

***CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE SECONDARY PREDICATION IN MODERN  
ENGLISH***

*The article deals with the secondary predication in Modern English. The main idea of the article is the examination of the peculiarities of semi-predicative constructions, the analysis of the syntactical nature of them and their peculiar use. It is defined that the primary predication is found in predicative relations and marks the character of the relation between the thought and the reality. It revealed the secondary predication in the form of the predicative connection which has its own peculiar means of expression: members of the sentence, absolute constructions, complex members of the sentence. It is confirmed that the frequent use of constructions of the secondary predication is the specific feature of syntax and because of them it assumes laconism and compression on the syntactic level.*

*Key words: secondary predication, primary predication, connection, sentence, constructions, means of expressions, syntax, analysis, type, category.*

Language is the most important and extremely perfect means of communication and the exchange of thoughts. It can carry out various and complicated functions because it is a rather flexible but at the same time a well organized system. A number of urgent problems remain uninvestigated in the theoretical sphere of the sentence. The problem of the presence of the secondary predication in the sentence and the inventory of the constructions, which bear the meaning of the secondary predication, are also referred to them.

The object of the investigation is the phenomenon of the secondary predication and its subject is semi-predicative constructions of Modern English language. The problems concerning structural and functional peculiarities of the semi-predicative constructions have not yet been properly worked out. The phenomenon of the secondary

predication is the question of arguing and disagreements. Such scholars as V.D.Arakin, I.H.Vorontzova, Y.A.Zvegintzov, I.P.Ivanova, V.V.Burlakova, V.V.Pocheptzov, B.A.Ilyish [1;2;3;4;5] investigated it.

The frequent use of constructions of the secondary predication is the specific feature of English syntax and because of them it assumes laconicism and compression on the level of syntax. The actuality of the chosen theme is stipulated by this fact. The principal aim of the investigation is the examination of the main peculiarities of the semi-predicative constructions and the analysis of the syntactical nature of them and their peculiar use.

In Old English there were two non-finite forms of the verb: the Infinitive and the Participle. In many respects they were closer to the nouns and adjectives than to the finite verbs; their nominal features were far more obvious than their verbal features, especially at the morphological level. The verbal nature of the Infinitive and the Participle was revealed in some of their functions and their syntactic "combinability", like finite forms they could take direct object and be modified by adverbs.

The Infinitive had no verbal grammatical categories. Being a verbal noun by origin, it had a sort of reduced case-system: two forms which roughly corresponded to the Nominative and the Dative cases of nouns: "beran" – uninflected infinitive (Nominative case) "to berenne" or "to biranne" – inflected infinitive (Dative case). The Old English Infinitive was used in different syntactical functions. Like the Dative case of nouns the inflected Infinitive with the preposition "to" could be used to indicate the direction or purpose of an action.

The Participle was a kind of verbal adjective, which was characterized not only by nominal but also by certain verbal features. Participle I (Present Participle) was opposed to Participle II (Past Participle) through voice and tense distinctions: it was active and expressed present or simultaneous processes and qualities, while Participle II expressed states and qualities resulting from past action and was contrasted to Participle I as passive to active, if the verb was transitive. Participle II of intransitive verbs had an active meaning. It indicated a past action and was opposed to Participle I only through tense. The main trends of verbals' evolution in Middle English could be defined as a

gradual loss of most nominal features (except syntactical functions) and growth of verbal categories. There appeared a new verbal form – Gerund. In New English the development of analytical forms and new grammatical categories has transformed the verbals. The use of Gerund grew.

The formal distinctions which had developed in the system of the verbals towards the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries are practically the same as in Modern English. Paradigms of all verbs, except modal verbs, are made up of two subparadigms – finite and non-finite. They are opposed to each other first of all syntactically. While in finite forms the verb performs its primary function of the predicate, its non-finite forms perform other functions including secondary for verbs but primary for nouns, adjectives and adverbs. So subparadigms occupy different places in the field structure of the verb: finite subparadigm belongs to the core of the part of speech, while non-finite is peripheral. It means that non-finite subparadigm represents the border between the verb and other parts of speech.

The Infinitive is used in three fundamentally different types of functions: first, as a notional, self-positional syntactic part of the sentence; second, as the notional constituent of a complex verbal predicate built up around a predicator verb; third, as the notional constituent of a finite conjugation form of the verb. The first use is grammatically "free", the second is grammatically "half-free", the third is grammatically "bound" [4, p.78].

The Gerund is the non-finite form of the verb, which, like the Infinitive, combines the properties of the verb with those of the noun. Similar to the Infinitive, the Gerund serves as the verbal name of a process, but its substantive quality is more strongly pronounced than that of the Infinitive. Namely, as different from the Infinitive, and similar to the noun, the Gerund can be modified by a noun in the possessive case or its pronominal equivalents (expressing the subject of the verbal process), and it can be used with prepositions [4, p.89].

The general combinability of the Gerund, like that of the Infinitive, is dual, sharing some features with the verb, and some features with the noun. The verb-type combinability of the Gerund is displayed in its combining, first, with nouns expressing

the object of the action; second, with modifying adverbs; third, with certain semi-functional predicator verbs, but other than modal. Of the noun-type is the combinability of the Gerund, first, with finite notional verbs as the object of the action; second, with finite notional verbs as the prepositional adjunct of various functions; third, with finite notional verbs as the subject of the action; fourth, with nouns as the prepositional adjunct of various functions [5, p.110].

The Present Participle is the non-finite form of the verb, which combines the properties of the verb with those of the adjective and adverb, serving as the qualifying – processual name. In its outer form the Present Participle is wholly homonymous with the Gerund, ending in the suffix “ing” and distinguishing the same grammatical categories of retrospective coordination and voice. Since it possesses some traits both of adjective and adverb, the Present Participle is not only dual, but triple by its lexicogrammatical properties, which are displayed in its combinability, as well as in its syntactic functions [5, p.112].

The verb-type combinability of the Present Participle is revealed, first, in its being combined, in various uses, with nouns expressing the object of the action; second, with nouns expressing the subject of the action (in semi-predicative complexes); third, with modifying adverbs; fourth, with auxiliary finite verbs (word-morphemes) in the analytical forms of the verb. The adjective type combinability of the Present Participle is revealed in its association with the modified nouns, as well as with some modifying adverbs, such as adverbs of degree of comparison. Like the Present Participle, the Past Participle is capable of making up semi-predicative constructions of complex object, complex subject, as well as of absolute complex.

The opposition of the finite verbs and the verbals is based on the expression of the functions of full predication and semi-predication. While the finite verbs express predication in its genuine and complete form, the function of the verbal is to express semi-predication, building up semi-predicative complexes within different sentence constructions.

The English verbals include four forms distinctly different from one another within the general verbal system: the infinitive, the gerund, the present participle, and

the past participle. In compliance with this difference, the verbal semi-predicative complexes are distinguished by the corresponding differential properties both in form and in syntactic-contextual function. They are: Complex Object, Complex Subject, Absolute Participial Complex.

The secondary predicative connection doesn't perform the function of the predicate, though it can be either the secondary part of the sentence or the principal one. The term "potentiality" can be used regarding to the secondary predication. The structure which contains the secondary predicativity is potential if it is interpreted as a certain preparatory stage to the appearance of something new. It will be correct to consider the secondary predicativity as the main ability of changing the structure, which is rolled up at time and hardly became apparent outwardly [2, p.57].

E.g.: The fence surrounding the garden is newly painted.

Turning slowly she went to her room.

He answered through the locked door.

Talking mends no holes.

Even to think of it gave him ineffable torture.

It would be more expedient to understand the sentence as the simultaneous realization of a number of linguistic models, according to which its structure and form can be modified. The presence of the predicativity is the indispensable condition for the structural basis of the sentence. We'll follow the more accepted view on syntax as a system, which has two-layer structures, in the modern linguistic theory and refer the word-combination and the sentence to different levels. But these two levels should not be delimited because there are phenomena, which not only distinguish but also join them. The common between them is more brightly traced in the phenomenon of semi-predicative constructions, which stay on the border of the level of the sentence and should be recognized as transitional cases from the word-combination to the sentence, because they name not only the object but also contain the additional shade of predicativity.

The predicate like the subject is a structural centre of the sentence and expresses as a rule the primary predicative connection. The secondary predication could be

concerned either with minor members of the sentence or the principal ones. It expresses something additional to the primary predication in the sentence but does not represent the function of the predicate [3, p. 47].

E.g.: It appears advisable to compromise.

His "country cottage" turned out to be an enormous bungalow.

Reading French is easier than speaking it.

I'm sorry for keeping you waiting.

They turned into the large conservatory beautifully lit up with Chinese lamps.

Having reached the classroom, she became the object of many questions.

The secondary predication has its own peculiar means of expression: detached attributes; detached appositions; detached objects; detached adverbial modifiers; complex members of the sentence; absolute constructions.

Before classifying the predicative word-combination in Modern English we should define the question about the detached members of the sentence and their place as the syntactical structures more exactly. The detached minor members of the sentence are segments of the sentence, which are distinguished with the help of intonation. They always represent the connected whole. The detached members include the additional information, which has shades of various meanings and expresses the secondary predication in the sentence. In Modern English they differ from the corresponding complex members of the sentence not only by the simplicity of their structure but also by the quality of the informational role in the sentence is the same. The Complex Attribute, the Detached Attribute, the Complex Adverbial Modifier, the Detached Adverbial Modifier, the Complex Subject and the Complex Object represent the same amount of the information and are the bearer of the secondary predicativity. The Absolute Construction in the English language, as a rule, has its own subject, which differs from the subject of the principal clause. Its predicate is bound. But there are cases when the absolute predicate should be considered to be free because its subject is the minor member of the general structure of the sentence.

Detached Attributes.

E.g.: The letter, quickly burnt...

Disturbed and attracted, he had come out.

Her eyes, puffed and wet with tears, looked past him. He set silent, clever enough to speak.

Detached Appositions.

E.g.: He stood there, his face to the south.

He came in, a large parcel under his arm.

Bag and overcoat in hand, then he started out.

Detached Adverbial Modifiers.

E.g.: I wonder at Jolyon's allowing this engagement.

I did think sometimes that Mrs. Marshall was frightened of her husband knowing.

He came in, with a large parcel under his arm.

Detached Object.

E.g.: Huckleberry Finn was there, with his dead cat.

A silver tray was brought, with German plums.

Your going off without any money.

Detached Specifying Members of the Sentence.

E.g.: She set calmly, her hand in his hands.

He walked down the street, all the dogs following him.

The girl stopped in the middle of the stairs, a slim figure.

Absolute Secondary Predicate

E.g.: There was a big empty two-wheeled cart, the shafts tipped high up in the vain.

It is strange in a way, me being Secretary to the Society, that I haven't even bothered to fix up.

He looked defiantly around the table, his eyes flat, his face pale.

All the guests stood up, glass in hand.

Being a snob, it pleased his vanity to educate his sons.

The predicative connections, the bearers of the categorial meaning of the internal secondary predication, according to their morphological structure represent the bright picture of various structures: Complex Subject; Complex Object; Complex Attribute; Complex Adverbial Modifier.

Complex Subject

E.g.: It was his intention to go to London.

It made him be quiet.

For him to stay here is impossible. I sometimes think it is shame for people to spend so much money this way.

Complex Predicative

E.g.: This duty was my fighting for peace.

Complex Object

E.g.: He wanted Maria to come at five.

I felt the blood rush into my cheeks and then leave them again.

He stood his cap in his hand.

He went away his heart full of emotions.

Complex Attribute

E.g.: There's nobody here for him to play with.

The best thing for you to do is to bide here with your load...

I hope you don't mind me coming.

### Complex Adverbial Modifier

E.g.: Manston went homeward alone, with his heart full of strange emotions.

The daughter sat quite silent and still, with her eyes fixed on the ground.

I found him ready and waiting for me, with his stick in his hand.

In conclusion we may say that the language system of Modern English is the product of a radical typological reconstruction, which began in Middle English period and is still in progress. Since all the basic structural characteristics of Modern English were absent in the system of Old English, it must be recognized that the language structure has undergone a radical change from the synthetic inflexional type to the analytical type. The non-finite subparadigm has been restricted in such a way that its three components - the Infinitive, the Participle and the Gerund – are no longer separately correlated with nouns, adjectives or adverbs and differ primarily in their relative distance from the finites, on the one hand, and the three above mentioned parts of speech, on the other, making a peculiar feature of Modern English.

The primary predication is found in modal and predicative relations and reflects the character of the relation between the thought and the reality; the secondary predication is revealed in the form of the predicative connection and has its own peculiar means of expression: members of the sentence, absolute constructions, complex members of the sentence. The frequent use of constructions of the secondary predication is the specific feature of English syntax and because of them it assumes laconism and compression on the level on syntax. Thus, the predicativity as the characteristics of the sentence reveals in the form of the predicative connection between the members of the sentence. The predicative connection joins not only principal members of the sentence but also some minor ones, where the predicativity can be named secondary. The secondary predicativity can refer to the minor and principal members of the sentence. It can not perform the functions of the predicate and bears the additional information.

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### ***КОНСТРУКЦІЇ ВТОРИННОЇ ПРЕДИКАЦІЇ У СУЧАСНІЙ АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ***

У статті йдеться про вторинну предикацію у сучасній англійській мові. Основна ідея статті – це дослідження перевірки особливостей олі предикативних конструкцій, аналіз їх синтетичного походження, їх особливе використання. Визначено первинну предикацію, що знаходиться у предикативних відносинах та визначає характер відносин між думкою й реальністю. Розглянуто вторинну предикацію у формі предикативного зв'язку та її власного особливого засобу виразу: члени речення, абсолютні конструкції, головні члени речення. Проаналізовано, що вільне використання конструкцій вторинної предикації – це специфічна ознака синтаксису, що є наслідком виникнення лаконізму та компресії на синтаксичному рівні.

Ключові слова: вторинна предикація, первинна предикація, зв'язок, речення, конструкції, засоби виразів, синтаксис, аналіз, тип, категорія.

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## ***КОНСТРУКЦИИ ВТОРИЧНОЙ ПРЕДИКАЦИИ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ***

В статье идет речь о вторичной предикации в современном английском языке. Основная идея статьи – это исследование проверки особенностей полипредикативных конструкций, анализ их синтетического происхождения, их особенное использование. Определено первичную предикацию, которая находится в предикативных отношениях и определяет характер отношений между мыслью и реальностью. Рассмотрено вторичную предикацию в форме предикативной связи и ее собственного способа выражения: члены предложения, абсолютные конструкции, главные члены предложения. Проанализировано свободное использование конструкций вторичной предикативности, которая есть специфическим признаком синтаксиса, что есть следствием происхождения лаконизма и компрессии на синтаксическом уровне.

Ключевые слова: вторичная предикация, первичная предикация, связь, предложения, конструкции, способы выражения, синтаксис, анализ, тип, категория.

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