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Finite and non-finite verb phrases

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ)

(سورة الزمر : الآية ٩)

{In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful}

{Say, "Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know?" It is those who are endued with understanding that receive admonition }

Surah Al-Zamar : verse 9

(A. Yusuf Ali)

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Dedication

To My Parents, My Supervisor, those who taught us until we learned, those who encourage and help us to reach the point and achieve our goals for our relatives.

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Abstract

The nature and behavior of finite and non-finite verbs when used in a statement perform as a differentiation between them. Finite verbs are those that communicate the subject's mood, tense, number, and person. On the other hand, non-finite verbs do not agree with the subject and can be used in the present participle, past participle or infinitive forms to perform different functions in a sentence .Also , It is referred to as non-finite for several verb tenses. They are most frequently used in the present and past participles as well as the 'to infinitive'. In non-finite contexts, the base form is frequently utilized. Every verb has a finite and non-finite use in a clause.

الخلاصة

تعمل طبيعة وسلوك الأفعال المحدودة وغير المحدودة عند استخدامها في بيان ما كتمييز بينها. الأفعال المحدودة هي تلك التي تنقل مزاج الشخص وزمن الفعل، المفرد والجمع والضمائر. من ناحية أخرى، لا تتفق الأفعال غير المحدودة مع المبتدأ ويمكن استخدامها في المضارع المستمر أو أشكال الماضي التام لأداء وظائف مختلفة في الجملة. أيضاً، يشار إليها على أنها أفعال غير محدودة لعدد من أزمنة الفعل. غالباً ما يتم استخدامها في الماضي التام وكذلك المصدرية. في السياقات غير المحدودة، يتم استخدام الشكل الأساسي بشكل متكرر. كل فعل له استخدام محدود وغير محدود في الجملة.

1. Introduction

There are two main categories of verbs in English: finite verbs and non-finite verbs. Firstly, A finite clause has a subject and a primary verb that can be inflected for tense, person, and often number. A finite clause can act as a coordinate clause, a subordinate clause, a supplementary clause, or it can stand alone as an independent clause of a sentence. These verbs which can either main verb of a sentence or the one that is used as an adjective or nouns as well. or the participle form of verb is used in a sentence either as a noun or an adjective. The number and/or person of the subject, as well as the verb's tense, can change with finite verbs, which are a general category of verbs. The verb forms that don't change are known as non-finite verb. Also , When a verb has a corresponding subject or tense, it is said to be non-finite. Non-finite verbs in English grammar can be classified as infinitives, gerunds, or participles. Many such non-finite verbs end with -ing, -ed, ,- d, z or , - t. Furthermore , Finite verb forms show tense, person and number like : I go, she goes, we went, etc. On the other hand, Non-finite verb forms do not show tense, person or number. Typically they are infinitive forms with and without to e.g. to go, go, -ing forms and -ed forms like : going, gone.

2. Finite phrases

Verb phrases can comprise of just the main verb : She writes several letters every day. Verb phrases can also contain one or more auxiliary verbs before the main verb (**Leech and Svartvik ,1994:396**).

Auxiliary verbs such as 'be', 'have',' might' are 'helping verbs' and help the main verb to make up verb phrases:

She is writing a long letter home.

She has been writing letters all morning.

Those letters might never have been written, if you hadn't reminded her. There are three primary auxiliary verbs: 'do',' have', and 'be'. As the table shows, these verbs can also act as main verbs (**ibid**).

Note: All lexical verbs including 'be' and its forms are Finite Verbs (**Murthy,2011:113**).

Verb phrases are either finite or non-finite. A finite verb phrase is one that carries a contrast in tense between present and past, and may also be marked for person and number (**Greenbaum and Nelson, 2009:79**).

In a finite verb phrase the first or only verb is finite, and the other verbs if any are non-finite (**ibid**).

When a verb is limited by a person and number, it is called a finite verb ;as, she goes to school (**Sood,1985:89**).

The Verb ' goes' has its own subject she and is thus a finite verb.

There are two kinds of verbs in English, namely: Finite Verb and Non Finite Verb (**Murthy,2011:113**).

Finite Verb: A verb which shows time or a verb which is limited by number, person, gender of the subject is known as a Finite Verb(**Murthy,2011:113**).

Ex: She writes letters.

They write letters.

We have written letters.

I shall write letters.

In the examples, the verb write has been changed according to the number, person, and tense of the subject. So the various forms of the verb write are examples of Finite verb (**Murthy,2011:113**).

Finite verb phrases may consist of just a finite verb : He worked very hard indeed (**Leech and Svartvik ,1994:397**).

In finite verb phrases consisting of more than one verb, the finite verb is the first one (was and had in these examples) :

-He was working for a computer company at the time.

-The enemy's attack had been planned for fifteen years (**ibid**).

The finite verb is the element of the verb phrase which has present or past tense. In the given examples working and been planned are non-finite verb forms, but they function in finite verb phrases: was working and had been planned (**ibid**).

Finite verb phrases occur as the verb element of main clauses and most sub clauses (**Leech and Svartvik ,1994:398**) .

The Conjugation of a verb is its inflection to show its properties Tense, Mood, and Number (**Hazen,1899: 235**).

2.1. Tense

The tense have three general divisions of time Past, Present, and Future. The past tense has two sections-the Present Perfect and the Past Perfect. The future tense has one subdivision-the Future Perfect (**Hazen,1899: 235**).

There are therefore six tenses

Present, Past, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Future, and Future Perfect.

The simple tenses show only the time of the act.

The compound tenses show the time and condition of the act. English verbs have but two tense-forms (**ibid**).

Regular (love : loved) Irregular (have: had)

Tense Phrases: The compound tenses are formed of two or more words (**Hazen,1899: 236**).

Present Perfect Form. I have loved.

Past Perfect Form. I had loved.

Future Form. I shall or will love

Future Perfect Form . I shall or will have loved.

The Present Tense is used:

1. To indicate the present division of time without regard to its extension—
Bicycles are now used everywhere. The present division of time indicated in this sentence may be the day, the week, the century, the season (**ibid**).
2. To state a general truth,— Two and two are four (**ibid**).
3. To state a present intention of a future action ,I go West next week (**ibid**).

The Past Tense is used to indicate indefinite past time (**Hazen,1899: 236**).

-He ran, he stumbled, he fell.

The Future Tense is used to denote indefinite future time (**Hazen,1899:237**).

- The battle will be fought.

The Present Perfect Tense is used to denote the completion of an act or condition at or before the present time (**ibid**).

-I have seen London.

The Past Perfect Tense is used to denote the completion of an act or condition at or before some other past time (**Hazen,1899: 236**).

-Morning came, but the prisoners had escaped.

The Future Perfect Tense is used to denote the completion of an act or condition at or before some other definite future time (**ibid**).

-Before morning the prisoners will have escaped.

2.2. Number

English has three concords i.e. tense concord, number concord and person concord and the presence of any one or more of these concords makes a verb finite and if a verb has none of these concords, it's a non-finite verb.(or simply we can say only a tensed verb is a finite verb because a tenseness verb can't get any concord) (**Kumawat,2020:23**).

The following sentences explain the varied concord system in English:

- She has arrived here. (tense and number concord)
- You have arrived here. (tense and number concord)
- I have arrived here. (tense and person concord)
- You can read here.(tense concord)(**ibid**).

- Open the window. (no concord) (**Kumawat,2020:23**).

Only the verb nearest to subject is the finite verb. In these sentences we see that the italic part of each sentence shows the verb phrase and within this verb phrase the bold part shows a concord-taking verb. This concord taking verb is a finite verb and in a verb phrase the finite verb can be only one (only the first verb). If the first verb of a verb phrase is finite, the whole verb phrase is called a finite verb phrase and if the first verb in a verb phrase is non-finite, that is a non-finite verb phrase. Thus in the first to fourth sentence above, the verb phrases i.e. has arrived, have arrived and can read are finite verb phrases but the last sentence has a non-finite verb phrase. It shows no concord (**ibid**).

2.3 Mood

There are three moods in English: indicative, imperative, and subjunctive. Also, Mood is sometimes referred to as mode instead (**Levy,1998:207**).

1.The indicative mood

The indicative mood is used to state a fact, to express an opinion, or to ask a question (**ibid**).

Fact: Three people were killed in the accident

Opinion: It was a terrible accident.

Question: What caused the accident?

2.The imperative mood

The imperative mood is used to give a command or to give directions. The subject of the sentence, you, is implied (**Levy,1998:207**).

Command: Call 911

Direction: Tell the dispatcher we have two people with major injuries(**ibid**).

3. The subjunctive mood .

The subjunctive mood is used to express a suggestion or a requirement or to express desires or conditions that are contrary to fact (**Levy,1998:207**).

Suggestion: I suggest that Bob go with the paramedics to the hospital.

Requirement: We require that he sign a release if he decides not to go to the hospital.

Desire: I wish I knew what to say to convince him to go to the hospital.

Condition: If I were him, I would go to the hospital (**ibid**).

The indicative and imperative moods are relatively simple. However, the subjunctive mood sometimes causes problems for writers because the verbs do not always take the same forms that they do in the other moods. Look at the examples above. We have Bob go instead of Bob goes, he sign instead of he signs, I knew instead of I know, and I were instead of I was. The remainder of this section provides guidelines on how to choose the correct verb form when writing in the subjunctive mood (**Levy,1998:207**).

3.Non-finite verb phrases

Non Finite Verb: A verb which does not show time or a verb which is not limited by number, person and tense of the subject is known as a Non Finite verb (**Murthy,2011:113**) .

Non-finite verb phrases, on the other hand, frequently have no explicit subject, but only an implicit subject. The implicit subject is usually identical with the subject of the finite verb, cf. *I want to leave* where the non-finite verb phrase to leave has no explicit subject, but only an it one, i.e. I, which is the subject of the finite verb *want* (**Hjulmand and Schwarz,2012:179**).

A non-finite verb phrase may, however, have its own subject, cf. *I want him to leave* where him is the subject in the non-finite him to leave (**ibid**).

Note that the subject in non-finite clauses is sometimes either a pronoun object case, e.g. me, them, or-with-ing- also a possessive or a noun in the genitive (**Hjulmand and Schwarz,2012:179**).

Non-finite clauses cannot be used independently to leave; him to leave and finally they cannot contain modal verbs (**ibid**).

Written on a few beer mats in a Soho bar, the song was an instant hit.

Non-finite verb phrases normally do not occur as the verb phrase of an independent sentence (**Greenbaum and Nelson,2013:79**).

Non-finite verb phrases:

I actually like to get up early in the morning.

She heard the door open.

My father got a degree through working in the evenings.

Having bought this drill, how do I set about using it?

When asked to help she never refused.

Non-finite verb phrases have no finite verb form but one (or more than one) non-finite verb form (in these examples: to get up, open, working, having bought, asked) (**Leech and Svartvik,1994 :399**).

Kinds of non-finite verbs: There are three kinds of Non-Finite Verbs in English, namely:

1. Infinitive

2. Gerund

3. Participle (**sood,1985:89**) and (**Murthy,2011:114**).

3.1 Infinitive phrases

The non-finite parts of the verb are: base: to-infinitive (to write) base: bare infinitive (write) (**Chalker ,1989:145**) .

A. To infinitive:

It is formed by placing 'to' before the root verb. Ex: Root verb Infinitive Write to write Speak to speak (**Murthy,2011:114**).

Infinitive clauses An infinitive can be followed by an object or complainant and/or by one or more adverbials. The infinitive together with such phrases is called an infinitive clause. A sightseeing tour is the best way to see the city (**Greenbaum and Quirk,1990: 286**).

infinitives : for ... to ... 1 infinitive with its own subject The structure for+ noun/pronoun + infinitive is very common in English. It is used when an infinitive needs its own subject. Compare: - Ann will be happy to help you. (Ann will help.) Ann will be happy for the children to help you. (The children will help.) Object forms of pronouns are used. Ann will be happy for them to help you. (Not for they to help you) (**Swan,2007:266**).

Uses of “to infinitive”

1. As the subject of a verb. Ex: To advise others is easy. To learn English is difficult. To please Padma is hard. Note: These sentences must be written with a preparatory subject 'it'. Ex: It is easy to advise others. It is difficult to learn English (**Murthy,2011:116**).

2. As the object of a transitive verb Ex: I wish to become a poet. He likes to read books (**ibid**).

3. As the complement of a verb Ex: Our greatest pleasure is to help the poor. My ambition is to marry her (**ibid**).

4. As the object of a preposition Ex: I had no choice but to give up my hope.
We are about to begin our work (**Murthy,2011:116**).

5. As an object complement Ex: We heard him speak to his father. We found her open the door (**ibid**).

B .Bare infinitive :

The infinitive verb form without "to"

“Uses of bare infinitive”

1.Bare Infinitive is used with the following verbs (**Murthy,2011:117**).

Ex: Bid let hear Watch make need See help dare

Ex: I bade him go.

I watched Padma talk.

Let him speak.

She made me understand life.

I helped her learn English.

Note: Dare and need as principal verbs are used with 'to' Infinitive. Ex: Did he dare to jump in the river? We need two days to finish the work (**ibid**).

2. With Auxiliary Verbs Ex: Shall may do dare Should might did Will can must would could need Ex: I shall go there. You should know that. She will pay the money. They would help me. He must return the money (**ibid**).

3. With Certain Phrases Ex Had better sooner than Had rather than would rather Ex: You had better consult a good doctor. You had rather speak to her about it. I would rather work hard than take rest (**Murthy,2011:118**).

4. With Certain Prepositions Ex: except, but, than Ex: Padma does nothing except blame others. I can do everything but understand her nature. I would die rather than accept defeat (**ibid**).

3.2 Gerund:

A gerund is a word ending with 'ing' and has the force of a noun and verb. It is also known as verbal noun. Ex: Writing is my profession **(Murthy,2011:125)**.

Celebrating various festivals is a common feature of the Hindu culture. I enjoy teaching English **(Murthy,2011:125)**.

A grand is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun. A gerund is used in the same ways as a noun, i.e., as a subject or as an object. In (a) playing is a gerund. It is used as the subject of the sentence. Playing tennis is a gerund phrase. In (b): playing is a gerund used as the object of the verb enjoy. In (c): playing is a gerund used as the object of the preposition about **(Azar,2002:297)**.

"Uses of gerund"

1. As subject of a verb Ex: Walking is a good exercise for health. Reading books increases our knowledge. Working hard makes you successful **(Azar,2002:298)**.

2. Object of a transitive verb Ex: He dislikes sleeping long. She hates worrying about the future. I prefer studying computer science **(ibid)**.

3. Object of a preposition Ex: I am tired of applying for jobs. He is afraid of telling the truth. My father is addicted to drinking **(ibid)**.

4. Complement of a verb Ex: My aim in life is becoming a writer. Her objective is starting a home for parentless children. What I want to do in life is achieving something useful for all **(Murthy,2011:125)**.

5. Gerund may be used like an ordinary noun Ex: The planning of time helps us succeed in life. The collecting of taxes is the duty of the Government. The loving of children delights me **(ibid)**.

6. The Possessive Case of the noun and pronoun should be used before gerunds
(**Murthy,2011:126**).

Ex: She insisted on me paying the money. [Incorrect]

She insisted on my paying the money. [Correct]

Note: The Possessive case should not be used with the gerund in the following cases:

(a) Gerund in the passive form (**Murthy,2011:126**).

We were delighted at Mother Teresa being awarded Noble Peace Prize.

[Correct]

We were delighted at Mother Teresa's being awarded Noble Peace Prize.

[Incorrect]

(b) Noun denoting a lifeless thing (**ibid**).

EX: There is no chance of the snow's falling. [Incorrect]

There is no chance of the snow falling. [Correct]

The perfect gerund (having worked, having spoken etc.) This can be used instead of the present form of the gerund (working, speaking etc.) when we are referring to a past action:

He was accused of deserting his ship or He was accused of having deserted his ship (**Thomson and Martine, 1986:233**).

The perfect gerund is fairly usual after deny: He denied having been there.

Otherwise the present form is much the more usual (**ibid**).

The passive gerund

Present: being written

Past: having been written (**Thomson and Martine, 1986:233**).

He was punished by being sent to bed without any supper.

I remember being taken to Paris as a small child.

The safe showed no signs of having been touched (**ibid**).

3.3 Participle

Participle: It is formed by adding "ing" to the root verb (**Murthy,2011:114**).

Note: Present Participle is different from Past Participle.

Ex: Root verb Participle

 Read reading

Note: The gerund and the Present Participle have the same form but gerund is a verbal noun and the Present Participle is a verbal adjective (**ibid**).

Ex: Reading increases our knowledge. [gerund]

Reading the newspaper, he sat in the chair. [participle]

In the first sentence, 'reading' is a gerund because it is the subject of the verb 'is'. But in the second sentence, 'reading the newspaper' is a participle because it qualifies the pronoun 'he' as an adjective (**Murthy,2011:115**).

the Past Participle with the tense of the verb 'be'; as

You are helped You were helped You will be helped (**Sood,1985:95**).

the second action forms part of the first, or is a result of it, we can express the second action by a present participle:

She went out, slamming the door (**Thomson and Martine ,1986:239**).

He fired, wounding one of the bandits (**Thomson and Martine ,1986:239**).

I fell, striking my head against the door and cutting it.

Here we have three actions, the last two expressed by participles (**ibid**).

“Uses of participle”

1. A participle may govern a noun or pronoun; as, Seeing the lion, they ran away. Here the noun 'lion' is governed by the participle 'seeing' (**Sood1985:94**).

2. A participle may be modified by an adverb; as, Loudly weeping, she went away. Here the participle 'weeping' is modified by the adverb 'loudly'. Like participle an adjective, a participle may qualify a noun or pronoun; as Having done his work, he rested (**ibid**).

3. A participle like an adjective, , a participle may be compared; as He is the most troubling boy. Here the participle 'troubling' is compared by prefixing most (**ibid**).

4. Conclusion

There are two subclasses of verbs: finite and non-finite. These two verb subclasses differ from one another in the following ways:

(a) In contrast to non-finite verbs, finite verbs are indicated for tense. According to this rule, each of the following sentences' main clause verbs is a finite verb, while the verbs in the subordinate clauses are not , For example:

the verbs italicized in these sentences, are all non-finite verbs.

She helps me to *learn* English every day.

She helped me to *learn* English yesterday.

He makes me *do* that every day.

(b) In contrast to non-finite verbs, which have such a type of agreement with the subject, finite verbs express number and person agreement.

For example: She *goes* home every day.

I want *her to go* home every day.

The verb italicized in the first example is a finite verb because it shows number and person concord with the subject but

the verb italicized in the second sentence is a non-finite verb because it shows no such concord.

The finite forms of the verb 'be' such as: is, am, are, was, and were; the non-finite forms are: 'to be', 'been', and 'being'. If we use these two criteria, we can say: is, am, are, was, and were, are the finite forms of the verb be. It should be noted that the first of these two criteria which defines finite from non-finite verbs—is more important than the second because all finite verbs in English match it. A large number of finite verbs satisfy the second criterion as well, but

this is by no means an obligatory criterion. Modal auxiliaries, for example, do not show number and person.

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