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## The Comparative Typology of Subordinate Conjunctions of Auxiliary Parts of Speech in the Azerbaijani and Russian Languages

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### Abstract

This article explores the comparative typology of subordinating conjunctions among auxiliary parts of speech in the Azerbaijani and Russian languages. The study aims to identify and analyze the structural and functional characteristics of subordinating conjunctions in both languages, highlighting their similarities and differences. Through comprehensive linguistic analysis, the research examines the usage patterns of auxiliary parts of speech, focusing on their roles in constructing complex sentences and expressing subordinate clauses. The article presents distinctive features of subordinating conjunctions in Azerbaijani and Russian, offering insights into their syntactic behaviors and semantic effects. This comparative approach aids in a broader understanding of conjunction usage in Turkic and Slavic languages, emphasizing the importance of auxiliary parts of speech in language structure and communication.

**Keywords:** subordinating conjunctions, complex sentences, typology, functional characteristics

### Introduction

In the Russian language, conjunctions play a crucial role in forming complex sentences. They are used to connect words, phrases, or clauses, thereby creating meaningful and cohesive sentences. Russian conjunctions are divided into two main types: coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. Each type serves a distinct purpose in linking grammatical units within sentences.

Coordinating conjunctions link elements of equal grammatical rank, such as independent clauses or phrases. Examples of coordinating conjunctions in Russian include "и" (and), "но" (but), and "или" (or). These conjunctions maintain a balance between the connected elements, contributing to clarity and coherence in communication. For instance, the sentence "Он пошёл в магазин, но не купил хлеб" ("He went to the store but didn't buy bread") uses the coordinating conjunction "но" (but) to contrast two independent statements (Sannikov, 2001, p. 74).

Subordinating conjunctions, on the other hand, connect dependent (subordinate) clauses to independent (main) clauses, thereby forming complex sentences. Examples of subordinating conjunctions include "потому что" (because), "если" (if), and "когда" (when). These conjunctions establish hierarchical relationships between the clauses they connect, where the subordinate clause provides additional



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information or specifies conditions, reasons, or outcomes related to the main clause. For example, "Он пошёл в магазин, потому что у него закончился хлеб" ("He went to the store because he ran out of bread") uses "потому что" (because) as a subordinating conjunction to present the reason for the action in the main clause (Nikolaeva & Fuzheron, 2004, p. 104).

Russian conjunctions can be further categorized based on the specific types of relationships they express. The primary categories include coordination, subordination, and correlative conjunctions.

1. **Coordinating Conjunctions:** These conjunctions, such as "и" (and), "или" (or), and "а" (but), connect grammatically equal elements within sentences. In Russian, coordinating conjunctions are often used to join nouns, adjectives, or entire clauses, ensuring balance and symmetry within sentence structures.
2. **Subordinating Conjunctions:** These conjunctions, including "когда" (when), "если" (if), and "чтобы" (so that), are used to connect dependent clauses to independent ones. Subordinating conjunctions are essential for constructing complex sentences, as they help express detailed thoughts, conditions, and reasons.
3. **Correlative Conjunctions:** These are pairs of words used together to link grammatical elements, such as "как... так и" (both...and) and "либо...либо" (either...or). They create a balanced structure within sentences and emphasize the equal importance of the connected elements (Sannikov, 2004, p. 240).

The choice of conjunctions in Russian directly influences sentence structure and the relationships between sentences. Proper use of conjunctions aids in creating complex, meaningful sentences, while incorrect usage can lead to confusion or ambiguity. This complexity highlights the importance of mastering conjunction usage in both spoken and written Russian.

Russian sentence structure is flexible due to the language's extensive inflectional system, allowing relatively free word order compared to languages like English. However, conjunctions are essential for defining relationships between clauses and ensuring clarity in sentence construction.

In complex sentences, coordinating conjunctions link independent clauses, creating a balanced structure where each clause can stand alone as a complete sentence. For example, "Она читала книгу, и он готовил ужин" ("She was reading a book, and he was cooking dinner") consists of two independent clauses linked by the conjunction "и" (and). This conjunction helps the reader understand that the two actions occurred simultaneously or in parallel (Uryson, 2011, p. 88).

In complex sentences, subordinating conjunctions introduce dependent clauses that provide additional information to the main clause. For instance, "Он вернётся, когда закончится дождь" ("He will return when the rain ends") uses the subordinating conjunction "когда" (when) to indicate a temporal relationship between the two clauses. Here, the main clause "Он вернётся" ("He will return") depends on the subordinate clause introduced by the conjunction (Uryson, 2011, p. 88).

Russian also uses correlative conjunctions to emphasize the parallel nature of two or more ideas. For example, "Как в России, так и в других странах наблюдаются схожие проблемы" ("Similar problems are observed both in Russia and in other countries") uses the correlative conjunction "как...так и" (both...and) to convey that the same situation exists in multiple places (Uryson, 2001, p. 56).



The use of conjunctions, especially subordinating conjunctions, enables Russian speakers and writers to construct complex, multi-clause sentences with nuanced meaning. By linking independent and dependent clauses, speakers can express causality, conditions, contrasts, and sequences of events, enhancing the language's ability for detailed communication.

The study of conjunctions in Russian reveals their indispensable role in shaping sentence structure and enhancing the language's functionality. Whether coordinating, subordinating, or correlative, these conjunctions link ideas, express logical relationships, and ensure clarity in communication. By mastering conjunction usage, learners of Russian can gain a deeper understanding of the language's syntactic structure and improve their ability to express complex ideas.

In the context of comparative linguistics, examining subordinating conjunctions is crucial for understanding the distinct syntactic and semantic features of languages. Subordinating conjunctions function as auxiliary parts of speech, connecting dependent clauses to main clauses to form complex sentence structures.

Both Azerbaijani and Russian belong to different language families—Azerbaijani to the Turkic group and Russian to the Slavic branch. These languages demonstrate significant differences in morphology, syntax, and semantics. Azerbaijani is an agglutinative language, meaning grammatical relations are expressed through affixes attached to words, while Russian is a fusional language, where word endings convey grammatical categories. Despite these fundamental differences, both languages make extensive use of subordinating conjunctions to construct complex sentences and convey logical, temporal, causal, or conditional relationships (Khalilov, 2016, p. 168).

**In both Azerbaijani and Russian, subordinating conjunctions serve to link dependent (subordinate) clauses to main clauses, thereby creating complex sentences.** These conjunctions convey additional information, such as time, cause, condition, concession, and more. In both languages, subordinating conjunctions play a vital role in constructing meaningful, grammatically correct sentences that enable speakers to express nuanced ideas.

Commonly used subordinating conjunctions in Azerbaijani include "çünki" (because), "əgər" (if), and "ki" (that). These conjunctions often introduce subordinate clauses that provide reasons, conditions, or descriptive information. The flexible syntax of Azerbaijani allows these conjunctions to be positioned at the beginning or middle of a sentence, depending on the speaker's intended emphasis or meaning.

In Russian, frequently used subordinating conjunctions include "потому что" (because), "если" (if), and "что" (that). Compared to Azerbaijani, Russian has a more rigid word order influenced by its fusional grammar, with conjunctions typically appearing at the beginning of the subordinate clause. Despite this rigidity, Russian subordinating conjunctions fulfill similar functions in sentence construction, connecting ideas and expressing logical relationships.



**Table 1.**  
**Comparison of Grammatical Differences and Morphological Structures in Subordinating Conjunctions between Azerbaijani and Russian Languages**

<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Azerbaijani (Agglutinative)</i>	<i>Russian (Fusional)</i>
Word Formation	Uses affixes to indicate grammatical relations	Uses inflections (changes to word endings) to indicate gender and number
Placement of Subordinating Conjunctions	Flexible placement of subordinating conjunctions ("çünkü" - because, "əgər" - if, "ki" - that)	Fixed position for subordinating conjunctions ("потому что" - because, "если" - if, "что" - that)
Sentence Structure	Subordinate clauses can appear before or after the main clause	Fixed word order within subordinate and main clauses
Tense and Aspect in Verbs in Subordinate Clauses	Verb tense marked with special affixes; temporal/aspect functions often overlap	Verb tense marked with special inflections; temporal/aspect functions often overlap
Impact of Syntax on Meaning	Flexible word order allows for emphasis and changes in meaning	Fixed word order is crucial to maintaining clarity and meaning
Example of Causal Conjunction Usage	"Çünkü" often appears at the beginning of the sentence, presenting cause-effect relationships	"Потому что" introduces a cause-effect relationship and is typically followed by a fixed sentence structure

**Source:** Pekelis, O. E. (2012). *Dyukhmestnye sochinitel'nye soyzu: opyt sistemnogo analiza (based on corpus data)*. *Voprosy yazykoznaninya*, 10-45

The main distinguishing feature between Azerbaijani and Russian in terms of subordinating conjunctions lies in their grammatical structures. As an agglutinative language, Azerbaijani relies on suffixes and other affixes to express grammatical relations, which allows for a more flexible sentence structure. In contrast, Russian, with its fusional grammar, uses changes to word endings to convey tense, case, gender, and number.

In Azerbaijani, subordinating conjunctions often combine with these elements to form complex sentences. For example, the conjunction "çünkü" (because) introduces causal relationships, and the verb following this conjunction is usually marked with a specific tense or aspect to indicate the timing of the action relative to the main clause. Azerbaijani has a more flexible word order, meaning subordinate clauses introduced by conjunctions can appear before or after the main clause without changing the sentence's meaning (Rüstəmov, 2007, p. 28).

In Russian, conjunctions operate within a stricter syntactic structure. For instance, the conjunction "потому что" (because) is used to introduce causal relationships, and the word order following it is more rigid compared to Azerbaijani. In both languages, the tense of the verb in the subordinate clause is carefully chosen to reflect the temporal or logical relationship between the clauses.



**Table 2.**  
**Typological Differences and Cross-Linguistic Influence of Subordinating Conjunctions in Azerbaijani and Russian**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Azerbaijani</i>	<i>Russian</i>	<i>Cross-Linguistic Influence</i>
Language Family	Turkic (agglutinative)	Slavic (fusional)	Typological differences between agglutination and inflection influence conjunction usage.
Conjunction Formation	Formed by adding suffixes to main words	Mostly invariant, with minimal morphological changes	Differences in formation methods reflect structural preferences across languages.
Sentence Structure	Allows for broader word order flexibility	Used more frequently at the beginning of sentences	Cross-linguistic typology emphasizes differences in sentence structuring flexibility.
Morphology	Conjunctions often attach to other words	Morphologically altered for specific words	Morphological changes are more restricted in Russian.
Conjunction Placement	Used in various parts of the sentence	Appears at the beginning of the subordinate clause	These placements affect the syntactic processing of each language.
Translation Complexity	Translating Russian into agglutinative languages may require simplification and expansion	Translation into agglutinative languages may require structure adjustments	Typological differences add complexity to direct translation, requiring restructuring.
Sentence Length	Due to agglutination, longer, multi-clause sentences are common	Often results in shorter, multi-sentence structures	Language structure mandates shorter sentences for effective translation and communication.
Contextual Usage	Conjunctions are often explicitly required for clarity in complex sentences	Some conjunctions may be implied from context	Linguistic typology influences clarity and redundancy in communication.

**Source:** Pekelis, O. E. (2008). *Semantika prichinnosti i kommunikativnaya struktura potomuchto i poskol'ku. Voprosy yazykoznaninya*, pp. 66–85.

The semantic functions of subordinating conjunctions in both Azerbaijani and Russian are quite similar despite their different grammatical systems. In both languages, conjunctions are used to establish logical, temporal, causal, and conditional relationships between clauses. These relationships are crucial for creating coherent sentences that convey complex ideas and meaningful connections between events or actions.

For instance, both Azerbaijani and Russian use conjunctions like "çünkü" and "потому что" (because) to introduce reasons or explanations. Similarly, "əgər" and "если" (if) introduce conditional sentences, creating hypothetical or potential scenarios. These semantic functions are essential for the logical structure of discourse, allowing speakers in both languages to express cause-effect relationships, state conditions, or introduce hypothetical situations (Seyidov, 2000, p. 46).

While the semantic functions of conjunctions are similar, their usage may vary depending on context, culture, or communication style. The flexible sentence structure in Azerbaijani allows for a variety



of clause placements, whereas the more rigid word order in Russian tends to create more predictable patterns in complex sentences.

As mentioned, conjunctions play a crucial role in constructing complex sentences. They establish relationships of time, condition, cause, contrast, and purpose between clauses, thus enhancing the syntactic and semantic unity of the language. Subordinating conjunctions in both Azerbaijani and Russian are vital for sentence structure and communication, though they show significant differences in usage, classification, and grammatical behavior due to the distinct linguistic and typological features of these two languages.

In Azerbaijani, subordinating conjunctions function similarly to conjunctions in many other languages, linking dependent clauses to main clauses. Azerbaijani, as an agglutinative language, often uses suffixes to express grammatical relations, and subordinate clauses are typically marked by conjunctions that clarify relationships based on time, condition, cause, or purpose.

Common subordinating conjunctions in Azerbaijani include:

- ki (that)
- çünki (because)
- nə vaxt ki (when)
- əgər (if)
- ona görə ki (because of)
- o səbəbdən (for that reason), etc. (Rüstəmov, 2013, p. 97)

These conjunctions establish logical or temporal relationships between clauses. For instance, in the sentence “O, mənə dedi ki, sabah gələcək” (“He told me that he would come tomorrow”), the conjunction “ki” introduces a dependent clause expressing indirect speech. Similarly, in conditional sentences, the conjunction “əgər” introduces a condition: “Əgər hava yaxşı olsa, biz gəzintiyə çıxarıq” (“If the weather is good, we will go for a walk”).

A key feature of subordinating conjunctions in Azerbaijani is their flexibility in word order. Subordinate clauses in Azerbaijani often appear either before or after the main clause without altering the meaning, as in “Hava yaxşı olsa, biz gəzintiyə çıxarıq” or “Biz gəzintiyə çıxarıq, əgər hava yaxşı olsa.” This flexibility stems from Azerbaijani's syntactic structure, which relies on case endings to denote grammatical relationships, allowing for free word order.

Russian, a highly inflected language, also uses subordinating conjunctions to connect dependent clauses to main clauses. However, conjunctions in Russian are more rigid in terms of word order, and the structure of complex sentences tends to be less flexible due to the language's fixed syntactic rules. Russian also places a high value on conjunctions to introduce temporal, causal, and conditional clauses.

Common subordinating conjunctions in Russian include:

- что (that)
- потому что (because)
- когда (when)



- если (if)
- чтобы (so that), etc. (Kazimov, 2017, p. 54)

These conjunctions establish logical or temporal relationships between clauses. For instance, in the sentence “Он сказал, что придет завтра” (“He said that he would come tomorrow”), the conjunction “что” functions similarly to the Azerbaijani “ki,” introducing a dependent clause that conveys indirect speech. Similarly, in the conditional sentence “Если погода будет хорошей, мы пойдем на прогулку” (“If the weather is good, we will go for a walk”), the conjunction “если” introduces a conditional clause.

Unlike Azerbaijani, Russian has a stricter sentence structure, with the subordinate clause typically following the main clause. This rigidity is due to Russian’s relatively fixed word order, which relies more on inflectional endings than on flexible word order to indicate grammatical relationships.

The typological differences between Azerbaijani and Russian impact how each language’s sentence structures are understood and learned, especially for speakers studying each other’s language. The agglutinative nature of Azerbaijani allows for flexibility in sentence structure and the placement of subordinating conjunctions, which may be challenging for Russian speakers accustomed to more rigid syntactic rules. Conversely, Azerbaijani speakers may find it difficult to adapt to Russian’s fusional grammar, with its strict word order and inflectional endings.

**These typological differences also offer insights into the historical development of the two languages.** Although Azerbaijani and Russian belong to different language families, both have evolved to use subordinating conjunctions as essential tools in sentence construction, reflecting a common linguistic need to express complex relationships between ideas. A comparative study of these languages can shed light on processes of linguistic convergence and divergence, as well as the influence of cultural-historical factors on language development.

## Conclusion

The comparative analysis of subordinating conjunctions in Azerbaijani and Russian highlights significant grammatical and functional differences arising from the unique typological and morphological characteristics of each language. These findings deepen our understanding of how subordinating conjunctions shape sentence structure, coherence, and meaning across different linguistic systems.

The study underscores the importance of cross-linguistic research in revealing both universal and language-specific features of grammar, extending beyond the scope of Azerbaijani and Russian. It provides valuable insights into how syntactic elements can reflect broader cultural and cognitive patterns within languages. Future research could expand on this foundation by examining how these subordinating conjunctions function in dialects or regional varieties of each language. Additionally, investigating the role of subordinating conjunctions in language acquisition and translation studies could further clarify their significance in linguistic comprehension and expression. Ultimately, this study contributes substantially to linguistic typology and the broader field of language comparison.

In conclusion, the comparative typology of subordinating conjunctions in Azerbaijani and Russian reveals both similarities and differences related to complex sentence construction in these languages. Subordinating conjunctions play a crucial role in both languages, enabling speakers to connect sentences and express logical, temporal, and causal relationships. The grammatical differences between the agglutinative structure of Azerbaijani and the fusional system of Russian result in different approaches to



sentence structure, yet the core semantic functions of the conjunctions largely remain the same. Understanding these typological differences is important not only for linguists but also for language learners and educators working in an intercultural context. Through comparative studies, researchers can better understand how languages evolve, interact with one another, and reflect the cultural and cognitive needs of their speakers.

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