SEMANTIC-SYNTACTIC DERIVATION OF COMPLEX SYNTACTIC CONSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT OVERT GRAMMATICAL MARKERS IN CHINESE AND UZBEK

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18628237

Abstract. *This article investigates the semantic–syntactic derivation features of complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning in Chinese and Uzbek from a comparative linguistic perspective. The main focus of the study is to identify the mechanisms through which complex syntactic meaning is formed without formal grammatical markers or with their minimal participation. Based on authentic linguistic material from Chinese and Uzbek, the article analyzes how simple syntactic units transform into complex yet semantically integrated constructions under the influence of communicative needs. The concept of semantic–syntactic derivation is interpreted as a theoretical framework explaining the process of formation of complex syntactic units. The research findings demonstrate that despite typological differences between Chinese and Uzbek, complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning in both languages are formed on the basis of contextual cohesion and semantic relations. The article also examines the characteristics of these constructions in the translation process, substantiating the priority of semantic equivalence over formal equivalence. The conclusions of the study have significant theoretical and practical value for comparative linguistics, translation studies, and the methodology of teaching Chinese and Uzbek.*

Keywords*: non-obstructive meaning, complex syntactic construction, semantic–syntactic derivation, comparative linguistics, Chinese language, Uzbek language.*

Introduction

In recent years, linguistic research has increasingly focused on studying syntactic units not merely as grammatical structures, but as important means of meaning formation. In particular, revealing the semantic potential of complex syntactic constructions and identifying their functional characteristics in discourse has become one of the key areas of modern linguistic studies. Within this framework, the conditions and mechanisms underlying the formation of complex syntactic units acquire special significance [Halliday, *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*]. In language systems, complex syntactic constructions often emerge as a result of specific semantic needs. In the process of speech production, the necessity to express meaning leads to syntactic complexity; however, this complexity is not always realized through the use of excessive grammatical means. In some cases, rich and complex meanings are conveyed through minimal formal devices. In linguistics, this phenomenon is commonly explained through the concept of "non-obstructive meaning" [Rahmatullayev, *Grammar of the Uzbek Language*].

Complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning serve as an important source of linguistic data, particularly in comparative studies of typologically different languages. Although Chinese and Uzbek differ significantly in their grammatical structures, both languages widely employ complex syntactic units that convey non-obstructive meaning. The analytic nature of Chinese and the agglutinative character of Uzbek lead to different formation mechanisms of

this phenomenon; nevertheless, semantically similar discourse units emerge in both languages [Zhao Yuanren, *A Grammar of Spoken Chinese*].

Within the scope of this study, complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning are examined from the perspective of semantic–syntactic derivation. Here, derivation is interpreted not merely as a morphological process, but as a semantic expansion of syntactic structure—a transition from simple to complex forms. This approach makes it possible to more deeply explain the reasons behind the formation of complex syntactic units. The relevance of this study is also closely linked to practical translation processes. In translation between Chinese and Uzbek, syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning often pose difficulties for translators, as the relationship between external form and internal meaning is not always directly aligned. Therefore, analyzing such constructions from the standpoint of semantic–syntactic derivation provides an important theoretical foundation for both translation theory and practice.

Literature Review

In modern linguistics, complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning are interpreted as a distinct semantic type within the system of complex sentences. These constructions are formed through the violation of expected cause–effect relations and serve to strengthen the author's stance and communicative emphasis in discourse. The issue of identifying mechanisms through which non-obstructive meaning emerges under conditions of limited or absent formal grammatical markers occupies an important place in linguistic research (Rahmatullayev, 2008, pp. 112–115). Analyzing complex syntactic constructions in Chinese from a functional-semantic perspective, Li and Thompson emphasize that non-obstructive relations in Chinese are not based on rigid formal grammatical models, but rather on contextual and discourse factors (Li & Thompson, 1981, pp. 631–635). According to the authors, semantic cohesion compensates for the lack of grammatical markers in non-obstructive constructions, making it possible to explain their semantic–syntactic derivation (Li & Thompson, 1981, pp. 638–640).

In Uzbek linguistics, issues related to complex sentences and their semantic relations have been systematically addressed in the works of Rahmatullayev. The scholar notes that in Uzbek, non-obstructive relations are often expressed not only through specific conjunctions, but also through intonation and context, and evaluates such constructions as semantic–syntactic derivatives (Rahmatullayev, 2008, pp. 108–112). This approach provides an important theoretical basis for comparison with implicit non-obstructive phenomena in Chinese. Lu Jianming, who conducted a systematic study of modern Chinese syntax, identifies non-obstructive relations as an independent semantic type of complex sentences and notes the widespread use of implicit non-obstructive constructions alongside explicit forms expressed by markers such as 虽然, 尽管, 即使 (Lu, 2004, pp. 214–218). According to the researcher, in such cases, non-obstructive meaning is determined by semantic and logical relations rather than grammatical form (Lu, 2004, pp. 220–222).

Pan and Paul interpret non-obstructive constructions as an intermediate phenomenon between subordination and coordination. They argue that such constructions are often formed on the basis of semantic outcomes that contradict expected logical development, highlighting the necessity of cognitive and pragmatic explanations (Pan & Paul, 2018, pp. 22–25). Shi Dingxu emphasizes the high degree of contextual dependence of non-obstructive constructions in Chinese, noting that compact syntactic forms convey rich semantic content (Shi, 2015, pp. 487–489). A similar phenomenon is observed in Uzbek, where non-obstructive meaning is frequently

determined by logical–semantic relations rather than grammatical form (Rahmatullayev, 2008, pp. 113–115).

The analysis of existing studies demonstrates that in both Chinese and Uzbek, complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning are primarily formed on the basis of semantic–syntactic derivation, contextual cohesion, and pragmatic factors. This substantiates the need to prioritize semantic equivalence over formal equivalence in translation.

Research Methodology

This study employs a comprehensive, multi-stage methodological approach to investigate complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning in Chinese and Uzbek. The theoretical framework is based on functional grammar, structural-syntactic approaches, and semantic analysis, allowing syntactic units to be interpreted not merely as formal structures, but as integral components of meaning formation in discourse. At the initial stage, a descriptive method was used to identify and classify complex syntactic constructions expressing non-obstructive meaning in both languages. Particular attention was paid to syntactic models, the presence or limitation of formal markers, and the degree of semantic integrity. In Chinese, constructions with no conjunctions or minimal connective elements were analyzed, while in Uzbek, constructions formed without affixation or auxiliary words but expressing complex meaning were selected.

At the next stage, the comparative method served as the primary analytical tool. The formation mechanisms, semantic–syntactic structures, and discourse functions of non-obstructive constructions in Chinese and Uzbek were compared. Despite typological differences, constructions performing similar semantic functions were identified and their derivational pathways explained. Contextual analysis also played a crucial role, enabling the examination of selected constructions in real discourse environments. Examples from literary and journalistic texts illustrated how complex syntactic units convey clear and logically coherent meanings without excessive grammatical barriers. The concept of semantic–syntactic derivation was treated as the central methodological principle. From this perspective, complex syntactic constructions are interpreted as the result of a transition from simple to complex structures, whereby independent simple clauses merge under communicative pressure to form a unified, semantically coherent construction. Although this process is realized through different formal means in each language, the resulting semantic patterns exhibit notable similarities.

Results

In both Chinese and Uzbek, complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning are characterized by the interaction of semantic integrity and formal simplicity. Grammatical markers are used minimally or are entirely absent, yet the meaning remains logically coherent and contextually transparent. This highlights the direct relationship between syntactic structure and semantic content.

In Chinese, non-obstructive meaning is often expressed through sequences of clauses without conjunctions, for example:

他来了，我走了. (Zhao Yuanren, *A Grammar of Spoken Chinese*)

Although no formal connective is present, contextual cues allow the sequence and causal relationship between actions to be understood. A similar phenomenon occurs in Uzbek:

U keldi, men ketdim.

Despite formal simplicity, this construction functions as a semantically complex syntactic unit. These examples demonstrate that non-obstructive complex constructions arise through semantic–syntactic derivation: initially independent clauses merge under communicative needs to form a new, complex semantic structure. The absence of formal connectors does not hinder meaning comprehension.

Sequential verb constructions in Chinese also belong to this category:

他坐着看书. (Lü Shuxiang, *Eight Hundred Words of Modern Chinese*)

Uzbek expresses a similar meaning as: *U o‘tirib kitob o‘qidi.*

In both languages, complex semantic relations are conveyed through syntactic simplicity, illustrating the nature of non-obstructive meaning. Further analysis shows that although Chinese and Uzbek employ different formal means due to typological differences, their non-obstructive constructions are based on shared semantic principles. Various derivational models illustrate the transition from simple to complex structures and the interaction between formal expression and semantic content.

Discussion

This study analyzed the semantic–syntactic derivation features of complex syntactic constructions with non-obstructive meaning in Chinese and Uzbek from a comparative linguistic perspective. The findings indicate that despite typological differences, both languages share common semantic principles in the formation of complex syntactic meaning. These principles are grounded not in structural complexity, but in the coherence and continuity of semantic relations. The analysis shows that non-obstructive constructions primarily arise through the integration of simple syntactic units under communicative pressure. Limited or absent grammatical markers do not impede meaning comprehension; rather, context and semantic cohesion serve as the main supporting factors.

Conclusion

One of the key findings is that in translation between Chinese and Uzbek, semantic equivalence should take precedence over formal equivalence. Direct structural correspondence often leads to semantic loss, whereas recreating the derived semantic meaning ensures accuracy and naturalness. Overall, the study confirms the priority of semantic approaches in the analysis of complex syntactic constructions and highlights the significance of semantic–syntactic derivation as a key theoretical concept in modern linguistics. The results are valuable for comparative linguistics, translation studies, and the teaching of Chinese and Uzbek, providing a solid foundation for future research in this field.

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