

COMPARING WORD ORDER IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK SENTENCES

Sherimatova Ozoda Shomurod qizi

Chirchik State Pedagogical University 4th year student of the Faculty of Tourism,
 Foreign Language and Literature (English)

E-mail: aliozoda19972002@gmail.com

Rozikova Zilola Tursunboy qizi

Supervisor: Teacher of Chirchik Pedagogical University

E-mail: rozikova1625@gmail.com

z.rozikova@cspu.uz

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15480322>

Abstract: Word order plays a crucial role in sentence structure, meaning, and clarity in any language. English and Uzbek differ significantly in this aspect: English follows SVO, while Uzbek primarily uses SOV. This difference influences sentence formation and emphasis. These differences affect emphasis, sentence interpretation, and overall communication strategies. In English, altering word order can lead to ungrammatical sentences or change the intended meaning. In contrast, Uzbek allows for greater flexibility, enabling speakers to shift emphasis without losing grammatical correctness. This paper explores the fundamental differences between English and Uzbek word order, examining their impact on sentence formation, emphasis, and question structures. Understanding these distinctions is essential for linguists, translators, and language learners seeking to master both languages.

Keywords: word order, syntax, English, Uzbek, Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), Subject-Object-Verb (SOV), sentence structure, emphasis, question formation, linguistics.

Soʻz tartibi har qanday tilda gap tuzilishi, maʼno va aniqlikka katta taʼsir koʻrsatadi. Ingliz va oʻzbek tillari bu jihatdan sezilarli farq qiladi: ingliz tili SVO (ega – kesim – toʻldiruvchi) tartibiga amal qilsa, oʻzbek tili asosan SOV (ega – toʻldiruvchi – kesim) tizimini qoʻllaydi. Ushbu farq gap tuzilishi va urgʻu berish usullariga taʼsir koʻrsatadi. Ingliz tilida soʻz tartibini oʻzgartirish gapning grammatik toʻgʻriligiga yoki maʼnosiga taʼsir qilishi mumkin. Biroq, oʻzbek tilida soʻzlarning joylashuvi ancha moslashuvchan boʻlib, grammatik xatolarga yoʻl qoʻymagan holda urgʻuni oʻzgartirish imkonini beradi. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va oʻzbek tillarining soʻz tartibidagi asosiy farqlari, ularning gap tuzilishi, urgʻu va savol shakllanishiga taʼsiri tahlil qilinadi. Ushbu farqlarni tushunish tilshunoslar, tarjimonlar va har ikkala tilni oʻrganayotganlar uchun muhimdir.

Kalit soʻzlar: soʻz tartibi, sintaksis, ingliz tili, oʻzbek tili, SVO, SOV, gap tuzilishi, urgʻu, savol tuzilishi, tilshunoslik.

INTRODUCTION

Word order plays a crucial role in meaning, clarity, and grammatical accuracy in any language. English and Uzbek differ significantly in word order: English follows SVO, while Uzbek primarily uses SOV. This difference affects sentence formation, emphasis, and communication strategies. In English, word order is relatively fixed, meaning that altering the sequence can change the meaning or render a sentence ungrammatical. In Uzbek, word order is much more flexible compared to English. This flexibility greatly affects the natural flow of speech and the ability to emphasize certain parts of a sentence. Although the Subject-Object-

Verb (SOV) structure is the most common, the placement of words within a sentence is relatively free, meaning that rearranging them does not change the fundamental meaning but rather determines what aspect of the sentence is emphasized. For instance, if a speaker wants to highlight a specific detail, they can move certain words to the beginning of the sentence to draw attention to them. Unlike English, where word order strictly follows grammatical rules, Uzbek allows more flexibility without making a sentence incorrect, though it influences how it is understood in context. Therefore, in Uzbek, word placement is not strictly grammatically restricted but plays a crucial role in shaping the meaning and stylistic nuances of speech. Unlike English, where verbs typically appear after the subject, Uzbek allows more flexibility in word order, though the typical placement of words still influences emphasis and context. Additionally, Uzbek verbs generally appear at the end of the sentence, meaning the full meaning unfolds progressively.

This article explores the following aspects in detail: Basic sentence structures: A comparison of English and Uzbek word order rules. Word order flexibility: The strict nature of English versus the adaptable structure of Uzbek. Placement of adjectives and modifiers: How descriptive words are positioned in each language. Question formation: The different ways in which questions are structured.

Emphasis strategies: How word order can highlight specific words or ideas.

Understanding these differences is essential for translators, language learners, and linguists, as it provides deeper insights into the syntactic structures of both languages.

Basic Word Order: English vs. Uzbek.

In English, the basic word order follows the Subject (S) – Verb (V) – Object (O) structure. This means that the subject comes first, followed by the verb, and then the object.

Examples:

1. I (S) read (V) a book (O). (Men kitob o‘qiyman.) 2. She (S) eats (V) an apple (O). (U olma yeydi.) 3. They (S) watch (V) a movie (O). (Ular film tomosha qilishadi.)

This structure is fixed and essential for grammatical correctness in English. Unlike Uzbek, where words can be rearranged without changing the fundamental meaning, altering the word order in English can make a sentence unclear, incorrect, or entirely change its meaning.

In Uzbek, the typical word order follows the Subject (S) – Object (O) – Verb (V) pattern. This structure is characteristic of many Turkish languages, where the verb typically comes at the end of sentences, ensuring the full formation of meaning. The flexibility of Uzbek word order significantly impacts emphasis and meaning in a sentence. For example, while ‘Kitobni men o‘qidim’ and ‘Men kitobni o‘qidim’ may seem similar in meaning, the first sentence emphasizes ‘kitob’ (the book), while the second one emphasizes ‘men’ (I). In contrast, in English, changing word order often results in grammatically incorrect sentences.”

Examples:

1. Men (S) kitobni (O) o‘qiyman (V). 2. U (S) olmani (O) yeydi (V).

Unlike English, in Uzbek, a thought is fully formed by the end of the sentence, as the verb is positioned at the final part.

The Effect of Placing the Verb at the End

1. Pronunciation and Emphasis: Since the verb comes at the end in Uzbek, listeners must pay attention to the final part of the sentence. For example: "Men bugun juda qiziqarli kitobni..." (If the sentence stops here, the meaning is incomplete.) Adding the verb: "Men bugun juda qiziqarli kitobni o'qiyapman." (Now the full meaning is clear.)

2. Emphasis and Focus: The flexibility of Uzbek word order allows shifting emphasis by rearranging words, but the verb usually remains at the end: "Men kitobni o'qiyman." (Neutral statement.) "Kitobni men o'qiyman." (Emphasizing "I" as the subject.) "Men o'qiyman kitobni." (Uncommon, but seen in poetic or literary language.)

3. Question Formation: In Uzbek, questions generally follow the same SOV structure, with the question marker placed at the end: "Siz bugun kitob o'qiyapsizmi?" (Are you reading a book today?) "U bu yerda ishlaydimi?" (Does he/she work here?) Since the verb is positioned at the end, the question structure also follows this natural order.

The Rigidity of English Word Order.

English has a strict syntactic structure, meaning that word order determines who is performing the action and who is receiving it. If the order is changed, the sentence can become grammatically incorrect or take on an entirely different meaning.

Impact of Changing Word Order.

1. Loss of Meaning or Unintelligibility. Correct: She eats an apple. (U olma yeydi.) Incorrect: Eats she an apple. (This structure is ungrammatical in standard English.)

2. Complete Change in Meaning. Correct: The dog chased the cat. (It means the dog is the one running after the cat.) Incorrect: The cat chased the dog. (Now the subject and object have been swapped, reversing the meaning.)

3. Confusion in Sentence Interpretation. Correct: John loves Mary. (John is the one loving Mary.) Incorrect: Mary loves John. (This changes who is the subject and who is the object.)

2. The Rigidity and Flexibility of Word Order.

Fixed Word Order in English. In English, word order is strictly determined, meaning that changing the order of words can result in grammatical errors or alter the meaning of a sentence. This is because English relies heavily on syntax (word order) rather than inflections (word endings) to indicate grammatical relationships between words.

Examples: Correct: John eats an apple. (John is the one performing the action.) Incorrect: Eats John an apple. (This structure is grammatically incorrect.) Changed Meaning: An apple eats John. (The subject and object have been reversed, completely changing the meaning.)

Since English does not use case markers to show grammatical roles (unlike Uzbek), the position of words within a sentence is crucial for conveying meaning. If the word order is altered, the sentence may become unclear, incorrect, or nonsensical.

Flexible Word Order in Uzbek.

Unlike English, Uzbek allows for greater flexibility in word order while maintaining the same meaning. This is because Uzbek, like other Turkic languages, uses case markers (e.g., -ni for objects, -da for location) to indicate grammatical relationships, rather than relying strictly on word order. However, one consistent feature of Uzbek syntax is that the verb usually appears at the end of the sentence. The placement of other elements, such as the subject and object, can be adjusted for emphasis or stylistic variation. Examples: Neutral structure: Men kitobni o'qiyman. (I read a book.) Emphasizing the object: Kitobni men o'qiyman. (It is the

book that I read.) Poetic or emphatic variation: O'qiyman men kitobni. (Strong emphasis on the action of reading.)

Feature	English (Fixed Order)	Uzbek (Flexible Order)
Typical Structure	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Subject-Object-Verb (SOV)
Word Order Changes	Alters Meaning or creates errors	Allows variation without losing meaning
Case Makers	Rare (only in pronouns)	Used to indicate subject/object roles
Verb Position	Appears in the middle	Usually at the end of the sentence

Because Uzbek uses grammatical markers to indicate the subject and object, the meaning of a sentence remains clear even when word order is changed. This contrasts sharply with English, where word order changes can result in grammatical mistakes or altered meanings.

Key Differences Between English and Uzbek Word Order: The contrast between English's rigid word order and Uzbek's flexible structure highlights a key syntactic difference - affecting sentence structure, emphasis, and communication strategies.

Word order changes end English and Uzbek.

In English, changing the word order can completely alter the meaning of a sentence. Examples: "The cat chased the dog." (The cat chased the dog.) "The dog chased the cat." (The dog chased the cat.) Here, simply changing the word order helps distinguish the subject and the object. **Emphasis and Word Order in Uzbek Pragmatic and Stylistic Aspects.** In addition to affecting grammatical structure, word order also influences emphasis, meaning, and style in speech. Since Uzbek has a flexible word order, intonation and stress play a crucial role in communication. Consider the following examples: Men kitobni o'qiyman. ("I read the book.") – A neutral statement. Kitobni men o'qiyman. ("It is the book that I read.") – The emphasis is on kitob (the book), indicating that a specific book is being read. Men o'qiyman kitobni. – This structure is uncommon in daily speech but can be found in poetry or literary writing for stylistic effect. In contrast, English relies more on fixed word order rather than intonation to convey emphasis. English speakers use auxiliary verbs or cleft sentences to highlight specific words (I do read books! or It is the book that I read.). Another important aspect of Uzbek word order flexibility is its regional variations. Different dialects may prefer different word orders to emphasize certain elements: In standard Uzbek (e.g., in Tashkent), the usual structure is "Men maktabga boraman" ("I go to school"). In some dialects (e.g., in Qashqadaryo or Khorezm), speakers might say "Maktabga men boraman", putting emphasis on the subject (men – I). These variations not only reflect grammatical differences but also impact the psychological and social aspects of communication. Because Uzbek verbs typically appear at the end of a sentence, the listener must wait until the end to fully grasp the meaning. This affects speech rhythm and comprehension. In contrast, English provides key information early in the sentence since the verb usually follows the subject immediately. This fundamental difference influences how speakers process and interpret information in each language,

demonstrating that word order is not just a matter of grammar but also of communication strategy and stylistic choice.

In Uzbek, meaning can change through emphasis and suffixes. Examples: "Mening ukam do'stini ko'rdi." (My brother saw his friend.) "Mening do'stim ukamni ko'rdi." (My friend saw my brother.) Even when Uzbek word order changes, possessive and case suffixes clarify the meaning.

Question formation in English and Uzbek.

In English, questions are formed using inversion (word order change) or by adding auxiliary verbs (do, does, did, is, are, was, were). Examples: "He is reading a book." → "Is he reading a book?". "They went to school." → "Did they go to school?". "She writes letters." → "Does she write letters?" In Uzbek, questions are formed using question particles (mi, -chi, -a), and the sentence structure remains unchanged. "U kitob o'qiyapti." → "U kitob o'qiyaptimi?". "Ular maktabga borishdi." → "Ular maktabga borishdimi? Unlike English, Uzbek forms questions by adding a marker at the end of the sentence, without requiring inversion or auxiliary verbs.

CONCLUSION

The differences in sentence structure between Uzbek and English play an important role in language learning. While English follows a strict SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) structure, Uzbek has a more flexible SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) system. Question formation and emphasis strategies also vary between the two languages. Understanding these features in depth greatly aids language learning and translation. These differences in word order have practical implications for language learning, especially for speakers transitioning between Uzbek and English. One of the biggest challenges is word order interference, where learners unconsciously apply the sentence structure of their native language to the target language. For Uzbek speakers, mastering the rigid Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure in English can be challenging. Common mistakes include: Placing the verb at the end of a sentence, as in Uzbek: "She an apple eats" instead of "She eats an apple." Misplacing adjectives or modifiers: "He a book interesting reads" instead of "He reads an interesting book." Difficulty forming questions due to the need for inversion or auxiliary verbs: "You today school go?" instead of "Do you go to school today?" For English speakers learning Uzbek, the main challenge is adapting to its flexible word order and the reliance on case markers instead of strict positioning. Typical mistakes include: Keeping English-style SVO order, making sentences sound unnatural in Uzbek: "Men o'qiyman kitobni" instead of "Men kitobni o'qiyman." Forgetting case markers, which are crucial for clarity: "Men kitob o'qiyapman." (without -ni) might cause ambiguity. Struggling with Uzbek's question formation, since English relies on word order changes, while Uzbek uses particles (mi, -chi, -a). Understanding these structural differences is essential for avoiding common errors and achieving fluency in both languages. Teachers and learners should focus on not just memorizing rules, but also practicing natural sentence construction through exposure and active use in real communication. By recognizing these challenges, language learners can develop strategies to overcome them, such as paying special attention to verb placement, using case markers correctly, and practicing common sentence patterns. This highlights the importance of not only grammar but also the broader cognitive and communicative aspects of language learning.

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