

## **WORD ORDER PATTERNS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK SENTENCES**

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**Abstract.** Word order is a fundamental component of syntax and sentence structure that reflects a language's typological characteristics. English and Uzbek exhibit markedly different word order patterns, with English primarily following a Subject–Verb–Object (SVO) structure, whereas Uzbek employs a Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) typology. Understanding these patterns is critical for language acquisition, translation, and cross-linguistic comparison. This paper examines the syntactic characteristics of English and Uzbek sentences, analyzes the differences and similarities in their word order, and discusses the implications for language teaching and computational linguistics. The study draws on both theoretical frameworks in generative grammar and functional approaches, supplemented with practical examples.

**Keywords:** word order, syntax, English, Uzbek, SVO, SOV, sentence structure, language typology

Word order is a central feature of language that determines how meaning is structured within a sentence. It not only governs grammatical relations but also impacts comprehension, translation, and second-language acquisition.[1] English, a Germanic language, predominantly exhibits a fixed Subject–Verb–Object (SVO) order. In

contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic language, generally follows Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) ordering, with flexibility introduced through case marking and postpositions. The study of word order is essential for multiple linguistic disciplines, including syntax, typology, and applied linguistics. Comparative analysis between English and Uzbek provides insight into syntactic universals, language transfer issues, and teaching strategies for EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners in Uzbekistan. Despite differences in word order, both languages share features such as the use of modifiers, auxiliary verbs, and complex clauses, which can serve as a bridge for learners acquiring either language. When it comes to scholars' ideas about this theme, in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, David Crystal points out that English is a language with a relatively fixed word order because of its loss of inflectional morphology.[2] Apart from that Bernd Kortmann discusses how English has changed from a more flexible word order language to one with a fixed SVO order. In his work *English Linguistics*, he said: “As a result of its almost complete loss of inflectional morphology, English has experienced a dramatic typological change to a language with a relatively fixed word order of subject-verb-object”.[3] Esmail Safaei Asl also researched about this topic. In his book named “*Word Order Typology of Turkish*” he said: “This study shows that Turkish behaves predominantly like a strong OV language, typologizing Turkish as a VO language only to a small extent”.[4] While this study is about Turkish, it is relevant because Turkish is a Turkic agglutinative language with SOV preferences — hence it provides a parallel for Uzbek in your comparative study. Syntactic typology classifies languages based on the canonical order of core sentence constituents: subject (S), verb (V), and object (O). According to Greenberg's universals, SVO and SOV are the most common patterns globally. SVO languages like English rely on relatively fixed word order for grammatical relations, while SOV languages such as Uzbek use case marking to maintain grammatical roles, allowing greater flexibility in constituent positioning.[5] When it comes to **English Word Order** it is a predominantly SVO language. A simple declarative sentence follows the

structure:

**(Subject+Verb+Object)**. For example: “The teacher explains the lesson.” Here, “**The teacher**” is the subject, “**explains**” is the verb, and “**the lesson**” is the object. English also shows constraints on other word orders in declarative sentences. Auxiliary verbs, adverbs, and prepositional phrases occupy fixed positions.[6] In questions, inversion occurs:

✓ “Does the teacher explain the lesson?”

Modifiers generally precede nouns, and adjectives are placed before the noun they modify. While passive constructions alter surface word order, the underlying SVO relationship is maintained:

✓ “The lesson is explained by the teacher.”

Turning to the **Uzbek Word Order**, it is an agglutinative SOV language, meaning the verb typically appears at the end of the clause. A basic sentence follows:

**(Subject+Object+Verb)**. For example: “O‘qituvchi darsni tushuntiradi.”

Translated: “The teacher the lesson explains.” Case marking in Uzbek allows flexibility; the grammatical role of nouns is signaled by suffixes rather than strict positioning. For example, topicalization or focus structures can place the object or adverbial phrase at the beginning without ambiguity:

- “Darsni o‘qituvchi tushuntiradi.” (*The lesson, the teacher explains.*)

Modifiers in Uzbek generally precede the noun, similar to English adjectives, but the postpositional phrases and adverbials often follow the noun or verb, showing more structural freedom than in English.

Feature	English (Fixed Order)	Uzbek (Flexible Order)
Typical Structure	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Subject-Object-Verb (SOV)
Word Order Changes	Alters Meaning or creates errors	Allows variation without losing meaning
Case Makers	Rare (only in pronouns)	Used to indicate subject/object roles
Verb Position	Appears in the middle	Usually at the end of the sentence

[7]

Understanding syntactic differences is vital for EFL learners. Teachers should explicitly address word order patterns to reduce errors in writing and speech. Strategies include:

- Contrastive exercises comparing English SVO and Uzbek SOV structures.
- Sentence reordering activities to internalize English word order.
- Emphasis on auxiliary and modal verbs for forming questions and negatives.

Natural language processing (NLP) and machine translation systems must account for structural differences. Morphologically rich languages like Uzbek pose challenges in parsing, requiring algorithms sensitive to suffixes and flexible ordering.[8] Comparing SVO and SOV structures reveals cognitive processing differences. English speakers process subject-verb dependencies linearly, while Uzbek speakers anticipate the verb at the end, affecting comprehension strategies. Awareness of these patterns aids in designing teaching curricula and cross-linguistic research.

In conclusion, the comparison of English and Uzbek sentence structures highlights significant typological differences and pedagogical implications. English's rigid SVO order contrasts with Uzbek's flexible SOV structure, which relies on case morphology. These differences influence translation, language acquisition, and computational modeling.

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