

## Linguistic Varieties in the Usage of Semicolon in the English and Uzbek Languages

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### ABSTRACT

*The article gives data on the necessity of punctuation marks in total and specifically about semicolon. Semicolon is analyzed comparing examples taken from English and Uzbek language literary works. Results show that it is used to combine two different sentences in both languages and similar in giving classification, joining two or sometimes three different sentences and showing comparison in meaning. However, in English language, unlike Uzbek language, semicolon is used to divide a united sentence into several parts.*

**Keywords:** Punctuation, semicolon, semantic meaning, coordination, classification

### INTRODUCTION

Written text is crucial in the life of a human society. It includes three subgroups: graphics, orthography and punctuation. Punctuation has significant role in the life and development of society [1, 6]. Punctuation helps to understand the written text more precisely. It prevents the reader from misapprehension of the meaning of the text. Sometimes the length of the text may distract the reader; he may be confused from the complexity of sentences. Therefore, punctuation eases apprehension process.

At the beginning of the 21st century, semicolons are very unfashionable. People tend to avoid them in ordinary writing, and it is the punctuation mark that you are least likely to come across if you riffle through a modern novel [2, 32]. Nowadays people

tend not to use punctuation marks in writing due to the fact that they do not have enough knowledge how to use them. As being unaware of their correct usage, people avoid using them. We hope articles and studies like these help people use them in correct way.

Punctuation is inextricably linked with the syntactic structure of the language, and is an important tool in the correct, expressive, clear presentation of written speech, ensuring its stylistic fluency and quick understanding. On the other hand, the work of well-known writers and the work of linguists who determine and regulate the use of punctuation marks are of great importance in strengthening and improving the traditions of punctuation. Uzbek punctuation development is associated with the names of great linguists such as S. Ibrahimoʻv, H. Goziyev, O. Usman, G. Abdurahmanov, K. Nazarov and others. Their researches in widening scientific area of punctuation is invaluable. They studied hard to enlighten facets of the field. Now we can carry out our researches based on their studies.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

The blue book of grammar and punctuation by Jane Straus draws our attention to practical use of punctuation marks in English. The book includes information about grammatical themes and punctuation marks with clear rules. One work on the theoretically investigated theory plus examples is the thesis called “The analysis of punctuation use in unpunctuated passages: a discourse-graphology perspective” by DiskiEgindaRismianti. Punctuation by Fennick Ruth, the book covers extra practice activities that help students better understand how marks of punctuation can play key roles in conveying a writer’s meaning.

In Uzbek language also we can meet scientific manuals, books related to punctuation marks: such as “O‘zbektilipunktuatsiyasining asosiy qoidalarini” (Main rules of Uzbek language punctuation) by Makhmudov N. M., Madvaliyev A.P., Makhkamov N.; “O‘zbekpunktuatsiyasining tarixiy taraqqiyoti” (Historical development of Uzbek Punctuation) by Goziyev; “Punktuatsiya

o‘qitish metodikasi: Tinish belgilari” (The methodology of teaching punctuation: Punctuation marks) by Abdurakhmonov G.; “O‘zbek tilining punktuatsiya qoidalarini” (Punctuation rules of Uzbek language) by Bahridinova B. and others.

Besides, several articles have been applied in collecting information for this article. For example, “English Punctuation Marks” by Najat A. Muttalib gave clear information on punctuation marks.

#### METHODOLOGY

While writing the article we tried to determine different rules in the usage of semicolon in English and Uzbek languages. We used descriptive qualitative research methods that aim to describe and identify the source of analysis data systematically based on phenomena that occur in the realm of language. In this analysis, the object that is analyzed belongs to the usage of the semicolon in different system languages, their differences and similarities. The comparative method that we handled in identifying the features of semicolon is crucial, especially in contrastively comparing two language examples.

#### DISCUSSION

Usually commas are used to separate items in a series, but when the items themselves contain commas, the reader can get confused. Semicolons make these sentences clearer and easier to read [3, p 25].

“I haven’t so many good features that I could afford to spoil those I have; so, even if I should marry the King of the Cannibal Islands, I promise you I won’t turn up my nose at you, Diana” [4, p 9].

Here, the main function of semicolon is to clarify the second sentence’s meaning. The speaker is giving more clarification by stating the first with semicolon. The speaker is giving reason why she will not turn up her nose at Diana in the first part of the sentence.

A semi-colon can sometimes be used to replace a full stop. It links two complete sentences and turns them into one sentence. The two sentences should be closely linked in meaning and of equal importance [5, p 17].

It was a great shock to Walter to learn that William Tell and Gelert were myths also; and the story of Bishop Hatto was to keep him awake all that night; but best of all he loved the stories of the Pied Piper and the San Greal [4, p 56].

Here, semicolon is used to unite three complete sentences. Semantically, in this example, three sentences can be written separately, but in this case they lose their emphatic meaning, their expressiveness is decreased. Therefore, the usage of semicolon is efficient to join them. Logically, it is normal to coordinate first and second sentences, but the combination of the third sentence shows the importance of semicolon. Three completely different sentences are being joined with the help of semicolon.

The semicolon allows us to join two independent sentences together when we feel they are semantically linked in some way. It is, in short, a device of coordination. And, as such, we can think of its primary function as being the punctuation equivalent of the main coordinating conjunction, and.

Smith is going to speak about cars; Brown is going to speak about bikes.

Smith is going to speak about cars and Brown is going to speak about bikes. [6, p 143].

Partridge states that historically the semicolon comes after the colon, and its name indicates half a colon. Yet, in practice, the semicolon is more important; it comes after the full stop and the comma in the sense of being more popular [7, p 44].

Partridge (7, p 45), however, emphasizes that the semicolon may occasionally separate two coordinated clauses, and "this is done at the discretion of the writer and when the clauses are relatively long and complicated, containing commas within themselves."

Neither Faith nor Una had any idea how sick the boy really was; a watchful mother would have had a doctor without delay; but there was no mother, and poor little Carl with his sore throat

and aching head and crimson cheeks, rolled himself up in his twisted bedclothes and suffered alone, somewhat comforted by the companionship of a small green lizard in the pocket of his ragged nightgown [4, p. 79].

Here, the author carefully separates the sentences in order to attract reader's attention to each part of the sentence. A whole sentence is divided into several parts with the help of semicolon.

Straus [8, p 57-58] gives the following five rules of semicolon:

1. Use a semicolon in place of a period to separate two sentences where the conjunction has been omitted;
2. It is preferable to use the semicolon before introductory words such as namely, however, therefore, that is, i.e., for example, e.g., or for instance when they introduce a complete sentence. It is also preferable to use a comma after the introductory word;
3. Use either a semicolon or a comma before introductory words such as namely, however, therefore, that is, i.e., for example, e.g., or for instance when they introduce a list following a complete sentence. Use a comma after the introductory word;
4. Use the semicolon to separate units of a series when one or more of the units contain commas;
5. Use the semicolon between two sentences that are joined by a conjunction but already have one or more commas within the first sentence.

Considering the above, it can be concluded that the main function of semicolon in the sentence is to unite the parts of the sentence according to meaning.

In the Uzbek language, semicolons are used if the clauses in compound sentences without conjunctions are not close from semantic point of view [9, p 46]. These types of clauses have completeness equal to independent clauses:

Hattoteraklardagizog'chalarningqanotqoqishlari ham  
eshitilmadi; osmonpastakvaqop-  
qora...Kubandansovuqshabadaesibturadi;

ikkitomonigaqatorakatsiyaekilgan... ko'chadanu  
sevganqizibilanbirgaborardi (S.Babayevskiy).

In another manual on Uzbek punctuation marks, we can meet the following definition for semicolon:

1. When the number of detached sentences is more than its limit, there appears need to classify them into groups and each of these groups are separated with semicolon: Demak, budaraxtro'dapo boyar choponlariniyuhipchakamzul, yasamasochlarni; qorafraqvasilindrlaru charm kurtkavabudyonovkalarni; shalviraganishtonlarutorpochashimlarniko'rgan.
2. If semicolon is the numbers(or letters) referring to order in the combination of particular classification are separated with the word, phrase and to the end of the sentences shown with them (except from the last one): Nutq ham tilvayozuvkabiikkixilshaklgaega: a) og'zakinutq; b) yozmanutq ("Hozirgio'zbekadabiytili" darsligi).
3. Semicolon is used when the clauses in compound sentences or complex sentences are not close from semantic point of view, contextually independent: Faqatpashsha g'o'ng'illaydi, bemorinqillaydi; harzamonyaqaqinqaqindangadoytovushieshitaladi.(A.Qahhor, 2018. 17)
4. When the clauses in compound or a syndetic sentences are several, some of which contextually similar separated with comma and the rest is separated with semicolon: Yigitpochasinishimaribolgan, ikkisi ham oftobdapishib, yuzlaribo 'liqibketgan; buloqnitopibborib, uzalatushgancharosasuvga to 'yishdi, yuzlarinichayib, bir-birlarigasuvsa chratib o'ynashdi, yayrabketib, holibirahvolekanliklariniunutishdi, shekilli, xuddi o'z uylaridagidayqiy-chuvqilishdi (A.Muxtor).
5. Semicolon is used when there is comparison of events expressed in the clauses in a syndetic or complex sentences: Hovuznio' raganpastakdevorortidagi tosh ko' chadanqachon o 'tsangiz, changalzordanqushlar chug 'urinieshitasiz; hovuzning u tarafidagisupadaoqtug 'Io 'ngibketgantanoqabrko' rinibturadi (Sh. Xolmirzayev).

6. Semicolon is used when there is a combination of several sentences making a completely complex sentence without conjunction:

Razzoq so ‘fining sovuqyuzlariuningko  
 ‘zlaridanyiroqlashgan; nasihatyo ‘li  
 bilanminglarchamartaaytilganva ta ‘kidlangan so ‘zlarunutilgan;  
 sovuq so ‘filarning “xarom” degan da ‘volarisinibparcha-  
 parchabo ‘lgan; ‘nomaxramlik’  
 safsatariotoyoqlariostidayanchilgan; to  
 ‘rtdevorningbututqunqizio ‘ziga o  
 ‘xshagantutqunlardanboshqahechbirguvohvatilchibo‘Imaganshuk  
 engdalaningqulochyetmas bag‘ridayillardanberi tug  
 ‘ilibkelganalamlarinikuygaaylantirib, cheksizbo  
 ‘shliqlargayoyibyuborganedi (Cho’lpon) [10, p 46].

## RESULTS

Taking into account all the data discussed in the article, it can be concluded that it would be quite complicated to understand any written text without punctuation marks. Their crucial role in understanding the meaning of the text is worthy researching. The writer gives stress which part he is going to express more than others with the help of punctuation marks. They help to prevent ambiguity. Besides, they can be called a carrier of emotions since they carry writer’s feelings. Without punctuation marks, the texts would be misunderstandable.

If we allude briefly to the main points about semicolon, the main function is to unite. However, contrasted to Uzbek language we can see a distinction in the usage, in which semicolon can also be used to separate coordinated sentence into several parts. We cannot meet this type of function in Uzbek language. We may see similarities in the usage of semicolon in the following aspects: To give classification; To join two or sometimes three different sentences; To show comparison.

Examples clearly show that semantic meaning plays a great role in using semicolon. According to semantic relation in the sentence, semicolon is placed between clauses. It eases the

comprehension process of the text for the reader.

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