



## STRUCTURAL TYPES OF POLY-PREDICATIVE SENTENCES IN ENGLISH AND TURKMEN

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### Abstract

This study explores structural types of poly-predicative sentences in English and Turkmen, emphasizing syntactic, morphological, and semantic characteristics. Poly-predicative sentences, which include two or more predicates, allow speakers to express complex actions and events within a single sentence. The paper provides a comparative analysis of English, a subject-prominent language, and Turkmen, an agglutinative and verb-final language. It highlights similarities and differences in predicate linkage, word order, and functional usage, demonstrating how language-specific structures influence the expression of sequential, simultaneous, and causally related actions. The findings contribute to cross-linguistic studies, language teaching, and computational linguistics.

**Keywords:** poly-predicative sentences, English, Turkmen, syntax, complex sentences, predicate linkage

### Introduction

Poly-predicative sentences, also referred to as multi-predicate constructions, are syntactic units that encompass more than one predicate. These constructions are particularly significant in conveying intricate actions, sequences, and states, providing a compact yet semantically rich means of communication. In English, poly-predicative sentences are typically constructed through coordination using conjunctions or subordination with relative or complement clauses. Turkmen, as an agglutinative language with predominantly SOV word order, employs participial constructions, suffixes, and auxiliary verbs to express multiple predicates within a single sentence.

A comparative study of these structures illuminates not only syntactic differences but also morphological strategies for linking predicates. Such analysis is valuable for theoretical linguistics, contrastive studies, and practical applications in translation and natural language processing.

## Classification and Structural Patterns

Poly-predicative sentences, also referred to as multi-predicate constructions, can be classified according to the type of linkage between predicates, the semantic relationship between actions, and the syntactic strategies employed by a language to express these relations. The classification of such sentences is essential for understanding how languages encode sequences, simultaneity, causality, and dependency between multiple actions within a single syntactic unit.

In English, one of the most common methods of linking predicates is coordination. Coordination allows two or more independent predicates to share the same subject or, less frequently, different subjects within the same sentence. For instance, in the sentence "She prepared the report and submitted it to the manager," the conjunction "and" connects two independent predicates while maintaining a single subject. Coordination in English is flexible, permitting the inclusion of adverbial modifiers, objects, and other adjuncts between the predicates, which can modify the temporal, causal, or conditional relationships. Additionally, English allows for the use of other coordinating conjunctions such as "or," "but," and "nor," which enable nuanced semantic contrasts and logical relations between predicates.

Turkmen, in contrast, expresses similar multi-predicate relationships primarily through morphological mechanisms and specific word order patterns. The agglutinative structure of Turkmen enables the attachment of suffixes to verbs to encode sequentiality, causality, or simultaneity of actions. For example, in the sentence "Ol hasabat taýýarlady-da, ýolbaşçylara tabşyrdy," the suffix "-da" explicitly marks the temporal sequence, indicating that the first action was completed before the second commenced. This morphological marking is complemented by the language's verb-final (SOV) word order, which systematically positions the main predicates at the end of clauses, thus maintaining clarity even in complex constructions.

Subordination represents another crucial structural pattern for poly-predicative sentences. English commonly utilizes relative clauses, complement clauses, and adverbial clauses to link predicates where one predicate depends on or elaborates another. For instance, "He promised that he would attend the meeting and present the findings" illustrates a dependent relationship between the main predicate "promised" and the embedded predicates "would attend" and "present." The subordination allows the speaker to maintain a clear hierarchy of actions, often encoding intention, obligation, or causality.

In Turkmen, subordination is frequently realized through participial constructions, converbs, and verbal nouns, reflecting the language's rich morphological system. For example, "Ol ýygnaga geljekdigini we netijeleri hödürlejekdigine wada berdi" expresses dependency between predicates by combining verbal nouns and conjunctions, merging morphology and syntax to maintain the logical and temporal relationships between multiple actions.

Turkmen participial chains not only indicate sequentiality but also allow embedding of conditional, causal, or simultaneous nuances, providing compact and precise multi-predicate expressions.

Serial predicate constructions, where multiple actions occur consecutively or simultaneously, further illustrate the typological differences. English can express serial actions with or without explicit conjunctions: "He ran, shouted, and waved his hands." The linear order and punctuation primarily convey the temporal sequence and intensity of actions. In Turkmen, similar constructions are often realized through compound verbs or participial chains, as in " Ol ylgady, gygyrды we ellerini silkdi." Each verb carries suffixes or auxiliary markers that indicate the temporal, logical, and aspectual relationships between actions. This morphological encoding provides explicit cues for aspect, tense, and sequentiality, which in English would rely largely on syntactic ordering and the use of conjunctions.

Moreover, poly-predicative sentences can be further categorized according to semantic relationships: sequential actions, simultaneous actions, causally linked actions, conditional sequences, and hierarchical dependencies. English primarily signals these relationships through auxiliary verbs, conjunctions, and adverbs, while Turkmen employs a combination of suffixes, participial forms, and flexible word order to achieve the same communicative goals. This typological contrast underscores the interplay between syntax, morphology, and semantics in expressing complex actions, highlighting the richness of both languages in encoding multi-event sequences.

In addition to the structural distinctions, pragmatic and stylistic considerations also influence the formation of poly-predicative sentences. In English, longer coordinated structures are often segmented with punctuation or subordinating clauses to avoid ambiguity. Turkmen, by contrast, utilizes the agglutinative morphology and verb-final order to maintain clarity even in extended chains of predicates, allowing for nuanced narrative and descriptive expression within a single sentence. Understanding these structural and functional differences is essential for cross-linguistic analysis, translation studies, and computational modeling of multi-predicate constructions, particularly in natural language processing tasks such as machine translation, syntactic parsing, and semantic analysis.

## **Functional and Communicative Roles**

Poly-predicative sentences play a central role in the organization of discourse, allowing speakers and writers to efficiently convey complex sequences of actions, interrelated events, or causally linked occurrences within a single syntactic unit. These constructions provide both temporal and logical cohesion, reducing redundancy and enhancing the stylistic richness of communication. By integrating multiple predicates into one sentence, speakers can maintain narrative continuity and highlight relationships between actions that might otherwise require multiple separate clauses.

In English, poly-predicative constructions enable precise encoding of sequential, simultaneous, or causally connected events. For example, the sentence "She opened the window, turned on the fan, and began reading her notes" conveys a clear temporal sequence and emphasizes the progression of actions. Similarly, "He studied for the exam while listening to music and drinking tea" demonstrates the expression of simultaneous activities within a single clause structure. English relies on coordination, subordination, and adverbial modifiers to maintain clarity and semantic nuance, with punctuation often reinforcing temporal or causal relationships.

In Turkmen, these communicative functions are realized through agglutinative morphology, participial chains, and suffixation. A sentence such as "Penjiräni açdy, janköýerine tarap öwrüldi we belliklerini okap başlady" demonstrates sequential actions with explicit temporal markers, while "Ol synag üçin okaýarka, saz diňläp, çay içýärdi" illustrates simultaneity. The morphological markers and verb-final order not only indicate temporal and causal relationships but also allow subtle emphasis on the completion, continuity, or simultaneity of actions, providing speakers with greater control over narrative structure and interpretative clarity.

Beyond temporal sequencing, poly-predicative sentences facilitate the expression of logical and causal relationships. In English, the use of conjunctions such as "because," "so," or "therefore" links predicates to convey reason or consequence: "He missed the train because he overslept and forgot his ticket." In Turkmen, causality can be encoded through specific suffixes or participial forms, as in "Ol ugranok, sebäbi gijä galyp, biletini unutdy," where the combination of morphology and word order ensures that the cause-and-effect relationship is clearly understood. Such constructions enhance the coherence of discourse and allow speakers to compactly encode reasoning and consequences.

The functional significance of poly-predicative sentences extends to stylistic and pragmatic dimensions. They allow for modulation of emphasis, enabling authors to foreground particular actions or outcomes, or to create rhythmic and stylistic variety in literary and spoken discourse. For instance, chaining actions in Turkmen with suffixes can produce narrative pacing effects, while in English, the strategic placement of coordinated or subordinate predicates can control reader attention and narrative tension.

From a practical standpoint, mastery of poly-predicative constructions is essential for translation, second-language acquisition, and computational linguistics. Misunderstanding the syntactic or morphological strategies for linking predicates can lead to loss of meaning, unnatural phrasing, or ambiguity. For instance, a literal translation from Turkmen to English without accounting for temporal suffixes and verb morphology may result in sequences that appear semantically or temporally disjointed. Conversely, over-reliance on English coordination when translating into Turkmen may produce sentences that are syntactically awkward or obscure in meaning.

In addition, poly-predicative constructions are instrumental in professional and academic discourse, technical writing, and formal narration, where the concise presentation of multiple actions or procedures within a single sentence can enhance clarity and precision. They are particularly valuable in instructional texts, scientific reporting, and procedural manuals, where logical sequencing and simultaneous action must be accurately conveyed without fragmenting the discourse into overly simplistic statements.

In conclusion, the communicative roles of poly-predicative sentences in both English and Turkmen are multifaceted, encompassing temporal, causal, simultaneous, and stylistic dimensions. Their proper use is crucial for maintaining narrative cohesion, conveying logical relationships, and achieving stylistic sophistication. A comparative understanding of these structures enhances cross-linguistic competence, informs translation strategies, and contributes to the development of computational models for natural language processing, machine translation, and syntactic parsing.

### **Comparative Analysis and Examples**

A detailed comparative analysis of poly-predicative sentences in English and Turkmen reveals both convergent and divergent strategies in expressing multiple actions within a single syntactic unit. Consider the English sentence, "The teacher entered the classroom, greeted the students, and began the lesson." This sentence contains three coordinated predicates linked by commas and the conjunction "and," all sharing the same subject. The coordination is purely syntactic, with punctuation providing cues for temporal and sequential interpretation. Each predicate is independent in form but semantically integrated through the narrative context, and temporal or causal relationships are inferred primarily from the order of clauses and pragmatic conventions.

The Turkmen equivalent, "Mugallym otaga girdi-de, okuwçylara salam berdi-de, sapagy başlady," employs a fundamentally different strategy. Each predicate is marked with the suffix "-de," explicitly indicating temporal sequence, while the SOV (subject-object-verb) order and agglutinative morphology embed both syntactic and semantic relationships directly within the verbs. This morphological marking removes ambiguity about the sequence of actions, a function that in English is largely inferred. The Turkmen construction demonstrates how agglutinative languages encode complex relationships morphologically rather than syntactically, providing speakers with a compact yet precise mechanism for sequential narration.

This comparative analysis underscores several key insights. First, English prioritizes syntactic coordination and punctuation to manage multiple predicates, allowing flexible recombination of clauses but relying on contextual interpretation for temporal and causal clarity. Second, Turkmen utilizes morphological markers and fixed word order to encode sequence, simultaneity, and dependency, achieving explicit semantic clarity within a single sentence. Third, despite these structural differences, both languages achieve communicative efficiency by compactly conveying multi-step events, supporting narrative cohesion and stylistic precision.

The functional implications extend to translation, language instruction, and computational linguistics. Translators must account for the morphosyntactic strategies of Turkmen when rendering texts in English, often restructuring sentences to maintain temporal and causal coherence. In pedagogy, awareness of these differences enhances cross-linguistic competence, helping learners recognize that while English and Turkmen deploy distinct mechanisms, the underlying communicative goals—expressing sequences, simultaneity, and causal relationships—are universal. From a computational perspective, understanding these strategies informs the development of natural language processing algorithms for parsing, machine translation, and automated text generation, where accurate representation of predicate relationships is crucial.

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of English and Turkmen poly-predicative sentences demonstrates the diversity of linguistic strategies for expressing complex action sequences. While English emphasizes syntactic coordination and pragmatic inference, Turkmen relies on morphological marking and strict word order. Both approaches, however, fulfill the communicative need to efficiently convey multi-step events, highlighting the balance between linguistic economy, clarity, and expressive precision. This insight contributes to theoretical linguistics, cross-linguistic studies, and applied domains such as translation and computational language modeling.

## **Conclusion**

The comparative study of poly-predicative sentences in English and Turkmen reveals that while both languages utilize multiple predicates to express sequential or simultaneous actions, their strategies differ fundamentally. English relies primarily on syntactic coordination and subordination, whereas Turkmen uses morphological markers, participial forms, and verb chaining. These findings have implications for comparative linguistics, translation, language pedagogy, and computational modeling of syntax. A deeper understanding of these constructions enhances cross-linguistic communication and supports the development of natural language processing tools capable of handling complex predicate structures. Future research may explore pragmatics, semantic subtleties, and computational approaches to modeling these constructions in multilingual contexts.

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