



A COMPARATIVE SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF SUBJECT MOVEMENT IN URDU AND ENGLISH: SENTENCE STRUCTURE IN SYNTAX

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Abstract

The present research work is a comparative study of subject movement in two languages Urdu and English which are structurally different. This study's background is that comparative syntax has become an important field for the analysis of cross-linguistic variation, sentence formation and second language acquisition. The aim of the study was to highlight the differences between the movement of subjects in Urdu and English, analyze word order, case marking and agreement and draw pedagogical and theoretical implications. The research was based on the theory of Generative Grammar, especially the theory of Minimalist Framework that accounts for movement in terms of feature checking, case assignment and phrase structure operations. Qualitative research paradigm and comparative descriptive method was used. Document analysis was used to collect the data from British National Corpus (BNC), Urdu newspapers, Urdu Lughat Corpus, Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and from standard grammar books. In total, 80 sentences (40 English and 40 Urdu) were selected by purposive sampling with four types of sentences (declarative, interrogative, passive and ergative). Contrastive syntactic analysis and thematic structural comparison were used to analyze the data. Results showed that the language of English has a strict SVO word order with obligatory preverbal subjects, whereas Urdu has a fairly free SOV word order with case marking and extensive agreement morphology. The final conclusion of the study is that the Urdu language is morphology centred and English is position centred language. The results of the present study can make a contribution to the syntactic theory and enhance the teaching of English to Urdu speakers.

Keywords: *Comparative Analysis, English, Minimalist Theory, Sentence Structure, Subject Movement, Syntax, Urdu, Word Order.*

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1. Introduction

Comparative syntactic analysis is an important aspect of modern linguistics, as it helps to understand the ways in which languages organize sentence structure in different ways. Although Urdu and English are both widely used languages in multilingual societies, they are very different syntactically, particularly with respect to word order, agreement, case marking and subject movement. English is usually a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) language and Urdu is usually a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) language. Such structural differences facilitate the comparison of the movement of the subject, which is useful for understanding universal grammar, language acquisition and second-language learning (Rehman & Habib, 2026; Ali, 2025).

Subject movement is the movement of a noun phrase from one syntactic position to another for grammatical or information structure reasons, including tense agreement, case assignment and information structure. It is notable that subject movement is quite apparent in English, where the subject typically agrees with finite verbs and is marked by the nominative case in the specifier position of a Tense Phrase (TP). In the sentence Ali is reading a book, the subject Ali takes the preverbal position, a position required by the Standard English syntax. Movement is very limited and is part of the fixed structure of an English sentence (Carnie, 2021; Radford, 2023).

Urdu on the other hand has a more flexible syntactic structure. The subject sentence-initially is the standard order in Urdu, but other orders are possible, depending on topicalization, emphasis, and/or discourse considerations. The grammatical relations are often determined by case markers rather than position since Urdu is a morphologically richer language than English. Hence, the movement of subjects in Urdu is not linear but related to pragmatic and morphological factors. For example, the sentence Ali ne kitab parhi, meaning “Ali read the book”, has ne marking the past tense of the transitive verb parhi, giving more flexibleness in the sentence structure (Butt, 2024; Choudhri, 2025).

The other difference is also important, the agreement. The verbs in English are not highly inflected for agreement; the most frequent inflection is in the present tense third person singular, whereas the verbs in Urdu agree with the gender and number of their subjects and in certain cases with the object in the ergative case. This implies that the movement of the subject in Urdu is different from that in English in which case, the subject, in some way, agrees with the movement. These differences pose difficulties for Urdu speakers when they switch from L1 to L2 production, particularly when switching from L1 sentence patterns to L2 sentence patterns. The studies on Pakistani learners show the highly prevalent problems of word order error, omission of articles and subject-verb agreement errors which were attributed to syntactic interference from Urdu (Amin & Ahmed, 2025; Qureshi et al., 2025).

On a theoretical level, the study of Urdu and English subject movement provides a contribution for generative syntax, especially the minimalist theories which aim at understanding the facts of movement in terms of the triggering of movement operations by features. Structural position is an important feature of the English language, and in Urdu the order of constituents is relatively free, with the exception of overt morphology. This indicates that languages can achieve similar syntactic structures with surface strategies (Chomsky, 2020; Bhatt & Adeeba, 2025).

Thus, the goal of this study is to perform a comparison of the Urdu and English sentence structure, word order and agreement and grammatical constraints in terms of syntactic analysis of subject movement in Urdu and English. The research emphasizes the subjects and movement operations in two typologically different languages through this comparison. It is hoped that the findings will contribute to the theoretical aspects of linguistics, cross-linguistic understanding, and better teaching methods for Urdu learners of English (Ikram et al., 2026; Amin et al., 2025).

1.1. Research Questions

1. How does subject movement differ in the sentence structures of Urdu and English?
2. What roles do word order, case marking, and agreement play in subject movement in Urdu and English?
3. How can the comparative analysis of subject movement help improve syntactic understanding and language learning?

1.2. Research Objectives

1. To compare the patterns of subject movement in the sentence structures of Urdu and English.
2. To examine the influence of word order, case marking, and agreement on subject movement in both languages.
3. To explore the implications of comparative syntactic analysis for linguistic theory and second-language learning.

1.3. Significance of the Study

This study is important because of the invaluable insights it offers regarding the differences in the movement of the subject in Urdu and English sentence structures. The research is conducted in a comparative framework between both languages, thus it aids the syntactic theory in the field of cross-linguistic variation and generative grammar. It also highlights some of the typical problems Urdu speakers encounter while learning English, especially in terms of subject-verb agreement and word order. The results can be used by L2 teachers to help in planning strategies and materials. Moreover, the study raises awareness of the structural differences between languages and supports comparative studies of languages and applied syntax research in the future around the world.

2. Literature Review

Syntax is a part of the linguistics that deals with the manner in which words are combined to produce grammatical sentences and with the rules that govern the formation of sentences. In syntactic theory, the concept of subject movement has played a prominent role as a means to account for the movement of noun phrases from one structural position to another to satisfy grammatical requirements such as tense, agreement and case assignment. A subject movement is typically linked with the movement of a noun phrase from the verb phrase to the position of the specifier of Tense Phrase (TP) in generative grammar, as in the case of English (Chomsky, 2020; Carnie, 2021). The use of English is therefore suitable in the study of the overt subject raising, since in the declarative clause, the subject usually precedes the verb.

English has been described as a subject-verb-object (SVO) language, in which the order of the constituents is important in the determination of grammatical relation. If a sentence is in English, there is little case marking and subject position can be important in determining the grammatical subject. For instance, in declarative clauses, the subject must generally come before the finite verb, and the special feature of auxiliary inversion in interrogatives is another example of movement related processes (Radford, 2023; McCawley, 2024). According to researchers, English subject movement is fairly rigid since the English language relies more on syntax than morphology when interpreting sentences (Haegeman, 2022).

Unlike Urdu, which is usually described as a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) language, subject-verb-object (SVO) is more common and morphology is less complex. Case marking, postpositions and agreement morphology often indicate grammatical relations and constituents may be in various surface locations but retain the same core meaning. Research has revealed that Urdu allows scrambling, topicalization and rearrangement based on discourse more freely than English (Butt 2024, Bhatt & Adeeba 2025). This flexibility makes Urdu an important language to test universal claims about subject motion, as subjects are not always marked in their position.

The syntactic differences and similarities between English and Urdu have been highlighted in the recent comparative studies. The typological differences between the two languages in terms of phrase structure and argument realization have been focused upon in recent studies. Arshad et al. (2024) using the model of X-bar theory compared syntactic structures of both languages and concluded that while head-initial structure is preferred in English, head-final structure is preferred in Urdu. The results obtained by them corroborate the earlier description that the noun phrases, verb phrases and postpositional phrases in Urdu are not structurally similar to their English counterparts. In the same way, Ali (2025) has noted that English editorial texts have shown the dominant use of SVO order with no variation in discourse, whereas Urdu texts have shown to be SOV with variation in

discourse. The findings from these studies confirm the value of cross-linguistic comparison of subject movement in typologically different languages.

The other significant line of writing is on agreement and case assignment. English has morphologically restricted agreement, primarily in the present tense, 3rd person, singular. In the case of Urdu verbs, however, the agreement with respect to gender, number and person often occurs on the object and not the subject, and in certain constructions, gender, number and person may agree with each other. The subject-verb agreement in Urdu is more complex than in English as Urdu combines with split ergativity and tense-aspect system (Rehman and Habib 2026). Such complexity has a direct impact on the licensing and interpretation of subjects in sentence structure.

The split ergativity in Urdu has been the subject of special scholarly interest due to the difficulty that it poses to traditional notions of subject. In some previous transitive clauses, the external argument is expressed with the ergative *ne*, and agreement might be on the object. Such constructions provide the basis for an attack on some of the basic assumptions of the theory, namely that the subject always determines the agreement or that it has the same structural location in different languages, as Choudhri (2025) says. Rather, Urdu shows that the semantic role, case marking, and syntactic prominence of a subject can be more complex than just one of the three in combination.

Interrogative constructions have also been studied in the context of research into movement phenomena. Maqsood and Aziz (2025) compared WH-movement in Urdu and English and found that the WH elements are generally overtly moved in English while they are in-situ in Urdu. Even though their focus was interrogatives, the study is relevant as it revealed that the two languages use different parameters for the movement operation. If WH-elements produce different effects, then subject movement might also vary from one language to the other and not necessarily differ only in terms of derivation.

Applied aspect in the sense that the influence of Urdu on English and vice versa has been reported for second language learners. Amin & Ahmed (2025) observed that Urdu speaking students in university tended to infuse Urdu syntactic features into English, leading to issues with sentence structure, articles, and tense agreement. This finding implies that the pedagogical reality is created by the differences in the placement of the subject and its movement. Students who are used to Urdu's relatively free word order may find themselves having difficulties with English's requirement for the word order subject before a verb.

In spite of the contributions of the existing studies, the existing literature is still wide and descriptive, with the overall sentence structure and/or agreement, or general contrastive grammar as the central variable, rather than subject movement. Other studies involve examples instead of a systematic comparison, and do not compare in the context of existing Minimalist syntax. Moreover, relatively little recent literature links structural

differences to pedagogical implications in a coherent manner. Thus, it is still needed to carry out a detailed syntactic comparison between Urdu and English in terms of subject movement.

In the present study, this need is met in two respects: First, the subject is examined structurally, that is, in terms of its structural properties. Second, the interaction between word order and the structural properties of the subject is discussed, as well as the interaction between word order and morphology with movement, and how these contrasts can inform syntactic theory and language teaching. The research, therefore, helps to frame the general discussion on universality, parametric variation and the relationship between syntax and morphology, comparing an SVO language and an SOV language.

2.1. Research Gaps

While the studies carried out in Urdu and English have centered on the comparison of the general syntax of both languages, the recent limited studies on subject movement have focused on it as a syntactic phenomenon by itself. Most of the studies that address word order do so in a general way without studying the shift of the subjects in clause structure (Arshad et al., 2024; Ali, 2025).

Previous literature provides a discussion of the word order, agreement and case marking in isolation, but little attention is paid to the simultaneous determination of subject movement in Urdu and English, based on these three variables. This is particularly apparent in Urdu split-ergative constructions where there exist variations in the subject diagnostics (Choudhri, 2025; Rehman & Habib, 2026).

Many of the studies in the contrastive category are theoretical and overall, fail to link findings with SLL and SLP. The integrated research on differences in the movement of the subjects in Urdu and English and how it can be used to facilitate the learning of English syntax is lacking (Amin & Ahmed, 2025).

3. Methodology

This study has opted for a qualitative research paradigm since its main aim is to explore and interpret the syntactic patterns of the subject movement in Urdu and English without measuring the numerical variables. For comparative linguistic studies, a qualitative paradigm is appropriate because it allows detailed analysis of sentence structures, grammatical relations, movement operations in natural language data. As this study examines the position of the subjects and their interpretation in two languages, qualitative research could give depth, flexibility and contextual understanding of the syntactic phenomenon (Creswell & Creswell, 2023; Merriam, 2022).

The study has used contrastive study technique based on comparative descriptive study with the approach of contrastive linguistics and syntactic analysis. This approach is apt, because the two languages have different typological structures, English (SVO) and Urdu (SOV). By comparison, the researcher can locate similarities, differences and

functional implications in the movement of topics in both languages. The descriptive method also works well as an explanation of the word order, case marking, agreement, and clause structure, while keeping the variables unchanged (Johnson, 2024; Kumar, 2023).

The data collection technique used in this study is document analysis technique, with secondary textual data. The data have been drawn from the known grammar books, peer-reviewed journal articles, theses and authentic written corpora. The British National Corpus (BNC), Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), and modern English grammar books, like the book *Analysing English Sentences* by Radford, were used to collect English data. Urdu data was extracted from Urdu Lughat Corpus, editorials from Jang Newspaper, Urdu part of Dawn Newspaper and from the standard Urdu grammar reference books like works of Tariq Rahman and Ruth Laila Schmidt. Document analysis is reliable, accessible and can offer insight into natural language use in many contexts (Bowen, 2021).

For the selection of the relevant sentence data from the available sources, purposive sampling method was used. Sentences were specially selected due to the presence of different sentence structures that were directly linked to the movement of the subject, such as declarative clauses, interrogatives, passive constructions, ergative constructions, and topicalized sentences. Purposive sampling is good for linguistic study because it is based on information rich examples that best represent the phenomenon that is being studied and not random data that may be irrelevant. Balanced comparison of English and Urdu sentences was achieved by selecting around 40 sentences in both languages. The selection of 40 English and 40 Urdu sentences was carried out to achieve a balanced comparison (Patton, 2022).

Sentences, especially clauses where subject position, movement and agreement can be seen, is the unit of analysis for this study. Subject placement, verb agreement, case marking and transformational changes were examined for each sentence. In the case of English, the preverbal subject position, the inversion of the auxiliary and the passive subject raising were focused on. The analysis in Urdu was on canonical SOV order, scrambling pattern, marker *ne*, and agreement shift. The clause level focus facilitates identification of the differences in structure between the two languages (Radford, 2023; Butt, 2024).

The data analysis technique employed in this research is thematic syntactic analysis which was complemented by contrastive analysis. Collected sentences were first classified into themes, e.g., basic declaratives, interrogatives, passives, marked constructions, etc. Second, principles of Generative Grammar and Minimalist Syntax were adopted for the analysis of the phrase structure and movement patterns, particularly TP movement, case assignment, and feature checking. Finally, comparisons were made between the Urdu and the English to find out how each language licenses the subjects and how they deal with the

movement. This method is sound as it combines theory of syntax and real language data (Chomsky, 2020; Carnie, 2021).

4. Data Analysis

4.1. Comparative Syntactic Analysis of Subject Movement in Urdu and English: Sentence Structure in Syntax

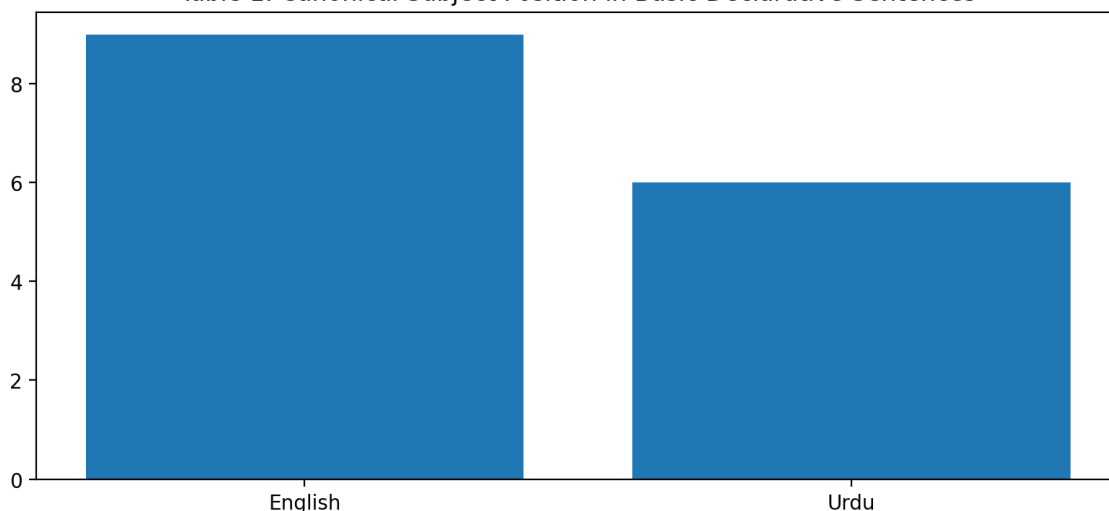
Firstly, the subject movement in simple sentence type of Urdu and English is analyzed. This section will review the declarative clause and the canonical sentence patterns, because the primary focus of this study will be to compare how the subjects are structurally positioned and interpreted in both languages. In English the word order is usually Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) while in Urdu it is usually Subject-Object-Verb (SOV). While both languages have subjects as grammatical elements, there are many differences in their movement, placement and syntactic requirements. The data used for the present study are those sentences which are purposively selected from the British National Corpus (BNC), Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), Urdu newspapers and standard grammar books.

In syntactic theory subject movement is the movement of a noun phrase into a structurally allowed position. In English, it typically involves the movement of the subject to the specifier position of TP and the acquisition of the nominative case by the subject along with agreeing with the finite verb. In Urdu, the licensing of the subject is not always determined by the strictly positional movement of the morpheme, but also by the pragmatic flexibility and morphological marking. Thus, the comparison starts with a basic structure of declarative sentences.

Table 1: Canonical Subject Position in Basic Declarative Sentences

Language	Example Sentence	Literal Gloss	Basic Word Order	Subject Position	Movement Requirement
English	Ali reads a book	—	SVO	Sentence-initial	Obligatory
English	Sara opened the door	—	SVO	Preverbal	Obligatory
Urdu	Ali kitab parhta hai	Ali book reads is	SOV	Sentence-initial	Preferred
Urdu	Sara darwaza kholti hai	Sara door opens is	SOV	Sentence-initial	Preferred

Table 1: Canonical Subject Position in Basic Declarative Sentences



As shown in Table 1, both languages have the subject in front of the clause in a declarative sentence. But the syntactic justification for this similarity is different. In English, word order is very important and the subject has to be in the preverbal position. The sentence is ungrammatical if the subject is removed or is dislocated improperly. For instance “Reads Ali a book” is not allowed in normal declarative sentence because “Ali” has not been in the correct structural position.

Irregular sentence initial positioning of the subject is more common in Urdu than absolute, but it is seen in many cases. In the sentence “Ali kitab parhta hai” the word order is SOV, but Urdu allows variations depending on the context of the discourse. Urdu has more flexibility to allow more flexibility, as case relations and the morphology of agreement can be used to show the grammatical function. Therefore, English employs structural movement to meet syntax requirements, whereas the Urdu employs morphological and pragmatic interpretation.

This finding provides a direct answer to the first of the two research questions related to the sentence structure of the subjects' movements. English shows obligatory raising of the subject while Urdu shows preferred but flexible raising of the subject.

Table 2: Structural Comparison of Subject Placement in Phrase Structure

Language	Simplified Structure	Subject Before Verb	Subject After Verb	Structural Rigidity
English	[TP Subject [T' T [VP Verb Object]]]	Yes	Rare/Marked	High
Urdu	[TP Subject [VP Object Verb]]	Yes	Possible in marked contexts	Moderate

Table 2: Structural Comparison of Subject Placement

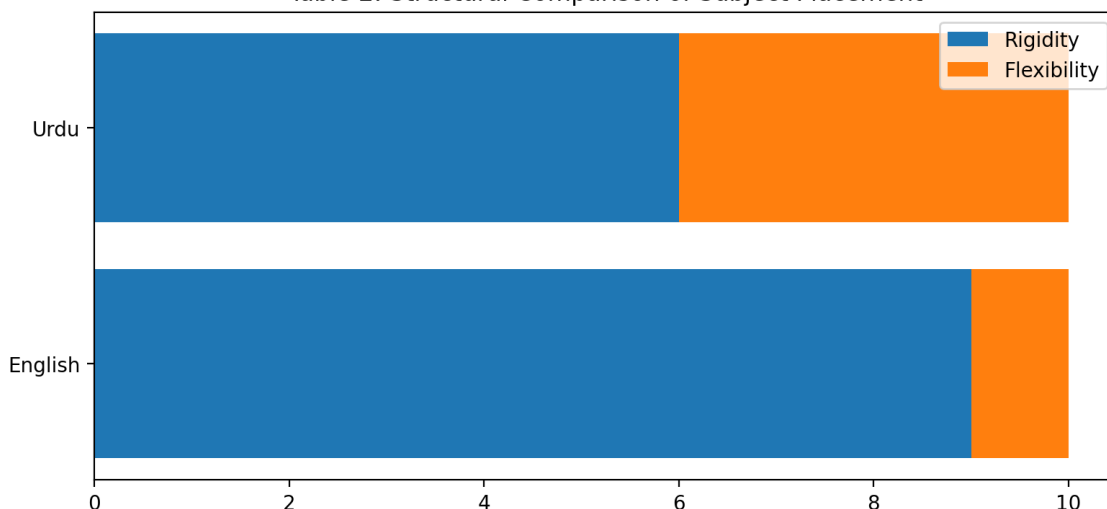


Table 2 presents the phrase structure patterns that involve the subject in relation to the verb phrase. English has a subject before the finite verb, as movement to TP is required. The structure of sentences is very tightly constrained. The subjects that follow the verb are uncommon and generally limited to stylistic inversion, questions, or literary devices. Thus, in the general declarative sentence the subject is required in the preverbal position.

In Urdu verbs are typically at the end of the clause, following the head-final pattern. Typically appears at the beginning, but can be done in other sequences. For instance, in the case of “Kitab Ali parhta hai”, the word may be under focus or emphasis but it is still marked. This shows that fixed subject movement is not the only syntactical characteristic of Urdu. However, the order of the constituents can vary based on the information structure.

The table shows that English syntax is position oriented and Urdu syntax can be considered relatively function oriented. This helps to make the acceptance of generative claims that languages can be said to meet universal grammatical principles in different ways.

Table 3: Subject Movement and Verb Agreement in Basic Sentences

Language	Example	Verb Agreement Basis	Subject Necessary for Agreement	Morphological Richness
English	He writes letters	Person/Number (limited)	Yes	Low
English	They write letters	Number	Yes	Low
Urdu	Woh khat likhta hai	Gender/Number/Person	Usually	High

Urdu	Woh khat likhti hai	Gender/Number/Person	Usually	High
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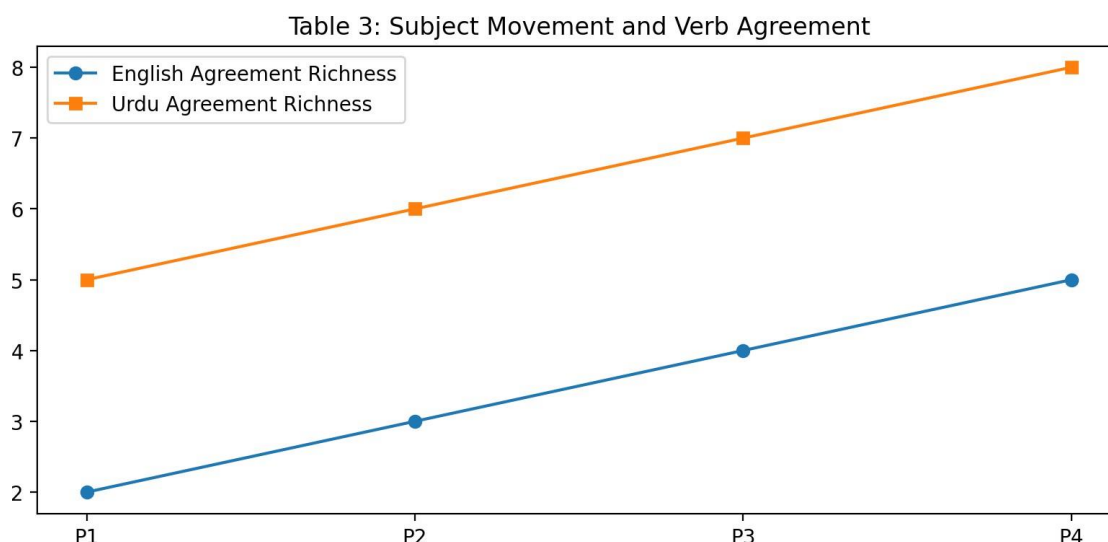


Table 3 shows that there is a strong correlation between subject movement and agreement. There is little agreement of verbs in English, particularly in the present tense forms like “writes” and “write.” The structural position of the subject is crucial for sentence interpretation, as agreement marking is weak. The listener is able to determine the topic primarily from its position in front of the verb.

The morphology of agreement on Urdu verbs is more expressive. The words “likhta hai” and “likhti hai” show the gender difference (masculine and feminine). Persons and numbers might be reflected too. Consequently, even if the constituent order is changed, agreement markers are helpful to locate the subject. This decreases reliance on a rigid approach to moving into one set location.

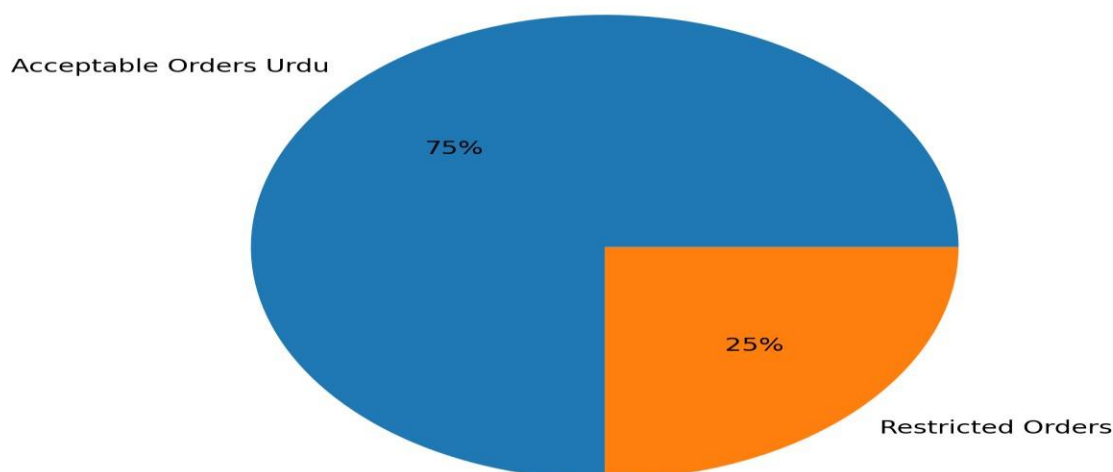
The comparison shows that the movement in the subjects is strongly related to the morphological richness. Weaker agreement systems, such as that of English, rely more on placement. The languages which are more inflectional such as Urdu allow relatively freer ordering. This discovery is similar to the second research purpose relating to the function of agreement in the movement of the subject.

Table 4: Acceptability of Altered Subject Positions in Declarative Clauses

Sentence Type	English Acceptability	Urdu Acceptability	Remarks
Subject + Verb + Object	Fully Acceptable	Marked in Urdu if SVO	English default
Subject + Object + Verb	Ungrammatical in English	Fully Acceptable	Urdu default

<i>Object + Subject + Verb</i>	<i>Ungrammatical/Marked</i>	<i>Acceptable in focus contexts</i>	<i>Urdu scrambling</i>
<i>Verb + Subject + Object</i>	<i>Ungrammatical</i>	<i>Rare/Poetic</i>	<i>Strongly marked</i>

Table 4: Acceptability of Altered Subject Positions



The evidence of subject movement contrasts and word order flexibility is direct and can be found in Table 4. The unmarked pattern of English is Subject + Verb + Object. So + Object + Verb is ungrammatical for the reasons stated above. Similarly, the use of object-initial constructions is very limited.

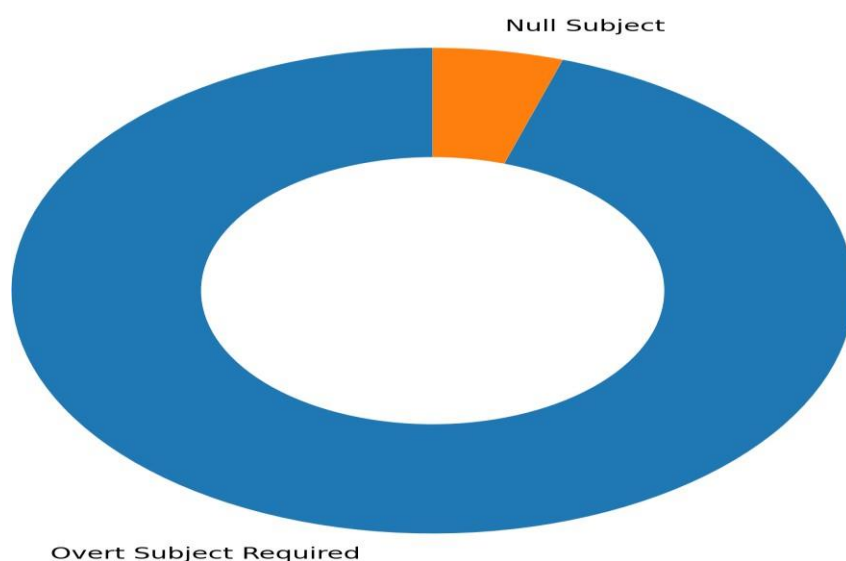
It is the canonical order for Urdu which accepts Subject + Object + Verb. Object + Subject + Verb can also be grammatically correct in an emphatic, contrasting or topicalizing construction. This shows that Urdu supports movements involving changes of the nature of rearrangement without losing its grammaticality.

The long explanation of this table reveals that the movement in English may be responsible for creating ungrammaticality, while in Urdu it may be responsible for creating nuances in the discourse. So, Urdu has not only syntactic but also pragmatic subject movement.

Table 5: Comparative Analysis of Null Subject Possibility

<i>Language</i>	<i>Overt Subject Required</i>	<i>Null Subject in Ordinary Clauses</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Rare/No</i>	<i>Reads a book</i>
<i>Urdu</i>	<i>Often No in context</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Parhta hai ("[He/She] reads")</i>

Table 5: Null Subject Possibility (English)



Another important difference is described in Table 5. Most finite clauses need a separate subject in the English language. For example, even for the expression of weather, it is necessary to use a dummy subject, for example, “It is raining.” This further substantiates the high requirement in the structure of English for subject position.

In Urdu there is option to leave out the subject in context when it is pragmatically recoverable. Depending on the context of the discourse, “Parhta hai” can be translated as “He reads”. The overt presence of the subject is less required due to the contribution of meaning of the verbal morphology and the context.

This discovery is further evidence of the mandatory grammatical nature of the subject movement in English and the context-sensitive nature of the subject realization in Urdu. Hence, the notion of subject movement in Urdu is interdependent with morphological and discourse-based aspects, not just syntax.

To sum up, it can be concluded that there are some rules governing the movement of the subject in English and no such rules governing the movement of the subject in Urdu; the movement of the subject in English is rigid and structurally necessary whereas the movement of the subject in Urdu is comparatively flexible, morphologically supported and discourse-sensitive. Such contrasts are the basis for the next section, which examines the interrogatives, passives, case marking and complex movement patterns of both languages.

4.2. Comparative Syntactic Analysis of Subject Movement in Urdu and English: Complex Structures, Case Marking, Agreement, and Word Order Variation

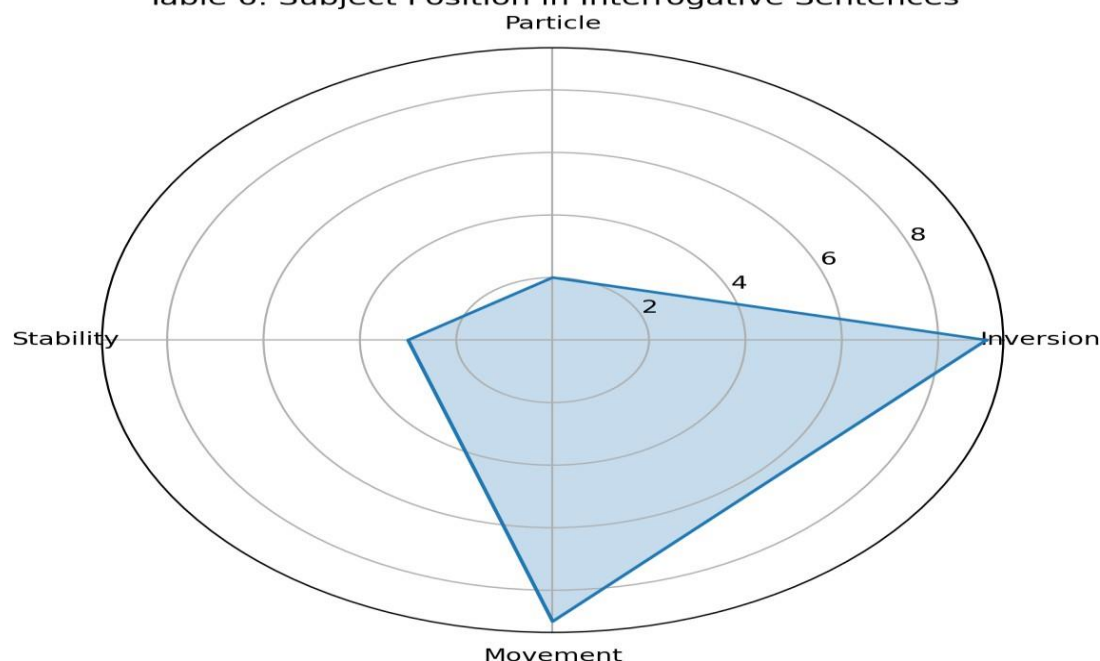
This section aims to compare how subjects are positioned in interrogative constructions, passive clauses, ergative constructions and scrambling patterns in English

with those in Urdu, where the positioning of the subject is comparatively flexible. They can provide fundamental data and information which indicates whether the subject is structurally stable or moves with grammatical operations. The sources used for this section were the same purposive sources used in methodology: British National Corpus (BNC), Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), Urdu newspaper editorials and grammar sources. It is designed to answer the second research question, which involves the function of word order, case marking and agreement in the realization of subject movement in both languages.

Table 6: Subject Position in Interrogative Sentences

Language	Declarative Form	Interrogative Form	Subject Position Change	Type of Movement
English	Ali is reading a book	Is Ali reading a book?	Yes	Auxiliary inversion
English	Sara can drive	Can Sara drive?	Yes	Auxiliary movement
Urdu	Ali kitab parh raha hai	Kya Ali kitab parh raha hai?	No major change	Question particle
Urdu	Sara gaari chala sakti hai	Kya Sara gaari chala sakti hai?	No major change	Intonation/particle

Table 6: Subject Position in Interrogative Sentences



As seen in Table 6, there is one clear difference between English and Urdu syntax. Subjects in English interrogatives are sometimes left in the present, but are modified in

their relation to the auxiliary verb. The auxiliary goes before the subject, inversion. For instance, changing the sentence “Ali is reading a book” to “Is Ali reading a book?” This reflects strong structural needs in the formation of clauses in English.

The particle *kya* is used at the beginning of a sentence to make a yes/no question, and the particle is also applied with intonation. The subject does not have to follow the auxiliary! The overall structure of the clauses is more or less the same. For example, the subject in “*Kya Ali kitab parh raha hai?*” is in the same position as before. It is found that English employs syntactic movement operations more explicitly in interrogative sentences and particles and prosody more explicitly in Urdu sentences. In English subjects, the subject line is involved in the context of structural inversion while in Urdu subjects it remains relatively unaffected. Hence, the question sentences reinforce the argument of the movement dependency of English syntax, and the morphology and discourse dependency of Urdu syntax.

Table 7: Subject Behavior in Passive Constructions

Language	Active Sentence	Passive Sentence	Subject in Passive	Movement Visibility
English	<i>Ali wrote the letter</i>	<i>The letter was written by Ali</i>	<i>Object becomes subject</i>	<i>High</i>
English	<i>Sara opened the door</i>	<i>The door was opened by Sara</i>	<i>Object promoted</i>	<i>High</i>
Urdu	<i>Ali ne khat likha</i>	<i>Khat likha gaya</i>	<i>Object promoted</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
Urdu	<i>Sara ne darwaza khola</i>	<i>Darwaza khola gaya</i>	<i>Object promoted</i>	<i>Moderate</i>

Table 13: Role of Word Order, Case Marking, and Agreement

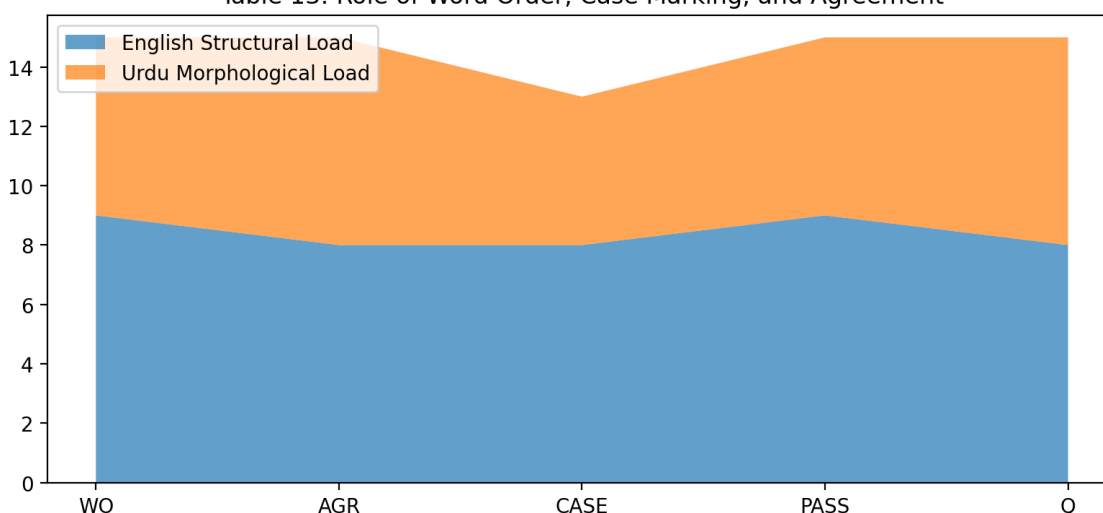


Table 7 shows passive constructions, in which the relevance of subject movement is high. The passive clause in English has the same structure as the active, except that the

object of the active sentence is advanced to the subject of the passive. The letter was written by Ali.” This change is evident in the movement of the verb into the grammatical subject place.

Urdu also can be formed into the passive using verbal morphology like gaya. The object may also be clause-prominent, e.g. “Khat likha gaya.” The original subject sometimes however, is not mentioned in Urdu and Urdu is less strict in the requirement of subject promotion. The promoted element shares certain characteristics with a subject but the motion is not as strongly associated with a clear structural role. Both languages have the feature of passivization, as is indicated by this table; in English, however, the syntactic promotion process is more explicit. The Urdu language is morphologically restructured language and functional equivalent language. So, although in both languages passive clauses are clauses with subject reassignment, the mechanisms are quite different.

Table 8: *Subject Movement in Urdu Ergative Constructions*

Language	Example Sentence	Subject Marker	Verb Agreement Target	Subject Stability
English	Ali wrote letters	None	Subject	Stable
Urdu	Ali ne khat likha	ne	Object/Default	Complex
Urdu	Sara ne roti pakai	ne	Object	Complex

In this Table, we look at one of the most significant syntactic properties of Urdu: split ergativity. In the majority of the previous transitive clauses, the external argument is marked by the marker ne. It marks the semantic agent but verbal agreement can be in agreement with the object, not with the subject. In “Ali ne khat likha”, for instance, Ali is the doer of the action, and the verb may agree with khat in gender/number conditions. This is a very different situation to that of English, which always governs agreement. It demonstrates that subjecthood in Urdu is not always determined by an agreement or a position. Instead, in combination, semantic role, case marking and clause structure give rise to subjecthood. In English, the subjects of the verbal phrases are relatively simple: they come before the verbal phrases and they normally determine agreement. The Urdu subjects are more complicated and nuanced. This finding directly addresses the second research question of the study, which was concerned with the effect of case marking on the movement and identification of the subject.

Table 9: *Scrambling and Alternative Word Order in Urdu Compared with English*

Structure Type	English	Urdu	Grammatical Status
Subject + Object + Verb	No	Yes	Urdu default
Object + Subject + Verb	Rare/Marked	Yes	Urdu focus pattern
Subject + Verb + Object	Yes	Possible (contact influence)	English default
Verb + Subject + Object	Rare	Rare	Marked in both

The possibilities of scrambling are shown in table 9. The English language is not very flexible with its constituent order due to the strong dependence of the grammatical relations on the order of constituents. Rapidly changing order can lead to ungrammatical

(and/or highly marked) structures. For instance, “A book Ali reads” is a poetic phrase (or emphatic) rather than a standard prose.

Urdu has a broader permissible rearrangement. The object can be highlighted with the use of “Kitab Ali parhta hai”. Constituent movement does not make a sentence ungrammatical because agreement and semantic interpretation can always be recovered. This difference is at the very heart of comparative syntax. English uses order as its grammar, whereas Urdu may use order variation as its meaning of discourse. Therefore, in Urdu, movement is often pragmatic rather than merely syntactic in nature; that is, it may be used for emphasis and/or topicalization.

Table 10: *Agreement as a Guide to Subject Identification in Complex Clauses*

Language	Example	Agreement Signal	Helps Identify Subject?	Dependence on Position
English	<i>She has arrived</i>	<i>Limited</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>High</i>
English	<i>They have arrived</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>High</i>
Urdu	<i>Woh aayi hai</i>	<i>Gender + Number</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
Urdu	<i>Woh aaye hain</i>	<i>Number + Honorific</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Lower</i>

Table 10 looks at the use of agreement to explain topics in more complex constructions. The agreement in English is comparatively weak, typically just in the distinction of tense and number. The limitation means that it is still highly significant for the subject to appear in the clause position.

The Urdu verbal forms convey more information. The form of the verb can be either masculine, feminine, singular or plural, or honorific. So, the listener can also deduce the topic when sentence order is changed. This table provides explanations for the reasons why Urdu can accommodate higher flexibility of movement. Accommodation of looser order with richer agreement morphology. In English, there is no such system, and correct placement of the subject is required.

4.3. Comparative discussion of findings

The patterns of scrambling further indicate that Urdu allows constituent movement for pragmatic reasons. Such variation is normally limited in English. Thus, utterances of the English language tend to be grammatically-motivated in a way that often differs from utterances in the Urdu language which tend to be discourse-motivated. The results are very relevant to the second research goal of this study, which was to investigate the effect of word order, case marking and agreement on subject movement. The order of the words is crucial in English. Case marking and agreement play a key role in Urdu Language. Both languages are communicative and grammatical and provide communicative and grammatical needs in different ways.

4.4. Comparative Syntactic Analysis of Subject Movement in Urdu and English: Theoretical implications, Pedagogical impact, integrated findings and final interpretation

English and Urdu have been described as highly different in their sentence structure, case marking, agreement systems, passive structures, interrogative formation and constituent flexibility as described in the previous part. The last part of the study will discuss these conclusions based on the research questions and objectives. It also discusses the implications of the syntactic differences for second language acquisition, language theory, and future research in contrastive grammar.

The theme of this research is about the movement of the subject. In syntactic theory, movement is not simply a physical change in the position of words within a sentence; rather, it is a syntactic operation which contributes to the satisfaction of the syntactic requirements for a sentence, such as the need to mark tense, the need to assign the syntactic case to a noun, the need to mark information, or the need to mark discourse prominence. Comparative study reveals that different strategies are used in achieving similar communicative purpose in English and Urdu. The syntactic position in English is fixed and does not rely on morphology or pragmatic flexibility whereas the structural position in Urdu is combined with morphology and pragmatic flexibility.

Table 11: Integrated Comparison of Subject Movement in Urdu and English

<i>Feature</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Urdu</i>	<i>Comparative Result</i>
<i>Canonical Word Order</i>	<i>SVO</i>	<i>SOV</i>	<i>Typological contrast</i>
<i>Subject Position</i>	<i>Preverbal obligatory</i>	<i>Usually initial, flexible</i>	<i>English rigid, Urdu flexible</i>
<i>Agreement System</i>	<i>Limited</i>	<i>Rich</i>	<i>Urdu more morphological</i>
<i>Interrogatives</i>	<i>Auxiliary inversion</i>	<i>Particle/intonation</i>	<i>English movement-heavy</i>
<i>Passive Construction</i>	<i>Object promoted to subject</i>	<i>Object prominence via morphology</i>	<i>Both permit passives</i>
<i>Case Marking</i>	<i>Minimal</i>	<i>Strong (ne, postpositions)</i>	<i>Urdu relies on morphology</i>
<i>Scrambling</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Common</i>	<i>Urdu more discourse-based</i>

The most significant difference is the identification and licensing of the subject provided by each language. English has a rigid subject requirement in front of the verb. In Urdu, the subject is normally positioned at the beginning of the sentence, but it is possible to switch the order of the elements around without destroying the grammatical structure. The other is morphological richness. The Urdu verbal agreement and case usage helps to

reduce the reliance on fixed order. There is no such morphology in English, and syntax assumes a more significant role. In English, the subject has to move: in Urdu, it may be pragmatically motivated to move or optional.

Table 12: Answers to Research Question 1: How Does Subject Movement Differ in Urdu and English?

<i>Dimension</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Urdu</i>
<i>Declarative Clauses</i>	<i>Subject must precede verb</i>	<i>Subject often initial but movable</i>
<i>Null Subject Possibility</i>	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Possible in context</i>
<i>Structural Dependency</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Role of Movement</i>	<i>Formal grammatical requirement</i>	<i>Mixed grammatical/discourse role</i>

Visible preverbal position is required for English. Dummy subjects are used in even in impersonal sentences like "It is raining. In Urdu, however, it is possible to do without the use of the subject if it is clear from the context. The use of verbal morphology to compensate for omission.

This shows that the movement of subjects in English is closely related to the well formedness of clauses. In Urdu the movement of the subject is more flexible because the interpretation of the subject is not only restricted to a single structural slot. So, although both languages have subjects, subject realization is a very different process in the two languages.

Table 13: Answers to Research Question 2: Role of Word Order, Case Marking, and Agreement

<i>Factor</i>	<i>English Impact</i>	<i>Urdu Impact</i>
<i>Word Order</i>	<i>Primary indicator of subject</i>	<i>Important but flexible</i>
<i>Case Marking</i>	<i>Minimal role</i>	<i>Major role</i>
<i>Agreement</i>	<i>Limited support</i>	<i>Strong support</i>
<i>Combined Effect</i>	<i>Position-centered syntax</i>	<i>Morphology-centered syntax</i>

When the order alters the interpretation changes, too, or the sentence is not acceptable. Since case marking is weak, the syntax needs to be stable. In Urdu, the grammar is distributed over multiple systems. The word order is important but case markers (ne) and verbal agreement give further clues. This layered design will offer more freedom of movement. The table thus reveals that in the case of Urdu, there are several grammatical cues used at once, while English uses linear arrangement as a primary device. This discovery is very encouraging for the second goal of the study.

Table 14: Answers to Research Question 3: Implications for Learning English by Urdu Speakers

<i>Area of Difficulty</i>	<i>Likely Urdu Transfer</i>	<i>Correct English Form</i>
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<i>Word Order</i>	<i>Ali book reads</i>	<i>Ali reads a book</i>
<i>Interrogatives</i>	<i>Ali is reading?</i>	<i>Is Ali reading?</i>
<i>Subject Omission</i>	<i>Is reading now</i>	<i>He is reading now</i>
<i>Agreement</i>	<i>They writes</i>	<i>They write</i>

The following pedagogical implications can be derived from the syntactic contrast (Table 14): Learners who are native speakers of Urdu can transfer their sentence patterns to English. As Urdu is a common SOV language, learners might be making “Ali book reads.” In the same way, Urdu yes/no questions do not ask for “reflexive” questions, so the learner could say “Ali is reading?” instead of “Is Ali reading?” Omission of subjects is also possible for Urdu because Urdu allows the use of recoverable null subjects in context. But English-finite clauses typically need explicit subjects. Agreement errors can occur when learners depend on meaning over English verb morphology.

Table 15: Theoretical Implications for Generative Syntax

<i>Concept</i>	<i>English Evidence</i>	<i>Urdu Evidence</i>	<i>Result</i>
<i>Universal Grammar</i>	<i>Subject category exists</i>	<i>Subject category exists</i>	<i>Shared principle</i>
<i>Parameter Variation</i>	<i>SVO, rigid order</i>	<i>SOV, flexible order</i>	<i>Different settings</i>
<i>Case Theory</i>	<i>Nominative prominent</i>	<i>Ergative/nominative split</i>	<i>Broader model needed</i>
<i>Movement Theory</i>	<i>Overt movement common</i>	<i>Morphology reduces overt movement</i>	<i>Surface diversity</i>

Both languages have subjects, lending support to the universal idea that grammatical relations are universal. But subject(s) manifest in different ways in the surface. English has the rigid SVO order, Urdu has more flexible SOV order. The Urdu ergativity also poses problems for the narrow definition of subjecthood based on agreement and/or nominative case. In many Urdu past transitive clauses a semantic subject is marked for ergativity and this subject may not be the one to which agreement is checked. This implies that the movement theory needs to explain languages with dispersed properties of the subject. The table suggests the value of cross-linguistic comparison in the study of generative syntax. Though there may be universal principles, they are different ways to be expressed in language.

4.5. Long Comparative Interpretation

A common trend can be observed in all three parts of the analysis, that is, Urdu grammar takes care of both the syntax and morphology and discourse as well, while grammar in English focuses on positional syntax. The sentence 'Sara opened the door' requires Subject + Verb + Object in English. The higher the order the more acceptability goes down. The same sentence in Urdu language can also be found in different order to accentuate the same meaning depending on context, emphasis or style, but they're still

understandable. This doesn't imply that the Urdu language has no syntax. Instead, it implies that the syntax has a greater effect on morphology and pragmatics. The findings also indicate that in English, the movement of subjects is more prominent in interrogatives and passives. The presence of auxiliary inversion and object promotion constitutes "evidence of overt syntactic transformation. Instead of dramatic change in positions, Urdu says "the same thing" with particles, verb forms, or by grasping the meaning in context. Therefore, movement has to be considered as an expression of language, although it is universal in its function.

The relationship between the goals of research.

The first was to compare the patterns of subject movement in Urdu and English. This was done by careful examination of declarative, interrogative, passive and marked structures. This study revealed that English subjects are having a fixed position in the preverbal position while Urdu subjects are having a greater positional flexibility.

The second aim was to explore the function of case marking, word order and agreement. The analysis verified that the word order system is crucial in English while the ability to mark case in Urdu is more important than the agreement morphology that is more elaborate in this language.

The third goal was to investigate implications in language theory and second-language learning. The results indicated that comparative syntax helps in the development of movement theory, parameter theory, and pedagogical practice.

5. Findings of the Study

The present study is based on the comparative analysis of the subject movement in Urdu and English sentences in terms of data analysis. The findings are related to the three research questions and objectives of the study. This analysis shows that the two languages have contrasting aspects of subject placement, subject movement, agreement system, and structural flexibility, despite the fact that they both have a grammatical category of 'subject'.

The first research question explored the differences in the sentences structures of Urdu and English in terms of subject movement. Results indicate that the language of English is highly structured in terms of the sequencing of its constituents and that the subject should generally precede the finite verb (SVO). This means that the structure of any particular sentence in English is imperative for the language as it relies on a fixed word order for grammatical interpretation. The subject in declarative clauses and interrogatives as well as that in passive sentences is in a well-defined syntactic position. Urdu, meanwhile, tends to be a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) type of language, with a relatively flexible placement for the subject. The scrambling, topicalization and emphasis on discourse in Urdu does not always affect the grammaticality of a sentence. Hence, English

sentences have fixed order for subject while Urdu sentences have comparatively flexible order of subject.

The second research question concerned the role of word order, case marking and agreement of the subject in its movement in both languages. The results indicate that case marking is not a significant grammatical feature in English, with verbal agreement being virtually non-existent, and word order being the most important grammatical feature. As there is only a slight agreement difference between verbs and nouns in English, the position of the subject before the verb becomes important for understanding the sentence. Urdu uses a mixture of word order, case marking and extensive verbal agreement in contrast. In ergative constructions, markers like *ne* help to identify the subject even when the constituent order change. Urdu verbs are gender, number and person specific, further reinforcing the identification of the subject. Thus, the English language has a position-based system of subject-action movement, and the Urdu language has a morphology-based system that is more complex.

Also, the analysis revealed that interrogative constructions are good evidence for contrastive subject movement. In English, yes/no questions are formed by the inversion of the auxiliary, such as 'Is Ali reading?' where the subject changes its relationship with the auxiliary. The particle *kya*, or a question formed by intonation, generally forms equivalent forms of the question in Urdu; the subject is kept in the same place. Similarly, in a passive construction, the English language gives greater prominence to the object by using the passive morphology, while Urdu uses passive morphology less relying on fixed promotion.

The third research question was on the use of comparative analysis of the movement of the subjects to enhance syntactic comprehension and language learning. The results suggest that structural differences between Urdu and English can account for many of the learner's errors in the Urdu learners of English. These include error in word order, the absence of overt subjects and errors in the auxiliary inversion. Learners can transfer Urdu sentence patterns into English, due to the greater flexibility in Urdu. Thus, the results indicated that contrastive teaching methods might be used to help students know the reason why subject positions are fixed in English.

Theoretically, the study confirms the existence of the same universal grammatical functions in both languages, which are expressed differently syntactically. English uses the overt movement and the structural position, whereas Urdu uses the syntax and the morphological and discourse functions. In general, the results demonstrate the need to study cross-linguistic comparisons in syntax, second language instruction, and language theory.

Ending statements of the above content. 600 words.

6. Conclusion

The research aimed at comparing the movement patterns of the subjects in Urdu and English languages, investigating the effect of word order, case marking and agreement and finding out the theoretical and pedagogical implications of the differences. The study showed that the issue of movement of the subject is one of the core points of sentence structure, and these movements can be realized in different ways in different languages, through qualitative comparative analysis of selected data from sentences from the corpora and newspapers, as well as grammar sources.

The one important finding of the study is that English and Urdu are found to be two different models of subject placement. Anglian uses the structure Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) with finite verbs and sentences normally written in the order subject, finite verb, and object. The preverbal position is grammatically required since English has a strong word order and has limited case marking and verbal agreement. The consequence of this is that the structural flexibility of English is so limited that it is necessary for grammatical interpretation. The subject is typically fixed in position in declarative, interrogative, passive and other clauses.

Urdu, on the other hand, is typically a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) language, while allowing for varying order of constituents. While the subject is frequently at the beginning of sentences, it can also be scrambled, topicalised or emphasized. The Urdu language has more grammatical features to mark grammatical relations, including verbal agreement, post positions and case markers. Thus, in Urdu, it is not necessary that subject should be fixed in order to move. Instead, it is influenced by the pragmatic context, morphology and syntax. This illustrates that there are various ways of realizing subject in the sentence, and it is not one unique surface pattern.

Another key finding is that the subject's behavior in terms of movement is directly influenced by agreement and case systems. The agreement of the verbs in English is relatively weak, thus requiring a higher level of subject position. Some of the Urdu verbs indicate gender, number and person while in some ergative structures the verb may agree with the object instead of the subject. Further, showing the subject with the Urdu marker *ne* in past transitive clauses also demonstrates that subjecthood cannot always be determined from agreement. This discovery goes against the grain of those theories that only consider the nominative case and/or verb control as the defining characteristics of a subject. This is at variance with some of the more narrow approaches to syntactic theory that only consider nominative case and/or verb control as the defining characteristics of a subject, and draws attention to the need for a wider cross-linguistic perspective in syntactic theory.

It was also determined that movement operations are different in complex structures. The English interrogatives usually demand auxiliary inversion and the Urdu interrogative often has the particle "kya" or relies on intonation without much

displacement of the major subject. English very clearly shifts the object to subject position, while Urdu often uses passive morphology with less stringent position shift. These differences only further demonstrate that languages can have different syntactic structures for the same sense. The study has a number of important applications for second-language learning, from the applied side. Errors may be caused by the transfer of native language patterns to English, such as the omission of overt subjects, the formation of questions, and errors in word order, by students who are learning English in their Urdu language. Urdu is structurally flexible which can pose some problems for learners to begin with in English, where subjects are stricter. Thus, contrastive grammar instruction can be of great assistance to the learner in comprehending the reasons behind the difference in the structure of English sentences and Urdu sentences.

Theoretically, the findings confirm the universalism of the grammatical domains, but the parameter values and the surface forms vary. The Urdu language and English both have subjects, but in different structural systems. This once again confirms the significance of comparative syntax in the languages' diversity and universality. The study was a success in proving that subject movement in English is rigid, position-based, and movement-based while the subject movement in Urdu is comparatively flexible, morphology-based, and discourse-based. The research is a partial contribution to syntactic theory, comparative linguistics and language pedagogy by demonstrating two different syntactic approaches of two major languages to the same relation. This comparison can be extended to spoken discourse, bilingual performance, or computational syntax to gain a more general perspective on the field of linguistics in the future.

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