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Analysis of Word Transposition Types in English and Uzbek Languages

Shodieva Gulrukh Nazir kizi,[1]

Dusmatov Khikmatullo Khayitbaevich,[2]

[1]Dusmatov Khikmatullo KhayitbaevichIndependent researcher, Fergana state university, Fergana, 150100, Uzbekistan,

Email: g.n.shodiyeva@pf.fdu.uz

[2]Professor of Fergana State University, Faculty of Philology Department of Linguistics, Fergana, 150100, Uzbekistan

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***Corresponding author:**
Shodieva Gulrukh Nazir kizi [1]
g.n.shodiyeva@pf.fdu.uz

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Abstract

This article delves into the phenomenon of word transposition in the English language, focusing on its various types and linguistic significance. Word transposition, as a syntactic and stylistic tool, contributes to sentence variation, emphasis, and rhythm in communication. The study categorizes transposition types such as inversion, fronting, and displacement, providing examples from literature and everyday usage. Furthermore, it explores the implications of word transposition in both spoken and written English, emphasizing its role in conveying nuances and stylistic choices. The findings offer valuable insights for linguists, educators, and anyone interested in the structural dynamics of the English language.

Key words: Word transposition, English syntax, inversion, linguistic stylistics, sentence variation, language dynamic

Introduction

It is known that in theoretical approaches, the denotative semantic component of a lexeme refers to the feature that designates or names an action/state, object, quantity, or characteristic in reality. Each of these semantic components is specialized within specific parts of speech: verbs designate "action/state," nouns name "objects," numerals express "quantity," and adjectives and adverbs represent "qualities or characteristics." The denotative semantic component holds greater significance than other semantic components (such as functional or expressive semantics) within the structure of a lexeme because it aligns directly with a fragment of objective reality.

The question arises whether the denotative semantic component of each part of speech is absolute and permanent or whether it relates to the phenomenon of transposition, wherein words from independent parts of speech shift from one category to another.

Transposition, as a linguistic phenomenon, refers to the process by which a word belonging to a specific part of speech weakens its intrinsic denotative and functional semantic components, acquiring the semantic and grammatical properties of another part of speech. In Turkic languages, parts of speech are not strictly demarcated; rather, they exist in close connection, forming an integrated system. This system, based on the dialectical logic principle of the "intermediate third," encompasses hybrid words that retain semantic and grammatical features of both categories. Such words serve as transitional elements during the process of shifting from one part of speech to another.

Materials and Methods

The relationships among independent words and their transition from one category to another emerge as a result of the evolution within the semantic structure of a lexeme. This transition manifests in two forms: contextual (speech-based) and systemic (language-based) transposition. In contextual transposition, the shifted meaning is temporary and contextually driven. For instance, in the phrase "Consider one and be grateful for another" (Birni koʻrib fikr qil, birni koʻrib shukr qil), the word "bir," which belongs to the numeral category, temporarily functions as a noun. This is a transient, context-specific phenomenon.

Results and Discussion

Transposition is observed among almost all independent words and even between independent and auxiliary words:

1. Nouns like [odam], [kishi], [inson] (e.g., " zerikib ketdi odam (men), hayron qolasan kishi (men), dardimni eshitadigan inson (hech kim) topilmadi " "No inson (meaning 'no one') was found to listen to my woes"), or the numeral [bir] ("bir kishi" meaning 'someone'), and adjectives like [baʼzi] ("Baʼzilar say this, baʼzilar say that"*) transition to pronouns.

2. Words like [yigit], [qiz], [oʻgʻil], [qari], [yer], [xotin], [koʻl], adjectives such as [issiq-sovuq] (*"issiq-sovugʻidan xabar olmoq"), paired verbs like [bordi-keldi], [kelib-ketdi], [oldi-berdi], [ur-yigʻit], action nouns like [oʻqish], [yozish], [oʻtmish], [qilmish], [qidiruv], participles like [oʻqituvchi], [bogʻlovchi], [kuzatuvchi], and numerals like [uch], [yetti], [yigirma], [qirq] transition to nouns.

3. Participles like [kelajak], [boʻlajak], or nouns like [tilla], [kumush], [taxla] (e.g., "tilla uzuk" or "asal bola") transition to adjectives.

4. Participles such as [charchamasdan] ("charchamasdan ishlaysan"), [oʻylamasdan] ("gapirdi oʻylamasdan"), [indamasdan], [bilinar-bilinmas], verbal adverbs like [osha], [oʻta], [ura], [qayta], [qoyarda-qoymay], [ura-sura], or nouns like [erta], [indin], [kecha], [kech],

[kechqurun], [savat-savat], [navbatma-navbat] transition to adverbs.

5. Numerals like [bir] and adjectives like [yakka], [yolg‘iz] transition to particles.

6. Nouns like [haqiqatdan], [chamasi], [mazmun], adjectives like [yaxshi], [so‘zsiz], [tuzuk], [to‘g‘ri], [tabiiy], pronouns like [qani], [qalay] transition to modal words.

7. Numerals like [bir], adverbs like [ba’zan], particles like [ham], and prepositions like [bilan] transition to conjunctions.

8. Nouns such as [ust], [tag], [yon], [ora], [qosh], [lab], [yoqa], [og‘iz], verbal adverbs like [qarab], [boshlab], [ko‘ra], [deya], [deb], [o‘rab], adverbs like [boshqa], [bo‘lak], [o‘zga] transition to prepositions, as recorded in relevant linguistic literature.

Some of these transitions have already become systemic (linguistic), while others are still in transition as contextual (speech-based) phenomena. For example, in current grammatical classifications, numerals are defined by their ability to express quantity or order, answer specific questions like “how many?” or “which one?”, freely associate with nouns, and primarily function as determiners or modifiers in sentences. However, in certain cases, numerals like collective numbers deviate from their general grammatical meaning.

Using linguistic units in a way that does not align with their typical pragmatic functions, referred to as pragmatic transposition, is a concept employed by researchers studying the communicative-pragmatic aspects of linguistic phenomena. These researchers often advocate for the removal of all or some conventional expressions from the structure of indirect speech patterns (e.g., request examples like "Was a...?").

Van ustedes á hacermeun favor

In contrast to the previously mentioned perspective, J. Green suggests removing utterances from indirect speech acts that require specific conversational conditions for their realization. Such structures may, in certain cases, exert influence aimed at achieving different illocutionary purposes. For example, utterances like “Hace mucho frío aquí” may sometimes carry the force of a simple command. Referring to such utterances as "commands" is akin to calling "Coca-Cola" "coffee" simply because it kept someone awake—they are inherently different entities.

Another English linguist, G. Leech, puts forward the idea of treating indirect speech acts as a specialized speech strategy, which he terms the "utterance strategy." This strategy posits that an expressed illocutionary act functions as an auxiliary to realize another illocutionary act. The effectiveness of such indirect speech acts is grounded in the principle of relevance, wherein the listener interprets the existing speech act as a primary illocution serving as a foundation for the subsequent illocutionary act.

To advance the classification of indirect speech acts into conventional and non-conventional categories, Pospelova proposed a detailed taxonomy [1]. She distinguished between monointentional (single-purpose) patterns and two types of polyintentional (multi-purpose) indirect speech structures: modeled, compositional, and implicative. Among these, only the last type is considered non-conventional or atypical.

The study of transposition and word formation in English parts of speech remains a significant area of linguistic research. The reason lies in the fact that the transition of a word from one category to another leads to the emergence of a new lexical-grammatical category, closely tied to word formation processes.

The transition of verb forms into nouns is a specific model of transposition. In this process, simple, prefixed, and compound verbs—through their present or past tense bases and participial forms—shift from the system (paradigm) of verbs or participles into the noun system.

On the level of speech, such transitions of verb forms acquire new positions and functions.

The term "transposition" was first introduced into scientific discourse in the 1930s by French linguist Charles Bally to describe the mechanism by which a word (or base) transitions from one part of speech to another. Bally defines transposition as follows: "We are speaking about the linguistic transposition of a sign that, while retaining its intrinsic meanings, adopts a symbolic role within another category."

He identifies two types of transposition:

1. Functional transposition – where the initial syntactic function of a word changes without altering its lexical meaning.

2. Semantic transposition – where the syntactic function of a word changes in parallel with the acquisition of new lexical meaning.

Later, these two types were compared as lexical and syntactic derivation. The issue of conversion was first addressed in the works of A.I. Smirnitsky, who pointed out that in conversion, the word-forming tool consists solely of the word's paradigm.

This interpretation is reflected in O.S. Akhmanova's dictionary [6], where "conversion" is defined as the process by which the paradigm of a word acts as the primary means of word formation. In contrast, transposition, under the term "hypostasis," refers to the broader phenomenon of a word transitioning from one part of speech to another through conversion, encompassing both substantivization and adjectivization.

Thus, in linguistics, the concept of transposition represents a broader category than

conversion. While conversion relies primarily on paradigms as the main mechanism of word formation, transposition involves the shift of a word from one part of speech to another. This transition results not only in a change of lexical function but also in a syntactic transformation, making it a significant linguistic phenomenon.

Stylistic impact is based on creating a synonymous series composed of several syntactic constructions with emotional and expressive coloring alongside a neutral syntactic construction built using conventional syntactic relations.

Inversion (from Latin "inversio" meaning "reversal, rearrangement") is a syntactic method and stylistic figure based on altering the usual word order in a sentence. Inversion is used to emphasize or logically highlight a particular word or phrase, or to create rhythmic and intonational patterns in poetic speech.

In poetic speech, inversion is one of the most frequently used syntactic techniques and appears in nearly all poems. It allows the emphasized word to be placed in a stressed position within the line. For example:

"…So bitter it is that death is hardly worse!

But to describe the good discovered there

I here will tell the other things I saw…"

Additionally, sentences can exist in affirmative or negative forms, each with its own structure and intonation. Moreover, any of these sentence types can convey the meanings of the others, depending on context. These sentences exhibit a unique modality, stylistic expressiveness, and emotional impact. For instance, a declarative sentence can express a question. In such cases, the speaker's expectation of the answer and their interest in it are evident. This shift in meaning is called transposition.

Let us consider the transposition of declarative sentences into interrogative meaning. Such transpositions are especially common in spoken language:

And that's supposed to be cultured? (P. Shafer)

In such sentences, transposition ensures the conveyance of sarcasm and irony. Presenting a question in declarative form indicates that the speaker already anticipates the answer.

Conversely, when an interrogative sentence approaches the meaning of a declarative one, such sentences are referred to in literature as rhetorical questions. Rhetorical questions do not require an answer, as the response is embedded within the question itself. The purpose of rhetorical questions is to prompt the reader or listener to think critically and draw conclusions. Their function in speech is to capture the audience's attention, enhance the impact, increase

emotional expressiveness, and add a tone of elevation to the discourse.

Rhetorical questions appear across all styles of speech, but each context lends them a unique shade of meaning, often expressing sarcasm or ridicule. For example:

“Men will confess to treason, murder, false teeth, or a wig. How many of them own up to a lack of humor?” (F. Colby, Essays)

In this example, the rhetorical question serves to emphasize the author’s firm belief that people rarely admit to lacking a sense of humor, highlighting a tone of irony.

In scientific discourse, rhetorical questions, often followed by their answers, invite the reader to engage in reflection and analysis alongside the author. A similar phenomenon can be observed in publicistic style, where rhetorical questions provoke thought and encourage engagement.

For instance:

"Again and again, I have heard the statement that learning machines cannot subject us to any new dangers, because we can turn them off when we feel like it. But can we? To turn a machine off effectively, we must be in possession of information as to whether the danger point has come. The mere fact that we have made the machine does not guarantee that we shall have the proper information to do this." (N. Wiener).

Conclusion

In this article, I tried to clarify the theoretical foundations of transposition phenomena occurring in word groups in two languages. I have made these actions more clear by giving examples. I analyzed the similarities and differences between the concepts of transposition and conversion as one of the linguistic phenomena found in word groups. I have also provided examples of transposition phenomena in Uzbek and English.

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