



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT

Assessment of Undergraduate Research Project

Verb Phrase In English

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Prepared by:

Ahmed Qasim Salim

Hedi Yousif Abdullah

Supervised by:

Dr. Rawshan Ibrahim Tahir

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Certification

I certify that this study was prepared by students (**Ahmed Qasim Salim & Hedi Yousif Abdullah**) under my supervision at College of Education/ Salahaddin University- Erbil in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor in English Language.

Signature

Dr.Rawshan Ibrahim Tahir

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Abstract

The title of the research paper is Verb Phrase in English, clarifies verb phrase in the English language and demonstrates the distinction between verb and verb phrase and the purpose behind using them. The content is divided into three sections. The first section of this study is the introduction. It includes the Introduction, The problem, The Aim of the Research, and Significance of the Research. The second section is an overview of verb phrase. It shows the differences between verb and verb phrase. It further explains the many kinds of verb phrases and shows the categories of the verb phrase. Section three explicates the lexical verbs with functions. And shows the Importance of lexical verbs in English language and importance in Sentence Structure. It also highlights the classification of Lexical Verbs and a role in a sentence.

Table of Contents

Certification.....	I
Acknowledgments.....	II
Abstract.....	III
Table of content.....	IV
Chapter One: Introduction.....	1
1.1. The Title.....	1
1.2. The problem.....	1
1.3. The Aim of the Research.....	1
1.4. Significance of the Research.....	1
Chapter Two: Verb Phrase	2
2.1. Verb Versus Verb Phrase.....	2
2.2. Types of Verb phrase.....	2
2.3. Categories of Verb phrase.....	4
Chapter Three: Lexical Verbs.....	6
3.1. Introduction to Lexical Verbs.....	6
3.2. Importance of lexical verbs in English language.....	6
3.3. Importance in Sentence Structure.....	6
3.4. Classification of Lexical Verbs.....	7
Chapter Four: conclusions and recommendations	9
References:	10
Abstract in Kurdish language.....	11

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 The Title

The title of this research is (Verb Phrase In English) which refers to a specific field of Grammar.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

The central problem addressed in this research is the need to understand the complexities surrounding verb phrases in English. This includes examining issues such as syntactic variations, semantic nuances, and the impact of verb phrase structure on overall communication. Furthermore, the study will focus on the verb phrases in the English language which will assist in identifying common difficulties faced by language learners and native speakers alike when navigating the diverse landscape of verb phrases.

1.3 The Aim of the Study

This study aims to analyze and understand the structure, usage, and variations of verb phrases in the English language. By examining the composition and functions of verb phrases, the research seeks to provide valuable insights into the linguistic intricacies of English, contributing to a deeper comprehension of language dynamics and facilitating improved language teaching and learning strategies.

1.4 The Significance of Study

The Verb Phrase (VP) in English holds significant importance as it serves as the core element responsible for conveying action or state within a sentence. Comprising the main verb and its accompanying elements such as auxiliary verbs or complements, the VP plays a crucial role in expressing meaning, tense, and mood. Understanding and analyzing the structure of the Verb Phrase is essential for syntactic and semantic comprehension, enabling effective communication and interpretation of language. Furthermore, the versatility of the Verb Phrase allows for the expression of a wide range of nuanced meanings, contributing to the richness and flexibility of the English language.

Chapter Two: Verb Phrase

2.1 Verb Versus Verb Phrase

In elementary school, we learned that verbs are the action words of sentences. Indeed, verbs may be regarded an essential class of words that "signify an action or state of being" (Williams, 1999) or that "mirror action and existence" (Turner, 1966). Verbs have also been defined as the dynamic words that make up a language's muscle (Turner, 1996). So, what exactly is a verb? Verbs are the words that describe what nouns and pronouns do as well as what is done to them (Justice & Ezell, 2008).

There is a verb phrase in each sentence and clause. The verb phrase, which consists of the primary verb, any auxiliary forms that are connected, and any modifiers, comprises the fundamental structural element of the predicate. As seen by this example, verb phrases can also comprise a single verb, just as noun phrases might. "The boy came". The primary verb, which serves as the phrase's head, is the essential component of a verb phrase (Justice & Ezell, 2008).

2.2 Types of Verb Phrases

In English, there are four different types of verb phrases.

2.2.1 Simple Verb Phrases:

Simple verb phrases have just one primary verb and no auxiliary verbs (Azar & Hagen, 2017).

Examples:

1. She sings beautifully.
2. She runs.
3. He walks quickly.

2.2.2 Compound Verb Phrases:

Compound verb phrases comprise multiple verbs, usually one primary verb and one or more auxiliary verbs. While the auxiliary verbs convey extra information like tense, mood, or aspect, the main verb conveys the main action or state (Azar & Hagen, 2017).

Examples:

1. They are playing soccer.
2. She is cooking dinner and singing in the kitchen.
3. They have finished their homework.

2.2.3 Complex Verb Phrases:

In complex verb phrases, the main verb and auxiliary verb are joined by additional elements. Adverbs, prepositional phrases, or infinitive/gerund phrases that modify or further explain the action or state can be included in these elements (Azar & Hagen, 2017).

Examples:

1. He has been working on his project all night.
2. She should be finishing his presentation by now.
3. They had been waiting for the train when it finally arrived.

2.2.4 Phrasal Verbs:

Phrasal verbs are a particular kind of verb phrase that has one or more particles (adverbs or prepositions) attached to the main verb.

Phrasal verbs frequently have meanings that are different from those of the main verb and particle alone (Murphy, 2012).

Examples:

1. She turned off the lights.
2. I never liked seafood but came around after trying fried calamari.
3. She broke down when she heard the news.

Understanding the various forms of verb phrases helps in assessing sentence structure, recognizing the primary action or condition, and comprehending the extra information supplied by auxiliary verbs or other aspects. It enables more effective communication and nuanced expression in English.

2.3 Categories of the Verb Phrase

There are two categories of verb phrases: finite and non-infinite

1. Finite Verb

A finite verb in English grammar is a verb that expresses agreement with a subject and has a tense marker. A sentence containing only one verb has a finite verb. Main verbs and tense verbs are other names for finite verbs (Huddleston & Pullum, 2005).

An Oxford Learners' Dictionary definition states that "a finite verb form or clause shows a particular tense, person, and number."

Finite verbs are defined as "a verb form that distinguishes person, number, and tense, as well as mood or aspect, as 'opens' in "She opens the door" by the Collins Dictionary.

Examples of Finite Verbs

1. She runs every morning.
2. They eat lunch together.
3. We will go to the park.

2. Non-Finite Verb

Nonfinite verbs are verbs in English grammar that do not distinguish between person, number, or tense, and therefore typically cannot function as the main verb in a sentence on their own (Nordquist, 2023).

A non-finite verb is defined as "an infinitive or a participle and has no tense" by the Collins Dictionary.

According to the Oxford Learners' Dictionary, a non-finite verb is "a verb form or clause that does not show a particular tense, person, or number."

Examples of Non-finite verbs

1. She loves swimming in the ocean.
2. He wanted to finish his homework before dinner.
3. They enjoy playing soccer on weekends.

Chapter Three: Lexical Verbs

3.1 Introduction to Lexical Verbs

The terms main verb and full verb can also be applied to lexical verbs. Any verb that is not an auxiliary verb (helping verb) is a lexical verb. The lexical verb is the head of the verb phrase that is utilized in a sentence (Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973). To put it another way, lexical verbs are the verbs in a sentence that indicate an activity or a state of being. They are the primary verbs in the sentence that convey their main idea (Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973). The lexical verb functions as the main verb in a sentence, communicating the activity or state of the subject. It carries the essential meaning of the sentence and can stand alone or be altered by other components (Downing & Locke, 2006).

3.2 Importance of lexical verbs in English language

Main verbs are important in English because they enable us to describe events, indicate actions, and establish connections between subjects and objects. They act as the verbs' engines, enabling us to express our meaning and explain our thoughts in coherent sentences. Our language would be very difficult to understand and rather confusing without main verbs. They ensure that our sentences flow naturally and make sense. In summary, primary verbs are important for proficient English speaking and writing (Burton-Roberts, 2011).

3.3 Importance in Sentence Structure

In simple terms, the main verb expresses the main idea or action of the sentence. A sentence would be incomplete and unable to clearly convey its intended meaning without a main verb (Burton-Roberts, 2011).

Main verbs are important because they convey the main idea or the subject's current state. And supply crucial details needed to construct sentences. Additionally assist in making a variety of sentence structures, including simple, compound, and complex (Burton-Roberts, 2011).

3.4 Classification of Lexical Verbs

3.4.1 Transitive Verbs

A transitive verb is one that requires a direct object, which is a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase that comes after the verb and completes the sentence's meaning by indicating who or what receives the verb's action. The direct object typically responds to the question "what?" or "who?" (Dowing & Locke, 2006).

Examples:

1. Ahmed reads a book.
2. They eat pizza every Friday.
3. I love my family.

Transitive verbs in a sentence show what the subject does and who or what receives the action. They are important in giving meaning to sentences and making them complete (Dowing & Locke, 2006).

3.4.2 Intransitive Verbs

An intransitive verb does not require a direct object to convey its meaning. In other words, it is not a "transitive" verb. Intransitive verbs are not used with direct objects. If something comes after an intransitive verb, in the position normally occupied by the direct object, it does not answer "what?" or "whom?" instead, it answers a question such as "where?" "when?" "how?" or "how long?" (Dowing & Locke, 2006).

Examples:

1. He smiled.
2. She ran quickly.
3. They laughed loudly.

Intransitive verbs in a sentence express the subject's action or state without the need for a direct object. They play an important role in expressing actions or states without requiring additional clarification about what or whom the action is directed towards (Dowing & Locke, 2006).

3.4.3 Ditransitive Verbs

A ditransitive verb has two objects: direct and indirect. A direct object directly receives the action, but an indirect object receives the direct object. A ditransitive verb is one that has both direct and indirect objects. Asking 'what' gives us the direct object, and 'to, for whom' gives us the indirect object. For example "He brought me chocolates yesterday." He brought what = chocolates (direct object), He brought chocolates for whom = me (indirect object) (Aarts, 2011).

Breaking down a ditransitive verb into two parts can help you understand its meaning: Di and Transitive. Di = two, Transitive = that has an object (Aarts, 2011).

Examples:

1. The teacher gave the students an assignment.
2. The staff sent the manager a message.
3. Ahmed showed Shayan his collection of videos.

In a sentence, ditransitive verbs transfer action from the subject to both direct and indirect objects. They are necessary to express actions in which something is given or transferred from the subject to someone or something else (Aarts, 2011).

Chapter Four: Conclusions

To sum up, this study has covered verb phrases in English. This study divided into two main chapters. Verbs can convey acts or states on their own, but verb phrases are made up of a primary verb plus extra words like as auxiliary verbs, adverbs, and prepositions. This was covered in chapter 2. We also explored the several kinds and classifications of verb phrases, including as simple, compound, and complex verb phrases, as well as transitive and intransitive verb phrases. It is essential to comprehend these differences in order to understand the English sentence structure and meaning. In chapter 3, we introduced lexical verbs as the primary verbs in a sentence, carrying the main meaning. We further explored the classification of lexical verbs. And importance of lexical verbs in English language and importance in sentence structure. By investigating these elements of English verb phrases, we obtained a better understand of their complexity and importance in language communication. This study emphasizes the necessity of understanding and mastering the intricacies of verb phrases, such as their types, categories, and lexical verb features, in order to improve English language competency. Overall, this work adds to our greater understanding of English syntax and helps to improve communication efficacy.

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Abstract in Kurdish language

ناونیشانی تووژینهوهکه بریتییه له گری کار له زمانی ئینگلیزیدا، گری کار له زمانی ئینگلیزیدا
 ږوون دهکاتهوه و جیاوازی نیوان گری کار و کار و مهبهستی پشت بهکارهینانیان نیشان دهدات.
 ناوهږوکهکه بهسه ر سی بهشدا دابهشکراوه. بهشی یهکه می ئەم لیکۆلینهوهیه پیشهکییه. پیشهکی،
 کیشهی تووژینهوهکه، ئامانجی تووژینهوهکه و گرنگی تووژینهوهکه لهخودهگریت. بهشی دووهم
 تیروانینیکی گشتیه بو گری کار. جیاوازی نیوان گری کار و کار نیشان دهدات. وه زیاتر
 جوهرهکانی گری کار ږوون دهکاتهوه و پولهکانی گری کار نیشان دهدات. بهشی سیهیم کاره
 سهههکیهکان به ئههکهکانهوه ږوون دهکاتهوه. وه گرنگی کاره سهههکیهکان له زمانی ئینگلیزیدا و
 گرنگی له پیکهاتهی رستهدا نیشان دهدات. ههروهها تیشک دهخاته سههه پۆلینکردنی کاره
 سهههکیهکان و ږۆلی له رستهیهکدا.