

Discursive Features Of Conditionals In English And Uzbek Literature

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Abstract

This article analyzes the discursive features of conditionals in English and Uzbek literature. It examines the functional role, stylistic potential, and pragmatic significance of conditional constructions within literary texts from a comparative perspective. The study demonstrates that conditionals function not only as grammatical structures but also as important discursive devices that contribute to meaning construction and authorial intention in literary discourse.

Keywords: Conditionals, discursive features, comparative analysis, literary text, pragmatics, stylistics, English and Uzbek literature.

Introduction

Human cognition is not limited to the direct reflection of reality; it models reality through probability, hypothesis, alternativity, and cause-and-effect relationships. From a cognitive perspective, the category of conditionality is considered one of the fundamental mechanisms of human consciousness. In the process of understanding reality, humans use the “if-then” model, which enables logical reasoning, prediction, retrospective evaluation, and the imagination of possible scenarios. Language, as the primary semiotic system expressing these cognitive structures, represents conditional relations through grammatical and discursive means.

Although conditional constructions have traditionally been studied within the frameworks of syntax and morphology, in modern linguistic paradigms their semantic and pragmatic nature is receiving increasing attention. In particular, within functional linguistics and discourse analysis, conditional constructions are interpreted as communicative strategies, argumentative tools, and mechanisms for meaning-making. Thus, conditional sentences are not only a grammatical category but also a semantic-pragmatic unit that plays an important role in structuring discourse.

In the context of literary texts, the role of conditional constructions becomes even more complex. A literary text is not merely a sequence of events, but a system of alternative realities, potential directions, and psychological reflections. Conditional sentences are used by the author as a means of creating possible variations of events, revealing a character’s inner monologue, intensifying dramatic tension, or producing an ironic effect. They expand the narrative space, alter temporal coordinates, and enable the depiction of a possible world beyond factual reality.

English and Uzbek literatures belong to different language families and exhibit significant typological differences. In English, the system of conditionals has a traditional formal classification: zero, first, second, third, and mixed conditionals. This classification is based on grammatical form and tense relations. In Uzbek, conditional meaning is primarily expressed through the suffix *-sa*, as well as through syntactic constructions and contextual means. However, grammatical form alone cannot fully reveal the discursive function. In literary texts, conditional constructions carry stylistic, pragmatic, and ideological load, serving the author’s aesthetic strategy.

Modern linguistic research shows that conditional constructions perform several functions at the discourse level:

- modeling probability and alternativity;
- structuring cause-and-effect relationships;
- organizing argumentative logic;
- creating emotional and expressive effects;
- expressing the author’s implicit evaluative stance.

From this perspective, a comparative study of the use of conditional constructions in English and Uzbek literary texts is important not only from a syntactic viewpoint but also from the perspective of discourse typology. In particular, the issues of functional equivalence and stylistic transformation of conditional constructions emerge as significant scientific problems.

The relevance of this study lies in the fact that conditional sentences have often been analyzed within the framework of grammatical categories, while their semantic depth and pragmatic potential in literary discourse have not been sufficiently explored. A comparative study of English and Uzbek literature makes it possible to identify both the universality and the national-stylistic specificity of conditional constructions.

The aim of this research is to identify the discursive features of conditional constructions in English and Uzbek literary texts, to comparatively analyze their semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic functions, and to determine their role in narrative structure and authorial strategy.

The objectives of the research are as follows:

- to identify the cognitive and linguistic foundations of conditional constructions;
- to describe the grammatical models of the conditional category in English and Uzbek and their functional potential;
- to determine the discursive role of conditional constructions in literary texts;
- to analyze their semantic and pragmatic load;
- to identify similarities and differences on a comparative basis;
- to determine the role of conditional constructions in narrative dynamics and argumentative structure.

The object of the research is conditional constructions used in English and Uzbek literary texts.

The subject of the research is the discursive features, semantic-structural models, and functional load of these constructions.

The theoretical framework of this study is based on the principles of functional grammar, pragmatics, discourse analysis, and cognitive linguistics. Practically, it provides an important scientific foundation for translation studies, stylistics, and comparative linguistics.

Thus, studying conditional constructions not merely as a grammatical category but as a complex semantic-pragmatic mechanism that shapes discourse constitutes the main conceptual direction of this research.

Materials And Methods

A comprehensive approach was applied in this study. The research methodology is based on comparative-linguistic analysis, discourse analysis, and contextual interpretation methods.

In the first stage, a theoretical analysis was carried out. Scientific sources on the grammatical and semantic nature of conditional constructions were examined. The typological features of the system of conditionals in English and the structure of conditional subordinate clauses in Uzbek were clarified.

In the second stage, the method of discourse analysis was applied. Based on selected examples from literary texts, the following aspects of conditional constructions were analyzed:

- their role in modeling reality,
- their function in creating alternative scenarios,
- their significance in revealing a character's psychology,
- their role in expressing the author's evaluative stance.

In the third stage, using a comparative method, similarities and differences between conditional constructions in English and Uzbek literary texts were identified. In the analysis, priority was given to the criterion of functional equivalence rather than structural similarity.

Qualitative analysis was chosen as the main research method, since identifying discursive features requires contextual interpretation rather than quantitative indicators.

As a methodological foundation, theories of pragmatics, functional stylistics, and cognitive linguistics were employed. This made it possible to consider conditional constructions not merely as syntactic models, but as communicative strategies.

Results And Discussions

In the course of the study, it was determined that the discursive functions of conditional constructions used in English and Uzbek literary texts are multi-layered. Their role is not limited to establishing grammatical connections; rather, they actively participate in shaping the semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic structure of the text.

The first significant finding is that conditional constructions create a model of alternative reality in literary discourse. In English literature, particularly through second and third conditionals, possible or unrealized variants of events are depicted. This ensures the multidimensionality of the narrative. In Uzbek literature, conditional forms expressed through the -sa affix often convey the character's inner experiences, regrets, or delayed realization. Thus, in both language systems, conditional constructions serve to create not a factual, but a mental model of reality.

The second finding concerns the function of conditional constructions in creating psychological depth. In the analyzed texts, conditional sentences are used as an important means of expressing a character's inner speech, self-evaluation, or retrospective reflection. In English literature, this is often realized through hypothetical constructions, whereas in Uzbek literature it emerges through a combination of modal and conditional forms.

The third finding is that conditional constructions function as a strategy of argumentative discourse. The author or character uses the condition–result model to justify their position. This model engages the reader in a logical chain and reinforces cause-and-effect relationships within the text.

The fourth finding is that although conditional constructions in English have a strict formal classification, their use in literary discourse often goes beyond classical grammatical boundaries. In Uzbek, conditional meaning is expressed more flexibly through syntactic and contextual means.

Overall, the results show that conditional constructions function as semantically multifunctional units in literary discourse and expand the interpretative potential of the text.

The findings also demonstrate that despite typological differences between language systems, a certain universality exists at the level of discursive mechanisms. Since conditional constructions are based on the cognitive categories of probability and alternativity, they perform similar cognitive functions across different languages.

In English literature, conditionals are often characterized by structural clarity. The existence of a formal classification makes them easier to study. However, in literary texts, these formal models are used with stylistic freedom. For example, a construction that is grammatically a “second conditional” may actually serve as a means of irony or implicit criticism.

In Uzbek literature, conditional constructions are more context-dependent. The -sa form often combines meanings of condition, desire, assumption, and even dissatisfaction. This increases the complexity of discursive interpretation and enhances stylistic diversity.

The discussion shows that conditional constructions ensure the internal dynamism of narrative structure. They reveal alternative directions of event development and turn the reader into an active interpreter. Moreover, through conditional sentences, the author indirectly expresses their ideological or moral position.

Furthermore, discourse analysis shows that conditional constructions expand the spatiotemporal coordinates of the text. They move beyond the linear timeline of reality and create a possible or retrospective space. This deepens the semantic layers of the literary text.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that the discursive features of conditional constructions in English and Uzbek literature are broad and multifaceted. They function not merely as a grammatical category, but as a strategy for meaning-making.

Based on the research, the following general conclusions were drawn:

Conditional constructions function as a means of creating alternative realities.

They serve as an important pragmatic mechanism for revealing a character's inner world.

In argumentative discourse, they reinforce the cause-and-effect model.

Structural rigidity prevails in English, whereas contextual flexibility dominates in Uzbek.

In both language systems, conditional constructions enrich discourse semantically.

In English and Uzbek literature, conditional constructions operate not only as grammatical structures but also as discursive strategies. They:

create alternative realities,
generate psychological depth,
organize argumentative structure,
indirectly express the author's position.

The comparative analysis revealed functional similarities in both language systems; however, differences were observed in terms of expressive means and stylistic load.

In the future, this issue can be further explored from the perspectives of corpus linguistics, cognitive stylistics, and translation studies. In particular, the way conditional constructions undergo discursive transformation in the process of translation requires separate and in-depth research.

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