



أهمية واستخدامات الجمل بدون فعل في اللغة الإنجليزية

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الملخص

تناقش هذه الورقة نوعاً واحداً من الجمل الفرعية، وهو الجملة بدون فعل. تسلط الضوء على التعريفات الأساسية، الأنواع، الوظائف النحوية، وعمليات تشكيل هذه الجمل. علاوة على ذلك، تشير إلى الكلمات التي تقدم هذه الجمل، والتي تُسمى التوابع. تحاول الورقة توضيح الفروق والحدود للجمل بدون فعل، وتهدف الورقة إلى:

1. تعريف وتحليل الجمل بدون فعل في الجمل.
 2. تقديم الأنواع الفرعية المختلفة للجمل بدون فعل.
 3. مناقشة الوظائف النحوية للجمل بدون فعل.
- تقتضى الورقة أن:
1. يمكن تشكيل الجمل بدون فعل من خلال عملية الحذف.
 2. يمكن تشكيل الجمل بدون فعل من خلال عملية التسمية.
 3. هناك أنواع فرعية مختلفة من الجمل بدون فعل.
 4. هناك وظائف نحوية متنوعة للجمل بدون فعل.
- الكلمات المفتاحية:** جملة بدون فعل، حذف، اسمية، صفة، وظرف.

The Importance and Uses of Verbless Clauses in English

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Abstract

The present paper discusses one type of subordinate clauses of sentences, that is, the verbless clause. It sheds the light on the basic definitions, types, grammatical functions and the processes of forming these clauses.

Furthermore, there is a reference to the words that introduces these clauses, which are called subordinators. It tries to make clear distinctions and boundaries for verbless clauses.

The paper aims at:

1. define and analyze the verbless clauses in sentences.
2. present the different subtypes of verbless clauses.
3. discuss the grammatical functions of verbless clauses.

The paper hypothesizes that:

1. verbless clauses can be formed by a process of deletion.
2. verbless clauses can be formed by a process of nominalization.
3. there are different subtypes of verbless clauses.



4. there are various grammatical functions of verbless clauses .

Keywords: Verbless clause, deletion, nominal, adjectival and adverbial

1. Introduction

Verbless clauses are the clauses that hasn't a verb but still able to perform a grammatical and meaningful clause. Ellipsis can be said to be one important source to form verbless clauses. Radford (1988:98) refers to this fact by calling it as some kind of 'gapping' since it creates a gap in the structure of a phrase or a clause. Furthermore, there are frequent cases where the verb in the first clause is the same as in the second; thus it could be gapped, e.g.

" *John bought an apple, and Mary a pear.*" (ibid, 238)

On the other hand, Radford states that not all verbs in their verbless phrases allow the gapping processes since they are restricted to complex conditions. Villalón (1997:NP) discusses the possibility of having a subordinate clause if the deletion of the verb is the reason behind forming a verbless clause

"*I love when I dance the tango*"

Quirk et al (1985: 996-7) produces the terms verbless clause, finite clause and non-finite clause as the main structures for dependent clauses.

Because of its distinguished and abnormal structure, Verbless subordinate clauses are typically seen in written language in a more formal style, when complex phrases with a hierarchical structure that combine two or more predictions are employed.

2. Verbless Clauses Definition

It is defined by Roberts as a "group of words which despite the absence of an un subordinating finite verb, is felt to constitute a complete utterance" (1954: 289). Since this shows the same grammatical functions as a finite cause, it's quite reasonable to call it a clause (Leech and Svartvik, 1994: 214).

'Syntactic compression' or ' complex condensation' are terms used respectively by Quirk et al (1985: 996) and Mathesius (1975:146) to describe this type of clauses. The deletion of the two elements, subject and verb, is capable of expressing whole content complexes (Mathesius, 1975: 146).

Verbless phrases are mostly subjectless and pass through syntactic constriction (Quirk et al., 1985:996). It is frequently credible to recover the subject from the context when it is deleted and suggest an absent form of the verb BE in verbless clauses.e.g.

Whether right or wrong, he always comes off worst in arguments [whether he is right or wrong].



The term “verbless clause” is introduced in *English Grammar – A University Course*. The reference book terms it a “subsidiary type of clause” (1986: 100). Furthermore, it is found under the title of peripheral elements and called detached predicatives in *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (1999: 136-137).

However, the term verbless clauses are not found in *Cambridge Grammar of English – A Comprehensive Guide Spoken and Written English Grammar and Usage*; but there are some types of structures that don’t have the subject and verb elements under the title of types of subordinate clauses (2006: 539); e.g.

-he went wherever (*it was*) **necessary**.

3. Processes of Forming Verbless Clauses

In the following section, the two processes of forming verbless clauses are introduced: deletion and nominalization.

3.1 Deletion

Based on the following example, verbless clauses can be formed as a result of omitting the linking verb, especially be (Quirk et al., 1985: 992).

A deletion of the verb can also be formed by reducing a finite clause to the non-finite one and eventually making a verbless clause:

John believes **the prisoner innocent**.

(Bailyn, 2000: 4)

3.2 Nominalization

Crystal (2003: 314) defines nominalization as the processes of changing a word class into a noun; e.g.,

Red (adjective) redness (noun).

or deriving a noun phrase from another sentence, e.g. :

. *Her answering the letter*

An explicitness of nominalization and the structure of the verbless clause depends on identifying nominal or adverbial elements by the use of determiners and modifiers. (Quirk et al., 1985: 1289)

4. Types of Verbless Clauses

According to Quirk et al. (1985, 844-5), there are five main types of verbless clauses:

1. the first type, that is more common, the subject is added as a noun phrase tag.
2. this second one is made of 'and' that links a subject and subject complement.



3. The third type is only a complement. It's considered as a remark to the previous clause that joins it by 'and'.

4. One literary and rather antiquated kind of rhetorical WH-interrogative is a verbless sentence. It is composed of either the subject complement by itself or the subject followed by the subject complement. It stands for a relationship of comparison.

5. the last type is also a rhetorical WH-interrogative. It differs from the previous one in that it contains a comparison and it's said to be less formal.

5. Subordinators of Verbless Clauses

The meanings and uses of subordinators vary depending on the context they appear in; and they usually comes before nonfinite and verbless clauses. For example, Chalker (1984: 243) lists the following headings with their uses:

as (time, reason, manner, concession)

as long as (time, condition)

if (condition, concession)

in case (purpose in British English), but (condition in American English)

now that (time, reason)

since (time, reason)

so that (purpose, result)

when (time, concession)

while (time, concession) (ibid.)

Eventually, subordinators effect on the grammatical classes of the clauses they came with. On the other hand, excluding the bare infinitive, 'with, without' precede almost all the classes. Connection of contingency is made when a noun phrase comes after the mentioned subordinators.

6. Functions of Verbless Clause

The positions of the verbless clause determine its functions. So it may have one of the following functions:

6.1 Nominal

As verbless clauses may act as nouns, they may be found as subject, direct object, appositive or prepositional complement:

- The umpire declared *the runner safe*. (direct object). (Algeo, 1974: 179)

6.2 Adjectival

Under any condition, they can have the role of postmodifiers:

I've got a lot of friends, *most of them students like me*. (Bruti, 2003:11)

6.3 Adverbial



Verbless clauses can also act as an adverb that affect the meaning of the overall sentence:

Completely undismayed, he drove the damaged car.
(Quirk et al., 1985: 351)

They can also refer to various semantic connections:

While in London, we'll stay at a hotel. (time)
(Hasselgard,2003,5)

Conclusions

1. Verbless clauses can be formed as a result of omitting the linking verb, especially be.
2. They can also be formed by a process of nominalization, that is a term used to refer to the “process of forming a noun from other word class;
or it is the derivation of a noun phrase from an underlining clause.
3. There are five subtypes of verbless clauses that have been mentioned by Quirk et al(1985) and each one can be recognized by its form and the used subordinator.
4. There are three main positions that the verbless clause place in: nominal, adjectival and adverbial with different semantic indications.

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