



## THE PROBLEM OF SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE VERB AND DITRANSITIVE VERB IN MODERN ENGLISH

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### Annotation

This article deals with the problems of verbs, semantic features of the verbs and its characteristic features. It studies verbs, its types, transitive, intransitive verbs, ditransitive verbs in English.

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### Main Part

The verb is a part of speech which denotes an action, which is open to various disputes arguments and problems. The ever complicated nature of it as a part of speech is recognized by all scholars: as V.V. Vinogradov calls it the most complex and capacious part of speech. A.I. Smirnitsky considers it intricate part of speech. The verb has the following grammatical categories: person, number, tense, aspect, voice and mood. These categories can be expressed by means of affixes, inner flexion (change of the root vowel) and by form words.

Verbs may be transitive and intransitive.

Verbs have finite forms which can be used as the predicate of a sentence and non-finite forms which cannot be used as the predicate of a sentence.

According to their morphological structure verbs are divided into:

- (a) Simple (*read, live, hide, speak*);
- (b) Derived, i. e. having affixes (*magnify, fertilize, captivate, undo, decompose*);
- (c) Compound, i. e. consisting of two stems (*daydream, browbeat, whitewash*);
- (d) Composite, consisting of a verb and a postposition of adverbial origin (*sit down, go away, give up*).

The postposition often changes the meaning of the verb with which it is associated. Thus, there are composite verbs whose meaning is different from the meaning of their components: *to give up – tashlamoq to bring up – voyaga yetkazmoq*





There are other composite verbs in which the original meaning of its components is preserved: *to stand up, to come in, to go out, to put on*.

The basic forms of the verb in Modern English are: the Infinitive, the Past Indefinite and Participle II: *to speak – spoke – spoken*.

According to the way in which the Past Indefinite and Participle II are formed, verbs are divided into three groups: regular verbs, irregular verbs, and mixed verbs. [15.46]

1. Regular verbs. They form the Past Indefinite and Participle II by adding *-ed* to the stem of the verb, or only *-d* if the stem of the verb ends in *-e*.

to want – wanted                      to unite – united  
to open – opened                      to live – lived

The pronunciation of *-ed (-d)* depends on the sound preceding it. It is pronounced:

[id] after t, d: wanted [wontid], landed [ˈlændid];

[d] after voiced consonants except *d* and after vowels: opened [ˈoupənd], played [pleid]

[t] after voiceless consonants except *t*: worked [wə:kt].

The following spelling rules should be observed

(a) Final *y* is changed into *i* before the additional of *-ed* if it is preceded by a consonant.

to carry – carried              to reply – replied

*y* remains unchanged if it is preceded by a vowel:

to enjoy – enjoyed

(b) If a verb ends in a consonant preceded by a short stressed vowel, the final consonant is doubled.

to stop – stopped              to plan – planned

to sob – sobbed              to stir – stirred

to submit – submitted

Final *r* is doubled if it is preceded by a stressed vowel.

to occur – occurred      to prefer – preferred      to refer – referred

Final *r* is not doubled when preceded by a diphthong.

to appear – appeared

Final *l* is doubled if it is preceded by a short vowel, stressed or unstressed:

to compel – compelled              to quarrel – quarrelled

2. Irregular verbs. Here belong the following groups of verbs:

(a) verbs which change their root vowel.

to sing – sang – sung      to meet – met – met      to win – won – won

(b) verbs which change their root vowel and add *-en* for Participle II.

to speak – spoke – spoken              to write – wrote – written



to take – took – taken

(c) verbs which change their root vowel and add *-ed* or *-t*

to sell – sold – sold to bring – brought – brought

(d) verbs which change their final *-d* into *-t*.

to send – sent – sent to build – built – built

(e) verbs which have the same form for the Infinitive, Past Indefinite and Participle II.

to put – put – put to set – set – set to shut – shut – shut

(f) verbs whose forms come from different stems.

to go – was/were – been to go – went – gone

(g) special irregular verbs.

to have – had – had to make – made – made to do – did – done

(h) defective (anomalous) verbs.

can – could must

ought may – might

will – would shall – should

3. Mixed verbs. Their Past Indefinite is of the regular type, and their Participle II is of the irregular type:

to show – showed – shown to sow – sowed – sown

According to the syntactic function of verbs, which depends on the extent to which they retain, weaken or lose their meaning, they are divided into notional verbs, auxiliary verbs and link verbs.

1. Notional verbs are those which have a full meaning of their own and can be used without any additional words as a simple predicate. Here belong such verbs as *to write, to read, to speak, to know, to ask*.

Ricky surrounded her with great care and luxury.

She knew what he was thinking.

2. Auxiliary verbs are those which have lost their meaning and are used only as form words, thus having only a grammatical function. They are used in analytical forms. Here belong such verbs as *to do, to have, to be, shall, will, should, would, may*.

I don't recollect that he ever did anything, at least not in my time.

Their father ... had come from Dorsetshire near the beginning of the century.

But all this time James was musing ...

He would have succeeded splendidly at the Bar.

3. Link verbs are verbs which to a smaller or greater extent have lost their meaning and are used in the compound nominal predicate.





The house was too big.

The old face looked worn and hollow again.

Manson no longer felt despondent, but happy, elated, hopeful.

In different contexts the same verb can be used as a notional verb and an auxiliary verb or a link Verb:

She turned her head sullenly away from me. (NOTIONAL VERB)

She turned deadly pale. (LINK VERB)

No one was there to meet him. (NOTIONAL VERB)

She was not a ten-year-old girl any more ... (LINK VERB)

This evening Bathsheba was unusually excited, her red cheeks and lips contrasting lustrously with her shadowy hair. (Link verb)

There is a special group of verbs which cannot be used without additional words, though they have a meaning of their own. These are modal verbs such as *can, may, must, ought, etc.*

We know that the semantic features of the verbs play an important role in modern linguistics. Most of the scholars have investigated about the theme, such as, A.I.Smirtinskiy, I.S.Barkhudarov, B.A.Ilish, I.I.Ivanova. B.N.Jigadlo, B.A.Khaymovich and B.I.Rogovskaya.[20.125]

Majority of the scholars consider that the verb is a lexico-grammatical word which shows state and quality of the action and divides the verbs into the following types:

standard or regular - nonstandard or irregular

invariable

mixed

finite-nonfinite

The basic semantic features related to these situations are possible duration and possible telicity.

Duration - this feature can be related both to stative and dynamic verbs; states, activities and accomplishments have the feature [+duration], and achievements the feature [duration]. Having discussed the states, we could start from the examples with the situations denoting some duration, and these examples include typical activity verbs like dance, do, eat, laugh, learn, live, make, read, spend, stare, stay, take, wait, write. For example:

They like clamorous patients who have been waiting all night for the doctor's surgery to open; The heads of other men present have been swiveling from side to side, like spectators in a tennis match, during this argument. The students who have been writing everything down now look up and smile wryly at Robyn Penrose, like victims of a successful hoax. Robyn looks up from the copy of North and South from which



she has been reading this passage, and surveys her audience with cool, grey-green eyes. ('They've learned what's expected of them in a patriarchal society.' 'I haven't danced for ages.' 'I don't think I've ever read that one.' Whereas you've been working for yourself in the company's time.

Most of these examples with the above-mentioned verbs indicate continuation from the unspecified point or period in the past to the present moment, thus belonging to the type called perfect of persistent situation. The example is a specific kind of the perfect of persistent situation because it denotes the continuation of the nonexistence of a situation (not dancing for ages). However, in the example, which implies a reached goal (what's expected of them), the type of perfect is the perfect of result or recent past, and in the example with the adverbial ever the type is experiential perfect – implying that the subject did not have a certain experience (reading a certain book). The second group of examples, those with the feature [- duration], or momentary verbs, includes the verbs like appear, arrive, ask, borrow, bring, close down, decide, deliver, discover, finish, invite, lend, meet, offer, pay, reach, reduce, sell out, split up, start, trigger. Some of the typical examples are:

The pressure of his foot on a wired pad under the stair-carpet has triggered the burglar alarm. She carries the Daily Mail, which has just been delivered.(5c) Marjorie has now appeared at the lounge window. Vic grunts, unsurprised that his Marketing Director has not yet arrived. 'Have you brought me to the phone just to tell me that?' Robyn inquired icily. 'I've sent off that reference to America.'

As expected, momentary verbs typically denote the situation immediately preceding the moment of speech, which is often accompanied by the adverbials just and now or yet in case of the non-realization of the situation. In the examples without adverbials modifying present perfect, the implication is also immediate or very near past. So, these examples belong to the perfect of recent past. However, some momentary verbs with adverbials denoting frequency (never, ever) also indicate experience up to now, which classifies them into the experiential perfect:

He has never met Beryl, said to be Everthorpe's second wife, and formerly his secretary. It has already been used twice for the circulation of internal mail and resealed by means of staples and Sellotape. 'Haven't we met before?' he said. 'That's because you haven't met him yet.'

There are just a few such examples in the corpus and they imply a context which unambiguously indicates repetition of the momentary situation up to now, most of them with the verb meet. As for this verb, it is interesting to point out the difference between the perfect of recent past and the experiential perfect: with the adverbials like just, recently, this verb is interpreted as recent past, and with the adverbials like ever,





before as experiential perfect.

Telicity - telicity is the feature in the semantic structure of some dynamic lexical verbs and verb phrases which denotes the existence of a goal. This goal could be indicated by the presence of the direct object, adverbial particle or other syntactic elements. The following examples (and some of the above-mentioned) indicate the presence of a goal: Vic Wilcox has now, strictly speaking, left the city of Rummage and passed into an area known as the Dark Country. 'Have you signed the Official Secrets Acts?' Halted at a red light, Robyn consults her A to Z, but before she has found the place on the map, the lights have changed and cars are hooting impatiently behind her. Anyway they've just discovered that compulsory retirement is unconstitutional. 'Mr Wilcox has dropped his pen, Marion,' she said. 'I'll tell Swallow that I've changed my mind.' As it has been pointed out, if the nonprogressive verb is followed by a well-defined object (NP or a nominal clause), it usually implies a goal. The combination of the feature [+ telicity] with the present perfect (nonprogressive) indicates that the goal was reached immediately before, or a short time before the point of speech, which is usually interpreted as the perfect of recent past or possibly the perfect of result.

As expected, some examples from the corpus were ambiguous when it comes to the above-mentioned types of present perfect, even when their semantic features and the context were taken into account. For example: Now we've gone into reverse. Raymond Williams has called them "Industrial Novels" because they dealt with social and economic problems. He's been trained, hasn't he? Foundtrax has stolen the Rawlinson's bone from you. I've had enough,' said Penny Black, getting to her feet. 'I mean, I've had enough of this heat.' 'No. I've had enough of the rat race.'

The verb in the example, go, is dynamic, durative and atelic, or momentary and telic if its meaning is 'leave', but it is difficult to establish the type of perfect it implies: the possible interpretations include recent past or result. There is a similar problem with the example: the training could be related to recent past or could present a result of a past process. The second example contains a telic momentary verb call (meaning 'give a name'), but it could hardly be designated as recent past, result or experience. It is not a typical persistent situation either, because the situation itself does not continue up to now, so it is perhaps best described as "current relevance" of the situation. The example is closest to recent past, with the verb steal being dynamic, momentary and telic. Finally, the last three examples contain the phrase 'have enough' in present perfect; it seems that these verbs denote the perfect of persistent situation, that is an undesirable continuation of a situation up to now. These examples (but also some of the previous ones) illustrate the difficulties one faces in classifying the concrete sentences with present perfect into a certain type which is determined within a specific theoretical framework. Transitive verbs are verbs that have a thing to receive the action — they take a direct object. I wrote a grammar article. I baked a cake. I told





a joke. Intransitive verbs take only a subject and lack a direct object. The grammar guide fell. I cried. You laughed. This seems simple enough. So think about this sentence: I baked for Valentine's Day yesterday. Is baked transitive or intransitive? If you answered intransitive, you're correct. This sentence lacks direct object; in other words for Valentine's Day aren't receiving the action of baked. In grammatical terms, for Valentine's Day is a prepositional phrase and yesterday is an adverb. So, what about the sandwich joke? Is me a direct object? Is please make a sandwich for me the only correct phrasing? Wait – to answer that one you need to know a little more about verbs. Like transitive verbs, ditransitive verbs take a direct object, but they also take an indirect object. This indirect object always comes before the direct object, and it usually refers to someone who benefits from the action Lori gave Greg a break. Send your wife a card. My husband brought me some flowers. Get your assistant to help. Show grammar nerds some love! Most English verbs are neither purely transitive/ditransitive or intransitive. Instead, they are ambitransitive. They can act as any of these types of verbs depending on context. The little boy broke the lamp. (transitive) My oven broke yesterday. (intransitive) She opened a new shoe store. (transitive) The store opened early today. (intransitive) I paid the mechanic. (transitive) We already paid. (intransitive) Still, wondering if make me a sandwich is correct? The answer is coming, after a little more grammar.

In our point of view, we tried to give some information about the semantic features of ditransitive verbs.

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