

**“TAXEMIC AND PRAGMATIC APPROACHES TO COMPOSITE
SENTENCES: FUNCTIONAL SENTENCE PERSPECTIVE, DISCOURSE
ANALYSIS, AND PUNCTUATION IN MODERN ENGLISH”**

Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek
The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign languages Philology and
foreign languages

Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydullo qizi

nafisateshaboyeva@gmail.com

O‘ZMU Jizzax filialali katta o‘qituvchisi

Hotamova Jasmina Bobir qizi

O‘ZMU Jizzax filialali Filiologiya va tillarni o‘qitish yo‘nalishi talabasi

jasminahotamova@gmail.com

Annotation: This article provides an integrated linguistic analysis of composite sentences in Modern English through five complementary perspectives: structural (compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences), taxemic (formal signals and clause-linking mechanisms), functional sentence perspective (theme–rheme organization and communicative dynamism), pragmatics (speaker intention, politeness, and contextual meaning), discourse analysis (cohesion and coherence across texts), and punctuation (semantic and emphatic functions). The study demonstrates how these theoretical frameworks interact and collectively influence meaning, emphasis, and communicative effect within composite constructions. Each section includes theoretical explanation, analytical interpretation, and practical examples to ensure clarity and applicability to linguistic research. The work contributes to English syntax studies by offering a multidimensional model for interpreting composite sentences beyond their structural form, highlighting their communicative and discourse-level significance.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola zamonaviy ingliz tilidagi qo‘shma gaplarning beshta to‘ldiruvchi nuqtai nazar orqali integral lingvistik tahlilini taqdim etadi: strukturaviy (qo‘shma, murakkab va qo‘shma-murakkab jumlar), taxemik (rasmiy signallar va gaplarni bog‘lash mexanizmlari), funksional jumla istiqboli (mavzu-remni tashkil etish va kommunikativ dinamizm), pragmatiklik, ma‘no tahlili, pragmatiklik, ma‘no tahlili. (matnlar bo‘yicha uyg‘unlik va izchillik), tinish belgilari (semantik va empatik funktsiyalar). Tadqiqot ushbu nazariy asoslar qanday o‘zaro ta‘sir qilishini va kompozitsion konstruktsiyalardagi ma‘no, urg‘u va kommunikativ ta‘sirga birgalikda ta‘sir qilishini ko‘rsatadi. Har bir bo‘lim lingvistik tadqiqotlar uchun aniqlik va

qo'llanilishini ta'minlash uchun nazariy tushuntirish, analitik talqin va amaliy misollarni o'z ichiga oladi. Ish kompozitsion jumalarni strukturaviy shaklidan tashqari talqin qilishning ko'p o'lchovli modelini taklif qilish orqali ingliz sintaksisini o'rganishga hissa qo'shadi, ularning kommunikativ va nutq darajasidagi ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi.

Keywords: Composite sentence; compound sentence; complex sentence; compound-complex sentence; taxeme; supertaxeme; parataxeme; hypotaxeme; Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP); theme; rheme; communicative dynamism; pragmatics; politeness strategy; discourse analysis; cohesion; coherence; punctuation; semantic markers; syntactic relations.

Composite sentences are essential structures in English because they connect ideas and show logical relations such as cause, contrast, time, and condition. Traditional grammar divides them into compound, complex, and compound–complex types, but their meaning depends on more than structure alone. To understand composite sentences fully, it is necessary to examine how they function through different linguistic approaches. This study uses five perspectives: the taxemic approach, Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP), pragmatics, discourse analysis, and punctuation. The taxemic approach shows how formal signals like connectors and word order link clauses. FSP explains how information is arranged through theme and rheme. Pragmatics reveals how speakers use composite sentences to express politeness, intention, or emphasis. Discourse analysis shows how these sentences create cohesion in longer texts. Punctuation is examined as a tool that shapes meaning and clarity. ¹By combining these perspectives, the study provides a clear and integrated understanding of how composite sentences work in Modern English.

1. Composite sentences

A composite sentence is a sentence that contains **two or more clauses**. It is divided into:

- **Compound sentences** → coordination
- **Complex sentences** → subordination
- **Compound-complex sentences** → both at once

Composite sentences allow speakers to express logical relations such as cause, result, concession, time, and condition.

1. ¹ Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Pearson Education.

Composite sentences show how English organizes **hierarchy** between ideas.

- In **compound**, both ideas have equal status.
- In **complex**, one idea is subordinate.
- In **compound-complex**, hierarchy becomes multidimensional.

This structure affects meaning, rhythm, emphasis, and clarity.

EXAMPLE:

Although the weather was cold, they continued working, and the results improved.

Explanation:

- “Although the weather was cold” → subordinate clause (concession)
- “they continued working” → main clause
- “and the results improved” → coordinated main clause

2. Taxemic approach

Taxemics studies **formal signals** in sentences:

- **Taxeme** – any grammatical signal (word order, connector, punctuation)
- **Supertaxeme** – the whole sentence
- **Parataxeme** – coordination markers
- **Hypotaxeme** – subordination markers

Taxemics focuses on how structural signals create meaning.

Taxemic approach shows:

- how clauses are linked
- what type of relation exists (equal vs. dependent)
- how sequence, contrast, cause, etc. are signaled
- how changing order changes communicative meaning

Word order and connectors act as **signals**, not just words.

EXAMPLE

He stayed because he cared.

vs.

Because he cared, he stayed.

Analysis:

- Both sentences carry same meaning.
- But taxemes (connectors + word order) change **focus**.
- In the second, the reason is emphasized first.

3. Functional sentence perspective

Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP) explains how information is organized within a sentence:

- **Theme** – given/known info

- **Rheme** – new/important info
- **Transition** – linking element

FSP focuses on how sentences achieve communicative goals by placing information strategically.

In composite sentences:

- Subordinate clause can carry theme or rheme
- Word order changes communicative emphasis
- Clauses with higher “communicative dynamism” usually appear later

FSP explains *why* speakers change clause order even if grammar allows many options.

EXAMPLE

When the meeting ended, the discussion continued online.

- Theme → “When the meeting ended”
- Rheme → “the discussion continued online”

The new information (rheme) appears in the main clause.

4. Pragmatics of Composite Sentences

Pragmatics studies how **context, intention, tone, politeness, and hidden meaning** shape the interpretation of composite sentences.²

Composite clauses often express:

- politeness
- persuasion
- indirect criticism
- justification
- hedging

The same grammatical structure can convey different meanings depending on pragmatic context.

For example:

- “If” can soften requests.
- “Although” can mask criticism.
- “Because” can justify actions.

Composite sentences allow speakers to control their tone and social meaning.

EXAMPLE

If you have time, could you help me with this report?

2. ² Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. (2014). *Halliday’s Introduction to Functional Grammar* (4th ed.). Routledge.

Pragmatic effect:

- The “if”-clause softens the request
- Makes it polite and less direct

5. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis studies how sentences connect to create **coherent texts**. Composite sentences:

- link ideas
- maintain logical flow
- show contrast, addition, causality
- create narrative progression

Composite sentences build cohesion through:

- discourse markers (however, therefore, although)
- temporal linking (before, after, when)
- cause-effect relations
- contrasts

They function not only grammatically but also textually.

EXAMPLE

The theory is complex; however, it is widely accepted.

Analysis:

- “however” signals contrast
- semicolon shows close connection
- improves discourse flow

6. Punctuation in Composite Sentences

Punctuation helps signal relationships between clauses:

- comma (,)
- semicolon (;)
- colon (:)
- dash (—)

Each punctuation mark adds a different logical or emotional value.

- Comma separates dependent clauses
- Semicolon links closely related independent clauses
- Colon introduces explanation or result
- Dash adds emphasis or dramatic pause

Punctuation shapes meaning, rhythm, and interpretation.

EXAMPLE

She agreed to join the project — because she trusted the team.

Analysis:

- Dash adds emotional emphasis
- The reason is expressed dramatically
- The sentence becomes stylistically stronger

Conclusion:

The analysis demonstrates that composite sentences in Modern English cannot be fully understood through structural description alone. Their interpretation depends on a combination of taxemic signals, functional information structure, pragmatic intention, discourse context, and punctuation choices. The taxemic approach clarifies the formal relationship between clauses, identifying the roles of coordination and subordination. Functional Sentence Perspective reveals how theme–rheme organization contributes to communicative efficiency and emphasis. Pragmatic analysis shows that composite clauses often encode politeness, persuasion, implicit criticism, or justification. Discourse analysis proves that composite sentences ensure textual cohesion by linking ideas temporally, logically, or contrastively. Finally, punctuation functions as a semantic and pragmatic tool that guides interpretation and rhetorical impact. Together, these perspectives form an integrated analytical framework that expands the traditional understanding of composite sentences, offering a deeper and more nuanced interpretation of their communicative roles in English.

References:

1. Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Pearson Education.
2. Downing, A., & Locke, P. (2006). *English Grammar: A University Course*. Routledge.
3. Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. (2014). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar* (4th ed.). Routledge.
4. Hockett, C. F. (1958). *A Course in Modern Linguistics*. Macmillan.
5. Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. (2002). *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press.
6. Teshaboyeva, N. (2020). LINGUISTIC PERSONALITY, ITS STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE NEW PERSPECTIVE DIRECTIONS. In МОЛОДОЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬ: ВЫЗОВЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ (pp. 415-420).
7. Teshaboyeva, N. Z. (2019). TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH LITERATURE INTESL AND TEFL CLASSROOMS. In СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ ТЕХНОЛОГИИ: АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ, ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ И ИННОВАЦИИ (pp. 82-84).