

The Actants of the Verb in English Grammar

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ABSTRACT

The article examines the variability of simple sentences with actant content in modern English. The sentence is presented as an important factor for communication. It is noted that for language to be a means of communication, there must be a sentence as in order to communicate, it is necessary to make a sentence. Any sentence has an actant (an argument). Actants are generally accepted as words added to the verb. A verb expresses an action or state.

Actants are entities or things that participate in the action, that is, the auxiliary means used when the verb performs any action can be considered as actants. A noun phrase that acts as an agent of the main verb of a sentence is called an actant. Any part of speech used in a sentence is an actant in linguistics (valency grammar). Actants are considered to be elements that help reveal the meaning of the action or situation represented by the verb.

Key words: actant, sentence, main, subordinate, action, state

A sentence is a structure organized in such a way that each part used in it has its own role and special way of connecting to other parts. In linguistics and grammar, a sentence is considered a linguistic expression. For example, let's analyze an example in English: "*A fast brown fox jumps over the lazy dog*". In traditional grammar, a sentence is usually defined as a series of words that express a complete idea, or a unit consisting of a clause and a clause. In non-functional linguistics, it is usually defined as

the maximal unit of syntactic structure as a constituent. In functional linguistics, however, it is considered as a unit of written texts separated by graphological features such as capital letters and markers such as periods, question marks and exclamation marks. A sentence can consist of words grouped together meaningfully to express an affirmation, question, exclamation, request, command, or suggestion.

A clause is usually connected to a subordinate clause. A subordinate clause can be dependent or independent. R. Nordquist explains the sentence as following: "The sentence is the largest independent unit of grammar. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point. The word 'sentence' is derived from Latin and means "to feel". A sentence is traditionally (and inadequately) defined as a word or group of words that expresses a complete idea and consists of predicate and predicate [Tesnière 2015, p. 19].

It should be said that grammar, which is one of the special fields of linguistics, and syntax, which is a part of it, also have their own problems, and this is the reason why it exists today and does not leave the stage of life.

Before talking about the specific rules specific to the syntax of the modern English language, about the separate areas of the syntactic structure of this language, we will talk about a general problem, specifically, about the relationship between morphology and syntax, which are the main divisions of the grammar of every language, and the relationship between them we would like to talk, albeit briefly, about the interaction and,

finally, which of them (that is, morphology and syntax) is the first, the beginning. Since the relationship between syntax and morphology, which of them is primary and which is derivative, is a general linguistic problem, this issue is equally relevant to all languages, including the grammatical structure of the English language.

As you know, morphology deals with the shape of words. The form of the word refers to the affixes (suffixes, prefixes and infixes) that exist in languages and express different grammatical meanings. Affixes existing in this or that language, unlike words, are so abstract, so multifaceted that it is not reasonable or conceivable to create and fix them as a unit of analysis. For example, in modern English, it is impossible to imagine that the suffix -s (-es), which is a means of expressing the quantitative category, or the suffix -ed, which indicates time (past), suddenly appeared in the language, appeared and was used in today's function in the language [Melcuk 2004, p. 96].

The predicates used in the sentence and text express facts: actions, activities, events, perceptions, processes, situations, relations, properties, quantities, locations, etc., and it can also reflect the situation.

The term "actant" is a combination of semiotics (the study of signs) and semantics of writing (the study of text in terms of its deep structures).

Actants include "beings or things that participate in any form and in any way during any activity (movement)" [Tesnière 2015, p. 102].

L. Tesnière assumed that the action controlled during the action is a verb and its related substantives (actants - here are considered as the elements that perform or undergo the action) and adverbs (time, place, purpose, reason, etc.) It is clearly reflected that they are considered as actants [Tesnière 2015, p. 102].

Actant designates a syntactic unit that is formal in nature, but has a different relationship with predicate and circumstance (situation). According to L. Tesnière, only three actants are possible: the executor of

the act and the recipient of information in the subject, completeness (immediate, mediated) or unknown type. However, the number of states (states in which adverbs are observed) may be different or variable. As is known, L. Tesnière wrote "Elements de syntaxe structurale". The sentence is compared to a small drama in the work.

L. Tesnière equates the sentence with drama. His conclusion is that a sentence reflects a process (an event) like a drama, and in most cases it has actants (i.e. its actors are predicates, objects and adverbs) and conditions (i.e. time, place, reason, purpose, etc.). In the sentence, the main role, i.e. the action, is performed by the verb, and other actants, i.e. the subject, object, etc. depending on it (verb) is involved in action (process). Animate or inanimate entities in the sentence participate in that process. The situation indicates the conditions of the action, that is, where, when, for what reason, etc. [Tesnière 2015, p. 20].

L. Tesnière accepts only three actantial grammatical functions: 1) the first actant (subject), the second actant (the first object) and the third actant (the second object). L. Tesnière classified adverbs in the standard way, that is, according to the semantic content in the sentences in which they are used, for example, time, place, reason, manner, etc.

Moving from the plane of dramatic reality to the plane of structural syntax, action, actors, and circumstances become verbs, actants, and adverbs, respectively. The verb expresses an action, and actants are those animate or inanimate who participate in that action in whatever capacity and in whatever fashion, even in the most passive way imaginable. Actants usually arise from nouns or noun equivalents, and in a given phrase, nouns usually assume the actant function, even in principle.

S. Kahane and others write that actant and adverbial can also be considered synonymous with argument and adjunct. He writes: "Actants (arguments) are used to complete the meaning of a given main verb,

and after them, that is, at the end of a full sentence, an adverb is used (in order to determine the place, time, purpose, condition, reason, etc.) of an event, circumstance” [Kahane et al. 2015, p. 106]. Situational words used after actants are used to provide additional information. Without this information, the meaning of the verb cannot be considered complete, but the provision of this information depends on the speaker (writer). If the speaker or writer does not want to give this information, it can be accepted. Therefore, such information is called additional optional information [Kahane et al. 2015, p. 106].

- A. Greimas wants to create a generative grammar of the text. His aim was to create certain functional themes in a binary situation juxtaposed with possible roles. These were the topics that he wanted to confront, or more precisely, to create - messenger-completeness, sender-receiver of information, etc. All these create the structures we call text (story, etc.).
- B. Greimas distinguishes actants related to text syntax and actants recognized in the special discourse in which they are manifested [Greimas 1987, p. 106]. Simply put, the first actants are the King, Tom, etc. in the story images with names like an actant can be executed by several executors. It should be noted that one actant can form a syncretism of several actants.
- C. Beetz gives an example of the use of actants presented by A. Greimas:
“In a classic folk tale, for example, the king (sender of information) sends his bravest knight (subject) with his magic sword (helper) to free (object) his daughter (object) who is a captive of evil. Here the sorcerer becomes the ‘adversary’, that is, he plays the role of a helper. Each actor plays his role in the work. Though in the Batman narrative, the sender and the executor (the sender) are the same person: Bruce Wayne (the sender) - who takes on a mission to bring justice to Gotham City (object),

Batman (the sender), who fights the Joker, Poison Ivy and others (all Adversary), Ensuring the safety of the citizens of Gotham City (Recipient) (receiver of information)” [Beetz 2013, p. 26].

These examples show that actants can be manifested by multiple actors and that an actant is performed by multiple individuals. It is clear from the examples that actors do not need to appear with human characters. Objects and abstract concepts can be actants, just like living things. In addition, in the dynamic interpretation of A. Greimas’ semiotic square, an actor can pass through all actant modalities (sender, receiver, subject, object, helper, opponent) during the development of the narrative.

The actant is used to complete the meaning of the main verb and is followed by an object (direct, indirect) or an adverb. The purpose of using an adverb is to describe the place, time, purpose, condition, reason, etc. of the event, circumstance is to determine. Situational words used after actants are used to provide additional information. Without that information, the meaning of the verb cannot be considered fully completed. Other clauses also have actants. For example, the actant of the object, the actant of the attribute, etc. Determining the semantics of actants depends on the functions they perform within the sentence.

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