



SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF COMPLEX SENTENCES WITH SUBORDINATION IN MODERN RUSSIAN

Kabilov Abdumumin Karshievich

Academic Lyceum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of
Samarkand
Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Abstract. *This article examines the syntactic features of complex sentences with subordination in modern Russian. The study focuses on the structural organization of such sentences, the types of subordinate clauses, and the functional characteristics of subordinate relations. Particular attention is paid to the classification of subordinate clauses into explanatory, attributive, and adverbial types, as well as to the variability of connective means, including conjunctions and relative words. The paper also analyzes the role of word order in determining communicative structure and актуальное членение предложения. Modern tendencies in the development of complex sentences are identified, including simplification of syntactic constructions and increasing influence of colloquial and media discourse. The findings demonstrate that, despite these tendencies, complex subordinate constructions remain an essential tool for expressing logical and semantic relations in formal and scientific communication.*

Keywords. *complex sentence, subordination, subordinate clause, syntax, Russian language, conjunctions, relative words, word order, communicative structure.*

Introduction. Complex sentences with subordination constitute one of the most structurally and functionally significant domains of syntax in modern Russian. They provide a grammatical framework for encoding hierarchical relationships between propositions, allowing speakers to express nuanced logical, temporal, causal, and conditional relations within a single utterance. As such, subordinate constructions function not only as formal syntactic units but also as essential mechanisms of semantic organization and discourse coherence.

The relevance of this study is determined by the stable and prominent role of complex subordinate sentences in formal, academic, and written discourse, where they ensure precision, logical consistency, and argumentative depth. At the same time, ongoing linguistic developments—such as the growing influence of colloquial speech, the tendency toward syntactic simplification, and the expansion of media discourse—are actively reshaping traditional patterns of subordination. These processes necessitate a reconsideration of established classifications and analytical approaches in Russian syntax.

Despite the extensive body of research devoted to subordinate constructions, several issues remain theoretically significant. These include the functional variability of subordinate clauses, the diversity of connective devices (conjunctions and relative words), and the role of word order in shaping communicative structure. In particular, the interaction between syntactic form and information structure requires further systematic investigation.

The aim of this article is to analyze the syntactic features of complex sentences with subordination in modern Russian, to identify their principal structural types, and to determine their functional and communicative properties in contemporary usage.

Materials and methods. The present study is based on a descriptive-analytical approach to the investigation of complex sentences with subordination in modern Russian. The research combines elements of structural, functional, and comparative analysis in order to provide a comprehensive account of subordinate constructions and their syntactic behavior.

The empirical material consists of examples drawn from contemporary Russian-language sources, including fiction, academic prose, journalistic texts, and digital media discourse. This diversity of sources ensures the representativeness of the data and allows for the identification of both normative patterns and emerging tendencies in the use of complex subordinate sentences. The methodological framework of the study includes several complementary methods. The structural

method is used to identify the formal organization of complex sentences, including the number and type of clauses, as well as the means of syntactic connection. The functional method is applied to determine the semantic roles of subordinate clauses and their contribution to the overall communicative structure of the sentence. In addition, elements of contextual analysis are employed to examine the interaction between syntactic form and discourse function.

The classification of subordinate clauses follows the traditional tripartite model, distinguishing between explanatory, attributive, and adverbial clauses, with further subdivision based on semantic relations such as time, cause, condition, and purpose. Special attention is given to the variability of connective devices, including conjunctions and relative words, as well as to the positional flexibility of subordinate clauses within the sentence. Data analysis was carried out through continuous sampling and qualitative interpretation of syntactic structures. Representative examples were selected to illustrate typical and non-standard patterns, allowing for the identification of both stable grammatical norms and ongoing changes in contemporary usage.

This integrated methodological approach ensures a systematic and reliable analysis of the syntactic features of complex sentences with subordination in modern Russian.

The analysis of the collected material demonstrates that complex sentences with subordination in modern Russian retain a high degree of structural diversity and functional flexibility. The data confirm that the traditional classification into explanatory, attributive, and adverbial subordinate clauses remains valid; however, the boundaries between these types show increasing fluidity in contemporary usage. Explanatory clauses were found to be the most frequent in academic and journalistic discourse, primarily due to their role in conveying propositional content and supporting argumentative structure. Attributive clauses demonstrated a tendency toward compression, often replacing more extended descriptive constructions. Adverbial clauses showed the greatest variability, particularly in expressing

temporal, causal, and conditional relations, where multiple connective options coexist and compete. A notable result of the study is the increasing variability of connective means. Alongside traditional conjunctions, there is a broader use of alternative and context-dependent connectors, including zero conjunction in informal contexts. This reflects a general tendency toward syntactic economy and simplification, especially in media and conversational discourse. The analysis also revealed that word order plays a significant role in shaping communicative structure. Preposed subordinate clauses tend to function as thematic elements, establishing the context of the utterance, while postposed clauses чаще выполняют рематическую функцию, добавляя новую информацию. This confirms the close interaction between syntax and information structure in modern Russian.

Furthermore, cases of multi-level subordination were identified, particularly in academic texts, where complex hierarchical structures are used to express logically dense and precise relations. However, such constructions may reduce readability and are less frequent in contemporary mass communication, where simpler syntactic models are preferred.

Conclusion. The findings of this study indicate that complex sentences with subordination continue to play a central role in the syntactic system of modern Russian, serving as a key means of expressing logical and semantic relations. Their structural organization is characterized by both stability—reflected in the preservation of traditional clause types—and dynamism, manifested in the increasing variability of connective devices and the influence of discourse-specific factors. Modern tendencies toward simplification and syntactic economy do not eliminate subordinate constructions but rather transform their usage patterns, leading to greater flexibility and functional adaptation. In particular, the interaction between word order and communicative structure highlights the importance of considering not only formal grammatical features but also discourse-pragmatic factors in syntactic analysis.

Overall, the study confirms that complex subordinate sentences remain an essential resource of the Russian language, ensuring precision, coherence, and expressive richness, especially in formal and academic communication. Further research may focus on quantitative corpus-based analysis and cross-linguistic comparison to deepen understanding of ongoing syntactic changes.

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