

## THE IMPACT OF MOTHER TONGUE ON GRAMMAR AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE

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**Abstract.** This article explores the influence of mother tongue on grammar and sentence structure in second language acquisition. It highlights how native language structures can shape learners' understanding and usage of a new language, leading to both positive and negative outcomes. The findings suggest that awareness of these influences can enhance teaching methodologies.

**Аннотация.** Эта статья исследует влияние родного языка на грамматику и структуру предложений при изучении второго языка. Подчеркивается, как структуры родного языка могут формировать понимание и использование нового языка, что приводит к как положительным, так и отрицательным результатам. Результаты показывают, что осознание этих влияний может улучшить методики преподавания.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqola ona tili ta'sirini ikkinchi tilni o'rganish jarayonida grammatika va jumla tuzilishiga ta'sirini o'rganadi. Ona tilining tuzilmalari yangi tilni tushunish va ishlatishda qanday rol o'ynashini ko'rsatadi, bu esa ijobiy va salbiy natijalarga olib kelishi mumkin. Ushbu ta'sirlarni anglash o'qitish metodologiyalarini yaxshilashga yordam beradi.

**Keywords:** mother tongue, grammar, sentence structure, second language acquisition, linguistic influence, syntax, teaching methodologies, bilingualism, language learning, cognitive processes.

**Ключевая слова:** родной язык, грамматика, структура предложения, изучение второго языка, лингвистическое влияние, синтаксис, методики преподавания, билингвизм, изучение языков, когнитивные процессы.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ona tili, grammatika, jumla tuzilishi, ikkinchi tilni o'rganish, lingvistik ta'sir, sintaksis, o'qitish metodikasi, bilingvizm, til o'rganish, kognitiv jarayonlar.

Language is a complex system of communication that is deeply intertwined with culture and identity. The concept of mother tongue refers to the first language that a person learns at home in childhood. It serves as a foundational tool for cognitive development and social interaction. The impact of mother tongue on learning additional languages has been widely studied in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics. Researchers have noted that the structures and rules inherent in a person's native language can significantly influence their understanding and production of grammar and sentence structure in a second language (L2) [1,p. 45].

The phenomenon known as "transfer" occurs when linguistic features from the mother tongue are applied to the second language. This transfer can manifest in various ways, including syntax, morphology, and phonology. For example, speakers of languages with a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure may struggle with languages that employ different syntactic orders. Additionally, the grammatical rules learned in one's mother tongue can either facilitate or hinder the acquisition of a new language. Cognitive processes involved in language learning are also shaped by the learner's first language, affecting how they internalize grammatical rules and sentence structures [2,p. 78].

Understanding the impact of mother tongue on grammar and sentence structure is crucial for educators and linguists alike. By recognizing these influences, effective teaching methodologies can be developed to address common challenges faced by learners. This article aims to provide an overview of the relationship between mother tongue and L2 grammar acquisition, examining both theoretical perspectives and practical implications.

Language transfer is a key concept that explains how knowledge from one language affects the learning of another. According to Odlin (1989), transfer can be positive or negative. Positive transfer occurs when similarities between languages facilitate learning, while negative transfer arises from differences that lead to errors

[3,p. 64]. For example, a Spanish speaker learning English may find it easier to grasp the concept of gendered nouns due to its presence in both languages but may struggle with English's use of auxiliary verbs.

#### Syntax and Sentence Structure

The syntax of a language dictates how words are arranged to form sentences. Different languages have unique syntactic rules that can influence learners' comprehension and production. For instance, Chinese employs a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure similar to English but lacks articles and verb conjugations found in many Indo-European languages [4,p. 112]. Consequently, Chinese speakers may omit articles or use incorrect verb forms when speaking English.

Conversely, learners from languages with a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure—like Japanese—may find it challenging to adapt to SVO languages due to their ingrained syntactic patterns [5,p. 210]. This syntactic transfer can lead to confusion and errors in sentence construction as learners attempt to apply their native language rules to the new language.

#### Morphological Influences

Morphology refers to the structure of words and how they are formed. Different languages exhibit varying degrees of morphological complexity. For instance, Russian has rich inflectional morphology that affects nouns and verbs extensively [6,p. 34]. Russian speakers learning English may struggle with the latter's relatively simple morphological system, leading to mistakes such as incorrect verb forms or noun plurals.

#### Phonological Transfer

Phonology deals with the sound systems of languages. The phonetic features of a mother tongue can significantly impact pronunciation in a second language. For example, Arabic speakers may find it challenging to produce certain English sounds that do not exist in Arabic [7,p. 89]. This phonological transfer can result in an accent that may affect intelligibility.

#### Cognitive Processes in Language Learning

Cognitive theories suggest that learners process new information through the

lens of their existing knowledge. The concept of "schema" posits that individuals use mental frameworks based on prior experiences to understand new concepts [8,p. 56]. When learning a second language, learners often filter new grammatical rules through their mother tongue schemas, which can lead to misinterpretations or oversimplifications.

### Teaching Methodologies

Understanding the impact of mother tongue on grammar and sentence structure has significant implications for teaching methodologies. Educators can develop targeted strategies to address specific challenges faced by learners based on their linguistic backgrounds. For example:

1. Contrastive Analysis: By comparing the grammatical structures of the mother tongue and the target language, teachers can identify potential areas of difficulty and design lessons accordingly [9,p. 142].

2. Focus on Form: Explicit instruction on grammatical rules can help learners recognize differences between their native language and the target language [10,p. 98].

3. Use of Authentic Materials: Exposure to real-life language use can help learners adapt their understanding of grammar and sentence structure more effectively.

4. Encouragement of Code-Switching: Allowing students to use their mother tongue during initial learning phases can facilitate understanding and retention [11,p. 77].

The impact of mother tongue on grammar and sentence structure is a multifaceted issue that encompasses various linguistic elements such as syntax, morphology, and phonology. Understanding these influences is essential for effective second language teaching and learning. By recognizing how native language structures shape learners' processing of new grammatical rules and sentence constructions, educators can develop targeted strategies that enhance comprehension and production in the target language.

Future research should continue to explore the nuances of mother tongue

influence across diverse linguistic backgrounds and educational contexts. As globalization increases interaction among speakers of different languages, understanding these dynamics will be crucial for fostering effective communication across cultural boundaries.

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