Chapter 3
Comparative Study of Punjabi and English

3.1 Introduction to Punjabi

Punjabi is an ancient language mostly used in the region of Punjab in India and Pakistan. Its script Gurmukhi is based on Devanagri. The word Punjabi qualifies anything or anyone that is related to either Punjab or the Punjabi language. Being an official language of the Indian state of Punjab, it is also spoken in its neighbouring areas such as Haryana and Delhi. In Canada, Punjabi is the 6th largest language with 2,71,220 people using it on daily basis. Punjabi is the sacred language of the Sikhs, in which the religious literature is written. It is the usual language of Bhangra music, which has recently gained wide popularity both in South Asia and abroad.

Punjabi language has borrowed extensively from other languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Persian and English. Like other North Indian languages, it is derived from Sanskrit and is therefore Indo-European. Many sources subdivide the Punjabi language into Western Punjabi and Eastern Punjabi. Several different scripts are used for writing the Punjabi language, depending on the region and the dialect spoken, as well as the religion of the speaker. Sikhs and others in the Indian state of Punjab tend to use the Gurmukhi. Hindus, and those living in neighbouring states such as Haryana and Himachal Pradesh sometimes use the Devanagari script. Finally, Muslims, and in general Pakistani Punjabis, use a
modified Arabic script called Shahmukhi. Much like English, Punjabi has moved around the world and developed local forms by integrating local vocabulary. While most loanwords come from English, Hindi and Urdu, Punjabi emigrants around the world have integrated terms from languages such as Spanish, Dutch, Arabic, Persian and even a few from Turkish.

3.2 Grammar of Punjabi

The grammar of the Punjabi language is the study of the word order, case marking, verb conjugation, and other morphological and syntactic structures of the Punjabi language. Punjabi has a canonical word order of SOV (Subject-Object-Verb). It has postpositions rather than prepositions. Punjabi distinguishes two genders, two numbers, and five cases of direct, oblique, vocative, ablative, and locative/instrumental.[88] The latter two cases are essentially now vestigial. The ablative occurs only in the singular and the locative/instrumental is confined to set adverbial expressions.

3.2.1 Punjabi Word Classes and its differences with English

This section describes Punjabi word classes and their inflectional patterns, phrases and clauses in a Punjabi sentence. Punjabi has both inflected and uninflected words. Inflection is usually a suffix, which expresses grammatical relationships such as number, person, tense etc.

The grammatical categories in which a word of Punjabi can be divided are:
3.2.1.1 Nouns

In Punjabi, nouns are inflected for number and case. Number can be singular or plural and the case can be direct, oblique, locative, vocative, ablative or instrumental.

For Example

P: ਮੁੰਡੇ ਕੁੰਡੀ ਚੁੱਕੇ ਲਗੇ
T: munda kundi num cukk ke lagi

And

P: ਮੁੰਡੇ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਾਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਦੁਰਵਿਹਾਰ ਕੀਤਾ
T: munda nē āpāní mātā nāl durvihār kītā

In the first sentence, the noun ਮੁੰਡੇ (munda) is plural in direct case and is of masculine gender whereas in the second sentence ਮੁੰਡੇ (munda) is singular in oblique case and of masculine gender. Nouns may be further divided into extended and unextended declensional subtypes, with the former characteristically consisting of masculines ending in unaccented ‘aa’ and feminines in ‘ee’.

For Example ਮੁੰਡਾ (munda) means ‘boy’ and ਕੁੰਡੀ (kundi) means ‘girl’. Similarly ਬ੍ਰੇਚਾ (baccā) is a male child and ਬ੍ਰੇਚੀ (baccī) is a female child. Though there are exceptions, but most of the words in Punjabi can be distinguished as masculine and feminine using this rule. No such distinction for masculines and feminines exist in English Language.
In comparison with English, as ‘s’ and ‘es’ are used as suffixes to denote plurals, in Punjabi the vowel ‘\(\varepsilon\)’(ē) or the word ‘\(ਾਂ\)’(āṃ) is used to denote plurals. For Example Plural of ਮੁੰਡਾ (muṇḍā) is ਮੁੰਡੇ (muṇḍē) and ਕੁੜੀ (kuṛī) is ਕੁੜੀਆਂ (kuṛīāṃ).

3.2.1.2 Adjectives

Adjectives may be divided into inflected and uninflected categories. Inflected Adjectives are marked, through termination, for the gender, number and case of the nouns they qualify. The set of inflected adjective terminations is similar but greatly simplified in comparison to that of noun terminations. For Example ਛੋਟਾ (chōṭā baccā) where ਛੋਟਾ (chōṭā) is adjective for boy and ਛੋਟੀ ਬੱਚੀ (chōṭī baccī) where ਛੋਟੀ (chōṭī) is adjective for girl which is in accordance with the gender of the noun it qualifies. Similarly for numbers, it also differs. In English, there are no such inflections for adjectives corresponding to the nouns they qualify. As small, fat, little, thin can be used for masculine, feminine, singular or plural.

Uninflected adjectives are completely invariable, and can end in either consonants or vowels. For Example ਉਦਾਸ (udās), ਉਪਯੋਗੀ (upyōgī), (ਬਦਸ਼ਕਲ badshakal).

All adjectives can be used either attributively, predicatively, or substantively. Those used substantively are declined as nouns rather than adjectives.[88]
3.2.1.3 Postpositions

There are postpositions in Punjabi in parallel to prepositions in English. In English prepositions are used at the start of phrase whereas in Punjabi postpositions are used at the end of phrase. It is their use with a noun or verb that is what necessitates the noun or verb taking the oblique case. Such core postpositions include:

- ਦਾ (dā), ਦੀ (dī), ਦੇ (dē) – genitive marker; variably declinable in the manner of an adjective. X dā/dī etc. Y has the sense "X's Y", with dā/dī etc. agreeing with Y.
- ਨੂੰ (nūṃ) – marks the indirect object (hence named "dative marker"), or, if definite, the direct object.
- ਨੇ (nē) – ergative marker; applicable to subjects of transitive perfective verbs.

Other postpositions are adverbs, following their obliqued targets either directly or with the inflected genitive linker ਦੇ (dē). For Example ਪੁਲੀ ਸਨੀਟੈਟ ਵਿਕਸਾਈ (pulī sānitāt viccā) - "in police custody", ਮੇਰੇ ਲਈ (mērē laī) - "for me". Many such adverbs (the ones locative in nature) also possess corresponding ablative forms. For Example. ਵਿਕਸਾਈ (viccā) - "in", ਵਿਕਸਾਈ (viccōṃ) - "from in, among". Similarly there are other postpositions like ਉੰਤੋ (uttō) - ਤੋ (tōṃ) etc.
3.2.1.4 Pronouns

Pronouns can be classified as Personal, Reflexive, Demonstrative, Indefinite, Relative and Interrogative Pronouns. All the pronouns are inflected for gender, number and case. In addition to above, Personal pronouns are also inflected for person information. Punjabi has personal pronouns such as ‘ਮਿ’(maiṁ), ‘ਮੇਰਾ’(mērā), ‘ਤੁਸਿ’(tusī) etc. for the first and second persons, while for the third person demonstrative pronouns such as ‘ਉਹ’ (uh), ‘ਇਹ’(ih) are used which can be further categorized deictically as remote and near respectively. In contrast to English, personal pronouns in Punjabi have a distinction in ਤੂੰ (tūṃ) and ਤੁਸਿ (tusī). This latter "polite" form is also grammatically plural. The reflexive pronoun ਆਪ (āp), with a genitive of ਆਪਣਾ (āpaṇā) is mostly used. In contrast to Punjabi, English translation of reflexive pronoun is different for demonstrative and personal pronouns. For Example

P: ਮੈਂ ਆਪਣਾ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨਾ ਸੀ

T: maiṁ āpaṇā kamm kar rihā sī

E: I was doing my work

P: ਉਹ ਆਪਣਾ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨਾ ਸੀ

T: uh āpaṇā kamm kar rihā sī

E: He was doing his work

In both the sentences ‘ਆਪਣਾ’(āpaṇā) is used in Punjabi whereas in English, ‘my’ is used for ‘I’ and ‘his’ for ‘he’. 
ਕੋਈ (kōī), ‘ਕੁਝ’ (kujh), ‘ਹੋਰ’ (hōr) etc. are some of the **indefinite pronouns** used in Punjabi and ‘ਸੋ’ (sō), ‘ਜਿ’ (jō), ‘ਹਿਸਾਲ’ (ijharā) etc. are the **relative pronouns**. ‘ਕੌਣ’ (kaun), ‘ਕਿਰਾਜ’ (kīraj), ‘ਕਿਹੜੀ’ (ikhāṛī) are the **interrogative pronouns** used to ask questions. ‘ਕੌਣ’ (kaun) is used for animate nouns whereas other two are used for inanimate nouns. Similarly other interrogative pronouns are ‘ਵਿਕਸਾ’ (iksadā ), ‘ਵਿਕਵ’ (ikvēṃ) etc.[88]

**3.2.1.5 Verbs**

The Punjabi verbal system is largely structured around a combination of aspect and tense/mood. Like the nominal system, the Punjabi verb involves successive layers of inflectional elements to the right of the lexical base. Punjabi has two aspects in the perfective and the habitual, and possibly a third in the continuous, with each having over morphological correlates. There are participle forms, inflecting for gender and number by way of vowel termination, like ‘ਗਈ’ (gaī), ‘ਗਏ’ (gaē), ‘ਗਾਇਆ’ (igaā) whereas English equivalent of all of them is ‘gone’.

The main component of Punjabi verb phrase is the root verb. Most of the verbs used in Punjabi language are one word, but there can be two word verbs such as double verbs and conjunct verbs. For Example, ‘ਟੂਰ-ਟੂਰ ਕੇ’ (tur-tur kē), ‘ਖਾਧਾ-ਪੀਤਾ’ (khādhā-pītā) are double verbs. In English almost all the nouns can occur as verbs. But in Punjabi, verbalization of nominal is effected by combining two lexical items - noun and a simple verb, these verbs are placed in the category of conjunct verbs. These are certain verbs such as ‘ਕਰਨਾ’ (karnā), ‘ਕੀਤਾ’ (kītā), ‘ਦਿੜਾ’ (dirā)
(dittā) etc which have their translated word in English depending upon the noun which precedes this word. [90]

For Example

P: ਮੇਰੀ ਅਰਜ਼ੀ ਮਾਂਜੂਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ
T: mērī arzī maṃzūr kītī gaī
E: My application was accepted

P: ਜਾਜ ਨੇ ਦੋਸ਼ੀ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਫ ਕੀਤਾ
T: jajj nē dōshī nūṃ māf kītā
E: Judge forgive culprit

P: ਉਹ ਨੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਉਤੇ ਹਮਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ
T: uh nē mērē uttē hamlā kītā
E: He attacked me

The preceding verb in conjunct verb can be adjective also. For Example. ਖੁਸ਼ ਕਰਨਾ (khush karnā)

3.2.1.6 Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs are for two tenses – present and past. For Example. ‘ਹਾਂ’(hai) for present tense and ‘ਸੀ’(see) for past tense. It is also inflected for number and person. For Example. ‘ਹਾਂ’(hāṃ), ‘ਹਾਂ’(hana) etc. These forms can equally be used for both the genders.
3.2.1.7 Adverbs

The adverbs can be inflected or uninflected. Inflected adverbs inflect for gender, number, and case. For Example ਤੇਜ਼ (tēz), ਪਹਿਲੇ, ਅਗ਼ੇ (aggē) etc.

3.2.1.8 Cardinals

Cardinals and Ordinals are used as modifiers of a noun in a sentence. Cardinals can equally be used for both genders and show inflection for case. For Example. ਦੋ (dō), ਚਾਰ (cār) etc.

3.2.1.9 Ordinals

The Ordinals inflect for gender and case. Generally, all the Ordinals are used in singular number. For Example ਸਤਾਰਵਣ (satārvīṃ), ਦਸਵਣ (dasvīṃ) etc.

3.2.1.10 Conjunctions

A conjunction either combine two clauses in a sentence or two words in a clause. These words are uninflected and are categorized based on the type – co-ordinate and subordinate. **Co-ordinate conjunctions**, like ਅਤੇ (atē) – ‘and’ in English, join two independent clauses in a compound sentence. These can also act as connectives for various phrases and words of word classes, like noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, and adverb. **Subordinate conjunctions**, like ਇਸ ਲਈ (is laī) – ‘because’ in English, join an independent and a dependent clause in a complex sentence.
3.2.1.11 Particles

All the words of this word class are uninflected. These have been classified based on their type like honorific ਜੀ(jī), negative ਨਹਿੰਮ(nahīṃ), ਨਾ(nā), and emphatic ਈੰ(ī), ਹੀ(hī), ਤਾਂ(tāṃ), ਵੀ(vī). The particles like ਜੀ(jī) and ਹੀ(hī) have no equivalents in English and are simply discarded while translated to English.

3.2.2 Phrases in Punjabi

A phrase is a group of two or more words grammatically linked with each other. Main difference between a phrase and a clause is that a phrase cannot simultaneously have both the subject and predicate or verb simultaneously. Punjabi phrases can be broadly classified into two types, Nominal Phrases and Verb Phrases. Nominal phrases are built using the words of various word classes like noun, pronoun, adjective etc. It usually functions as subject or object in a sentence. Verb Phrases are built using primarily the words of main verb and auxiliary verb word classes. It functions as verb in those sentences. [88, 89]

3.2.2.1 Nominal Phrases

In this section, all the phrases are built around words of various word classes like noun, pronoun, adjective, cardinal, ordinal, and postposition. A nominal phrase usually consists of a headword that can be a noun or a pronoun, and a number of modifiers. A modifier is a word that gives a specific meaning to a particular word.

In the phrase - ਮੋਟਾ
The word ‘ਦੋਹਾ’ (mōṭā) is acting as a modifier of the word ‘ਮੋਟਾ’ (mōṭā). The modifiers can be:

- **Adjective:** Any number of adjectives can be used. These can be iterated for emphasis or can form phrases with an adjective having various other modifiers. For example ਬਹੁਤ ਸੋਹਣੀ ਕੁੜੀ (bahut sōhī kuṛī), ਵੱਡੀ ਨੂੰਹ (vaḍḍī nūṃh)

- **Numeral:** Numeral phrases consisting of cardinals, ordinals, adjectives (acting as modifiers for cardinals), and particles (like ਕੁ (ku)) act as modifiers. For example ਪਿਹਲੀ ਜਮਾਤ (pahilī jamāt), ਚਾਰ ਹਜ਼ਾਰ ਬੱਚੇ (cār hazār baccē), ਦੋ ਕੁ ਿਦਨ (dō ku din)

- **Pronoun:** Except first and second person personal pronouns, all the pronouns can act as modifiers for a noun, including genitive case forms of first and second person personal pronouns. For example ਮੇਰਾ ਮੋਟਾ (mērā mōṭā), ‘ਉਹ ਕੁੜੀ’ (uh kuṛī)

- **Verb phrase:** Some verbal phrases also act as modifiers for nouns. For example

  P: ਦੌੜਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਬੱਚਾ ਦੀਪਾ ਪੂਣਾ

  T: dauṛdā hōiā baccā dīppā

- **Noun phrases followed by ਦਾ** (da) postposition in its various inflectional forms, can act as an adjective phrase modifying another noun. For example ਲਕੜੀ ਦੀ ਕੁਰਸੀ (lkaṛī dī kurasī), ਵਕੀਲ ਦਾ ਘਰ (vakīl dā ghar)

  **Honorific particles** like ਜੀ (jī), ਸਾਹਿਬ (sāhib), can also follow a noun to modify it. For the purpose of concordance, a noun followed by an honorific particle will be
considered as plural irrespective of its number, if that noun is acting as a subject of a sentence or a clause. For example,

P: मेरे पिता मेरे नाम के द्वारा बत वशे रहें
T: mērē pitā jī mērē nām tē vasīat kar gaē han

P: मेंूं वकील साहिब के काम मनज़ूर होगा
T: mainūṁ vakīl sāhib dā kamm manzūr hōvgā

Based on the above structure of noun phrase, the nominal phrases can further be categorized into at least three types, which are:

- **Noun phrase**

  Noun phrase having headword in direct case or in oblique case followed by postpositions - नें (nē) or नूं (nūṃ), are used as main sentence elements. If the headword is a pronoun, then it may not take नें (nē) or नूं (nūṃ) rather it will be in instrumental case (for नें (nē)) or dative case (for नूं (nūṃ)) form, instead.

- **Adjective phrase**

  Noun phrase in oblique case followed by दाँ (dā) postposition, pronoun in genitive case, or one or more adjectives, will act as adjective phrase in sentences. For Example

  P: क्यू बहुत सौंहिद तै
  T: kuṛī bahut sōhī hai

  P: इह किताब मेरी तै
  T: ih kitāb mērī hai
In the above sentences ਬਹੁਤ ਸੋਹਣੀ (bahut sōhṇī) and ਮੇਰੀ (mērī) are the adjective phrases.

- **Postpositional phrase**

Noun phrase in ablative or locative case or in oblique case followed by any postposition, or an adverb are used as adjuncts in sentences. For Example

P: ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਦਾਰਾਂ ਕੋਲ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ
T: uh āpaṇē rishtadārā kōl jā rihā sī

P: ਬੋਰੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਮੋਟਾ ਦਾਣੇਦਾਰ ਲੂਣ ਸੀ
T: bōrīā vicc mōṭā dāṇēdār lūṇ sī

In the above sentences ਆਪਣੇ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਦਾਰਾਂ ਕੋਲ (āpaṇē rishtadārā kōl) and ਬੋਰੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ (bōrīā vicc) are the postpositional phrases ending in the postpositions ਕੋਲ (kōl) and ਵਿਚ (vicc).

**3.2.2.2 Verb Phrases**

A verb phrase besides having main verb forms may have the words of some other word classes like, auxiliary verb, particle (emphatic and negative particles), and some operators such as primary, modal, progressive or passive operators emphasizing the main verbs. If all these elements are present, they follow a particular order. Emphatic and negative particles will follow the main verb form that are emphasized or negated respectively. In all cases, negative particles will
follow emphatic particles, if present, and auxiliary verb, in turn, will follow negative particles.

There are four sub-categories of main verb word class to make the structure of finite verb phrase clearer. Finite verb phrase is that which consists of only finite form of verbs. These categories are primary, passive, progressive, and modal operator. Members of these operator categories follow the main verb in particular phrase in a specified order. When these sub-categories are present in the verb phrase then the grammatical information is represented through these sub-categories.

The **primary operator** category has 34 members, these are - ṛ (ā), Ṣak (sak), ā (hō), kar (kar) etc. These operators follow certain forms of words of the main verb word class. A verb phrase will be termed as passive if it has a **passive operator**. jā (jā) and hō (hō) are its two members. These follow main verb or primary operator (if represented) even in their inflectional form.[90]

P: मे दिएँ विभ बाँट कत्सकदा हा

T: maiṁ ih kamm kar sakdā hāṁ

In this 'कत्सकदा' (sakdā) is the primary operator.

Similary in the following sentence 'जाँ' (jā) 'जाँ' is the passive operator and 'विद' (rihā) is the **progressive operator** which shows the continuous nature of verb phrase.

P: मेघ पन्ने छैठ जा

T: मोहन इथे बैठ जा
Based on the position, Verb phrases can also be classified into two types, Main Verb Phrase and Subordinate Verb Phrase.

- **Main Verb Phrase**
  
  These verb phrases constitute independent clauses and occupy the position known as predicate in a sentence.

- **Subordinate Verb Phrase**
  
  These verb phrases differ from main verb phrase in the sense that these usually precede main verb phrase in a sentence structure, and thus constitute dependent clauses.

**For Example.**

P: ਮੈਂ ਸਕੂਤਰ ਤੇ ਜਾ ਰਹਾ ਸੀ
T: maiṃ sakūṭar tē jā rihā sī

In this sentence ‘ਜਾ ਰਹਾ’ (jā rihā) is the subordinate phrase whereas ‘ਕਾਮ ਕਰ ਕੇ’ (kām kar kē) is the main verb phrase.

### 3.2.3 Clauses in Punjabi

Unlike Phrases which cannot simultaneously have both the subject and predicate or verb, a clause can contain both a subject and a predicate. [88, 89]

Some of the clause structures applicable to simple sentences are:
• **VP**

A clause can be formed of just one verb phrase (VP), which will be the main verb phrase, e.g.

मैं जा (sauṃ jā) – sleep, उठ धड़ (uṭṭh cal) – lets go

• **NP (NP|AP|PP)* VP**

In this structure, the first structure is a noun phrase and referred as subject noun phrase whereas the inner phrases which can be a noun phrase, an adjective phrase or a postpositional phrase and can occur in any number and followed by a verb phrase. The symbol '|' is used for ‘either or’, i.e. in a sentence either the element on the left side of '|' will be present or the one on the right side. '*' is used to indicate that the enclosed elements can occur zero or more number of times.

In the examples, the parentheses mark the phrase boundaries.

• **NP**

P: मैं अपील बुला रहूं

T: maiṁ apīl karadā rāṁ

• **NP**

P: lāsh pōṣṭamārtām lai bhēj dittī

T: Usdā puttar bahut caṅgā hai
3.2.4 Sentence

The sentences are usually based on the clauses. The simplest form of a sentence has only one independent clause. Punjabi sentences follow a SOV (Subject Object Verb) order unlike English that follows SVO order. In Punjabi sentences, the subject occurs first followed by the object and then the verb. The nominal phrases act as subject and object in a clause or sentence, and the verb phrases constitute the verb part of that clause or sentence.

Based on the structure, the sentences can be classified into three categories:

3.2.4.1 Simple Sentence

A sentence that has only one clause in its structure and that clause is an independent clause. For Example.

P: ਕਾਰਲੋਕਾ ਉਤੇ ਜਾਣਹੀ

T: kār lōkā utē jā caṛhī

3.2.4.2 Compound Sentence

A sentence that is formed of two or more independent clauses joined by coordinate conjunctions ਅਤੇ (atē) and ਜਾਂ (jāṃ) etc. For Example

P: ਬੱਸਲੋਧਆਣੇ ਵਲੀ ਮੋਗੇ ਜਾਣ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਰਸਤੇ ਵਿਚ ਈਕਸ਼ੀਡਟ ਹੋ ਗਈਆ

T: bass lōdhāṇī valō mōgē jā rāhī sī atē rastē vic aiksīḍaṅī hō giā
### 3.2.4.3 Contracted Sentence

Contracted sentence is one special form of compound sentence, in which the common part of its constituents is dropped. For example

P: ਸਾ ਮੈ ਸਾਰਾ ਸਾ ਦੁਨ ਸਾਹੇ ਸਾ

T: ਜਾਮ ਮਾਈ ਜਾਂਗ ਜਾਮ ਤੂ ਜਾਵੇ ਗ੍ਾ

### 3.2.4.4 Complex Sentence

A sentence that has one independent and one or more dependent clauses joined by subordinate conjunctions, like ਜੇ (jē) etc. For Example

P: ਨੇ ਮੈ ਤੁਹੀ ਅਨੇ ਦਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਹੋਦ ਹੋਵ ਜਾਵੇ

T: ਜੇ ਮਾਈ ਨਹਈ ਅਤ ਤਾ ਇਤੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋ ਦੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਵੇ

### 3.3 Differences between English and Punjabi

#### 3.3.1 Structural Difference

1. The main structural difference between English and Punjabi is the difference in their word orders. English is a Subject-Verb-Object language and Punjabi is a Subject-Object-Verb language. For Example

Punjabi Sentence

P: ਡਾਕਟਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਨੈਜ਼ੀ ਕਲੀਨਕ ਚਲਾ ਤੂ ਹਈ

T: ਡਾਕਟਰ ਅਪਣਾ ਨੈਜ਼ੀ ਕਲੀਨਕ ਚਲਾ ਤੂ ਹਈ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
2. English and Punjabi differ on the basis of word order. English is a fixed word order language whereas like most other Indian languages, Punjabi is free word order language. i.e. In English relation between words in a sentence can be found from the position of the words in the sentence. The position immediately preceding a verb, marks the subject and the one immediately following the verb, marks an object. On the other hand, Punjabi is relatively free word order language. The following two Punjabi sentences with change in the order of words have the same meaning, but same change in English shows a drastic change in the meaning. [91]

P: ਮੋਹਨ ਘੋੜਾ ਲੈ ਗਿਆ
T: mōhan ghōṛā lai giā
E:Mohan took horse

P: ਘੋੜਾ ਮੋਹਨ ਲੈ ਗਿਆ
T: ghōṛā mōhan lai giā
E:Horse took mohan

In the above sentences, In case of English Language, the first phrase is considered as subject and when reversed, it has opposite meaning whereas in Punjabi, the second sentence is interpreted as  ਘੋੜੇ ਨੂੰ ਮੋਹਨ ਲੈ ਗਿਆ (ghōṛē nūṃ
mōhan lai giā) which has same meaning as the first sentence. This is the case where the information is recovered from other sources, such as world knowledge. Unlike Punjabi, English codes the information indicating grammatical relations in subject and object positions. Both the subject as well as object positions carry crucial information.

3.3.2 Punjabi has Post Positions, English has Pre-Positions.

For Example ਖੇਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ (khētā ṃ vicc) → in fields

Leaving apart the subject position, the remaining part of the sentence of English is exactly the mirror image of the corresponding Punjabi sentence structure.

For Example

Look at the following Punjabi Sentence and its English translation.

P: ਬੱਸ ਖੇਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੰਡੀ ਗਈ

T: bass khētā ṃ vicc varṛ gaiī

E: Bus entered in fields

3.3.3 Order of Words in Verb Phrases

In Punjabi, the order between main verb and the auxiliary is in reverse order as in English. In Punjabi the verb groups are formed by the main root, auxiliary and other operators are used to put emphasis on the verb. These operators or auxiliaries are used after the main verb. For Example. ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ (jā rahī hai), ਰਚ ਕਹੀ ਮੀ (var gaiī sī). However, in English the order is auxiliary verbs followed by the main verb. For Example ‘is going’, ‘had entered’.
3.3.4 Extra Overheads

Since English codes information in Subject Position, the Subject position can't be empty. This forces English to bear an extra overload of dummy 'it' and existential 'there' to fill the Subject Positions where in a Punjabi sentence, subject position may be empty.

3.3.4.1 Dummy/Expletive ‘It’

Consider the following sentences

P: ਭੀਲ ਰਾਮ ਵਿਚ ਵੇ
   T: mīḥ vas rihā hai
   E: It is raining

P: ਬਾਹਰ ਬਹੁਤ ਗਰਮੀ ਵਾਲੀ ਵੇ
   T: bāhar bahut garmī hai
   E: It is very hot outside.

In above Punjabi sentences, there is no need of subject whereas in English translations dummy ‘it’ is needed to convey the meaning. As the name implies this ‘it’ does not carry any information, and is just a place holder or a stand-by.

3.3.4.2 Expletive ‘There’

Similarly ‘There’ is used in English

Consider the following sentences

P: ਬਾਹਰ ਵੇ ਮਰੀਗੀ ਵਾਲੀ ਹੈ
T: daṅgē hō sakadē san

E: There could have occurred riots

In English sentences, the subject position is occupied by the word ‘there’ whereas there is no need of subject in its Punjabi translations. English requires this existential ‘there’ as the words or phrases that are to be focussed are normally moved into a focus position at the front of a clause in order to highlight it. When a verb is to be focussed, it is not possible to bring it to the front, since then either the subject position will be empty or it will be an interrogative sentence. Hence in such cases, the subject position is filled with an expletive ‘there’.

3.3.5 Difference in Interrogative sentences:

An extra word is needed in Punjabi while converting declarative sentence to interrogative sentence whereas no extra word is needed for the same conversion in English, only the position of words are interchanged. For Example

Declarative sentence in Punjabi – ਤੁਸਣੀ ਇਹ ਕੰਮ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ (tusīṃ ih kamm kītā hai)

Interrogative sentence in Punjabi – ਕੀ ਤੁਸਣੀ ਇਹ ਕੰਮ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ? (kī tusīṃ ih kamm kītā hai?)

Declarative sentence in English- You have done this work

Interrogative sentence in English – Have you done this work?

In the above Punjabi sentence, the word ਕੀ (kī) is added to make it interrogative whereas only the position of words is interchanged in English.
If a verb form does not involve an auxiliary verb in English, then a dummy ‘do’ is inserted, as shown below.

Declarative sentence in English- He goes to school.

Interrogative sentence in English- Does he go to school?

Here 'goes' is split as 'does + go' by introducing an auxiliary do, and the auxiliary "does" then inverts with the subject to give an interrogative sentence.

3.4 Conclusion

In this chapter we have discussed Punjabi language and its comparison with English in their structural divergences and the grammar. This study is primarily aimed to find out the differences between Punjabi and English from the point of view of translation. It has been observed that both the languages have different grammatical structures and the direct approach of translation is not feasible for these languages. The Indirect, Interlingua or the Statistical Approach is suitable for translation between these languages.