

Khalilova G. B.<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5245-482X>

Odlar Yurdu University

CHANGING THE WORD ORDER IN TERMS OF COGNITIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE UTTERANCE (WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WITH THE LEXICAL- MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF THE MODERN AZERBAIJANI LANGUAGE)

This article examines the specifics of word order changes in relation to the cognitive interpretation of utterances using English and modern Azerbaijani. It examines the basic principles of utterance organization in Indo-European and Turkic languages, as well as the influence of word order on the formation of meaning and the communicative structure of sentences. Particular attention is paid to comparing English, characterized by a relatively fixed word order, and Azerbaijani, which exhibits a more free arrangement of sentence components. It is determined that word order is closely linked to the cognitive processes of perception, transmission, and interpretation of information. It is established that in English, changes in word position often lead to a transformation of the logical emphasis, intonation structure, and semantic meaning of an utterance. In Azerbaijani, word order also plays an important communicative function, but a significant role is given to the verb, its aspectual forms, and semantic nuances. Scientific approaches to the problem of actual sentence segmentation and its relationship to the sequence of utterance components are considered. The article analyzes contemporary linguists' views on the interaction of grammar, vocabulary, intonation, and cognitive mechanisms in verbal communication. It is demonstrated that changes in word order are determined not only by syntactic norms, but also by the developmental characteristics of human thought, communicative tasks, and the national and cultural specifics of language. It is concluded that word order in English and Azerbaijani reflects the specificity of the linguistic worldview and serves as an important means of cognitive organization of utterances. This article is about the development of the word order in Azerbaijani and English.

Keywords: word order, cognitive linguistics, modifications, English language, Azerbaijani language, transformation of forms, Indo-European languages, inversion.

Introduction. When writing and speaking about the English language, or the vast and diverse Indo-European language group in general, modern linguists confidently assert that morphology, lexicology, and syntax are the foundation of their grammatical structure in the traditional understanding and perception. The progress of human cognition cannot be halted; it develops in parallel with the various means of expressing ideas and thoughts. However, it is imperative to take into account that some linguistic means can be gradually replaced by others throughout history. Moreover, this transition during the evolution of consciousness is quite ambiguous; most often, it follows the following chain: from relatively primitive (primordial) thinking to more abstract

thinking, and from there to concreteness. The latter finds its clear expression in the precision of thought, its clarity, and, of course, logical structure. The order of thoughts, words, and expressions is subject to certain norms and patterns. The Romano-Germanic language group as a whole is, on the one hand, associated with purely formal markers developing on a grammatical basis, and on the other, with predicative relations. At the same time, the assumption that changes in the word order system (in our case, primarily based on the example of English) within utterances in cognitive linguistics affects not only verbal or verbal forms of expression, but sometimes intonation as well, seems axiomatic. It turns out that intonation, too, plays a certain supporting



role. The author of this article aims to elucidate how this mechanism functions in modern English, with a clear comparison to Azerbaijani. Contemporary linguists have made valid points regarding these different linguistic systems. Since these systems are an important part of cognitive linguistics - and already a specific variant of speech utterance - scholars, defending the corresponding theoretical positions on this matter, are essentially forced to frequently "modify the methods of potentially expressing semantic predicates" [3; 4: 5]. Characteristically, this can be observed in the centuries-long development of the English language.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

In the scientific literature, the problem of word order and the actual division of sentences in Turkic and Indo-European languages is examined from various perspectives - syntactic, functional-communicative, and cognitive [9; 10]. Azerbaijani and foreign researchers have made significant contributions to the development of this topic, and their work forms the theoretical basis for this study.

K.M. Abdullayev's work examines the problem of actual sentence division in Azerbaijani, emphasizing the connection between word order and the communicative organization of utterances and the distribution of information [1]. This approach allows for the consideration of word order not only as a grammatical category, but also as a means of expressing the semantic structure of a sentence. The functional characteristics of sentence members in Azerbaijani are examined in A.M. Agakishiyeva's study, which defines their communicative functions and role in organizing the syntactic structure of an utterance [3]. The author emphasizes the importance of contextual factors in the analysis of syntactic units. In A.G. Alakparov analyzes the theoretical foundations of phraseology, allowing us to clarify the mechanisms of syntactic connections and their influence on the formation of sentence structure [4]. These principles are important for understanding the interaction between the lexical and syntactic levels of language. In turn, M.M. Jafarov examines keywords in educational texts and their interword relationships, focusing on the semantic organization of the text and its coherence [5]. This line of research complements our understanding of the cognitive mechanisms of speech activity. Thus, the analysis of scientific works shows that the problem of word order and actual division of a sentence is considered in close connection with syntactic, semantic and communicative factors, which creates a theoretical basis for the cognitive comparison of the English and Azerbaijani languages.

Task statement. The purpose of this article is to study the peculiarities of word order changes in the English and modern Azerbaijani languages in terms of cognitive interpretation of the utterance, as well as to identify the influence of word order on the formation of the semantic structure, communicative organization of the sentence and the reflection of the linguistic picture of the world in the compared language systems.

Methodology. The following research methods were used in the work: a descriptive method, applied to characterize the features of word order in the English and Azerbaijani languages; a comparative method, which made it possible to identify similarities and differences in the syntactic organization of utterances in the two language systems; a cognitive analysis method, aimed at examining word order as a means of expressing thought processes and structuring information; as well as a contextual analysis method, used to study the functioning of word order in real speech utterances and identify its communicative role.

Outline of the main material of the study. It is well known that Azerbaijani belongs to the Turkic group. It also has its own unique linguistic system. But first of all, it should be emphasized that its word order is not as strictly fixed as in English. When writing about this, linguists usually, not without reason, remind us that the pattern of the sequence of some parts of a sentence is mainly closed by the definition of the place between the subject, then the predicate, the object, the circumstance, and, finally, the definition. Moreover, this is important for the correct establishment of the connection between word order and the actual division of a sentence in the modern Azerbaijani language. It is significant that Academician Kamal Abdulla paid special attention to this aspect. In one of his works, he noted, in particular, that "the actualization of an utterance as a division into initial and subsequent information is directly linked to word order and, at the same time, is the most important communicative task of language" [1, p. 63–64]. This is an extremely precise idea, and it is, in turn, continued by the linguist V.B. Nasibov: "The main load in the order of words in the Azerbaijani language is most often carried by the verb, its aspectual forms and general meanings" [8, p. 13].

Thus, we conclude that in English and Azerbaijani, the order of thoughts, words, and expressions is subject to certain norms. In this regard, it should be noted that both the Romano-Germanic and Turkic language groups, in general, are linked to both grammar and predicates. Now, let us briefly review the historical background of the origin and development of the English language. This should be done in order

to establish the fundamental patterns in the architecture of both the English sentence and the variations in word order. It turns out that ancient English (in our era), the language in which, for example, Shakespeare wrote, was characterized by a more flexible system than today's. In our case, this is a relatively free word order. Scholars have been able to determine that this was due to the frequent absence of a subject, on the one hand, and the significant inclusion of secondary clauses with different cases in the sentence. Moreover, the use of synonyms, along with their various invariants, could easily be found within a single stylistic flow, as well as in works by a single author, even on identical pages.

This theoretical position began to change closer to our time. For example, in modern English, sentences with subjects are clearly prevalent; they are easily discernible from the overall context. Furthermore, there is an active process of substituting some English sentences for others in terms of their internal structure: from monosyllabic to bisyllabic, as well as within the linguistic field in lexical-morphological systems. In light of the above, let's ask a simple and natural question: what was the dynamic of changes in word order or expressions within the framework of cognitive linguistics? First of all, let's emphasize that, parabolically, the changes in the architecture of the English sentence that interest us were rooted in the clearly established standardization of its two-part structure. This is more typical, more often found in both strictly linguistic texts and fiction. As a result, the "subject + predicate" model/schema was formed. At first glance, one might mistakenly assume that this word order is simple. But in reality, this is not the case. On the contrary, over time, the functions of the main parts have become extremely diverse. Thus, the subject itself now denotes both the subject and the object, expressing both the passive and the active. The English predicate is gradually becoming more diverse, both structurally and semantically. In particular, the functions of finite verb forms are expanding.

In light of the topic of our article, this is of interest to us for at least two reasons. First, in both English and Azerbaijani, a specific word order is often accompanied by the placement of keywords in the text, which in turn prolong the interword connections in the sentence. In modern English, according to some researchers, the functions of such keywords are taken over by the textbook phrases "there is..." or adverbs such as "now", "so", "newer", etc. As is well known, many sentences begin with them. But, as the saying goes, one standard, or template, is not like another. Second, when certain keywords are present, the English predicate most often

follows the subject. However, this is not always the case. Much here also depends on the author's context. This also applies to the rules for placing the English keyword as an object, which (usually in its personal form) can occupy both the "before" and "after" positions of the verb. For example, an object expressed by a pronoun is usually placed immediately before the verb. In other cases, it occupies a postposition. So, word order here is more flexible.

The same applies to the modern Azerbaijani language. Linguist M.M. Jafarov expresses an interesting thought on this matter. In one of his articles, he examines the order of keywords in academic texts, closely aligning his own reasoning with interword connections. It is significant that the scholar subordinates his chosen topic to the idea of cultural studies. He writes: "Since the topic of the homeland is popular in Azerbaijani universities, we propose placing nouns such as country, penates, state, people, the Caspian Sea, oil, factories, nation, Azerbaijanis, culture, traditions, and mentality first in academic texts. These should be followed by those parts of the sentence that directly characterize them. This should be simple and completely accessible for both correct understanding and perception" [5, p.26]. In any case, it should be kept in mind that both the most simplified word order proposed by M. Jafarov (strictly for textbooks) and more complex constructions for different types of linguistic texts must, in their formal features, be consistent with the sentence's structure and semantics. For example, in some cases, the subject of a state or action is active, while in others, it is passive. The predicate in English, varying in its nuances, also conveys different semantic nuances. For example, aspect conveys semantic changes in word order, but if a shift occurs at the grammatical level, the structure of the English sentence is also modified. Specifically, the "subject + predicate" combination, in a certain sense, enriches the overall content of the entire text. And this, incidentally, is entirely consistent with the general trend in English, as the lexical-semantic and grammatical shift proceeds from more specific meanings to the development of generalized meanings.

This trend can be clearly observed in the changes in word order resulting from the evolution of the entire English language system. For example, all scholars today agree that the subject invariably occupies a preposition. This rule is axiomatic, and it clearly indicates a strictly fixed (that is, established) word order. But if we compare modern English with its earlier period, it turns out that the curve has been moving from a more free (relatively uninhibited) word order to their ordering and structuring.

For example, until recently, certain English verbs were used without subjects altogether. For example, “seem”, “appear”, “happen”, “occur”, “please”, and so on. Note that, by and large, the sentences in which these words were used were constructed around the subject “it”.

Furthermore, infinitive sentences often dispensed with the subject, in which, as if by magic, the pronoun “man” almost disappeared from use. The history of word order modification began with the existence of a subjectless sentence using various verbs, and then their structure adopted the pronoun “one”. The verb, placed in postposition to the subject, began to be used primarily in the passive voice in certain types of English sentences.

In Azerbaijani, only the second part of the above corresponds to this position. That is, the verb almost always occurs at the very end of the sentence and, naturally, always occupies a postposition in relation to one, and sometimes several, subjects (depending on the number of stems). As for the first position, the presence of subjectless clauses with different verbs is not at all characteristic of modern Azerbaijani.

On the contrary, Azerbaijani has a certain hierarchy in word order, which, unlike English, is usually “cemented” by a common member of the sentence. A.M. Atakishiyeva, for example, drew attention to this feature, pointing out that “the prepositional component is often expressed by a successive class of words from different parts of speech, and it is the common member of the sentence that cements the lexical-structural or semantic-structural construction” [3, p. 29]. She also cites characteristic examples as evidence. For convenience, we highlight them in bold.

1). Sadıǵa elə gəlirdi ki, o əgər boz eşşəklə Dağıstana patron daşımaysaydı, müharibəni uduza-caqdıq. (S.Sakhavat. Oak seeds);

2) Lakin təəssüf edilməlidir, tərif çox zaman yalnız xırdapeşəkarların deyil, böyük istedad sahiblərinin də beynini dumanlandırır... (M.Ibrahimov. Parvana. Book I. Part III, 6 chapters.).

3). Ağıllı adamlar yaxşı bilirlər ki, indi qamda əgər dövlətimizi saxlamaq istəyiriksə, or düşmənlərinin dəlillərini bilməliyik. (M.Ibrahimov. Parvana. Book I. Part III, 6 chapters.).

Naturally, both of these changes in English have influenced the placement of conjunctions and conjunctions, respectively. They have also decisively influenced the order of adverbs and pronouns replacing the conjunction “that”. Following it in a subordinate relationship are pronouns such as: *wham*, *how*, *that*, *thought that*, *which that*, and similar ones. In some cases, the word order of the central conjunction

“that” was influenced by borrowings from the same Romano-Germanic group. For example, the conjunction “by cause that” is borrowed from French, which is a combination of conjunctions.

It is important to understand that when analyzing changes in word order within the cognitive interpretation of an utterance, it is necessary to consider the most essential properties of the sentences themselves. Meanwhile, word order is a significant part of it. It is also an important fragment of the overall linguistic picture of the universe. A linguistic text can sometimes be contained within a single-word sentence, but this doesn’t mean that communication partners won’t be able to discern the difference between, say, a single word like “work” as a call to work or a simple statement of fact, and an entire sentence like “Work!” Essentially, this sentence would be either imperative or nominative.

Here, it’s more important to understand that a sentence is, first and foremost, a communicative message, a factor, or, more precisely, a means of conveying specific information. Words, as is well known, do not possess this function. Furthermore, a sentence additionally reveals the interlocutor/partner’s attitude toward a fact or reality, simultaneously emphasizing the psychological motivation behind a personal representation of something. By summing up these and some related features, a general picture of predicativity is created as a set of signs (section “semiotics”). These signs, in turn, point to corresponding lexical and semantic nominations in the text.

For example, the same person can be designated by both a specific name and pronouns. In such cases, word order is not particularly significant. For example, “Peter” is also “I”, “you”, and “this”, while when referring to age, say, “young man”. Consider family relationships: “Mary’s brother” or “Johnson”, and so on and so forth. These words can appear virtually anywhere in a sentence, except perhaps at the end, since the phrase in such cases may be devoid of logical meaning.

Serious scholars are interested in the structure and internal content of English sentences in which the placement of individual words is crucial. This is most significant when a stable, or standardized, sentence structure correlates with something new. In contrast to this phenomenon or process, there are sentences with established features or form: «*How do you do?*» «*Glad to see you*», etc.

In this vein, it’s interesting to examine the functions of phrases in both English and Azerbaijani - that is, as we stated in the title of our article, to briefly analyze this feature from a comparative perspective. Signifi-

cantly, both lexical and syntactic modes of expressing specific linguistic meanings will be at play here.

Let's take, for example, a phrase like "there is" or "there are". Common. Textbook. Traditional. However, in terms of determining their location, it's not so common and familiar. In fact, "there" is not perceived by readers (or scholars) as "there" in every context, functioning as an adverb. In practice, such a phrase is most often used to logically highlight the subject, and perhaps even to explain inversion: «*There were several big things required on Monday from the town*».

Let's clarify. From the given example, it's clear that the purpose of using two phrases - "there is" or "there are" - is to highlight the subject. In modern English, the subject has shifted from the first to the middle position. In other words, the word order changes. In turn, the subject in English is determined by inversion, which is, in fact, caused by the word "there".

Let's draw an analogy with the Azerbaijani language. To confirm the parallelism, we cite an article by Professor A.G. Alakparov. He writes that phrases in modern Azerbaijani primarily "provide a factor of concretization, clarification, and detailing of the necessary information about a particular phenomenon". Regarding word order, our linguist continues, "the Azerbaijani language has a special structural method of expressing so-called 'determinative meaning', that is, a one-sided relationship of dependence in word order. The determiner comes first, and then the deter-

mined word follows" [4, p. 4]. Thus, the analogy in the two languages we are comparing is obvious here.

Conclusions. We present word order changes in the English language as an example, diachronically. That is, we demonstrate how this process evolved. A brief historical overview prefaces the main content. It turns out that this process is nonlinear, namely, it is associated with different levels of thinking: from the relatively "primitive" and therefore highly abstract to the more clearly defined, that is, concrete. Gradually, word order acquired its own distinct lexical-semantic and syntactic structure. This was demonstrated using a number of examples taken not only from linguistic texts but also from the annals of fiction from various periods.

To make the comparison and contrast clear, it was first necessary to establish a connection between word order in two languages of different groups. In Azerbaijani, it is not as strictly fixed as in English. However, in both cases, the model by which the parameters of successive parts of a sentence are constructed generally falls within the boundaries between them. They were not only named but also embedded into individual phrases or collocations. These evaluation criteria provided a real opportunity for comparison. This allowed us to establish the difference in word order between the two languages. Moreover, we conducted the comparison at the purely formal, lexical-semantic, and syntactic levels. The examples provided in the article specifically confirmed this.

Bibliography:

1. Abdulla K.M. Azərbaycan dili sintaksisinin nəzəri problemləri / K.M.Abdulla. Bakı: MTM-Innovation, 2016. 360 s.
2. Abdullayev K.M. Azərbaycan dilində mürəkkəb sintaktik bütövlər/ K.M.Abdullayev, A.Y.Məmmədov, M.M.Musayev və b. Bakı: Mütərcim, 2012.
3. Ağakışiyeva A.M. Azərbaycan dilində cümlənin ümumi üzvünün funksiyaları. *Rus dili və ədəbiyyatı, Azərbaycanda*, 2006, № 4, səh. 28–30.
4. Ələkbərov A.Q. İfadələr nəzəriyyəsinə. *Azərbaycanda rus dili və ədəbiyyatı*, 2005, № 1, s. 3–6.
5. Cəfərov M.M. Mətnəki açar sözlər və onların sözlərarası əlaqələri. *Azərbaycanda rus dili və ədəbiyyatı*, 2004, № 1, s. 25–26.
6. Cəfərov M.M. Mətnəki açar sözlər və onların sözlərarası əlaqələri. *Azərbaycanda rus dili və ədəbiyyatı*, 2004, № 1, s. 25–26.
7. Mustafayeva G.X., Əşrəfova X.Q. Cümlədəki sözlərin sırası. *Azərbaycanda rus dili və ədəbiyyatı*, 2003, № 2, s. 31–35.
8. Nəsimov V.B. Cümlə komponentlərinin və fel aspektinin aktuallaşması. *Azərbaycanda rus dili və ədəbiyyatı*, 2008, № 1, s. 13–14.
9. Mustanoja N.F. *A Middle English Syntax: Parts of speech*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2016, 702 p.
10. Rumelhart D.E., P. Smolensky, J.L. McClelland, G.E. Hinton. Schemata and sequential thought processes in PDP models. *Parallel distributed processing: Explorations in the structure of cognition*. Vol. 2. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.

Халілова Г. Б. ЗМІНА ПОРЯДКУ СЛІВ З ТОЧКИ ЗОРУ КОГНІТИВНОЇ ІНТЕРПРЕТАЦІЇ ВИСЛОВЛЮВАННЯ (В РАМКАХ ПОРІВНЯЛЬНОГО АНАЛІЗУ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ З ЛЕКСИКО-МОРФОЛОГІЧНОЮ СИСТЕМОЮ СУЧАСНОЇ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКОЇ МОВИ)

У цій статті розглядається специфіка зміни порядку слів стосовно когнітивної інтерпретації висловлювань з використанням англійської та сучасної азербайджанської мов. Розглядаються основні принципи організації висловлювань в індоєвропейських та тюркських мовах, а також вплив порядку слів на формування значення та комунікативну структуру речень. Особлива увага приділяється порівнянню англійської мови, яка характеризується відносно фіксованим порядком слів, та азербайджанської мови, яка демонструє більш вільне розташування компонентів речення. Встановлено, що порядок слів тісно пов'язаний з когнітивними процесами сприйняття, передачі та інтерпретації інформації. Встановлено, що в англійській мові зміни позиції слова часто призводять до трансформації логічного наголосу, інтонаційної структури та семантичного значення висловлювання. В азербайджанській мові порядок слів також відіграє важливу комунікативну функцію, але значна роль надається дієслову, його аспектним формам та семантичним нюансам. Розглянуто наукові підходи до проблеми власне сегментації речень та її зв'язку з послідовністю компонентів висловлювання. У статті аналізуються погляди сучасних лінгвістів на взаємодію граматики, лексики, інтонації та когнітивних механізмів у вербальній комунікації. Показано, що зміни порядку слів визначаються не лише синтаксичними нормами, а й особливостями розвитку людського мислення, комунікативними завданнями та національно-культурною специфікою мови. Зроблено висновок, що порядок слів в англійській та азербайджанській мовах відображає специфіку мовного світогляду та слугує важливим засобом когнітивної організації висловлювань. Ця стаття присвячена розвитку порядку слів в азербайджанській та англійській мовах.

Ключові слова: порядок слів, когнітивна лінгвістика, модифікації, англійська мова, азербайджанська мова, трансформація форм, індоєвропейські мови, інверсія.

Дата першого надходження статті до видання: 01.07.2026

Дата прийняття статті до друку після рецензування: 22.07.2026

Дата публікації (оприлюднення) статті: 09.10.2026