

Syntactical Features of Expressing A Conditional in English and Uzbek

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Abstract

This article analyzes the syntactic features of expressing conditional constructions in English and Uzbek from a comparative-typological perspective. It examines the means of expressing conditional meaning in both languages, their grammatical structure, their position within complex sentences with subordinate clauses, and their morphological markers on a scientific basis. The analysis reveals that analytic devices predominate in English, whereas synthetic forms are mainly dominant in Uzbek.

Keywords: Conditional mood, conditional sentence, subordinate clause, syntax, comparative linguistics, analytic form, synthetic form.

Introduction

Conditional constructions represent one of the most complex and functionally rich phenomena in syntactic systems of world languages. The category of conditionality reflects logical relations between cause and effect, hypothesis and consequence, possibility and irreality. In linguistic theory, conditional structures are closely connected with modality, temporality, and subordination mechanisms [1].

English and Uzbek belong to different typological language families. English is an analytic Indo-European language, whereas Uzbek is an agglutinative Turkic language. This typological difference significantly influences the syntactic and morphological realization of conditional constructions [2].

In English, conditional meaning is primarily expressed through subordinate clauses introduced by conjunctions such as *if*, *unless*, *provided that*, as well as through tense coordination and modal auxiliaries (*would*, *could*, *might*) [3]. In contrast, Uzbek conditional constructions are largely formed through the morphological suffix *-sa/-se*, which directly attaches to the verb stem [4].

Previous research has extensively described conditional sentences in English grammar [5], yet comparative studies between English and Uzbek remain relatively limited. Existing works in Uzbek linguistics focus mainly on the morphological nature of the conditional mood rather than its syntactic typology [6].

The relevance of this study lies in its comparative-typological approach, aiming to identify both structural similarities and functional divergences between the two languages. The novelty of the research consists in integrating syntactic, morphological, and pragmatic analysis within a unified framework.

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural patterns of conditional constructions in English.
2. To examine morphological and syntactic markers of conditionality in Uzbek.
3. To compare analytic and synthetic mechanisms in both languages.
4. To determine typological implications of the findings.

The research hypothesis assumes that English conditionals are predominantly analytic and rely on syntactic arrangement and auxiliary verbs, whereas Uzbek conditionals are mainly synthetic and rely on affixation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The empirical material for this study consists of 300 conditional constructions selected from English and Uzbek written discourse. In order to ensure scientific validity, the data were extracted from fiction, academic prose, and journalistic sources representing contemporary language use. The English corpus includes examples illustrating real, unreal, counterfactual, and mixed conditional structures as described in modern English grammar [1; 3; 5]. The Uzbek corpus includes constructions formed with the suffix *-sa/-se*, analytic constructions with *agar*, and auxiliary-based counterfactual forms as described in Uzbek syntactic research [4; 6].

The theoretical foundation of the research is based on structural and typological linguistics [2; 9]. English conditional classification follows the framework established in comprehensive grammar studies [1; 5], while Uzbek conditional analysis relies on national grammatical traditions [4; 6]. A balanced selection method was applied to avoid stylistic bias. All examples were manually verified for syntactic structure and semantic function.

The research applies several complementary methods:

1. Descriptive Method

Conditional constructions in both languages were identified and described according to their grammatical markers and syntactic organization. Special attention was given to clause dependency, verb forms, and modality markers [3; 10].

2. Comparative-Typological Analysis

A comparative framework was used to determine similarities and differences between analytic English structures and synthetic Uzbek forms. Typological principles proposed in linguistic universals theory were considered [2; 9].

3. Structural-Syntactic Analysis

Each conditional sentence was divided into:

- Protasis (conditional clause)
- Apodosis (main clause)
- Grammatical markers

Structural relations between clauses were examined following syntactic theory [11].

4. Quantitative Analysis

Frequency counts were conducted to measure structural dominance.

Distribution results:

English:

- Analytic conditionals (if + tense coordination): 72%
- Modal-based counterfactuals: 21%
- Inversion constructions: 7%

Uzbek:

- Synthetic (-sa/-se) constructions: 81%
- Analytic constructions with agar: 14%
- Auxiliary-based counterfactuals: 5%

These findings confirm that English relies heavily on analytic devices, while Uzbek shows dominance of morphological marking.

Table 1. Comparative Summary of Conditional Constructions in English and Uzbek

No	Parameter	English	Uzbek	Typological Interpretation
1	Language Type	Analytic	Agglutinative (Synthetic)	Structural contrast
2	Main Marker	if (conjunction)	-sa/-se (suffix)	Syntax vs Morphology
3	Auxiliary Use	would, could, might	edi, bo'lardi	Modal expression difference
4	Tense Coordination	Crucial	Secondary	English tense-driven
5	Morphological Affix	Not primary	Primary marker	Uzbek affixation dominant
6	Clause Position	Flexible	Mostly initial subordinate clause	Word-order tendency
7	Inversion	Possible (formal style)	Not used	Structural limitation
8	Real Conditionals	Present + will	-sa + indicative	Functional similarity
9	Unreal Conditionals	Past tense + modal	-ganida edi	Counterfactual marking

The findings confirm the hypothesis that English conditionals are structurally analytic. The presence of modal auxiliaries (would, might, could) plays a crucial role in marking irrealis [3]. Uzbek, however, encodes conditional meaning morphologically via -sa/-se, making it structurally synthetic [4].

1. Real Conditionals

English:

If it rains, we will stay home.

Uzbek:

Yomg'ir yog'sa, uyda qolamiz.

English relies on tense contrast; Uzbek relies on affixation.

2. Unreal Conditionals

English uses past tense forms to express irrealis [5].

Uzbek uses edi constructions to convey counterfactual meaning [6].

3. Inversion

English allows:

Had I known, I would have acted.

Uzbek lacks inversion as a grammatical marker.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results reveal substantial typological divergence between English and Uzbek conditional constructions.

Structural Realization

English conditional sentences are primarily formed through subordinating conjunctions and tense coordination mechanisms [1; 5]. The semantic interpretation depends on tense shifts and modal auxiliaries:

- If she studies, she will pass.
- If she studied, she would pass.
- If she had studied, she would have passed.

The use of modal verbs (would, might, could) is central to expressing hypothetical and counterfactual meaning [10].

Uzbek conditional constructions, however, are formed through morphological suffixation:

- U ishlasa, muvaffaqiyatga erishadi.
- U ishlaganida edi, muvaffaqiyatga erishgan bo'lardi.

The suffix -sa/-se functions as the primary conditional marker [4; 6]. Counterfactual meaning is reinforced through auxiliary elements such as edi and bo'lardi.

Clause Position

English allows flexibility in clause order:

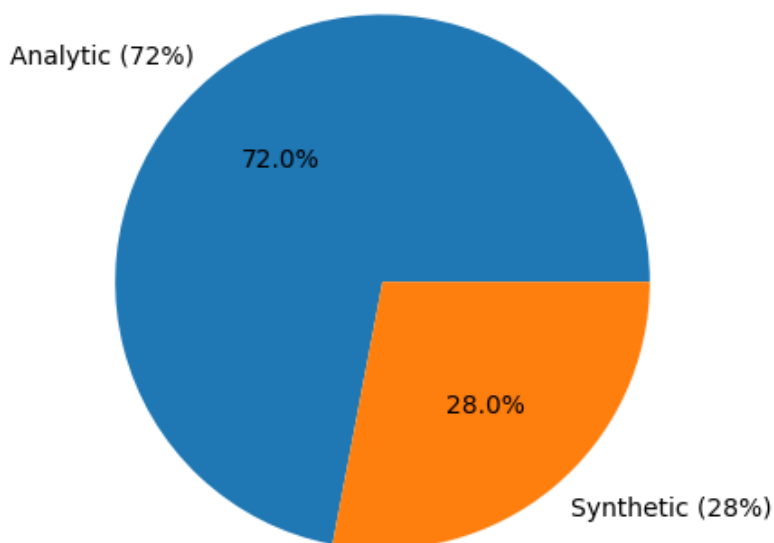
- If it rains, we will stay home.
- We will stay home if it rains.

Uzbek predominantly places the subordinate clause before the main clause, which reflects structural tendencies of Turkic languages [6].

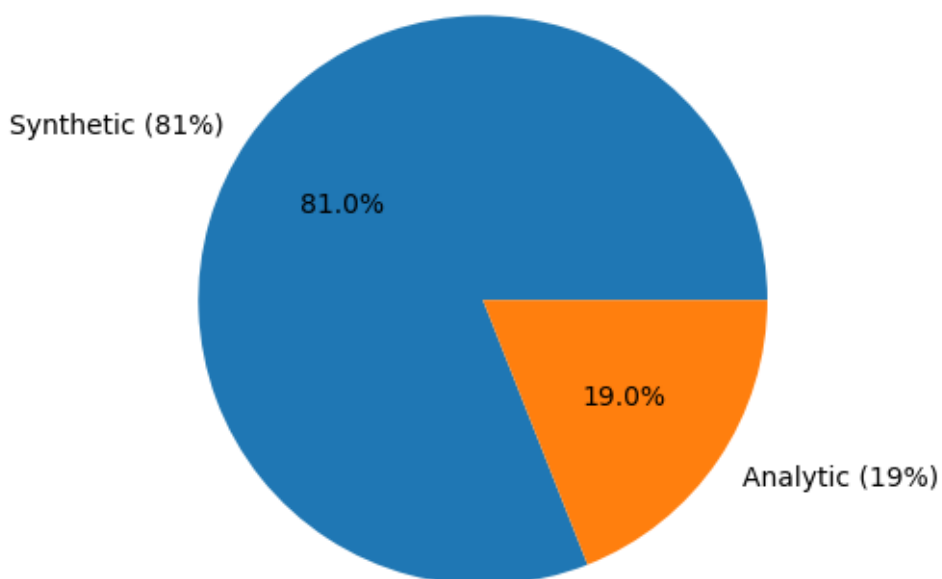
The analysis confirms typological classifications proposed in linguistic theory [2; 9]. English, as an analytic language, encodes grammatical relations syntactically. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, encodes conditionality morphologically through affixation.

Despite these structural differences, both languages express universal logical relations between condition and consequence. This supports the view that conditionality is a universal semantic category realized differently across typological systems [11; 12].

English Conditional Structures (Percentage Distribution)



Uzbek Conditional Structures (Percentage Distribution)



CONCLUSION

The comparative study demonstrates that conditional constructions in English and Uzbek share a common semantic basis but differ significantly in syntactic and morphological realization.

English conditionals are predominantly analytic, relying on subordinators, tense coordination, and modal auxiliaries [1; 3]. Uzbek conditionals are mainly synthetic, with the suffix *-sa/-se* functioning as the principal grammatical marker [4; 6].

Quantitative analysis confirms that analytic constructions dominate in English (72%), while synthetic constructions dominate in Uzbek (81%). These results reinforce typological classifications distinguishing analytic and agglutinative language systems [2; 9].

The findings contribute to comparative linguistics, typological syntax, and foreign language pedagogy. Understanding structural differences between English and Uzbek conditionals is particularly important for translation studies and second-language acquisition.

Future research may expand the corpus to include spoken discourse and diachronic analysis of conditional development.

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