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Проблематика лексем с окончанием «-ing» в английском языке

Аннотация: Данная статья посвящена проблеме «-ing» форм в английском языке. В ней анализируются и рассматриваются различия между причастием настоящего времени, герундием и отглагольным существительным. Отмечается, что, несмотря на внешнее сходство, каждая из этих категорий обладает своими специфическими особенностями. Причастие в основном сочетает в себе свойства глагола, прилагательного и частично наречия. Герундий, в свою очередь, проявляет признаки существительного и глагола. И герундий, и отглагольное существительное могут выполнять синтаксические функции подлежащего и дополнения. Это еще раз доказывает, что данные неличные формы глагола относятся к разряду субстантивных слов.

Ключевые слова: «-ing» формы, причастие настоящего времени, герундий, отглагольное существительное, именные свойства, глагольные свойства

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The Problematics of Lexemes with the “-ing” Suffix in English

Abstract: This article is devoted to the issue of -ing forms in the English language, specifically analyzing and discussing the distinctions between the present participle, the gerund, and the verbal noun. It is noted that while the present participle, gerund, and verbal noun are morphologically identical, each category possesses distinct characteristics. The present participle primarily embodies the features of a verb, an adjective, and partially an adverb. The gerund, on the other hand, exhibits the characteristics of both a noun and a verb. Both the gerund and the verbal noun can function syntactically as the subject or the object. This further proves that these non-finite forms of the verb belong to the category of substantive words.

Key words: -ing forms, present participle, gerund, verbal noun, nominal characteristics, verbal characteristics

1. INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, society has shown a particular interest in learning the English language. This indicates that through the study of English, practical, cognitive, and professional values have increased several times over.

In the present article, we have decided to investigate one of the controversial and complex issues of morphology dealing with words expressed by the "-ing"morpheme.

In the English language, there are words formed with the "-ing" morpheme. These words in English include the present participle (Participle I), the gerund, and the verbal noun.

The issue of words expressed with "-ing" in English has attracted the attention of many scientists and linguists, who have addressed this matter in their scientific works. Regarding this topic, well-known English linguists such as Yu.D. Apresyan [1], A.Z. Reznik, R.V. Reznik [11], A.I. Smirnitsky [13], and Tajik scholars such as T. Tadzhiev [14], M.B. Shahobova [12], R.A. Ibragimova [7], and B.P. Ashrapov [2; 3; 4; 5; 6] have conducted scientific research.

2. METHODS

To understand the nature of these forms, we utilized historical and comparative analysis. Historically, in Old English, the verbal noun existed with the suffix "-in-" or "-un-". In Middle English, the "-ing" morpheme emerged from these two linguistic units, indicating the belonging of such words to the category of verbal nouns. As the authors of the textbook "History of the English Language" write: "During the Middle English period, the verbal noun with "-ing" undergoes a process of verbalization. Initially, the verbal noun showed the noun in the possessive case, but in the Middle period, it acquired the characteristic of taking an object and also adverbial modifiers. It was precisely this early period of verbalization that transformed these types of nouns into a special verbal form, which acted as non-finite forms of the verb, possessing both verbal and nominal properties" [8: 208].

As a result, another non-finite form of the verb, called "the gerund", emerged. It should be noted that in the ancient period, Participle I existed with the suffix "-end(e)" and in the middle of the 13th century, under the influence of dialects, it changed to the suffix "-ing(e)". Consequently, from the beginning of the Middle period, the gerund and Participle I were both formed identically through the suffix "-ing". At the end of the 18th century, a distinction between the gerund and the verbal noun emerged [11: 209–210]. Accordingly, three linguistic units are used in the English language, all three having the same "-ing" morpheme: 1) the verbal noun, 2) Participle I, 3) the gerund.

3. MAIN RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our analysis shows that verbal forms expressed through the "-ing" morpheme have various interpretations. The group of non-finite forms of the verb expressed with "-ing" includes the gerund and Participle I. Regarding the naming of these verbal forms, there is a divergence of opinion among linguists. According to the first view, non-finite forms (gerund and present participle) are included in this group and are called "-ing forms" [10: 55–105]. Another group of linguists notes that while the gerund and present participle are non-finite forms of the verb, they have no similarity to each other at all in terms of their characteristics [9: 75; 11: 249].

It should be noted that this diversity of opinion has its reasons, as these verbal forms are not uniform by nature. To prove this view, we turn to linguistic materials:

Your coming has done him good [19: 68].

He was interrupted while doing it [19: 73].

In the examples above, the words expressed with the "-ing" morpheme (*coming*, *doing*) act as gerunds both semantically and grammatically.

Or we pay attention to another example:

The evening before their return to Paris he was sitting on the terrace with his mother, listening to the monitoring screaming of cicadas, enjoying the cool night breeze [20: 52].

In this example, six words are expressed with the "-ing" morpheme. Here we focus our attention more on the words *sitting* and *listening*. The word *sitting* consists of two morphemes (*sit* and *-ing*), where the root morpheme *sit* expresses the name of the action, and the inflectional morpheme "*-ing"* reinforces the root morpheme. In this case, *sitting* together with the auxiliary verb *was* expresses the meaning of the continuous aspect and accordingly is considered Participle I. The word *listening* also explains the mental state of the subject during the performance of the action and expresses the syntactic function of the adverbial modifier of manner. This word is also Participle I.

As can be seen from the sentences above, that the gerund is outwardly similar to Participle I. However, it should be noted that there are fundamental differences between them.

The controversial nature of the grammatical status of the participle depends on several factors and characteristics inherent to this grammatical phenomenon. The existence of properties of both verb and adjective, adverb and partly noun in some participles in English, as well as the functions of the participle in the sentence, are included among such factors.

The aspectual and logical characteristic of the English participle is seen in the fact that in special syntactic constructions they can express the secondary predicate of the sentence.

Syntagmatic characteristics of the participle show that the valency properties of the verb are more prominent. Despite this, the participle can act as an adjunct of verb phrases. The mixed functions of the participle often coincide with the functions of the verb. All this proves that the participle belongs to the verb group.

In English, scientists speak of the existence of two participles: Participle I and II. Participle I has categories of relative time and voice [15: 179].

As is known, in linguistics, the category of tense is defined as a relation to the moment of speech. The essence of this category is "determining the simultaneity, priority, or succession of an action relative to the moment of speech, expressed through tense forms opposed to each other" [16: 89]. When determining the list of tenses for finite forms of the verb, the time of the action's performance relative to the moment of speech is taken into account.

Participle I, like the verb, expresses the meaning of an action. For example:

Feeling tired, Jude sat down on one of the sofas [19: 6];

The rising moon was whitening the paddock beside the road [18: 56].

Participle I, like a verb, accepts objects and adverbial modifiers. Example:

He could see apple blossoms covering the orchard [17: 14] (object);

The captain walked up and down looking straight before him [18: 23] (adverbial modifier).

Like the verb, Participle I has perfect and non-perfect forms: *writing – having written*. It also, like the verb, has active and passive forms: *writing – being written*, *having written – having been written*.

Alongside this, Participle I possesses some properties of an adjective. It functions syntactically as an attribute. It can be placed before or after the word it modifies. For example:

It was a very cold day, with cutting blasts of wind [16: 17] (prepositive attribute);

The fresh morning air flowing through my open window cooled me [16: 58] (postpositive attribute).

Participle I acts as a prepositive attribute if it does not have words or phrases subordinate to it. For example:

Florence hurried away in the advancing morning [16: 25].

Subordinate words of Participle I are necessarily placed after the modified word. Example: *The man standing behind the counter picked the camera* [20: 89] (postpositive attribute). Adverbially, Participle I acts as an adverbial modifier in the sentence. For example:

Rising he went to the window [17: 73];

Being of a nervous temperament she trembled at her enterprise [17: 59];

Clara sat in the cool parlour reading [20: 114].

The gerund is inherent to the English language; like Participle I, it is formed from the stem of the infinitive with the suffix "-ing": *reading*, *writing*, *living*, etc. The nominal characteristic of the gerund is its expression of the concept of an object. In a sentence, it performs the syntactic functions of subject, object, and the nominal part of the predicate.

1) *Avoiding difficulties is not my method* [18: 47] (subject);
2) *Reading French is easier than speaking it* [20: 15] (subject);
3) *He denied having been here* [20: 196] (object);
4) *He liked living with the other children in the boarding house* [17: 12] (object);
5) *His first job was getting her tea* [18: 37] (nominal part of the predicate).

The gerund, like a noun, can be used with a preposition: *After buying a book or two he could not even afford himself a fire* [18: 95]; *You prevent him from spending his own money* [18: 97] (object). Another nominal characteristic of the gerund is that the preposition "of" can be used before it, in which case it serves as an attribute: *There was no possibility of taking a walk that day* [17: 54].

The gerund, like a verb, expresses the meaning of an action: *I have no objection to hearing your story* [18: 90]. Like a verb, it occurs with direct or indirect objects. For example:

I was awakened by hearing my own name [16: 96];

And without waiting for her answer he turned and left us [16: 167].

The gerund can also take an adverbial modifier. Example:

By travelling slowly we reached the ranch in safety [20: 130];

I don't like your going out at ten o'clock [17: 91].

Another verbal property of the gerund is seen in its having active and passive forms: the active gerund is formed from the infinitive stem with "-ing", and the passive form consists of the auxiliary "be" + "ing" + Participle II of the lexical verb: *writing* (active) – *being written* (passive) [15: 230].

The verbal noun is considered a homonymous form of the gerund and Participle I, as it differs from them in several characteristics.

The verbal noun in English can take an article like a noun, as seen in the following examples:

1) *But at that moment a loud knocking was heard at the hall door* [16: 49];

2) *I turned round when I heard the soft closing of the door* [16: 15].

A noun has the category of number, indicating one or more objects. The verbal noun also has the category of number, as it can have a plural form, taking a plural suffix. For example: *He told of his various comings and goings*. In this sentence, *comings* and *goings* are verbal nouns, as indicated by the plural suffix.

The verbal noun can be associated with a noun or pronoun through a preposition. For example:

1) *The sudden growing of the dog shook me back into the possession of myself* [17: 213];

2) *The only sound in the darkness was the bubbling of the stream* [17: 213].

In these sentences, *growing* and *bubbling* are linked with the nouns *dog* and *stream* by the preposition *of*. Therefore, the verbal noun is observed in these examples.

It should be noted that the preposition *of* can also come before a gerund, but in that case, it serves as an attribute. Example: *There was no possibility of taking a walk that day* [20: 174]. Since the verbal noun has more noun-like features, it performs the syntactic functions of subject and object.

4. CONCLUSION

Thus, verbal forms expressed through the "-ing" morpheme have different explanations. They appear similar, but each has its own characteristics:

1. The participle has the property of an adjective, while the gerund possesses noun-like characteristics. Therefore, Participle I can perform the function of an attribute through adjunction, whereas the gerund in this function is linked to a noun with a preposition.

2. The gerund can take a preposition, but a preposition is never used before Participle I.

3. The participle in the function of an adverbial modifier and the gerund function as distinct morphological entities with specific translational equivalents.

4. The gerund can be linked with a possessive pronoun or a noun in the possessive case, while Participle I lacks this possibility.

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