

Expressions Of Pragmatic Presupposition Based On Simple And Compound Sentensemes In Newspaper Headline

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ABSTRACT

The syntactic structure of Uzbek and English online newspapers constitutes a key component in generating pragmatic presupposition. In English linguistics, the syntactic analysis of newspaper headlines has been a subject of scholarly attention since the 20th century. O. Jespersen provided a scientific account of syntactic reductions typical of headlines, the omission of verb forms, and the use of the present tense to describe past events, highlighting that headlines possess a distinct syntactic form. Similarly, R. Quirk defines the syntactic structure of headlines as an autonomous system that does not fully conform to standard grammatical rules. His research further demonstrates that newspaper headlines predominantly feature condensed forms of simple sentences, conjunction-less compound sentences, and nominal constructions, which collectively contribute to their unique syntactic and pragmatic characteristics.

Keywords: Pragmatic presupposition, newspaper headlines, syntactic structure, simple sentences, compound sentences, nominal constructions, Uzbek newspapers, English newspapers, journalistic discourse.

INTRODUCTION

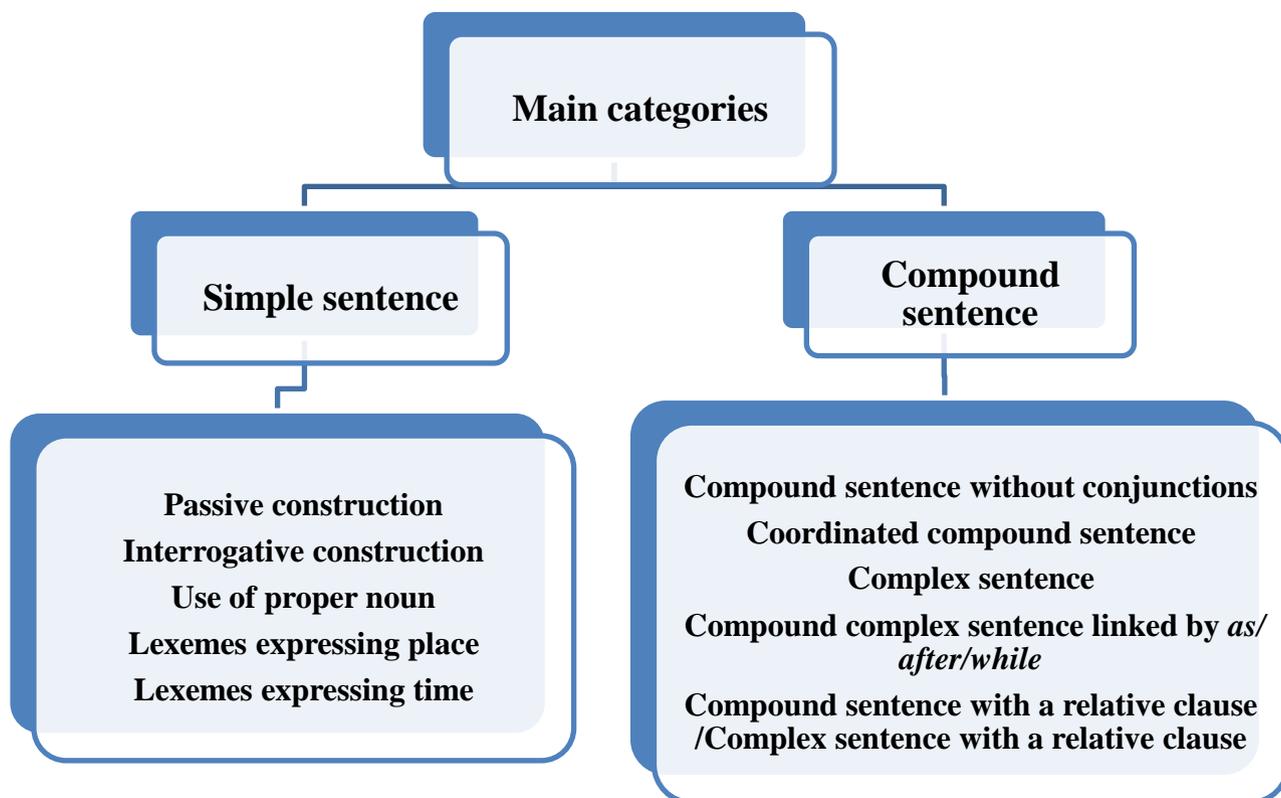
The syntactic structure of Uzbek and English online newspapers is considered one of the components that generate pragmatic presupposition. In English linguistics, the syntactic analysis of newspaper headlines has been observed since the 20th century. O. Jespersen scientifically examined the syntactic reductions characteristic of newspaper headlines, the omission of verb forms, and the use of the present tense to describe past events, noting that headlines possess a distinct syntactic form. Another English linguist, R. Quirk, in his research, defines the syntactic structure of headlines as an autonomous system that does not fully conform to the grammatical rules of the language. He also demonstrates that condensed forms of simple sentences, conjunction-less compound sentences, and nominal constructions predominate in newspaper headlines.

From a pragmatic perspective, G. Lich associates the syntactic forms in headlines with the principle of “pragmatic economy.” According to him, the use of syntactic simplicity and reductions in headlines conveys information in a concise, comprehensible, and attention-grabbing manner, while simultaneously generating multiple presuppositional meanings. S. Levinson, on the other hand, classifies presupposition triggers in headlines into lexical, structural, and pragmatic units, including interrogative sentences, subordinate clauses, and coordinate clauses with contrastive relations within structural constructions.

Headlines in Uzbek and English online newspapers also manifest syntactically in various forms, such as simple sentences, condensed simple sentences, extended simple sentences, compound sentences, subordinate clauses,

verbless or nominal constructions, mixed compound sentences, explanatory participial clauses, and others. For analytical purposes, these syntactic forms were divided into two main categories, each further subdivided into

several subcategories representing the most frequently used structures in headlines. The presuppositional meanings expressed through these forms were then analyzed accordingly.



Syntactic classification of online newspaper headlines

LITERATURE REVIEW

As can be inferred from the presented analysis, the syntactic forms most frequently used in Uzbek and English online newspaper headlines were classified into two main categories: (1) simple sentencemes and (2) compound sentencemes. Even within online newspaper headlines structured as simple sentencemes, there exist a number of lexico-syntactic devices that generate specific presuppositions. These were divided into five main subcategories: (1) passive constructions, (2) interrogative

constructions, (3) the use of proper nouns, (4) spatial lexemes, and (5) temporal lexemes.

Likewise, within online newspaper headlines realized as compound sentencemes, the syntactic devices that give rise to presuppositional meaning were also classified into five subcategories: (1) asyndetic compound sentencemes, (2) coordinated compound sentencemes, (3) complex sentencemes, (4) compound sentencemes linked by *as*, *after*, and *while*, and (5) compound sentencemes containing relative clauses.

Based on their structural composition, namely the number of sentence constituents and their syntactic functions, simple sentences can be classified into two types: (1) compressed simple sentencemes and (2) extended simple sentencemes. Compressed simple sentencemes represent the syntactically minimal type of sentence, as they contain only the subject–predicate relationship. In contrast, extended simple sentencemes, in addition to their predicative property, include secondary sentence elements, thereby expanding the amount of information conveyed. As a result, the listener or reader is provided with sufficient information regarding the manner, cause, time, and place of the action. Uzbek and English newspaper headlines are typically realized in the form of simple sentencemes. The primary reason for this tendency is associated with the communicative function of headlines, which is to convey information in a concise, rapid, and precise manner, while simultaneously attracting the reader’s attention. Since simple sentencemes are free from complex syntactic structures, they enable the content to be conveyed in a clear and accessible manner and fully comply with the functional requirements characteristic of newspaper headlines.

METHODOLOGY

In online newspaper headlines, both types of simple sentencemes—compressed and extended—are attested. However, our observations and analyses indicate that headlines structured as compressed simple sentencemes are used relatively less frequently. This is because, being limited solely to the subject–predicate relationship, they fail to convey sufficient contextual and pragmatic information about the event. As a result, the presuppositional meaning established between the information provider and the recipient remains restricted.

For instance, let us consider the following Uzbek online newspaper headline: Halima Ibragimova has died. As can be observed, the sentence consists only of a subject (Halima Ibragimova) and a predicate (has died), from which the following presuppositions may be inferred:

- a) the individual in question was previously alive;
- b) she was a person known to the public;
- c) the use of the lexical item has died implies that the information is reported on the basis of reliable sources.

In English as well, headlines constructed in the form of compressed simple sentencemes can be observed, for example: Assange is freed. This sentence likewise gives rise to several presuppositions:

- a) the individual in question was not previously free, that is, he had been imprisoned or subject to legal restrictions;
- b) the person is publicly known;
- c) the use of the passive voice (is freed) indicates that the decision was issued by official or institutional authorities.

As noted above, a substantial proportion of Uzbek and English online newspaper headlines are presented in the form of extended simple sentencemes. In the headline A Magnificent Album Belonging to the Baburids Found in the Berlin Library, in addition to the subject (album) and the predicate (was found), there are also attributive modifiers (belonging to the Baburids, magnificent) and an adverbial modifier of place (in the Berlin Library). Through these syntactic elements, the following presuppositions are generated:

- a) the object in question, namely the album, had existed previously but had remained outside public awareness;
- b) the album was identified in an official, institutional setting;
- c) the album possesses cultural, historical, and scholarly significance;
- d) the album has rarity, aesthetic value, and material worth;
- e) the event itself is of academic and practical significance.

RESULTS

An example of an extended simple sentenceme can also be found in English online newspaper headlines, as illustrated by the headline Elderly Man Loses Savings in Computer Company Con. In this sentence, alongside the subject (elderly man) and the predicate (loses), an object (savings) and an adverbial modifier (in a computer company con) are also present. From this headline, the following presuppositional meanings may be inferred:

- a) the victim had previously possessed financial resources;
- b) the individual belongs to a socially vulnerable group

(elderly);

means;

c) the incident was carried out deliberately and in a premeditated manner;

e) the event carries negative connotations and implications.

d) the fraudulent act was associated with technological

The results of our analysis are presented in the following table.

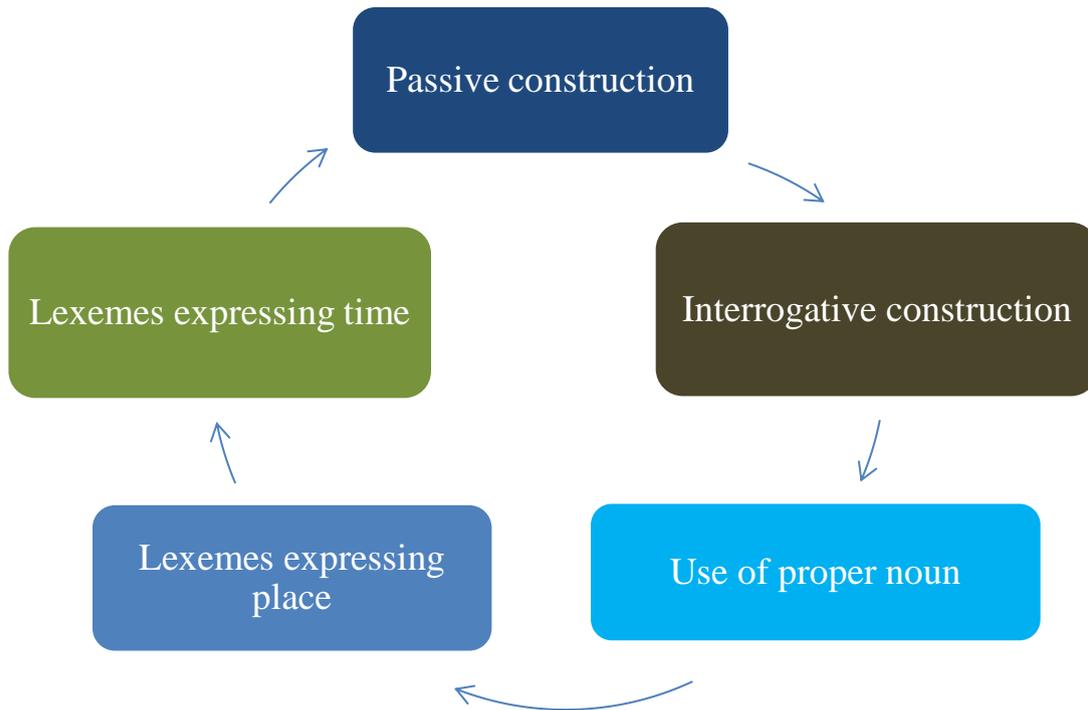
Type of simple sentence	Online newspaper headlines in Uzbek and English	Number of syntactic units	Number of presuppositions
<i>Compressed simple sentences</i>	<i>Halima Ibragimova has died</i>	2	3
	<i>Assagne is freed</i>	2	3
<i>Extended simple sentence</i>	<i>A magnificent album belonging to the Baburids was found in the Berlin Library</i>	5	5
	<i>Elderly man loses savings in computer company con</i>	5	5

As can be inferred from the presented table, the number of presuppositional meanings evoked in a sentence is closely related to its syntactic structure. Specifically, within simple sentencemes, as the number of syntactic units (subject, predicate, modifier, object, adverbial) increases, the amount of implicit meaning comprehensible to the reader also grows. This is because each additional syntactic unit introduces a new semantic and pragmatic component, further specifying the event in terms of time, place, cause,

evaluation, or subjective stance.

DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of presuppositions arising from the structural organization of simple sentencemes, our observations have identified five primary lexico-syntactic components in newspaper headlines in the form of simple sentencemes that serve to generate presuppositional meaning.



Means triggering presupposition in simple sentences

1. Passive construction. In online newspaper headlines in both Uzbek and English, the passive voice is frequently used in simple sentences. This construction directs the reader's attention more toward the event and its outcome than toward the agent.

Below is an example of a passive construction in a simple sentence in Uzbek online newspaper headlines, along with the presuppositional meanings it conveys:

Qozog'istonda kelin o'g'irlaganlik uchun jazo kuchaytiriladi

(In Kazakhstan, the penalty for bride kidnapping will be increased)

In this headline, the verb kuchaytiriladi (will be increased) is in the passive voice and conveys the following presuppositional meanings:

- a) the intensification of the penalty is a normative-legal decision adopted by official state authorities;
- b) a legal measure against bride kidnapping exists, but it is not sufficiently effective and requires strengthening;

c) the issue is urgent, and if the penalty is not increased, bride kidnapping may escalate into a more serious criminal offense;

d) the future tense of the verb indicates that this decision may take effect in the near future;

e) the passive construction conveys the formality, reliability, and objectivity of the headline.

f) The passive construction conveys the formality, credibility, and objectivity of the headline.

The mechanism for voluntary loan waiver will be implemented. In this headline, the passive verb will be implemented conveys the following presuppositions:

- a) Although the agent performing the action is not explicitly indicated, the verb will be implemented implies that the decision will be made by the state or financial institutions;
- b) this mechanism did not previously exist and is being introduced as an innovation in the credit system;
- c) the mechanism is expected to take effect in the near future.

e) In the context of the credit system, problems exist; that is, if a “voluntary waiver mechanism” is being implemented, it implies that issues or negative consequences may arise in obtaining credit.

In the headline *A Five-Story Building Demolished in Samarkand*, the passive verb *was demolished* conveys the following presuppositions:

- a) the action was carried out by an official and authorized entity;
- b) the past tense of the verb indicates that the action has been fully completed;
- c) if the building has been demolished, it implies that it previously existed and was used for a certain purpose;
- d) the demolition decision may be justified and mandatory;
- e) the passive verb form lends the headline an objective and formal style.

In the headline *Certain Video Games Banned in Tajikistan*, the presuppositions triggered by the passive verb are as follows:

- a) the verb *banned* implies that the decision was made by official state authorities;
- b) if the video games were banned, they must have previously been authorized;
- c) bans are generally implemented when specific negative consequences, social risks, or ethical or security issues are identified, indicating that there are motivating factors behind the decision;
- d) the use of *certain* in combination with the passive voice indicates that only video games belonging to a particular category were banned;
- e) the past tense of the verb indicates that the decision has already come into effect

In English, the passive construction is also employed in newspaper headlines in the form of simple sentences. For example: *TV Reboot of Iconic 90s Film Is Canceled After Just One Season*. This headline is an extended simple sentence, and the verb *is canceled* functions as a unit conveying presupposed, backgrounded meanings:

a) the passive verb indicates that the canceled status of the project previously existed;

b) “*is canceled*” implies that the decision to cancel was made by the television network, production company, or another official body;

c) the canceled project may have encountered problems or failed to achieve sufficient results, as cancellation decisions are typically associated with factors such as low ratings, financial inefficiency, or creative shortcomings;

d) together with the temporal expression “*after just one season*”, the use of the passive voice signals that the project was terminated earlier than its originally intended duration.

CONCLUSION

Let us consider another headline employing the passive construction and the presuppositional meanings it conveys: *Major Incident Declared After Home Explosion*.

a) the phrase *major incident declared* indicates that such a declaration was made by emergency services, local authorities, or the relevant official agencies;

b) the use of the passive verb leads the reader to interpret the situation as serious and urgent;

c) the verb signals that the decision has come into effect and is operational.

In the headline *Venus Williams Given Wildcard for Indian Wells Tournament*, the headline is an extended simple sentence, and the passive construction exhibits ellipsis. In full form, the sentence would be: *Venus Williams was given a wildcard for the Indian Wells tournament*, but the ellipsis is a syntactic feature characteristic of English newspaper headlines, making its use natural.

Therefore, the lexical item *given* itself is treated as a unit expressing the passive construction, and the following presuppositional meanings can be inferred:

a) although the agent of the action is not explicitly mentioned, the decision to grant the special entry (wildcard) was made by the tournament organizers or official sports authorities;

b) if a player has been given a wildcard, it implies that they

were not admitted to the tournament through the standard selection process;

c) the past tense of the passive verb indicates that the event has already occurred and that the athlete currently holds the wildcard;

d) a wildcard is generally awarded based on the athlete's achievements or popularity, implying that Williams is considered a deserving recipient of this special entry.

Interrogative Construction. In both Uzbek and English, interrogative constructions are frequently attested in online newspaper headlines in the form of simple sentencemes, which is why we classify them as one of the primary units capable of evoking presuppositional meaning. Such headlines are typically expressed through interrogative pronouns and interrogative operators.

Let us examine the use of the interrogative construction within simple sentencemes in Uzbek online newspaper headlines:

Eyfel minorasining yopilishidan qancha zarar ko'rildi?

(How much damage was caused by the closure of the Eiffel Tower?)

In this headline, the interrogative construction is formed using the interrogative pronoun *qancha* (how much), which generates several presuppositional meanings in the reader's mind:

a) the interrogative pronoun *how much* presupposes the existence of damage; the question is not "Was there damage?" but "How much damage occurred?", indicating that the closure of the tower resulted in a certain amount of damage;

b) the pronoun implies that the magnitude of the damage is significant; if the quantity is being questioned, it suggests that the damage has economic or financial relevance;

c) the interrogative pronoun presupposes the existence of an evaluative process, meaning that the damage has either already been assessed or can be quantified in economic terms;

d) the interrogative construction signals a gap in the information being conveyed: while the existence of damage is established, its precise magnitude has not yet

been disclosed

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