

THE ROLE OF VERBS, TYPES OF VERBS AS WELL AS LEXICAL, MORPHOLOGICAL, AND SYNTACTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF VERBS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: Given article, there are fully information about verbs, several types as well as kinds of verb with examples. Besides that, in article reader can find beneficial information about the morphological, and syntactic characteristics of verbs in English text.

Key words: verbs, verbum, part of speech, syntax, Proto-Indo-European, tense, aspect, mood, voice, rregular English verbs, intransitive, transitive, linking, and passive, lexical verbs, past tense, notional and functional (formal), infinitives, gerunds and participles.

1. Introduction

In English language, there are lots of elements which forms the basis of language . They are many subjects , namely adjectives, pronouns, articles, adverbs and etc. Verb is also significant theme in English language.

First of all, reader should know about what verb is. A verb, from the Latin *verbum* meaning *word*, is a word (part of speech) that in syntax conveys an action (*bring, read, walk, run, learn*), an occurrence (*happen, become*), or a state of being (*be, exist, stand*). In the usual description of English, the basic form, with or without the particle to, is the infinitive. The word *verb* originally comes from **were-*, a Proto-Indo-European word meaning "a word". It comes to English through

the Latin *verbum* and the Old French *verbe*. So, verb came from old Latin language.

Besides that, anyone who wants to know about verbs, person ought to know why need it to learn. In many languages, verbs are inflected (modified in form) to encode tense, aspect, mood, and voice. Most verbs have three or four inflected forms in addition to the base form: a third-person singular present tense form in -(e)s (*writes, botches*), a present participle and gerund form in -ing (*writing*), a past tense (*wrote*), and – though often identical to the past tense form – a past participle (*written*). Regular verbs have identical past tense and past participle forms in -ed, but there are 100 or so irregular English verbs with different forms (see list). The verbs *have, do* and *say* also have irregular third-person present tense forms (*has, does /dʌz/, says /sez/*). The verb *be* has the largest number of irregular forms (*am, is, are* in the present tense, *was, were* in the past tense, *been* for the past participle). A verb may also agree with the person, gender or number of some of its arguments, such as its subject or object.

In addition, verbs have tenses: present, to indicate that an action is being carried out; past, to indicate that an action has been done; future, to indicate that an action will be done.

Moreover, in languages where the verb is inflected, it often agrees with its primary argument (the subject) in person, number or gender. With the exception of the verb *to be*, English shows distinctive agreements only in the third person singular, present tense form of verbs, which are marked by adding "-s" (*walks*) or "-es" (*fishes*). The rest of the persons are not distinguished in the verb (*I walk, you walk, they walk, etc.*).

Besides that, there are four types of verbs: intransitive, transitive, linking, and passive. Intransitive and transitive verbs are in the active voice, while passive verbs are in the passive voice.

Intransitive verbs are verbs that express action but that do not take an object. The subject and verb express a complete thought without an object. The verb can, however, be followed by an adverb or other modifier. For instance, *I ran, I ran in the race.*

Transitive verbs are verbs that express action that terminates in, or is received by, an object. The object of a transitive verb can be a noun, pronoun, or a noun clause or phrase. For instance, *I threw the ball.* (Noun as object) *We beat them.* (Pronoun as object) *I think that you are correct.* (Noun clause as object)

Linking verbs are verbs of the senses like "feel," "look," "smell," or "taste," and a limited number of other verbs like "be," "seem," "become," or "remain" that link the subject of the sentence with a complement. Linking verbs are always followed by an adjective, noun, or noun phrase that acts as a complement. For instance, *He is a lawyer.* (Noun as complement) *I feel tired.* (Adjective as complement) *It seems that we will lose the game.* (Noun clause as complement)

Passive-voice verbs are verbs that allow the subject to receive the action rather than to do the action. Passive-voice verbs are made by using some form of the verb "be" that is followed by a verb ending in -en or -ed (unless the past participle of the verb is irregular). Only transitive verbs can be turned into the passive form. For instance, *Our team was beaten at softball.* ("By the opposing team" is implied.) *The building is destroyed by the wrecking crew.* *The ball was thrown by me.*

Additionally, English has two main kinds of verbs: normal verbs (called lexical verbs) and auxiliary verbs. The difference between them is mainly in where they can go in a sentence. Some verbs are in both groups, but there are very few auxiliary verbs in English. There are also two kinds of auxiliary verbs: modal verbs and non-modal verbs. The table below shows most of the English auxiliaries and a small number of other verbs. For instance, *to do* (do, does, did) *to be* (am, is, are, was, were). The following verbs are *modal auxiliaries*.

Can
Could
May
Might
Must
Should

Auxiliary verbs also inflect for negation. Usually this is done by adding *not* or *n't*.^[1]

You shouldn't be here.
He isn't at home.
We haven't started yet.

What is more, most of what are often referred to as verb tenses (or sometimes aspects) in English are formed using auxiliary verbs. For instance, present tense is the stem of the infinitive—to SEE, to USE, to DRIVE, etc.

Past tense is usually formed by adding -ed or -en to the verb or by changing a vowel inside the verb—SAW, USED, DRIVEN, etc. Future tense is formed by adding "will" or "shall" to the verb stem—we SHALL see, you WILL use, he WILL drive, etc.

Perfect tense is formed by adding "have" or "has" to the past participle of the verb—I HAVE seen, he HAS used, you HAVE driven, etc.

Past Perfect tense is formed by adding "had" to the past participle of the verb—I HAD seen, he HAD used, you HAD driven, etc.

Future Perfect tense is formed by adding "shall have" or "will have" to the past participle of the verb—I SHALL HAVE seen, you WILL HAVE used, he WILL HAVE driven, etc.

What it comes about morphological, and syntactic characteristics of verbs, the morphological

field of the English verb is heterogeneous including several morphologically and syntactically specific groups of verbs: regular and irregular.

The periphery of the morphological field of the verb is made up by two main classes of verbs – regular and irregular. The periphery of the morphological field of the verb includes such groups of verbs as functional verbs, modal verbs and verbals.

Regular and irregular verbs are differentiated formally depending on the way they form their past tense and participle II. The larger group includes regular verbs which employ the inflexion /ed/ to build their past tense and participle II. The smaller group is made up by irregular verbs which form their past tense and participle II in some ways:

1. by sound alternation (break - broke);
2. by the sound alternation and the dental suffix simultaneously, though the dental suffix is practically not singled out today (mean - meant, sleep - slept);
3. by the suffix /en/ often in combinations with sound alternation in participle II forms (steal - stolen, be - been);
4. by experiencing no formal changes due to the reduction of inflexions in middle English (put - put - put);
5. suppletively (go - went, be - was, were).

From the functional point of view verbs can be notional and functional (formal). Notional verbs name actions or processes and are used as predicates. Functional verbs do not name actions or processes; they only express different grammatical categories or meanings. In most cases they are devoid or nearly devoid of their lexical meaning. Functional verbs can't be used as primary predicates. They function only as a part of a predicate, that is as auxiliaries in analytical forms, semi-auxiliaries in compound verbal predicates or link-verbs in nominal predicates. Being devoid of lexical meaning, functional verbs can combine with semantically or lexically incompatible verbs: have lost, has given.

Another closed group of verbs in the periphery of the morphological field of the verb is made up

of modal verbs. They are deficient verbs because they lack a number of grammatical categorial meanings, typical of the verbs. Modal verbs do not differentiate person and number (I can, he can), aspect and voice, perfect and most of them do not differentiate tense. Only some modal verbs “can” and “may” differentiate past tense forms. Modal verbs have no verbals. They do not name actions or processes but only the speaker's attitude or evaluation of some action, process or state named by the infinitive following the modal verb. Hence, modal verbs cannot function as primary predicates. They only modify an established type of primary predicates adding modality to it.

The periphery of the morphological field of the verb includes a heterogeneous micro field of verbals, including infinitives, gerunds and participles. Verbal or non-finite forms of the verbs are opposed to finite verb-forms, from which they are derived. On the basis of this opposition we can speak of the grammatical category of finitude. The common feature of this opposition is predicativeness because both members are predicative units, but the marked member of this opposition, which is the finite verb-form expresses primary predication, while the unmarked member, which is a verbal, can express only secondary predication. Hence, they differ in their functioning. Finite forms are used as primary predicates, while verbals can be used as any member of the sentence but the primary predicate.

However, verbals can perform the function of a secondary predicate on the level of a syntactic secondary predicative construction, which appears in English sentences due to the syntactic process of contamination. Verbals are intermediate between the verb and some other part of speech. Infinitives and gerunds share the features of the verb and the noun, while participles share the features of the verb and of the adjective or adverb. So we can see that the morphological field of the verb is heterogeneous but the classes or groups of units making it up are quite distinguishable.

In summary, verbs play important role to say action. Certainly, they have several types as well as morphological, and syntactic characteristics in text.

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