Рекіта М.І.
Ужгородський національний університет
Науковий керівник – канд. філ. наук, доц. – Голик У.Р.

Verbs in the Linking Syntactical Function in Modern English

The problem of the verbs in the linking syntactical function remains topical as in the English language the range of these verbs is substantially wider than it is in the other Germanic languages. Therefore the predicates formed by means of these verbs are frequently used and they occupy a prominent position in the syntactic system of the English language. However, the role of verbal elements of such predicates is still debatable and no firm conclusion has been reached yet.

Taking into account various approaches to the study of the verbs in the linking syntactical function, linguists have quite different opinions as to the quality of these verbs. Thus, some linguists regard them as a mode of connecting the principal positions of sentence and deny their primary meaning, while the others acknowledge their semantic value.

The aim of this paper is to investigate the verbs in the linking syntactical function in modern English.

The tasks of this paper are as follows:

1) to define the essence of notion "linking verb";

2) to analyze the verbs in the linking syntactical function, taking into account various approaches to the study of the linking verbs in modern English;

3) to dwell on the semantic and grammatical peculiarities of the verbs in the linking syntactical function;

4) to differentiate notions "verbal nominal predicate" and "double predicate";

5) to study the peculiarities of usage of the verbs in the linking syntactical function in English fiction.

The objective of the year paper is the study of the verbs in the linking syntactical function.

Methods used in the investigation are descriptive and comparative.

Linking verbs are mostly termed as copula verbs or verbs of incomplete predication in modern English studies. Linking verb is a verbal component of the compound nominal predicate. The linking function is exclusively determined by the presence of the predicative the emergence of which is explained by the objective necessity to indicate some signs of quality, quantity and property of the subject at the moment of its existence in the time indicated by the verbal component, i.e. the grammatical center of the predication. The predicative is for the most part expressed by the adjective, e.g. Pyle was quiet, he seemed modest, sometimes that first day I had to lean forward to catch what he was saying. However, it can be also expressed by the noun, adverb, pronoun, infinitive, gerund, semantically indivisible group, etc.

Semantically linking verbs can be divided into two groups:

1. Linking verbs of being and remaining: to be, seem, appear, sound, taste, smell, look, feel, prove, shine, stand, sit, lie, flash, gleam, keep, hold, rest, stay, remain, continue.

2. Linking verbs of becoming: to become, get, go, grow, make,turn, fall, run.

A prominent linguist O.Jespersen states that some verbs used with the predicative lose their semantic meaning and become "empty" links [19, c. 17].

In G.Curme's opinion, the verbal nominal predicate emerged in the process of modern English formation and the verb to be was semantically valuable, but the meaning of this verb gradually disappeared. G.Curme also gives a list of these verbs (approximately 60) and points out that they are not used as a mode of connecting the principal positions of the sentence but they possess the meaning determining the predication [17, c. 356].

An outstanding scholar L.Vinokurova denies the semantic value of the linking verbs and points out that the typical characteristic of the verbs in the linking syntactical function is their semantic emptiness [5, c. 242].

According to A.Smirnitsky, any verb can be potentially found in the linking syntactical function. He states that any verb which connects the subjective complement with the subject is considered to be a linking one [15, c. 129].

Defining the essence of the notion "link verb" L.Yofic suggests the criterion which, in her opinion, allows treating the complete verbs as ones in the linking syntactical function. She comes to the conclusion that any verb in the linking syntactical function can be easily substituted by the verb to be [13, c. 57].

T.Hulyar treats the grammatical essence of the verbs in the linking syntactical function in a peculiar way. All lexical units found in this function she classifies into two groups. The verbs to arise, arrive, break, burn, come, drop,draw, fall, flow, glow, grow, go, hang, lift,loom, pass, proceed, set, stare, stand, shine,

shake, wink, walk used in Active voice enter the first group. This group also includes the verbs to bear, break, bury, find, knock, make, presume, render, take, see, shoot, strike, suspect etc. used in Passive voice. Linguist treats these verbs in combination with the subjective constituent as full (complete) verbs in the linking syntactical function.

To the second group of the verbs in the linking syntactical function T.Hulyar refers the so-called incomplete verbs. These are: to appear, equal, feel, look, mean, smell, sound and taste. On the contrary to the verbs of the first group, these verbs are characterized by the reduction of their lexical meaning. The function of such link verbs is to connect the predicative with the subject as their lexical meaning becomes extra and unnecessary. T.Hulyar points out that these verbs demand the predicative due to the specificity of the processes they indicate, not the "emptiness" of their meaning [7, c. 9].

The verb to be is the most frequently used one in the linking syntactical function due to its valence, not the emptiness of its meaning. In A.Hurska opinion, the verb to be means a "pure" existence in time; it did not lose anything in the process of language development as well as in the linking syntactical function. Thus, the wide usage of this verb is explained by its specific meaning, i.e. the "pure" existence of the subject gives insufficient information about it and there emerges the necessity of subject precision by additional signs of state, property and quality [8, c. 135].

In A.Smirnitsky's opinion, in the sentence like the rising sun shone bright the statement of two thoughts is implied: the sun shone and the sun was bright. These two predicates conjoin forming the "double" predicate with the complete verb in the linking syntactical function. Furthermore, due to flexion impossibility of being torn apart the adverbial modifier of action often coincides with the form of the predicative. However, there is no linguistic ground to treat the constructions like the moon rose red as a separate type of predicate. The constructions like he stood motionless and the moon rose red are considered to be either verbal nominal predicate or simple verbal predicate followed by the adverbial modifier of action. The supporters of the so-called "double" predicate theory state that the constructions like the moon rose red should be interpreted in the following way: the moon was red when it rose [15, c. 131]. The results of the investigation show that a traditional division of the linking verbs into "pure" and "meaningful" links has not appeared to be scientifically proved. Therefore, the attempt to distinguish the verbal nominal predicate and the so-called "double predicate" taking into account the lexical peculiarities of the verbal component has no linguistic ground.

The quality and quantity of the verbs in the linking syntactical function cannot be accurately determined. It is more appropriate to speak about different frequency of the verbs in the linking syntactical function, i.e. from the highest frequency of the verb to be to zero of some other verbs, though these verbs can be also found in this function.

We carried out the analysis of the linking verbs become, get, grow, turn, run within the theory of semantic roles. The subject position is occupied by patient/experiencer or object with the patient being predominant. The verbs become and get appear in the structures with beneficient or causator in the position of formal subject.

In the investigation we paid much attention to the colloquial forms of link verbs. As a result two main approaches have been singled out, i.e. link verbs are usually used in "contracted" form or can be omitted in colloquial structures: Ain't a thing in my pocket; That beautiful.

We have collected 1068 verbs used as the first component of the verbal nominal predicate in conformity with the frequency of their usage in works of modern English writers. Having analyzed 1068 examples of the verbs in the linking syntactical function, we have made a conclusion that the verb to be is the most frequently used due to its valence. It had been used 631 times which account for 59.08 per cent of the total amount of the collected linking verbs.

Quantitative analysis of the verbs in the linking syntactical function is illustrated in the table:

Linking verbs	*quantity*	*percentage*
to be	631	59.08%
to seem	149	13.95%
to look	80	7.49%
to feel	64	6.0%
to get	30	2.8%
to become	24	2.25%
to remain	21	1.97%
to turn	18	1.68%
to go	12	1.23%
to keep	8	0.75%
to sound	8	0.75%

to appear	7	0.66%
to taste	4	0.37%
to grow	3	0.28%
to prove	2	0.19%
to smell	2	0.19%
to make	2	0.19%
to glow	1	0.09%
to hang	1	0.09%
to run	1	0.09%

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Родигіна В.Ю.
Луганський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка
Науковий керівник – д. філол. наук, проф. Галич О.А.

Концепція образу матері як носія народної свідомості в мемуарних спогадах Докії Гуменної "Дар Евдотеї"

Однією з найбільш суперечливих постатей української літератури ХХ століття була постать Докії Кузьмівни Гуменної. Її творчість викликала непересічні дискусії в колі радянських критиків та партійних керівників на початку ХХ століття. Перші збірки репортажів "Листи із степової України" та "Ех, Кубань, ти Кубань хлібородная" були піддані нищівній критиці та змусили письменницю опинитися на задвірках тогочасного літературного процесу. Але друк її оповідання в збірнику на честь 60-ліття Сталіна знову відкрили Докії Гуменній шлях в українську літературу, проте ненадовго.

Іронічна повість "Вірус" настільки реалістично викривала весь бюрократизм та лицемірство