

CONTRASTIVE CONJUNCTIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE GRAMMATICAL AND DISCOURSE-BASED ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This article presents an extensive comparative grammatical and discourse-based analysis of contrastive conjunctions in English and Uzbek. The study investigates conjunctions such as but, however, yet, although, nevertheless, and on the other hand in English, alongside ammo, lekin, biroq, holbuki, and shunga qaramay in Uzbek. Drawing on contrastive linguistics, discourse analysis, and functional grammar, the research explores morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic features of these conjunctions. Corpus-based data are employed to ensure empirical reliability. The findings demonstrate that while both languages share similar communicative goals in expressing opposition and contrast, they differ significantly in syntactic integration, discourse autonomy, and pragmatic distribution. These differences have important implications for translation studies, comparative grammar, and foreign language pedagogy.

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Keywords:

Contrastive conjunctions; comparative linguistics; English and Uzbek; syntax; semantics; pragmatics; discourse markers; translation studies

Introduction

Contrastive conjunctions play a crucial role in organizing discourse by linking propositions that express opposition, correction, limitation, or concession. In both English and Uzbek, such conjunctions function as key grammatical devices for structuring logical relations between clauses and sentences. Despite their functional similarities, contrastive conjunctions in these languages exhibit notable differences in grammatical behavior, syntactic placement,



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Literature Review

Research on conjunctions has occupied a central place in both traditional and modern linguistic studies. Classical grammarians have emphasized the syntactic classification of conjunctions, while contemporary approaches focus on their discourse and pragmatic functions. In English linguistics, comprehensive descriptions provided by Quirk et al. and Huddleston and Pullum offer detailed accounts of coordinative and subordinative conjunctions. Studies in discourse analysis further conceptualize conjunctions such as *however* and *nevertheless* as discourse markers that contribute to textual coherence.

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In Uzbek linguistics, scholars have examined conjunctions primarily from a syntactic and stylistic perspective. Works on Uzbek syntax describe the functional range of *lekin*, *ammo*, and *biroq*, emphasizing their integration into sentence structure and their reliance on intonation. However, comparative studies that systematically contrast English and Uzbek conjunction systems remain limited, which underscores the relevance of the present research.

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Methodology

The study employs a multi-method approach combining comparative-descriptive analysis, structural analysis, componential semantic analysis, and elements of discourse analysis. These methods enable a comprehensive examination of contrastive conjunctions across languages. Corpus data from authoritative English and Uzbek language sources serve as the empirical foundation of the study. Frequency analysis is applied to identify patterns of usage across genres, including academic, journalistic, and fictional texts.

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Contrastive Conjunctions in English

English contrastive conjunctions include but, however, yet, although, nevertheless, and on the other hand. Among these, but is the most frequent and functionally versatile coordinator, capable of linking clauses and sentences within a single syntactic structure. In contrast, however and nevertheless often function as sentence adverbials or discourse markers, occupying a relatively autonomous position within the sentence.

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Contrastive Conjunctions in Uzbek

In Uzbek, contrastive conjunctions such as lekin, ammo, biroq, holbuki, and shunga qaramay are widely used to express opposition and concession. The conjunction lekin is stylistically neutral and common in both spoken and written discourse, while ammo and biroq are more characteristic of formal and literary styles. Unlike English discourse markers, Uzbek conjunctions are typically integrated into the sentence and rely heavily on intonation and word order.

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Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek

A comparative analysis reveals that English contrastive conjunctions tend to display greater syntactic independence and discourse autonomy than their Uzbek counterparts. This difference reflects broader typological distinctions between the two languages. English favors explicit grammatical marking of discourse relations, whereas Uzbek relies more on syntactic integration and prosodic cues.

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Implications for Translation Studies

The observed differences between English and Uzbek contrastive conjunctions pose significant challenges for translation. Direct lexical substitution often fails to preserve



pragmatic meaning, particularly when translating English discourse markers into Uzbek. Translators must therefore consider contextual factors, communicative intent, and stylistic norms to achieve functional equivalence.

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Pedagogical Implications

From a pedagogical perspective, the findings of this study highlight the importance of teaching contrastive conjunctions within a discourse-based framework. Language learners should be exposed not only to formal definitions but also to authentic usage examples across different genres. Such an approach can enhance learners' pragmatic competence and improve translation accuracy.

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Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that although English and Uzbek contrastive conjunctions share common communicative functions, they differ markedly in syntactic structure, discourse role, and pragmatic distribution. These differences underscore the need for a nuanced approach to comparative grammar and translation. Future research may extend this analysis by incorporating additional languages or by employing quantitative corpus-linguistic methods to further refine the findings.

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