



**THE COMPLICATED CHARACTER OF THE GRAMMATICAL AND LEXICO-
GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE OF THE VERB**

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ANNOTATION

Grammatically the verb is the most complex part of speech. This is due to the central role it performs in the expressions of the predicative functions of the sentence, i.e. the functions establishing the connection between the situation (situational event) named in the utterance and reality. The complexity of the verb is inherent not only in the intricate structure of its grammatical categories, but also in its various subclass divisions, as well as in its falling into two sets of forms profoundly different from each other: the finite set and the non-finite set.

The complicated character of the grammatical and lexico-grammatical structure of the verb has given rise to much dispute and controversy. However, the application of the principles of systemic linguistic analysis to the study of this interesting sphere of language helps overcome many essential difficulties in its theoretical description, and also a number of terminological disagreements among the scholars. This refers in particular to the fundamental relations between the categories of tense and aspect, which have aroused of late very heated disputes.

Verb as a Part of Speech.

Words like *to read*, *to live*, *to go*, *to jump* are called verbs because of their following features.

1. they express the meanings of action and state;
2. they have the grammatical categories of person, number, tense, aspect, voice, mood, order and posteriority most of which have their own grammatical means;
3. the function of verbs entirely depends on their forms: if they in finite form they fulfill only one function – predicate. But if they are in non-finite form then they can fulfill any function in the sentence but predicate; they may be part of the predicate;
4. verbs can combine actually with all the parts of speech, though they do not combine with articles, with some pronouns. It is important to note that the combinability of verbs mostly depends on the syntactical function of verbs in speech;
5. verbs have their own stem-building elements. They are:

postfixes: -fy (simplify, magnify, identify...)
 -ize (realize, fertilize, standardize...)

-ate (activate, captivate...)

prefixes: re- (rewrite, restart, replant...)
 mis- (misuse, misunderstand, misstate...)
 un- (uncover, uncouple, uncrown...)
 de- (depose, depress, derange...) and so on.

The types of verbs.

The classification of verbs can be undertaken from the following points of view:



1. meaning;
 2. form-formation;
 3. function.
- I. there are three basic forms of the verb in English: infinitive, past indefinite and PII. These forms are kept in mind in classifying verbs.
- II. There are four types of form-formation:
1. affixation: reads, asked, going...
 2. variation of sounds: run-ran, may-might, bring-brought...
 3. suppletive ways: be-is-am-are-was; go-went...
 4. analytical means: shall come, have asked, is helped...
- there are productive and non-productive ways of word-formation in present-day English verbs. Affixation is productive, while variation of sounds and suppletion are non-productive.
- Notional and functional verbs.
- From the point of view of their meaning verbs fall under two groups: notional and functional. Notional verbs have full lexical meaning of their own. The majority of verbs fall under this group. Function verbs differ from notional ones of lacking lexical meaning of their own. They cannot be used independently in the sentence; they are used to furnished certain parts of sentence (very often they are used with predicates).
- Function verbs are divided into three: link verbs, modal verbs, auxiliary verbs.
- Link verbs are verbs which having combined with nouns, adjectives, prepositional phrases and so on add to the whole combination the meaning of process.
- In such cases they are used as finite forms of the verb they are part f compound nominal predicates and express voice, tense and other categories.
- Modal verbs are small group of verbs which usually express the modal meaning, the speaker's attitude to the action, expressed by the notional verb in the sentence. They lack some grammatical forms like infinitive form, grammatical categories and so on. Thus, they do not have all the categories of verbs. They may express mood and tense since they function as parts of predicates. They lack the non-finite forms.
- Besides in present-day English there is another group of verbs which are called auxiliaries. They are used to form analytical forms of verbs. Verbs: to be, to do, to have and s n may be included to this group.
- Regular and irregular verbs.
- From the point of view of the formation of the Past Tense verbs are classified into two groups:
1. Regular verbs which form their basic forms by means of productive suffixes –(e)d. the majority of verbs refer to this class.
 2. Irregular verbs form their basic forms by such non-productive means as:
 - a)variation of sounds in the root:
should-would- initial consonant change
begin-began-begun- vowel change of the rot
catch-caught-caught- root-vowel and final consonant change;



b) suppletion:

be-was/were

go-went

c) unchanged forms:

cast-cast-cast

put-put-put

By suppletion we understand the forms of words derived from different roots.

Smirnitsky gives the following conditions to recognize suppletive forms of words:

- 1) when the meaning of words are identical in their lexical meaning.
- 2) When they mutually complement one another, having no parallel opposeemes.
- 3) When other words of the same class build up a given opposeemes without suppletivity, i.e. from one root. Thus, we recognize the words *be-am*, *bad-worse* as suppletive because they express the same grammatical meanings as the forms of words: *light-lighter*, *big-bigger*, *work-worked*.

Transitive and intransitive verbs.

Verbs can also be classified from the point of view of their ability of taking objects. In accord with this we distinguished two types of verbs:

transitive and intransitive. The former type of verbs are divided into two :

- a) Verbs which are combined with direct object: to have a book, to find the address
- b) Verbs which take prepositional objects: to wait for, to look at, talk about, depend on...

To the latter type the following verbs are referred:

- a) Verbs expressing state: be, exist, live, sleep, die...
- b) Verbs of motion: go, come, run, arrive, travel...
- c) Verbs expressing the position in space: lie, sit, stand...

As has been told above in actual research work or in describing

Linguistic phenomena we do not always find hard-and-fast lines separating one phenomenon from the other. In many cases we come across an intermediate stratum. We find such stratum between transitive and intransitive verbs which is called causative verbs, verbs intransitive in their origin, but some times used as transitive: *to fly a kite*, *to sail a ship*, *to nod approval*...

The same is found in the construction "cognate object": *to live a long life*, *to die the death of a hero*...

THE GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF VERBS

In this question we do not find a generally accepted view-point. B.A. Ilyish identifies six grammatical categories in present-day English verb: tense, aspect, mood, voice, person and number.

L. Barkhudarov, D. Steling distinguish only the following grammatical categories: voice, order, aspect and mood. Further they note, that the finite forms of the verb have special means expressing person, number and tense.

B. Khaimovich and Rogovskaya: out of the eight grammatical categories of the verb; some are found not only in the finites, but in the verbids as well.



Two of them- voice (ask-be asked), order (ask- have asked) are found in all the verbids, and the third aspect (ask- to be asking)- only in the infinitive.

They distinguish the following grammatical categories: voice, order, aspect, mood, posteriority, person, number.

THE CATEGORY OF VOICE

By the category of voice we mean different grammatical ways of expressing the relation between a transitive verb and its subject and object.

The majority of authors of English theoretical grammars seem to recognize only two voices in English: the active and the passive.

H. Sweet, O. Curme recognize two voices. There are such terms, as inverted object, inverted subject and retained object in Sweet's grammar.

The Inverted object is the subject of the passive construction. The Inverted subject is the object of the passive constructions.

The rat was killed by the dog. O. Jespersen calls it "converted subject". But in the active construction like: "The examiner asked me three questions" either of the object words may be the subject of the passive sentence.

I was asked three questions by the examiner.

Three questions were asked by the examiner.

Words *me* and *three questions* are called retained objects.

H. Poustma besides the two voices mentioned above finds one more voice- reflexive. He writes; "It has been observed that the meaning of the Greek medium is normally expressed in English by means of the reflexive or, less frequently, by reciprocal pronouns". It is because of this H. Poustma distinguishes in Modern English the third voice. He transfers the system of the Greek grammar into the system of English. He gives the following examples: *He got to bed, covered himself up warm and fell asleep.*

H. Whitehall

This grammarian the traditional terms indirect and direct objects replaced by inner and outer complements (words of position 3 and 4) consequently. The passive voice from his point of view is the motion of the words of position 3 and 4 to position one. The verb is transformed into a word-group introduced by parts of *be*, *become*, *get* and the original subject is hooked into the end of the sentence by means of the preposition *by*.

Different treatment of the problem is found in theoretical courses written by Russian grammarians.

The most of them recognize the existence of the category of voice in present-day English. To this group of scientists we refer A.I. Smirnitsky, L. Barkhudarov, L. Steling, Khaimovich and Rogovskaya's according to their opinion there are two active and two passive voices. But some others maintain that there are three voices in English. Besides the two mentioned they consider the reflexive voice which is expressed by the help of semantically weakened self-pronouns as in the sentence:

He cut himself while shaving.



B.A. Ilyish besides the three voices mentioned distinguishes two more: the reciprocal voice expressed with the help of each-other, one another and the neuter (“middle”) voice in such sentences as: *The door opened. The college was filling up.*

The conception reminds us Poustma’s view. He writes: “A passive meaning may also not seldom be observed in verbs that have thrown off the reflexive pronoun and have, consequently, become intransitive. Thus, we find it more or less distinctly in the verbs used in: *her eyes filled with tears...*”

We cannot but agree with arguments against these theories expressed by Khaimovich and Rogovskaya: “These theories do not carry much conviction, because:

- 1) In cases like he washed himself it is not the verb that is reflexive but that pronoun himself used as a direct object;
- 2) Washed and himself are words belonging to different lexemes. They have different lexical and grammatical meanings;
- 3) If we regard washed himself as an analytical word, it is necessary to admit that the verb has the categories of gender, person, non-person (washed itself), that the categories of number and person are expressed twice in the word-group washed himself;
- 4) Similar objection can be raised against regarding washed each-other, washed one another as analytical forms of the reciprocal voice. The difference between “each other” and “one another” would become a grammatical category of the verb;
- 5) A number of verbs express the reflexive meanings without the corresponding pronouns: *He always washes in cold water. Kiss and be friends.*

The grammatical categories of voice is formed by the opposition of covert and overt morphemes. The active voice is formed by a zero marker: while the passive voice is formed by (be-ed). So the active voice is the unmarked one and the passive-marked.

To ask-to be asked

The morpheme of the marked form we may call a discontinuous morpheme.

From the point of view of some grammarians O. Jespersen, O. Curme, G.Vorontsova verbs get/become Participle II are passive constructions. Khaimovich and Rogovskaya seem to be right when they say that in such constructions get/become always retain lexical meanings.

Different opinions are observed as to the P II.

G.V. Vorontsova, L. Barkhudarov and D. Steling the combination be to PII in all cases treat as a passive voice if PII is not adjectivized (if particles very, too and adverbs of degree more (most) do not precede PI on the ground that I’ll first and foremost, a verb, the idea of state not being an evident to this structure (but resulting from the lexical meaning of the verb and the context it occurs in).

Khaimovich and Rogovskaya arguing against this conception write that in such cases as: His duty is fulfilled. We deal with a link verb PII since:

1. it does not convey the idea of action, but that of state, the result of an action;
2. the sentence correspond rather *He has fulfilled his duty*, as the perfective meaning of Participle II is particularly prominent.



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