

# Structural And Semantic Classification Of Conjunctions In English And Uzbek

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## Abstract

This article explores the structural and semantic classification of conjunctions in English and Uzbek. Conjunctions, as crucial grammatical units, perform connective functions at both sentence and discourse levels. While English and Uzbek differ typologically—being an analytic and agglutinative language, respectively—both use conjunctions to express coordination, subordination, causality, contrast, and other logical-semantic relations. Through comparative analysis, this study highlights the structural forms and semantic types of conjunctions in the two languages and offers insights into their similarities and differences in use, function, and frequency.

**Keywords:** grammar, syntax, discourse, morphology, classification, semantics, pragmatics, linguistic typology

**Introduction.** Conjunctions are essential linguistic elements that link words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. They contribute to the syntactic organization of language and the coherence of discourse. The study of conjunctions is not only relevant to grammar and syntax but also to semantics and pragmatics, as conjunctions encode logical relationships between ideas.

English and Uzbek offer contrasting systems of conjunctive use due to their differing linguistic typologies. English is a predominantly analytic language with fixed word order and reliance on function words, while Uzbek is an agglutinative language with rich inflectional morphology and more flexible syntactic structure. This article aims to examine how conjunctions are structurally and semantically classified in each language and how these classifications reflect broader typological characteristics.

**Methodology.** The study relies on structural and semantic approaches in linguistic typology. Structurally, conjunctions are classified as simple (consisting of a single word) or compound/complex (multi-word units or phrases). Semantically, conjunctions are divided into coordinating (joining equal units) and subordinating (joining a dependent clause to an independent clause).

The analysis draws on data from English grammar corpora, Uzbek grammatical sources, and bilingual dictionaries. Functional and comparative methods are used to analyze the grammatical roles and meanings of conjunctions in both languages.

## **Results.** Structural Classification of Conjunctions

### In English

English conjunctions can be divided structurally into:

- Simple conjunctions: *and, or, but, so, yet, although, because*
  - Correlative conjunctions: *either...or, neither...nor, both...and, not only...but also*
  - Compound conjunctions (also called conjunctive phrases): *as well as, in case, even though, as if*
- English tends to rely heavily on fixed forms of conjunctions, which often remain invariant regardless of syntactic environment.

### In Uzbek

Uzbek conjunctions can similarly be classified:

- Simple (oddiy) conjunctions: *va (and), yoki (or), lekin (but), ammo (however)*
- Compound (murakkab) conjunctions: *agar...bo'lsa (if...then), shunday qilib (thus), chunki (because)*
- Correlative pairs: *na...na (neither...nor), ham...ham (both...and)*

Unlike English, Uzbek allows for more postpositional and flexible use of conjunctions, especially in subordinating constructions, often supported by case endings or verb suffixes for coherence.

## Semantic Classification of Conjunctions

### Coordinating Conjunctions

These join units of equal syntactic importance.

*English examples:*

- *and* (addition)
- *but* (contrast)
- *or* (choice)
- *so* (result)

*Uzbek equivalents:*

- *va* (and)
- *ammo/lekin* (but)
- *yoki* (or)
- *shuning uchun* (so, therefore)

Despite typological differences, both languages express the same fundamental logical relationships. Subordinating Conjunctions

These connect dependent clauses to main clauses and express cause, time, condition, purpose, etc.

*English examples:*

- *because, although, if, since, while, unless, before, after*

*Uzbek equivalents:*

- *chunki* (because)
- *garchi...bo'lsa-da* (although)
- *agar* (if)
- *qachonki* (when)
- *to...gacha* (until)

In Uzbek, suffixation and participial constructions may replace or complement conjunctive use, reflecting the language's synthetic nature.

**Discussion.** While both English and Uzbek make extensive use of conjunctions to express logical relations, the ways in which conjunctions integrate into sentence structure reflect broader typological tendencies.

In English, conjunctions are syntactically autonomous and primarily function as fixed lexical items. They are easily identifiable and do not inflect, making them clear markers of coordination or subordination.

In Uzbek, conjunctions often appear in hybrid structures, involving both lexical conjunctions and morphosyntactic cues such as verb suffixes (*-sa*, *-gan*, *-chi*) or particles. This flexibility allows Uzbek to express complex relations with a combination of conjunctions and inflectional morphology. Moreover, the order of clauses in Uzbek can be more varied due to the agglutinative nature of the language.

*For example:*

- English: *If he comes, we will start.*
- Uzbek: *Agar u kelsa, biz boshlaymiz* or *U kelsa, biz boshlaymiz.*

Another noteworthy difference lies in the use of correlative conjunctions. While English uses formalized pairs (*either...or*), Uzbek equivalents may function more fluidly depending on context and tone.

Semantically, conjunctions in both languages serve to structure argumentation, narration, and description, but their stylistic frequency differs. Uzbek literary and oral styles, influenced by traditional rhetoric, may favor repetition and elaboration, using multiple conjunctions where English uses one.

In terms of teaching and translation, these differences can pose challenges. Uzbek learners of English may overuse coordinating conjunctions (*and*, *but*) due to literal translation, or may omit subordinating ones when relying on intonation or suffixes in their native syntax.

**Conclusion.** The structural and semantic classifications of conjunctions in English and Uzbek reveal both universal functions and language-specific realizations. English employs conjunctions as invariant syntactic tools, while Uzbek integrates them into a morphologically rich system. Despite these differences, the core semantic roles—linking, contrasting, explaining, and sequencing—are preserved across both languages.

A typological comparison of conjunctions enhances our understanding of sentence structure, information flow, and language processing, with implications for linguistic theory, language teaching, and cross-cultural communication.

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