

WORD ORDER STRUCTURE AND ITS SYNTACTIC FEATURES IN ENGLISH

*Gulzada Otambetova

2-Year Masters' Degree Student, the Department of English
Linguistics at Karakalpak State University

G. Tlewmuratov

*Supervisor, A Candidate of Philological Sciences at the
Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh

Abstract

Hierarchical structure and argument structure along with widely studied properties of natural language are paramount. This article provides the aspects of language from a range of perspectives, touching on a number of fundamental issues, notably the word structure and variation in subject properties across languages.

Keywords: Syntax, approach, word order, predicate, subject, object, a compound-complex sentence, linguistics, typology.

Introduction

It is natural to have misunderstanding what the word order is and its needs in learning any language, even toddler naturally encounters making right word formation such as the subject mixed with object and predicate is often used in plural form along with wrong tenses. We can not say that it is not impossible to recognize word order and use correctly. In linguistics, syntax (/ˈsɪntæks/) ¹is the study of how words and morphemes combine to form larger units such as phrases and sentences. Central concerns of syntax include word order, grammatical relations, hierarchical sentence structure (constituency), agreement, the nature of cross linguistic variation, and the relationship between form and meaning (semantics). There are numerous approaches to syntax that differ in their central assumptions and goals.

The field of syntax contains a number of various topics that a syntactic theory is often designed to handle. The relation between the topics is treated differently in different theories, and some of them may not be considered to be distinct but instead to be derived from one another (i.e. word order can be seen as the result of movement rules derived from grammatical relations).

¹ Wikipedia

One basic description of a language's syntax is the sequence in which the subject (S), verb (V), and object (O) usually appear in sentences. Over 85% of languages usually place the subject first, either in the sequence SVO or the sequence SOV. The other possible sequences are VSO, VOS, OVS, and OSV, the last three of which are rare. In most generative theories of syntax, the surface differences arise from a more complex clausal phrase structure, and each order may be compatible with multiple derivations. However, word order can also reflect the semantics or function of the ordered elements. Moreover, verb is not only can be predicate, but also the feature of object. Constituency is the feature of being a constituent and how words can work together to form a constituent or phrase. Constituents are often moved as units, and the constituent can be the domain of agreement. Some languages allow discontinuous phrases in which words belonging to the same constituent are not immediately adjacent but are broken up by other constituents. Constituents may be recursive, as they may consist of other constituents, potentially of the same type.

Another worth noting point to define what A sentence, is , a group of words that expresses a complete thought and , contains a subject and a predicate. The most basic sentence structure consists of only one clause. However, many sentences have one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

The standard order of words in an English sentence is subject + verb + object. While this sounds simple, it may be difficult to identify the subject(s), verb(s), and object(s), depending on the structure and complexity of the sentence. There are four types of sentence structure: (1) simple, (2) compound, (3) complex, and (4) compound-complex.

* To illustrate this, simple clause example: I want to go to the theater. (consists of one subject, predicate and adverbial object) ;

* whereas compound sentence joins two or more sentences that have related ideas of equal importance. The two sentences go together. Each sentence or independent clause must still have a subject and a verb. For example: She wanted spinach salad; he wanted a hamburger.

* a complex sentence is one with an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. Example: Whenever he was lonely, Lance called his mother.

* A compound-complex sentence is comprised of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. Example: Though Mitchell prefers watching romantic films, he rented the latest spy thriller, and he enjoyed it very much.

There are a number of theoretical approaches to the discipline of syntax. One school of thought, founded in the works of Derek Bickerton, sees syntax as a branch of biology, since it conceives of syntax as the study of linguistic knowledge as embodied in the human mind. Other linguists (e.g., Gerald Gazdar) take a more Platonistic view since they regard syntax to be the study of an abstract formal system. Yet others (e.g.,

Joseph Greenberg) consider syntax a taxonomical device to reach broad generalizations across languages.

Syntacticians have attempted to explain the causes of word-order variation within individual languages and cross-linguistically. Much of such work has been done within the framework of generative grammar, which holds that syntax depends on a genetic endowment common to the human species. In that framework and in others, linguistic typology and universals have been primary explicanda. Alternative explanations, such as those by functional linguists, have been sought in language processing. It is suggested that the brain finds it easier to parse syntactic patterns that are either right- or left-branching but not mixed. The most-widely held approach is the performance-grammar correspondence hypothesis by John A. Hawkins, who suggests that language is a non-innate adaptation to innate cognitive mechanisms. Cross-linguistic tendencies are considered as being based on language users' preference for grammars that are organized efficiently and on their avoidance of word orderings that cause processing difficulty. Some languages, however, exhibit regular inefficient patterning such as the VO languages Chinese, with the adpositional phrase before the verb, and Finnish, which has postpositions, but there are few other profoundly exceptional languages. More recently, it is suggested that the left- versus right-branching patterns are cross-linguistically related only to the place of role-marking connectives (a positions and subordinators), which links the phenomena with the semantic mapping of sentences.

The same regularity, frequency and functions of use in Russian and English were revealed by:

a) discursive words and phrases (this is confirmed by the fact that discursives are not found in legal documents in both languages, and in scientific and journalistic texts there are stylistic differences in the functioning of discursives, the same for languages: in the scientific style, the dominant function is speech organizing, in the journalistic style - the function of designating the source of information);

b) adjectival phrases (both in Russian and English, the adjectival phrase functions equally rarely in all three styles and does not reveal any specifics either in the structure, or in the organization of the complication, or in the functions);

c) homogeneous main members of a sentence (both in Russian and English in legal documents, homogeneous main members of a sentence are characterized by high frequency, are clichéd and are a striking feature of this substyle; in newspaper and scientific texts, homogeneous main members are limited in frequency and do not reveal any - or features of functioning).

In conclusion, word order also varies according to whether the sentence is negative or positive. In addition to that, more subject and predicate is used, more syntactics of words formation is complex. Additional clauses can be used to form compound and

complex sentences, using independent clauses, dependent clauses and relative dependent clauses. These are connected with different types of conjunctions and relative pronouns. While this may sound complicated, each clause within the sentence will follow similar word order and sentence structure rules.

Used Literature

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