

SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF MODERN UZBEK SYNTAX

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Abstract. This article examines the main features and distinctive aspects of modern Uzbek syntax, focusing on the evolution of syntactic structures, the interaction between traditional grammatical categories and modern linguistic tendencies, and the influence of typological and communicative factors. Uzbek syntax, as a Turkic system, is characterized by agglutinative morphology, postpositional structure, and a relatively flexible but functionally motivated word order. In the context of globalization and digital communication, contemporary Uzbek shows significant syntactic dynamism, reflecting processes of language modernization, bilingual interference, and stylistic diversification. The study explores the peculiarities of sentence composition, syntactic parallelism, and pragmatic word order changes in modern Uzbek discourse.

Keywords: Uzbek syntax, sentence structure, word order, typology, discourse, agglutination, communicative function, modern Uzbek language.

INTRODUCTION

Syntax represents one of the most dynamic and analytically complex levels of the Uzbek language system. Over the last century, Uzbek syntax has undergone remarkable transformations influenced by social, cultural, and technological developments. While its typological foundation remains rooted in the Turkic language family — with agglutination, subject-object-verb (SOV) order, and the predominance of postpositions — modern Uzbek demonstrates increasing structural and stylistic flexibility. This is particularly evident in spoken and media discourse, where new syntactic constructions, ellipsis, and hybrid sentence models are emerging. The study of modern Uzbek syntax, therefore, is essential not only for descriptive linguistics but also for understanding broader socio-linguistic processes such as modernization, bilingualism, and linguistic identity formation [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Uzbek language, like other Turkic languages, is agglutinative, meaning that grammatical relations are expressed through affixation rather than prepositions or word inflections. This morphological structure directly influences syntactic organization. Uzbek syntax typically follows a Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) pattern, though this order can vary depending on emphasis and communicative intent. The verb is the central element of the Uzbek sentence, functioning as the syntactic and semantic nucleus that determines agreement, modality, and aspect.

Another typological feature is the use of postpositions instead of prepositions. For instance, relations equivalent to English “in,” “on,” or “with” are expressed by postpositional elements such as *bilan* (“with”), *uchun* (“for”), *ichida* (“in”). This postpositional character contributes to the head-final syntactic structure typical of Uzbek, where dependent elements precede the head they modify — a principle consistent across both phrases and clauses [2].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

While the canonical word order in Uzbek is SOV, syntactic flexibility plays a crucial communicative role. Word order variations are primarily used to highlight pragmatic focus and information structure rather than to express grammatical relations. For example:

- *Men kitobni o'qidim* ("I read the book") — neutral statement.
- *Kitobni men o'qidim* ("It was I who read the book") — contrastive focus on the subject.

Such rearrangements do not alter the core grammatical meaning but serve to express emphasis, contrast, or topic-comment relations. This flexibility distinguishes modern Uzbek syntax as functionally dynamic, capable of encoding subtle nuances of discourse context.

In addition, spoken Uzbek frequently demonstrates syntactic compression — the omission of redundant elements like subjects or auxiliary verbs when they are pragmatically inferable. For instance, in colloquial speech, *Ketayapman* ("I'm going") is often shortened to *Ketaman*, maintaining grammatical coherence while increasing communicative efficiency [3].

Modern Uzbek exhibits a rich system of complex and compound sentences, built through subordination (*ergash gap*) and coordination (*bog'langan gap*). Subordinate clauses are typically introduced by conjunctions such as *agar* ("if"), *chunki* ("because"), *garchi* ("although"), and *shuning uchun* ("therefore"). The placement of subordinate clauses before the main clause aligns with the head-final nature of Uzbek syntax.

For example:

- *Agar u kelsa, biz boshlaymiz* ("If he comes, we will start").

In literary and academic registers, complex sentences are characterized by multi-level subordination and participial constructions, reflecting stylistic precision and logical cohesion. This hierarchical structure is less rigid in conversational Uzbek, where clause boundaries are often blurred by ellipsis and intonation.

A distinctive feature of modern Uzbek syntax is its tendency toward syntactic economy, particularly in oral and digital communication. Ellipsis — the omission of predictable grammatical components — is widespread in everyday speech and online discourse. This phenomenon is not merely simplification but a functional adaptation to rapid communication. Examples include dropping subjects (*Bordim* — "(I) went") and auxiliaries (*Boribman* → *Borganman* → *Borgan*), which rely on contextual inference. Such features illustrate the adaptability of Uzbek syntax to technological and communicative change without losing grammatical clarity [4].

Contemporary Uzbek syntax increasingly reflects the influence of Russian and English through calques, syntactic borrowing, and code-switching. Hybrid sentence patterns such as *Men meetingga boraman* ("I'll go to the meeting") or *Internetdan search qilaman* ("I'll search on the Internet") demonstrate lexical and syntactic integration. While some scholars view this as erosion of syntactic purity, others consider it a natural stage in the evolution of a multilingual society. In any case, these syntactic hybridizations indicate the expanding functional range of modern Uzbek, where international terminology coexists with native structures [5].

Modern Uzbek syntax is marked by increasing stylistic differentiation across genres. Formal and academic registers retain full, logically structured sentences, whereas journalistic, social media, and conversational registers favor fragmented and expressive syntax. Pragmatic devices such as repetition, parallelism, inversion, and rhetorical ellipsis enhance emotional intensity and discourse rhythm. This stylistic richness demonstrates how Uzbek syntax serves not only grammatical purposes but also aesthetic and communicative functions, adapting flexibly to different contexts.

Modern Uzbek syntax extends beyond individual sentences to the level of textual or discourse syntax, which organizes coherence across multiple sentences. This field, often termed syntactic

textology, studies how clauses and sentences are linked semantically and grammatically in longer stretches of discourse. Uzbek achieves cohesion primarily through conjunctions, lexical repetition, demonstrative pronouns, and postpositional references. For example, words such as *shuning uchun* (“therefore”), *biroq* (“however”), and *demak* (“thus”) perform syntactic linking functions that maintain logical progression.

In contemporary academic and journalistic writing, Uzbek exhibits a trend toward syntactic integration, where sentences are connected in complex networks of subordination and coordination to convey precise logical relations. By contrast, in spoken and online registers, coherence relies more heavily on thematic repetition and prosodic continuity than on explicit grammatical connectors. Thus, text syntax in modern Uzbek reflects the functional duality between written complexity and spoken economy.

CONCLUSION

The study of modern Uzbek syntax reveals a linguistic system that preserves its typological foundation while evolving in response to new communicative realities. The essential features — agglutinative morphology, postpositional structure, and head-final clause order — continue to define its grammatical identity. At the same time, modern usage demonstrates dynamic tendencies: flexible word order, pragmatic ellipsis, and syntactic hybridization influenced by multilingual interaction. These developments show that Uzbek syntax is not static but an adaptive mechanism, reflecting both traditional heritage and global linguistic modernity. Understanding these specific aspects is crucial for linguistic research, language teaching, and digital language processing, as they illustrate the ongoing vitality of the Uzbek grammatical system in the 21st century.

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