

**WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE DIFFERENCES IN UZBEK - ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

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**Abstract:** This article examines the main differences in word order and sentence structure in Uzbek and English and explains how these contrasts influence translation. Uzbek follows a flexible SOV order, while English relies on a fixed SVO pattern, requiring translators to reorganize sentence elements when moving between the two languages. The discussion also covers adjective and possessive placement, prepositions and postpositions, case endings, question formation, and negation. These structural differences frequently cause difficulties for learners and translators. The article highlights common challenges and provides practical suggestions for producing clear and accurate translations in both directions.

**Key words:** word order, sentence structure, general meaning, SVO, SOV, syntax, grammar, question formation, negation, possessive formation.

**INTRODUCTION**

Word order and sentence structure play a crucial role in Uzbek–English translation, as the two languages rely on different syntactic systems. As Sherimbetova (2024) notes, Uzbek allows a high degree of flexibility in the arrangement of sentence parts, enabling speakers to emphasize specific elements more freely. English, by contrast, depends heavily on fixed word order, and even small changes can affect meaning significantly (Ubaydullayeva, 2024). Because of this, English sentences cannot be rearranged freely, while Uzbek often maintains meaning through case markers and suffixes. One of the most important contrasts is basic word order: English typically follows an SVO pattern, whereas Uzbek follows SOV (Tursunova, 2024). This structural difference forces translators to reorganize sentence elements to preserve natural flow in the target language. Other key contrasts include adjective placement, possessive formation, and the use of prepositions in English versus postpositions and case suffixes in Uzbek (Eshtayeva, 2024). Question formation also differs significantly: English employs auxiliary verbs and inversion, whereas Uzbek uses the interrogative particle *-mi*. Negation patterns, the presence or absence of articles, and the construction of subordinate clauses further widen the syntactic distance between the two languages. These differences create notable challenges in translation. Uzbek speakers must manage strict English word order, articles, and auxiliary verbs, while English speakers must adapt to Uzbek’s flexible syntax and rich system of grammatical cases (Abdamutova, 2025). As Sharipova (2024) points out, accurate translation requires strong command of both languages’ grammatical systems and a clear understanding of how meaning is encoded syntactically.

**METHODS**

This research is based on **comparative structural analysis**, drawing on examples and definitions from Uzbek and English linguistic studies. The method involves:

1. identifying key differences in basic sentence patterns,
2. examining functional features of grammatical categories in each language,
3. comparing corresponding structures such as adjective–noun order, possessive formation, case marking, interrogative patterns, and negation,
4. analysing their effects on translation accuracy and naturalness.

Academic sources published between 2024–2025 were reviewed, including works on Uzbek–English contrastive typology (Sherimbetova, 2024; Tursunova, 2024), grammar comparison (Abdamutova, 2025), and sentence structure in translation contexts (Mustanova, 2024). The

descriptive–analytical approach allows observing how each structural element functions independently and within full sentences.

## RESULTS

Mastering these contrasts is essential for clear and precise translation.

### 1. Basic Word Order: SVO vs SOV

The most fundamental difference lies in the basic word order. English follows a Subject–Verb–Object (SVO) pattern (Ubaydullayeva, 2024): The cat chased the mouse. Uzbek follows a Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) pattern (Sherimbetova, 2024): Mushuk sichqonni quvdi. This requires translators to consistently move the verb when translating from Uzbek into English and restructure the sentence to maintain the original meaning.

### 2. Adjective Placement

In both languages, adjectives generally come before the noun (Eshtayeva, 2024): English: a beautiful flower. Uzbek: chiroyli gul. However, Uzbek case markers and possessive suffixes may influence noun phrase structure, especially in longer phrases.

### 3. Possessive Structures

Possession is expressed differently in the two languages. English uses possessive pronouns or 's: my book, John's car. Uzbek uses suffixes on the possessed noun and a genitive case on the possessor: mening kitobim, Jonning mashinasi (Sharipova, 2024). Thus, translators must convert English possessive constructions into Uzbek suffix forms, or vice versa.

### 4. Prepositions vs Postpositions

English uses prepositions placed before the noun phrase: in the house, on the table. Uzbek uses postpositions and case suffixes: uyda, stol ustida, do'st bilan (Tursunova, 2024). Most English prepositions correspond to Uzbek locative, ablative, dative or instrumental suffixes.

### 5. Case Endings

English has very limited case marking, relying on word order and prepositions. Uzbek, being agglutinative, uses many case suffixes (Abdamutova, 2025): nominative, accusative (–ni), genitive (–ning), dative (–ga), locative (–da), ablative (–dan). These must often be converted into English prepositional phrases.

### 6. Question Formation

English forms questions using auxiliaries (do, does, is, have) and inversion (Sherimbetova, 2024): Do you like coffee? Uzbek places the particle –mi at the end: Siz qahvani yoqtirasizmi? Translation requires adjusting word order and adding auxiliaries where needed.

### 7. Negation

English uses not and auxiliary contractions: I do not go. Uzbek uses negative particles and negative verb forms: Men bormayman (Sharipova, 2024). Thus, the translator must modify the verb structure accordingly.

### 8. Sentence Complexity and Subordinate Clauses

Both languages form complex sentences but with different tools. English uses conjunctions and relative pronouns (that, which, because). Uzbek uses participles, verbal nouns, and nominalized verb forms (Eshtayeva, 2024). This often affects sentence length and structure in translation.

## DISCUSSION

The contrastive analysis demonstrates that the main translation challenges between Uzbek and English arise not from lexical limitations but from the fundamentally different ways each language encodes grammatical meaning. Because English relies on fixed word order to signal syntactic relations, even minor changes in sentence structure can alter meaning or create ungrammatical forms. Uzbek, however, expresses these relations through an extensive system of case markers and suffixation, allowing a high degree of positional flexibility. As a result, translators must learn to reinterpret how grammatical functions are expressed rather than attempting direct structural transfer.

The findings show that these structural differences particularly affect learners when they attempt to apply rules from the source language to the target language without appropriate syntactic

adjustment. For instance, Uzbek learners of English may produce sentences that sound unnatural or incomplete because they rely on Uzbek-like flexibility and omit obligatory elements such as articles, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs. Conversely, English speakers translating into Uzbek may underuse case markers or maintain English-like word order, resulting in ambiguous or structurally awkward sentences.

A significant implication of the results is that translators must approach sentences holistically rather than word by word. Since Uzbek and English organize information differently—especially in complex and subordinate clauses—successful translation requires the ability to restructure clauses, redistribute information, and adjust sentence hierarchy while preserving meaning. This is particularly crucial when dealing with relative clauses, nominalizations, and verb-final or verb-medial patterns, where direct transfer is rarely effective.

The discussion also highlights the importance of developing syntactic awareness in translator training. Mastery of translation techniques should include not only recognizing grammatical differences but also anticipating where errors are likely to occur, such as in the formation of questions, negation, and intricate phrase structures. In this sense, syntactic competence supports both linguistic accuracy and textual naturalness, ensuring that translations conform to the norms of the target language.

Ultimately, the analysis indicates that translation between Uzbek and English requires strategic restructuring rather than mechanical substitution. By internalizing the distinct syntactic logic of each language, translators can produce clearer, more coherent, and more contextually appropriate translations. This underscores the broader need for contrastive grammar instruction in translation studies to enhance the linguistic precision and communicative effectiveness of future translators.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comparison of Uzbek and English sentence structures shows that the two languages rely on different grammatical principles. English depends on a fixed SVO pattern, while Uzbek allows flexible SOV order supported by case endings and suffixation. These structural contrasts influence almost every part of translation, including adjective and possessive placement, prepositions, question formation, and negation. Translators must therefore reorganize sentence elements carefully and understand how grammatical meaning is expressed in each language. Mastery of both systems is essential for producing accurate, natural, and context-appropriate translations. Successful translation requires not only vocabulary knowledge but also a clear understanding of each language's syntactic logic and communicative patterns.

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