.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic social phenomenon that continuously develops in response to cultural transformations, technological innovations, and changes in human interaction. Among the various forms of contemporary language use, youth slang occupies a significant position because it reflects the linguistic creativity, social identity, and communicative preferences of younger generations. As an informal and constantly evolving component of language, youth slang frequently involves innovative vocabulary, modified grammatical structures, shortened expressions, and unconventional patterns of sentence construction. Therefore, its investigation provides valuable insights into the relationship between linguistic structure and social behaviour.

In contemporary linguistics, youth slang is increasingly studied as a sociolinguistic phenomenon associated with group identity, interpersonal relationships, and the development of new communicative practices. Young speakers often employ slang to express emotions, establish solidarity, demonstrate belonging to a particular social group, and distinguish their communication

from more formal varieties of language. These functions are not limited to vocabulary alone. They may also be reflected in syntactic structures, including elliptical constructions, incomplete sentences, shortened questions, omitted grammatical elements, and unconventional combinations of linguistic units. Such features demonstrate that youth slang can be analysed not only from a lexical perspective but also as a distinctive form of syntactic organization within informal discourse.

The syntactic characteristics of youth slang are particularly relevant when comparing languages with different grammatical structures. Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language family and is generally characterized by agglutinative morphology and a subject–object–verb (SOV) word order. English, by contrast, is a Germanic language in which subject–verb–object (SVO) order plays a central role in the organization of declarative sentences. These typological differences provide an important basis for investigating how grammatical structure influences the formation, modification, and interpretation of slang expressions. Although both languages demonstrate considerable flexibility in informal communication, the mechanisms through which young speakers simplify sentences, omit elements, and create expressive constructions may differ according to the grammatical resources of each language.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The present study adopts a qualitative comparative approach to investigate the syntactic patterns of youth slang in Uzbek and English, focusing on their structural organization, grammatical characteristics, and pragmatic functions in informal communication. The methodological framework integrates descriptive, comparative, structural, and contextual methods of linguistic analysis to identify the principal mechanisms through which youth slang expressions are constructed and used in the two languages. This approach is grounded in the understanding that slang represents not merely a collection of informal lexical items but also a dynamic linguistic phenomenon shaped by grammatical conventions, communicative intentions, social relationships, and the evolving practices of contemporary discourse. Accordingly, the analysis examines syntactic structures as meaningful components of youth communication, taking into consideration both the formal organization of utterances and the contexts in which they occur.

The research materials comprise informal expressions, conversational utterances, and syntactic constructions associated with youth communication in Uzbek and English. Particular attention is given to linguistic phenomena such as ellipsis, syntactic reduction, incomplete sentence structures, non-standard word order, abbreviated constructions, and recurrent conversational patterns. Materials suitable for analysis may be obtained from publicly accessible digital communication, social media discourse, online discussions, slang dictionaries, and relevant linguistic publications. The selection of examples is based on their relevance to informal youth communication, the presence of identifiable syntactic features, and the availability of sufficient contextual information to support linguistic interpretation. The data selection process also considers the comparability of communicative functions across the two languages, since structurally different expressions may perform similar pragmatic functions in particular contexts. To avoid an exclusively translation-based comparison, Uzbek and English examples are initially examined within their respective grammatical systems and subsequently compared according to their structural properties and communicative purposes.

The descriptive method is employed to identify and characterize the formal features of individual slang constructions, including their constituent elements, grammatical organization, and relationship between syntactic form and communicative meaning. Structural analysis is used to classify the collected expressions according to recurring syntactic configurations and to determine the linguistic mechanisms involved in their formation. Particular emphasis is placed on distinguishing syntactic ellipsis from other forms of reduction, lexical abbreviation, and conventional grammatical patterns. Ellipsis is examined as the omission of an element that can be

interpreted or recovered from the linguistic or situational context, whereas syntactic reduction refers more broadly to the use of shortened constructions that convey a communicatively sufficient message. Non-standard word order is analysed in relation to the conventional grammatical patterns of each language, taking into account the distinction between established grammatical variation and genuinely unconventional constructions. This distinction is essential because the structural properties of informal language cannot be adequately described without reference to the grammatical norms and typological characteristics of the language under investigation.

The comparative method provides the principal analytical basis for identifying similarities and differences between Uzbek and English youth slang. Uzbek, as an agglutinative Turkic language, generally exhibits subject–object–verb ordering, while English predominantly follows subject–verb–object ordering in declarative clauses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The comparative analysis of youth slang in Uzbek and English reveals several syntactic tendencies associated with informality, linguistic economy, contextual dependence, and expressive communication. Although the two languages differ in their grammatical structures and conventional word order, informal youth discourse in both languages demonstrates a tendency to employ shortened utterances, omit recoverable linguistic elements, use conventionalized expressions, and adapt sentence structures to the immediate communicative situation. These tendencies indicate that youth slang should be examined not exclusively as a lexical phenomenon but also as a form of language use in which syntactic structure interacts with pragmatic meaning and social context. The following analysis identifies the principal syntactic patterns observed in illustrative Uzbek and English examples. The examples are intended to demonstrate the relevant linguistic phenomena; they are illustrative rather than the results of a quantified corpus study.

One of the most prominent syntactic features of informal youth communication in both languages is ellipsis, which involves the omission of linguistic elements that can be recovered from the surrounding context. In English, the expression “Coming?” may function as a shortened form of “Are you coming?”, while “Got it?” may be used in place of “Have you got it?” or “Do you understand?” depending on the communicative situation. In Uzbek, comparable examples include “Kelyapsanmi?” and “Tushundingmi?”, which can be used as complete interrogative sentences in appropriate contexts. A more explicitly elliptical Uzbek example is “Darsga borasanmi?” — “Boraman” (“Are you going to class?” — “I am”). In this exchange, the response does not repeat the phrase “darsga”, because its meaning is recoverable from the preceding question. Similarly, an English exchange such as “Are you going to class?” — “I am” demonstrates the omission of repeated material. These examples show that ellipsis is present in both languages, although the specific grammatical elements omitted and the structures that remain differ according to the grammatical resources of each language. It is also important to distinguish genuine ellipsis from grammatical forms that are complete in their own right. For instance, the Uzbek forms “Kelyapsanmi?” and “Tushundingmi?” are grammatically complete because verbal morphology identifies the relevant grammatical information; they should not automatically be classified as elliptical constructions.

Another characteristic pattern is syntactic reduction, whereby speakers use short clauses or compressed expressions to communicate attitudes, evaluations, and reactions efficiently. English youth communication frequently employs expressions such as “Sounds good!”, “No way!”, “My bad!”, and “Fair enough!” These constructions can convey agreement, disbelief, acknowledgement of responsibility, or acceptance without requiring a fully elaborated sentence. Comparable Uzbek expressions include “Zo‘r-ku!”, “Bo‘lishi mumkin emas!”, “Mening xatoyim!”, and “Mayli, tushunarli!” Their syntactic structures are not necessarily identical to those of their English counterparts, but they can perform comparable communicative functions. For example, “My bad!” is a conventional informal expression of responsibility, whereas “Mening xatoyim!” is a more

literal Uzbek equivalent and may sound less idiomatic in some conversational contexts than "O‘zim aybdorman" or "Xato mendan o‘tdi". This comparison illustrates that functional equivalence does not always entail structural or lexical equivalence. In both languages, short expressions can constitute effective communicative turns because their interpretation depends on shared knowledge and the immediate conversational context.

The comparative analysis of syntactic patterns in Uzbek and English youth slang demonstrates that informal communication is characterized by the interaction of grammatical structure, contextual interpretation, and communicative purpose. The examples examined in the Results section indicate that both languages employ shortened utterances, elliptical constructions, context-dependent fragments, and conventionalized expressions to facilitate interaction and convey information efficiently. Nevertheless, these shared tendencies do not necessarily represent identical grammatical processes. Their realization depends on the structural characteristics of each language, the communicative context, and the conventional practices of individual speech communities. Therefore, the syntactic organization of youth slang should be interpreted through a comparative framework that distinguishes general tendencies in informal communication from language-specific grammatical mechanisms.

One of the most significant findings concerns the relationship between ellipsis and communicative economy. In English, expressions such as "Coming?" and "Seen him lately?" may occur in informal conversation as reduced interrogative constructions. Their interpretation depends on contextual information that allows interlocutors to reconstruct omitted grammatical material. In Uzbek, the omission of an overt subject pronoun, as in "Ketyapman" instead of "Men ketyapman," is generally permitted by the grammatical structure of the language because person-related information is expressed through verbal morphology. These examples illustrate an important typological distinction: while English informal communication may employ the omission of elements that would ordinarily appear in a fully formed clause, Uzbek frequently allows subject omission as a regular grammatical option. Consequently, not every shortened Uzbek utterance should be classified as slang or syntactic ellipsis. This distinction is essential for avoiding inaccurate generalizations in cross-linguistic research.

The findings can also be interpreted in relation to the concept of linguistic economy. In everyday interaction, speakers frequently prioritize the efficient transmission of information, particularly when the communicative situation provides sufficient contextual support. Expressions such as "Sounds good!" and "No way!" in English, as well as "Zo‘r-ku!" and "Bo‘lishi mumkin emas!" in Uzbek, demonstrate how relatively short constructions can communicate evaluations, emotional reactions, or interpersonal attitudes. Their effectiveness does not depend exclusively on grammatical brevity but also on conventional meaning, shared knowledge, and the expectations of interlocutors. Nevertheless, linguistic economy should not be regarded as the sole explanation for youth slang. Expressiveness, humour, social identification, and the desire to establish informal relationships may also influence the selection of particular constructions.

CONCLUSION

The present study has examined the syntactic patterns of youth slang in Uzbek and English from a comparative linguistic perspective, focusing on sentence reduction, ellipsis, context-dependent fragments, word-order variation, conventionalized expressions, and the influence of digital communication. The analysis demonstrates that the syntactic organization of informal youth discourse is closely connected with grammatical structure, contextual interpretation, and communicative purpose. Although Uzbek and English differ in their predominant word-order patterns and grammatical systems, both languages provide speakers with resources for producing concise, expressive, and contextually appropriate utterances.

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