GRAMMATICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMPONENTS OF WORD COMBINATIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract

This article examines the grammatical relations between the components of word combinations in English and Uzbek from a comparative linguistic perspective. Word combinations constitute significant syntactic units in both languages and are formed through specific grammatical and semantic relationships between a head component and one or more dependent components. The study focuses on the principal types of grammatical relations, including agreement, government, adjacency, possession, and modification. Particular attention is given to the ways in which these relations are expressed through word order, morphological markers, case forms, possessive suffixes, prepositions, postpositions, and other grammatical devices. English, as a predominantly analytical language, relies considerably on fixed word order and function words to indicate syntactic relations. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, makes extensive use of case and possessive affixes, while word order also contributes to the organization of syntactic relations. The comparative analysis demonstrates that although English and Uzbek express similar conceptual and semantic relations, their grammatical realization differs significantly. The investigation contributes to a better understanding of the structural organization of English and

Uzbek word combinations and has practical implications for comparative linguistics, translation studies, foreign-language teaching, and cognitive approaches to syntax.

Keywords: word combination, grammatical relations, head, dependent component, agreement, government, adjacency, syntax, morphology, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics, word order.

Introduction

The study of grammatical relations between the components of word combinations is one of the central issues in comparative syntax. A word combination is not simply a mechanical sequence of words; its components are connected through specific grammatical and semantic relations that determine the internal organization and interpretation of the combination.

In both English and Uzbek, word combinations are formed through the interaction of a head component and a dependent component. The head determines the syntactic properties of the combination, while the dependent component provides additional information concerning the head. For example, in the English combination *interesting book*, the noun *book* functions as the head and *interesting* as its dependent. The Uzbek equivalent *qiziqarli kitob* demonstrates the same basic head-dependent relationship.

However, the grammatical means used to establish relationships between components differ substantially in the two languages. English has a predominantly analytical grammatical structure. Consequently, word order, prepositions, auxiliary elements, and limited morphological marking play an important role in establishing grammatical relations. Uzbek has an agglutinative structure, and grammatical meanings are frequently expressed through suffixes, case markers, possessive forms,

and postpositions.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the major grammatical relations between the components of word combinations in English and Uzbek and to identify their similarities and differences. The study particularly focuses on agreement, government, adjacency, possessive relations, modification, and the role of word order.

1. The Concept of Grammatical Relations in Word Combinations

Grammatical relations refer to the syntactic connections established between words within a larger syntactic unit. In a word combination, these relations determine how the components depend on one another and how their grammatical forms contribute to the overall meaning.

The basic structural relationship can be represented as:

Head + Dependent

For example:

beautiful house

read a book

very interesting

student's book

In *beautiful house*, *house* is the head and *beautiful* is the dependent component. In *read a book*, *read* functions as the head, while *book* is its object-related dependent.

Uzbek demonstrates the same general principle:

chiroyli uy

kitob o‘qimoq

juda qiziqarli

talabaning kitobi

Thus, despite typological differences, the head-dependent principle operates in both languages.

Grammatical relations may be realized through several mechanisms:

agreement;

government;

adjacency;

possession;

modification;

word order;

prepositional and postpositional relationships.

2. Agreement in English and Uzbek

Agreement occurs when one component grammatically corresponds to another component in categories such as number, person, or gender.

English has relatively limited agreement within word combinations. For

example:

this book

these books

that student

those students

Here, the demonstrative changes according to the number of the noun:

this book → singular

these books → plural

However, English adjectives generally do not change their form according to the number or case of the noun:

a beautiful girl

beautiful girls

The adjective *beautiful* remains unchanged.

Uzbek also has relatively limited adjective-noun agreement:

chiroyli qiz

chiroyli qizlar

The adjective *chiroyli* does not change according to the plural form of the noun.

However, agreement is more prominent in certain Uzbek possessive constructions:

mening kitobim — my book

sening kitobing — your book

uning kitobi — his/her book

Here, the possessive suffix on the head noun corresponds to the possessor.

Thus, Uzbek demonstrates a more explicit morphological realization of possessive relationships than English.

3. Government as a Grammatical Relation

Government refers to a relationship in which the head determines the grammatical form of the dependent component.

Government is particularly important in verb-object combinations.

In English, verbs often determine the type of complement that follows them:

read a book

depend on someone

listen to music

talk to a friend

Prepositions frequently participate in establishing the relationship between the head and dependent.

For example:

depend on someone

The verb *depend* normally requires the preposition *on* before its complement.

In Uzbek, grammatical government is frequently expressed through case suffixes:

kitobni o‘qimoq — to read a book

do‘stiga aytmoq — to tell a friend

maktabga bormoq — to go to school

uydan chiqmoq — to leave the house

maktabda ishlamoq — to work at school

The case markers *-ni, -ga, -dan,* and *-da* establish grammatical relationships between the dependent noun and the governing verb.

This represents one of the major differences between the two languages

4. Adjacency in English and Uzbek

Adjacency, or direct syntactic connection without an overt grammatical marker, is an important mechanism of forming word combinations.

English makes extensive use of adjacency because of its relatively limited morphological system:

red car

modern university

language teacher

computer technology

The relationship between the components is largely determined by their position.

Uzbek also uses adjacency:

qizil mashina

zamonaviy universitet

til o‘qituvchisi

kompyuter texnologiyasi

However, Uzbek can supplement adjacency with morphological markers, particularly in possessive constructions.

Compare:

English:
university student

Uzbek:
universitet talabasi

The Uzbek form *talabasi* contains a possessive suffix, which makes the relationship between the components more grammatically explicit.

5. Possessive Relations

Possessive relations are among the most distinctive grammatical relationships between components in English and Uzbek.

English commonly expresses possession through:

the possessive -*'s*;

possessive pronouns;

of-constructions.

Examples:

the student's book

my friend's house

the roof of the building

Uzbek typically expresses possession through a combination of the genitive case and possessive suffix:

talabaning kitobi

do'stimning uyi

binoning tomi

The structure may be represented as:

English:

Possessor + Head

Uzbek:

Possessor + *-ning* + Head + possessive suffix

For example:

student's book

corresponds structurally to:

talabaning kitobi

The Uzbek construction provides morphological marking on both sides of the possessive relationship.

6. Modification

Modification is a grammatical relation in which one component specifies or describes another.

The most common examples involve adjectives and nouns.

English:

large house

beautiful garden

interesting lecture

difficult problem

Uzbek:

katta uy

chiroyli bog‘

qiziqarli ma’ruza

qiyin muammo

In both languages, the adjective normally precedes the noun.

The structure can therefore be represented as:

Adjective + Noun

This is one of the areas in which English and Uzbek demonstrate substantial structural similarity.

However, differences appear in more complex constructions.

English:

the very interesting research project

Uzbek:

nihoyatda qiziqarli tadqiqot loyihasi

Both languages permit modification of the head by several dependent components, but the grammatical realization and morphological marking may differ.

7. Word Order and Grammatical Relations

Word order plays a particularly important role in English.

The basic English clause structure is generally:

Subject + Verb + Object

For example:

The student reads a book.

The position of *the student* identifies it as the subject, while the position of *a book* identifies it as the object.

Changing the order may change the grammatical interpretation:

The student reads the book.

The book reads the student.

The second sentence assigns different grammatical roles to the nouns.

Uzbek generally follows:

Subject + Object + Verb

For example:

Talaba kitobni o‘qiydi.

Here, *kitobni* is marked with the accusative suffix *-ni*, which identifies its object function.

Because of case marking, Uzbek allows comparatively greater flexibility in word order:

Talaba kitobni o‘qiydi.

Kitobni talaba o‘qiydi.

Although the second version places emphasis on the object, the case marker still helps identify grammatical roles.

Thus, English depends more strongly on syntactic position, while Uzbek combines word order with morphological marking.

8. Prepositions and Postpositions

Another significant difference between English and Uzbek concerns the expression of grammatical relations through adpositions.

English primarily uses prepositions:

in the house

at school

on the table

with a friend

from the university

The preposition precedes the noun phrase.

Uzbek frequently uses case suffixes and postpositions:

uyda — in the house

maktabda — at school

stol ustida — on the table

do‘st bilan — with a friend

universitetdan — from the university

In the Uzbek expression *do‘st bilan*, the postposition *bilan* follows the noun.

Therefore:

English: preposition + noun
Uzbek: noun + postposition

This difference reflects broader typological distinctions between the two languages.

9. Grammatical Relations in Verb Combinations

Verb-based combinations demonstrate particularly complex grammatical relationships.

English:

write a letter

give a student a book

look at the picture

speak to the teacher

Uzbek:

xat yozmoq

talabaga kitob bermoq

rasmga qaramoq

o‘qituvchi bilan gaplashmoq

In English, the relationship between the verb and its complement is frequently expressed through word order or prepositions.

In Uzbek, the same relationship may be expressed through case markers or postpositions.

For example:

look at the picture

corresponds to:

rasmga qaramoq

The Uzbek verb *qaramoq* requires the directional case *-ga*, whereas English uses the preposition *at*.

This demonstrates that equivalent semantic relations may be grammatically encoded through different linguistic mechanisms.

10. Grammatical Relations and Semantic Roles

Grammatical relations are closely related to semantic roles. A component may function as an agent, patient, recipient, instrument, location, or other semantic participant.

Consider:

The teacher gave the student a book.

The sentence contains several semantic roles:

the teacher — Agent

the student — Recipient

a book — Theme

Uzbek expresses the same relationships:

O‘qituvchi talabaga kitob berdi.

Here, the recipient is marked by the dative suffix *-ga*:

talaba-ga

This illustrates the relationship between grammatical marking and semantic interpretation.

English frequently uses word order to distinguish these roles, while Uzbek can employ case marking in addition to word order.

11. Comparative Structural Analysis

The principal grammatical relations between components can be summarized as follows:

Grammatical feature	**English**	**Uzbek**
Typological tendency	Analytical	Agglutinative
Basic word order	SVO	SOV
Agreement	Relatively limited	More visible in possessive structures
Government	Word order, prepositions, verb patterns	Case suffixes, postpositions, verb patterns
Possession	*-'s, of*	Genitive + possessive suffix
Object marking	Usually no overt case marker	Accusative *-ni* often used
Location	Prepositions	Case suffixes/postpositions
Direction	Prepositions	Dative case *-ga*
Source	Preposition *from*	Ablative *-dan*
Instrument/association	*with*	*bilan*
Adjective + noun	Common	Common
Noun + noun	Highly productive	Often accompanied by possessive marking
Role of word order	Very strong	Important but relatively flexible

The table demonstrates that English and Uzbek possess comparable syntactic categories but employ different formal mechanisms for expressing them.

12. Cognitive Interpretation of Grammatical Relations

From a cognitive-linguistic perspective, grammatical relations can be viewed as formal representations of conceptual relationships between entities and events.

A speaker does not simply combine words mechanically. The speaker conceptualizes relationships such as:

possession;

location;

direction;

agency;

objecthood;

qualification;

instrumentality;

temporal relations.

These conceptual relationships are encoded through the grammatical resources available in a particular language.

For example:

English: *go to school*
Uzbek: *maktabga bormoq*

Both expressions represent the conceptual relationship of **motion toward a destination**. English uses the preposition *to*, whereas Uzbek uses the dative suffix *-ga*.

Similarly:

English: *the student's book*
Uzbek: *talabaning kitobi*

Both represent the conceptual relationship of **possession**, but the grammatical encoding differs.

Thus, grammatical relations can be understood as linguistic manifestations of conceptual relations.

13. Major Similarities and Differences

The comparative analysis reveals several important similarities.

First, both languages organize word combinations around head-dependent relations. Second, both languages distinguish attributive, objective, possessive, and adverbial relations. Third, both languages use word order as an important syntactic mechanism. Fourth, both languages allow complex combinations containing several dependent components.

At the same time, substantial differences exist.

English depends heavily on word order and prepositions because of its relatively limited case morphology. Uzbek employs a richer system of morphological markers, including case and possessive suffixes. English noun-noun combinations are particularly productive, while Uzbek often expresses comparable relationships through possessive constructions.

Therefore, the same semantic relationship may have different grammatical representations in the two languages.

Conclusion

The investigation of grammatical relations between the components of word combinations in English and Uzbek demonstrates that syntactic organization is determined by the interaction of grammatical, semantic, morphological, and typological factors.

Both English and Uzbek employ head-dependent relationships as the fundamental principle of word-combination organization. Agreement, government, adjacency, possession, and modification occur in both languages, but their formal realization differs considerably.

English, as a predominantly analytical language, relies heavily on word order, prepositions, and syntactic position. The relatively limited case system means that the position of a component frequently determines its grammatical function. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, uses case suffixes, possessive markers, postpositions, and other morphological devices to express grammatical relationships more explicitly.

The contrast is particularly clear in possessive and object constructions. English uses forms such as *student's book* and *read a book*, whereas Uzbek uses *talabaning kitobi* and *kitobni o‘qimoq*. In the Uzbek examples, grammatical relations are explicitly marked by suffixes.

The comparative study also demonstrates that grammatical relations are closely connected with semantic and conceptual relations. Different grammatical forms may express similar conceptual structures, while identical structural patterns may acquire different meanings depending on lexical and contextual factors.

Consequently, the study of English and Uzbek word combinations should

integrate syntactic, morphological, semantic, and cognitive perspectives. Such an integrated approach is important for comparative linguistics, translation, foreign-language teaching, lexicography, and the investigation of cross-linguistic conceptualization.

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