

THEORY OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

some schemes to be used
while reading independently
and points to be covered

GRAMMAR

Language – 3 subsystems:

phonetics, lexicon (vocabulary), **grammar**

- as a phenomenon – *a subsystem in language which ...*
- as a linguistic discipline – *a type of describing / interpreting the phenomenon*
- as a university course – ‘*subject*’ to learn:
‘practical’ vs ‘theoretical’ grammar = ‘what & how’ vs ‘what & why’

Units of grammar

- **Morpheme** - form-building morphemes / inflections: *asked*, *dogs*, *bigger* ...
- **Word** – a system of wd-forms
- **Word group / phrase**
- **Sentence**
- **Units larger than a sentence** - suprasentential unities / supraphrasal unities / etc. / texts

HIERARCHY of levels

MAIN NOTIONS OF GRAMMAR

GRAM. MEANING

GRAM. FORM

GRAM. CATEGORY

function

Any grammatical unit (*єдниця*) is a unity (*єднство*) of grammatical **meaning** and grammatical **form**

Gr.unit = gr. mning + gr.form

MEANS OF FORM-BUILDING

synthetical

- inflections
(form-blding morphemes)
- *boy - boys*
- sound alterations –
inner inflections =
mutation

man - men

- suppletivity

go - went

analytical

with the help of
semi-bound
morphemes or wd
morphemes (= auxiliaries)

ask - will ask

ask – have asked

analytical forms

Features of an analytical form

1. Analytical forms consist of 2 parts: auxiliary element (operator) & notional part
is writing
2. Analyt. forms develop grammatical idiomaticity ~
'the meaning of the whole differs from the meaning of its parts' -
Grammatical meaning (!)
is writing ≠ is + writing
3. Within a category analyt. forms sh. be opposed to synthetic ones:
is writing - writes

4. The elements of an analyt.form function as one member of the sentence, i.e. perform one syntactic function

Tom was shaved by the barber –

Tom shaved himself

5. Auxiliary elements are lexically empty

6. The lexical mning of the whole group is understood from its notional part

7. In analit.forms the aux.is changeable, it sh. change grammatically:

*is writing – are writing – am writing – was writing
– will be writing – ... – <...>*

(read А.И.Смирницкий)

there is no direct correspondence
bw **gram. meaning** ↔ **gram. form**

2 or more units of
*the plane of
expression* may
correspond to **1**
unit of *the plane of
content*

e.g. **boys** – **children**

[different planes of
expression – one gram
mning]

2 or more units of *the
plane of content*
may correspond to **1**
unit of *the plane of
expression* □

polysemy, homonymy

e.g. – **s** inflection:

boy's, **dogs**, **asks**,
greens

Grammatical category

is a generalized grammatical meaning realized through *formal* and *meaningful* opposition of variants of one and the same unit (i.e. grammatical forms)

Gr.category is revealed through the method of opposition.

Method of opposition – A.I.Smirnitskiy

The essence (суть, сущность):

partially similar elements, i.e.

elements having common and distinctive features,

constitute an **opposition**,

the members of which **differ** in **form** and in **meaning**:

dog – dogs

common – one wd, gram. mning of quantity;

distinctive – diff. forms of 1 wd & diff. mnings of quantity/number: oneness – more than oneness

There may be cases of categorial **neutralization**:

(1) ... e.g. ***Tonight we start for Landon***

(2) ... e.g. ***She is always complaining of something***

Types of oppositions

acc. to the number of
members (elements):

• **binary** - 2

• **ternary** - 3

• **quaternary** - 4

qualitatively:

• **privative**

ask⁻ - *asked*⁺

• **equipollent**

am⁺ - *is*⁺

• **gradual**

good - *better* - *best*

**Parts of speech:
principles of classifications
and
gram. categories
of some parts of speech
in modern English**

A part of speech

is a grammatically relevant
class of words

which is specified

on the basis of grammatical,
semantic and lexical properties. □

**Parts of speech are
lexico-grammatical categories**

3 or 5 ?

3
principle
s/criteria

Meaning
semantic cr.

Form
morph. cr.

Function
n
syntactic cr.

Derivational
word-blding

Inflectional
form-blding

**Distribution/
combinabilit
y**

**Syntactic
function
proper**

Notional and functional wds

4 criteria for differentiating:

- 1) the 'prominence' of their lexical mning**
- 2) peculiarities of their combinability**
- 3) ability to be substituted by a wd of a more general mning**
- 4) ability to add / create new items**

Notional and functional wds

- **Notional wds**

- 1) **complete
nominative force**
- 2) **- self-dependent fns
- can be used in
isolation**
- 3) **can be substituted
by a wd of a more
general mng**
- 4) **open classes**

- **Functional wds**

- 1) **incomplete
nominative force**
- 2) **- non-self-dependent
mediatory fns: linking
or specifying
- obligatory
combinability**
- 3) **cannot be substituted**
- 4) **closed classes**

GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES

of some parts of speech

(points to be covered)

□ form – *the opposition, members*

□ meaning:

- *meaning of the category*

(general categorial meaning)

- *meanings of the members*

(individual meanings)

□ peculiarities / **problems**

GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF THE NOUN

the morph. category of NUMBER

Form: the c. of N. is constituted by the inflectional opposition of 2 categorial forms of N.:

Sg⁻ - Pl⁺

dog₋ - dogs₊

Meaning: **for counts**:

number / quantity (for discrete nouns)

oneness – more than oneness

for uncounts:

Sing. only – plural only

Foundation:

discreteness – non-discreteness

countable - uncountable

The category of article DETERMINATION

Many scholars recognize the semantic category of article determination which marks some referents as definite & some as indefinite.

Article determination – the binary opposition which contrasts the noun with the definite article against the noun with the indef. or zero article:

the N⁺

identification / def-ss

The train *hooted* that train

The oxygen *is out*

our supply

The meaning of the category and of the members constituting its opposition gives reason to term it
the category of definiteness / indefiniteness

a / Ø N⁻

non-identification / indef-ss

A train *hooted* some train

Oxygen *is necessary for*
life

oxygen in general

(If) Article is a wd morpheme □
there IS the morph.

category of article determination in Engl.

Mningful absence of an element – only for
gram.form-blding morphemes □ if we can
speak of a mningful absence of an article – we
speak abt a morph.marker / a form-blding
morpheme □ □ □

- ***a* & *the*** are not independent wds & do not
constitute a part of speech, they are
wd-morphemes
- ***a* / *an* / \emptyset** can be treated as allomorphs of the
indef.article opposed to the def.article;

The category of CASE

Form – opposition: the c. of Case is constituted by the inflectional opposition of 2 categorial forms:

Common C. ⁻ – **Possessive/Genitive** ⁺

boy₋ – *boy's*₊ or *boys*₋ – *boys'*₊

Meaning: rlns bw wds in the sentence:

The genitive form renders a variety of mnings:

- possessiveness – *the boy's dog*
- subjective gen. – *the boy's answer*
- objective gen. – *the boy's punishment*
- gen. of origin – *the boy's letter*
- quantitative (of measure) – *an hour's drive*
- qualitative (descriptive) – *a women's college*

Peculiarities □ Case theories

- **Limited** case theory – **Otto Jespersen, H.Sweet, Л.С.Бархударов, А.И. Смирницкий**
- **Positional** c.th. – **M.Bryant, J.C.Nesfield**
- **Prepositional** c.th. – **G.Curm**
- **Post-positional** c.th. – **Воронцова, Мухин, Аракин, Кобрина**
~ *'-s' inflection is not typical*
- **Limitative** c.th. – **V.Ja.Plotkin**
~ *'limitation of the scope of reference'*

The VERB as a field structure

- The paradigm of most English verbs (except for modal vs) is constituted by 2 subparadigms:
- **finite forms** – represented by the paradigm of categorial (temporal, aspective, modal, etc.) forms & characterized by their **fn** of syntactic predicate – **the core**
 - **non-finite fms (verbals / verbids)** – the Inf., Participle II & ing-forms – characterized by a ***deflected*** paradigm; mixed features; perform various synt. fns but for the synt. predicate of the sentence – **the periphery**

Ns

Adj/Adv

non-finite forms

the Infinitive

Participle I

finite forms

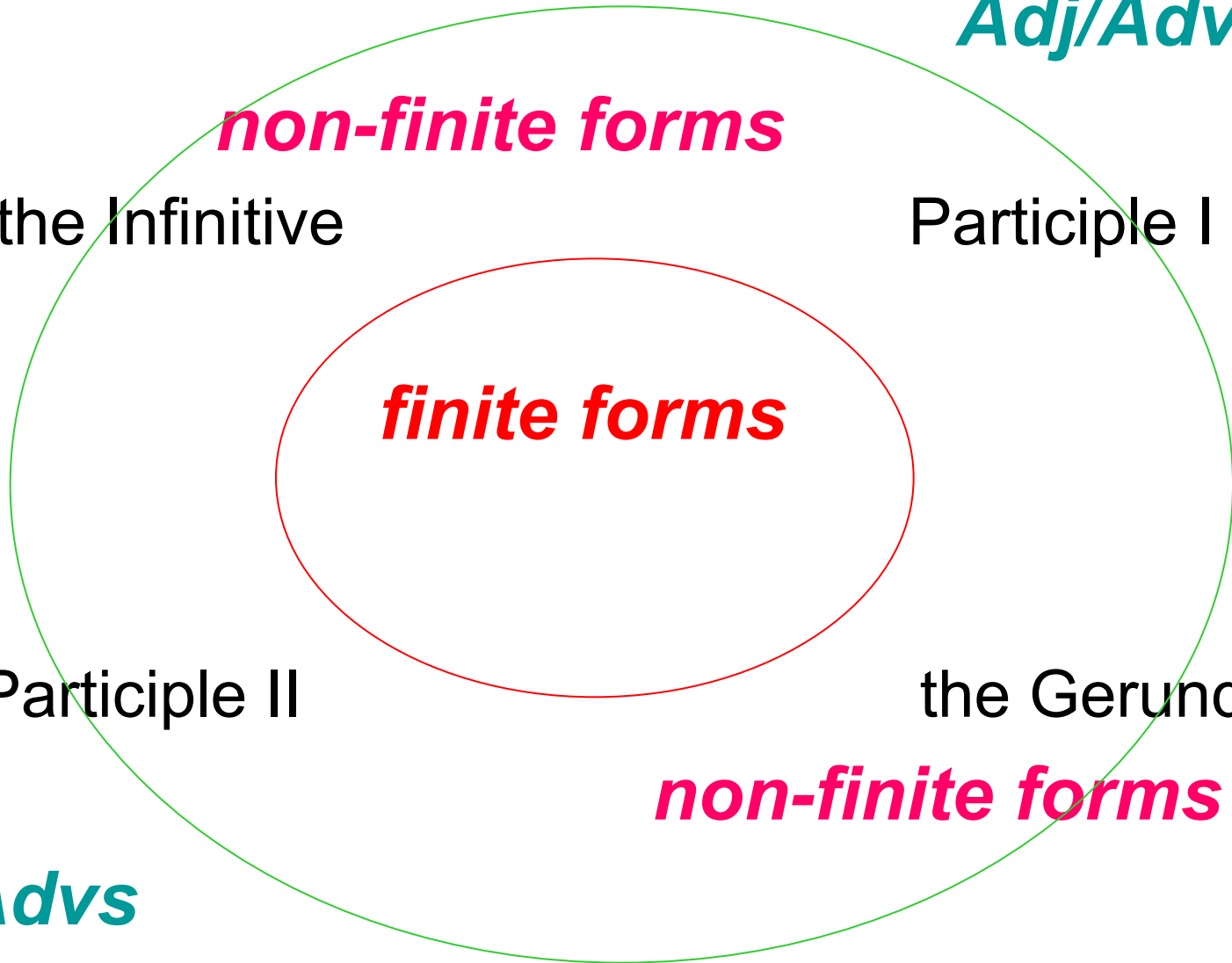
Participle II

the Gerund

non-finite forms

Adj/Adv

Ns



Grammatical categories of the EV

- Tense
- Person
- Number
- Aspect
- Correlation (order)
- Prospect
(Posteriority)

- Mood
- Voice
- Finitude
(representation)

The categories underlined are proper to finite forms of the verb only

the c. of Tense

opposition: present – past – [future]

ask⁻ – *asked*⁺ – [*will ask*]

meaning: the *time of action* in relation to the moment of speaking □

In Engl. the c. of tense denotes the time of action only *absolutely*, i.e. in relation to the moment of speaking

peculiarities: the problem of *shall/will* forms

□ the category of **prospect/posteriority**

asks⁻ – *will ask*⁺ – absolute prospect

asked⁻ – *would ask*⁺ – relative prospect

the c. of Aspect

opposition: non-progressive-progressive

asks - - **is asking** +

meaning: the **character of action**

peculiarities: the c. of aspect is dependent on the lexical meaning of the verb □ **types of verbs**

the c. of Voice

It is a syntactically bound morphological category

opposition: active – passive

asks⁻ – *is asked*⁺

meaning: *direction of an action* ;

active voice – the action is issuing from the subject (agent/doer) to the object;

passive voice – the action is directed twds the object

(I) the problem of the number of voices:

1) active voice – S □ O *Tom asks Mary*

2) passive voice – O □ *Mary is asked by Tom*

3) *Tom asks himself* – *what direction ?*

4) *Tom and Ann ask each other* – *what direction ?*

5) *The door opened* – *any direction ?*

3 more voices - ?! **reflexive, reciprocal, middle**: meaning – yes; form – no.

(II) The problem of *get/become*+PII forms

(III) The homonymy of *be*+PII – a passive action or a state?

THE CATEGORY OF MOOD

The c.of MOOD is constituted by the forms of the verb which express objective modality.

meaning: the c.of Md expresses the character of connection bw the process denoted by the verb and the actual reality presenting the process **either as a fact** that really *happened, happens, will happen*, or treating it **as an imaginary phenomenon** (non-fact) – *desire, speculation, hypothesis, etc.*

opposition: is constituted by sets of forms denoting *facts* and forms denoting *non-facts*, the latter being the **strong marked** member of the opposition.

The category is revealed both in the opposition of morph. forms of the verb and syntactic structures.

It is proper to finite forms only □ it is a predicative category.

(*read Prokopchuk, Smirnitsky, review Gr-Perfect*)

The problem of the number of mds

Linguists distinguish from 2 to 17 mds in ME.

Deutschbein M. – 17

Smirnitsky A.I. – a system of 6 mds (indicative, imperative, 4 oblique)

Ylyish B.A., Ivanova I.P. et al. – 3 mds (indicative, imperative, subjunctive)

Barkhudarov L.S., Shteling D.A. – 2 mds (indicative, subjunctive)

Vorontsova G.N. – indicative, optative (imperative, desiderative, subjunctive), speculative (2 forms), presumptive (7 forms all in all)

Plotkin V.Ya. denies the existence of the c.of md in E. altogether

Mood - Summing up

Mnings: **facts – non-facts**

direct imperative – problematic – unreal

Mds: **Indicative – Imperative – Subjunctive (!)**

a set of forms: *one form* *a set of moods which have forms of:*

tense

aspect

person & number

order

aspect

voice

order

prospect

voice

person

prospect

The c.of REPRESENTATION / FINITUDE

a set of all
finite forms

vs

a set of all
non-finite forms

are opposed morphologically & syntactically

the **opposition**

the c.of finitude (**B.Strang, L.S.Barkhudarov**) /

the c. of representation (**A.I.Smirnitsky**)

the differential feature –

the expression of verbal time and modality

(the c.of tense & mood) □ predicativity

the **members**

predicative⁺

non-predicative⁻⁻

3 forms of representation

Predicative (finite) forms are marked morphologically through the forms of the categories of **TENSE**, **MOOD**, **PERSON** & **NUMBER** and the syntactic fn of the predicate

- **verbal representation**

Non-predicative forms (verbals) are unmarked

- **substantive** representation (the Inf., Ger.)
- **adjectival** representation (participle I & II)

Syntactic relations between the constituents of a phrase

elements are equal
in rank

coordination

come and go

elements are not equal

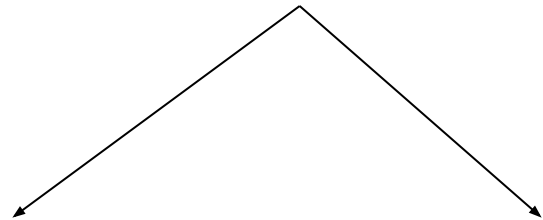
subordination

blue sky

adjunct + kernel
modifier + modified

interdependence

the train arrives



the roof of the house – a sub. noun phrase

the roof of the house is red = the roof is red

the city of Minsk – ???

I live | in the city of Minsk ≠ *I live in* | the city

but = *I live in* | Minsk

syntactic
nucleus

semantic
nucleus

subordinate syntactic rlns but...

an appositive phrase

Means of expressing syntactic relations

- **Word order** *cannon ball* N+N
- **Prepositions** *the category of aspect*
- **Conjunctions** *warm and nice* Adj+Adj
- **Case inflection -'s** *Bob's car* N's+N
- **Morphological expression of the components** *speak softly* V+Adv

**The Sentence -
the main unit of syntax.**

THE SENTENCE

is the immediate integral unit of speech built according to a definite syntactic pattern and distinguished by a contextually relevant communicative purpose
(M.J.Blokh)

It has 2 basic fns: naming and communicative.

It can perform the communicative fn because it possesses the property known as predicativity.

Predicativity

is the **correlation** of what is named by the sentence with the situation of speech.

Predicativity

is constituted by 3 components:

Modality □ the category of mood – Pr. Verb

Time □ the category of tense – Pr. Verb

Person □ the category of person – Pr. Verb

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Subject

The boy laughed out loudly

The Predicate Verb is the main means of expressing predicativity. The Subject is involved in expressing the person component of predicativity.

Classification of sentences

Structural classification

General principle – structural, i.e. the structure of a sentence

Subcriteria (principles):

- Ways of expressing predicativity:
 - divided / undivided
 - complete / incomplete
- Number of predication lines

Communicative class-n / types of s.

Principle – communicative aim / purpose

- *I give info* - **Declarative** = statements
- *I ask for info* - **Interrogative** = questions
- *I want U to do smth* - **Imperative**
- *I want to express myself* - **Exclamatory**

Sentence structural types & principles of classification

Simple / composite

the number of predication lines

1-member / 2-memb.

the way of expressing predicativity: divided or undivided

complete / elliptical

completeness of a 2-memb. pred. line

Composite

type of syntactic rlns:

Compound

coordination

Complex

subordination

Models of sentence analysis

A. Pre-functional level – units are just wds & wd groups:

- the distributional model
- the immediate constituents model
- the transformational model

B. Functional level

I. Syntactic level – the model of the members of the sentence (syntactic functions)

II. Semantic level – case grammar – the model of the proposition structure

III. Communicative level – sentence as a unit of speech – FSP = functional sentence perspective – the logico-communicative structure

Syntactic structure

At the **functional** level the s.s.s. is described in terms of members (parts) of the sentence performing certain functions.

Parts of the sentence are notional sentence constituents as they name elements of the situations named by the sentence: processes, participants, circumstances. They are in different relations to other parts of the sentence or to the sentence as a whole.

Members (parts) of the sentence

Though the traditional set of members is more or less established, there are quite a number of disputable points. For e.g.

The room measures 10 metres square - ???

Modern grammars partially overcome these difficulties

Sentence syntactic structure

subject

predicate

predicator complements objects

Vf

direct obj.

indirect obj.

prepositional obj.

subject[ive] c. *She looks tired*

object[ive] c. *He painted the door green*

predicat[ive] c. *The room measured 10 m².*

Objects can become subjects of passive constructions. Complements cannot.

The subject, predicator, complements and objects

are nuclear and often obligatory constituents of a clause. Their appearance and properties are predetermined by the verb which serves as a predicator.

Other constituents are **circumstances** (time, place, manner, etc. of the whole stn) and **attributes** (characteristics of the participants). They are optional.

Non-obligatory members

These are mainly adverbials of various character:

adjuncts – optional circumstances attending the process expressed by the clause

e.g. *He briefly interrupted her*

Elements outside the s.s.s

- **disjuncts** – express evaluation of what is being said:

e.g. *Obviously, he was wrong.*

- **conjuncts** – indicate the connection bw what was said before and is being said now:

e.g. *He was wrong and so he kept silent.*

NB! conjunct ≠ conjunction

The structure of the complex sentence as a whole

Classn of the structural patterns of complex sentences is based on the following **criteria**:

- the structural completeness of the main part
- the means of connection & the way the parts are linked, what element in the main cl. performs the main part in subordination of the other(s) clause(s)
- relative importance the main and the sub.cl. have in the sentence

5 structural types of complex sentences

1. Inclusive type: What I want to know ↔ *is* ↔ why he didn't come.
2. Sentences with pronominal correlation: *And it was just that □ which impressed me most.*
3. Sentences with complement or appositive connection: *She had a strange feeling □ as if something had happened*
4. Sentences with optional sub.clauses: *She looked round the stuffy sitting-room □ as if it were a prison.*
5. Sentences with mutually dependent clauses: *The door had scarcely closed behind her □ before it opened again.*