

LECTURE 4

THE VERB

Plan:

1. The characteristic features of a verb as a part of speech.
2. The types of verbs.
3. The grammatical categories of verbs: voice, mood, tense, number and others.

Generally verbs have the following features:

1. They express the meanings of action and state.
2. They have the grammatical categories of person, number, tense, aspect, voice, order and posteriority.
3. The function of verbs entirely depends on their forms: finite/non-finite.
4. Verbs can combine actually with all parts of speech, except articles and some pronouns.
5. Verbs have their own stem-building elements:

prefixes:

~re, rewrite
~mis, misunderstand
~un, uncover
~de, depose

postfixes:

~fy, simplify
~ize, realize
~ate, activate

Verbs can be classified from the following point of view: meaning, form-formation, function.

Three basic forms of the verb: Infinitive, Past Indefinite, Participle II.

Four types of verb-formation:

- 1) affixation: reads;
- 2) variation of sounds: run-ran, may-might;
- 3) suppletive ways: was-were-been;
- 4) analytical means: have asked, will come.

TYPES OF VERBS IN ENGLISH



meaning



*functional
objects*



ability of taking

notional functional
intransitive

regular irregular

transitive



MEANING



notional
(full lexical meaning)

verbs,

functional
(link verbs, modal

auxiliary

FORMATION



regular

productive suffixes

irregular

*non-productive means:
root vowel change,
suppletion,
unchanged forms*

ABILITY OF TAKING OBJECTS



transitive

verbs combined
with direct object or
space
prepositional one

intransitive

verbs expressing emotions,
state motion, position in

GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF VERBS

B.A. Ilyish: 6 categories: tense, aspect, voice, person, number.

L. Barkhudarov, D. Steling: voice, order, aspect, mood.

B. Khaimovich, Rogovskaya: 8 categories: voice, order, aspect, mood, posteriority, person, number.

CATEGORY OF VOICE

H. Sweet, O. Curne: inverted object, inverted subject, retained object.

H. Pousma: active/passive + reflexive, e.g.
He got to bed, covered himself up warm and fell asleep.

H. Whitehall: direct/indirect object – inner/outer complements.

A.I. Smirnitsky, L. Barkhudarov, L. Steling, B.A. Ilyish – 2 voices.

CATEGORY OF MOOD

The problem of category of mood lies in the distinction of the real and unreal expressed by the corresponding form of the verb.

H. Sweet: 3 moods: conditional, permissive, compulsive.

G.O. Curme: 3 moods: indicative, subjunctive, imperative.

Mood is a grammatical category of the verb reflecting the relation of the action expressed by the verb to reality from the speaker's point of view.

CATEGORY OF TENSE

H. Sweet: 3 tenses: present, past, Future.

Tenses: simple/compound
primary/secondary
complete/incomplete
continuous/point-tenses
definite/indefinite

O. Jespersen

B

A

O

C

before past	past	after past	PRESENT	before future	future	after future
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CATEGORY OF POSTERIORITY

B. Khaimovitch/Rogovskaya

(two member position)

Absolute/relative posteriority

Ex. Shall come – should come

CATEGORIES OF NUMBER AND PERSON

Person: 2 member opposition
(3rd person, zero morpheme)

L. Barkhudarov (3rd person, zero marker)

3 rd person	1 st person
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positive morpheme	zero morpheme
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