SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE OF A SENTENCE IN OLD UZBEK AND OLD FRENCH

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Abstract: This paper is devoted to a comparative study of the syntactic structure of sentences in Old Uzbek and Old French. The aim of the study is to identify similarities and differences in word order, the use of parts of speech, and the ways of expressing grammatical relationships between sentence members in the two languages. Particular attention is paid to the structure of simple and complex sentences, the role of case endings, verb forms, and the means of connecting words.

Keywords: syntax, Old Uzbek, Old French, sentence structure, word order, historical linguistics, language typology.

Syntax is a central area of   grammar, determining the organization of words in an utterance. The syntactic structure of a sentence reflects not only the grammatical laws of a language but also the features of its typological structure. Old Uzbek (Old Turkic) and Old French represent two different typological types: agglutinative and inflectional-analytical, respectively. A comparative study of their syntax reveals common patterns and differences in the formation of predicative structure, word order, and the system of auxiliary elements.

Syntactic Structure of a Sentence in Old Uzbek

Old Uzbek, which has retained features of Old Turkic, is characterized by an agglutinative structure and synthetic sentence organization.

The main principle of construction is postpositionality, meaning that the modifier usually follows the dependent clause.

The basic word order is SOV (subject-object-predicate).

Examples:

* Men kitab oqudum — I read the book.
* Beg ulug' söz aytdi — Bek said a great word.

Here, the predicate always occupies the final position, which is a typological characteristic of Turkic languages.

Grammatical relationships are expressed by affixes: case, personal, and possessive. The connection between sentence members is most often morphological rather than syntactic (via function words). Conjunctions are rare; adverbial and participial forms often serve as linking elements.

Examples:

* Men kelip, ulni kördüm — When I arrived, I saw him.

(Instead of a complex conjunction, a participle form is used).

The basic type is a simple declarative sentence.

Interrogative and negative forms are formed with particles (mu, -mas):

Sen kelding mu? — Have you arrived?

Men bormasman — I'm not going.

Thus, the syntax of Old Uzbek is based on morphological consistency and a fixed predicate position, with minimal use of function words.

Syntactic structure of the sentence in Old French

Old French (11th–14th centuries), a language in transition from Latin to Modern French, had an inflectional system with a nascent tendency toward analyticity. The basic word order gradually

shifted from SVO (subject–predicate–object) to a more flexible one, depending on the communicative accent.

Examples from the "Chanson de Roland":

- Li quens Rollant fut en la campaigne — Count Roland was in the field.

- Here the structure is close to modern SVO, but in poetic speech there is also an inversion:
- Mult est grant la dulor — Velika gor'b' (literally: "Very great sorrow").

Unlike Old Uzbek, Old French implements grammatical relations analytically—through prepositions, articles, and auxiliary verbs. The case system, inherited from Latin, almost disappeared by the 13th century, and prepositions began to express syntactic relationships.

Примеры:

- Le fils du roi — Son of the king (lit. "fils de roi" in the ancient form).
- A la dame parla li chevaliers — The knight spoke to the lady.

In Old French, complex sentences, connected by the conjunctions et, mais, and car, as well as the relative pronouns qui, que, and dont, were actively developing.

Furthermore, the use of auxiliary verbs (avoir, estre) to form analytical tenses was already established during this period, which also influenced syntactic structure.

Comparative analysis:

Criteria	Old Uzbek	Old French
Language Type	Agglutinative	Inflectional-analytical
Basic Word Order	SOV	SVO (with variants)
Means of Communication	Affixes, postpositions	Prepositions, articles
Expression of Subordination	Impersonal verb forms	Conjunctions and relative pronouns
Service Words	Rare	Actively used
Grammatical Relations	Morphological	Analytical

The main difference is that in Old Uzbek, syntax is subordinate to morphology, while in Old French, morphology is subordinate to syntax. In the former, grammatical relations are expressed through affixes and word forms, while in the latter, they are expressed through word order and auxiliary elements.

The study shows that the syntactic structure of sentences in Old Uzbek and Old French demonstrates two opposing paths of grammatical development. Old Uzbek is characterized by a synthetic type of connection, strict word order (SOV), and the dependence of meaning on morphological markers. Old French, in contrast, develops toward analyticity, where grammatical relations are expressed through syntactic means—word order, prepositions, and articles.

Thus, a comparative analysis of the two languages allows us to conclude that the differences in their syntax are determined not only by historical development but also by the underlying typological structure inherent in each linguistic system.

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