

PHRASES AND THEIR FEATURES IN ENGLISH

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Abstract

This article focuses on the importance of phrases in linguistics, highlighting their central role as fundamental components of sentences. It aims to demonstrate the characteristics and derivational aspects of phrases, as well as discuss different types of phrases and their variations. The research analyzes basic phrases by examining their origins. Specifically, it investigates how two independent words are connected and derived to form phrases. The outcomes of this study are presented with appropriate justifications based on the findings. Overall, this article provides insights into the structure and evolution of phrases within linguistic frameworks, emphasizing their significance in language and communication.

Keywords: phrase, derivation, types of phrase, noun phrase, adjective phrase, prepositional phrase, sentence.

Introduction

As human beings inhabit the earth, they utilize words, phrases, and sentences—all integral parts of linguistics that are analyzed and compared within this field. This article particularly emphasizes the role of phrases. To understand phrases, it's crucial to define their purpose. In general linguistics, the process of forming words is termed derivation. Derivatology has evolved into a distinct field, studying both lexical and syntactic derivation separately. This phenomenon can be studied from historical (diachronic) and current (synchronous) perspectives, with a focus here on synchronous construction, which examines language as it exists currently.

A phrase is defined as "a grammatically interrelated combination of two or more words that expresses different relationships between concepts" [1]. Words within a phrase are syntactically linked to convey complex concepts and often transform into different parts of speech, such as "clever boy" or "wide house."

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Phrases are distinct from sentences in that they consist of two or more independent words that depend on each other for meaning and grammar, whereas sentences encompass complete thoughts with multiple words. In a phrase, one word is dominant while the other(s) are subordinate. For instance, in the phrase "school hall," "hall" is dominant while "school" modifies and supports its meaning. This hierarchical relationship within phrases underscores their structural and semantic coherence in linguistic analysis.

In the context of syntactic valence theory, both words in a phrase hold a significant position. While the words "school" and "hall" are considered independent in written form, in speech they function in a mutually dependent manner. Linguist Turniyozov suggests that a phrase functions similarly to a compound word, asserting that they are essentially of the same linguistic category.

There are notable similarities between Uzbek and English linguistics, particularly in how phrases are structured. In English, a phrase can consist of two or more words, similar to Uzbek. Examples include noun phrases (e.g., "beautiful flower"), adjective phrases (e.g., "dramatically clever"), adverb phrases (e.g., "too quickly"), prepositional phrases (e.g., "in the morning"), and verb phrases (e.g., "have lunch"). Auxiliary words play a role in connecting independent words, as seen in Uzbek sentences like "Saxiy kishi o'z iltifoti bilan birovga qarz yoki yordam bermaydi" (A generous person does not lend or help anyone out of kindness), where "out of kindness" functions as an auxiliary phrase.

Types of phrases are categorized based on the dominant word within them. For instance, in the phrase "spectacular city," "city" serves as the dominant noun, while "spectacular" enhances its meaning without being the primary focus.

In Uzbek examples like "Endi avvalgidan battar qirg'in bo'lishini sezgan bek va navkarlar Andijon qo'rg'oniga bekina boshladilar" (Now the beys and navkars, realizing that the massacre would be worse than before, began to hide in the Andijan fortress), and "Kumush onasining yuragidagi o'tni hozir sinamasdan ham his etdi" (Kumush felt the fire of his mother's heart without even trying it now), affixes like "-in" and "-i" are active as operators of syntactic derivation in forming compounds. For instance, "Andijan's fortress" uses the affix "-in" to denote possession, similar to "mother's heart" where "-i" denotes possession as well.

In conclusion, phrases and compound words share common characteristics in their formation and syntactic roles, illustrating how language structures are observed across different linguistic contexts such as English and Uzbek.

In the study of adverb phrases, the dominant word is typically an adverb that modifies another adverb. For instance, "too slowly" exemplifies this structure where the adverb "slowly" is intensified by "too". This formation highlights how adverbs enhance the meaning of other adverbs, a common syntactic and derivational pattern in English.

Gerund Phrase: Gerund phrases consist of a gerund (a verb ending in -ing that functions as a noun) and other associated words. They can act as subjects, objects, or complements within sentences.

Example:

- **Going to the theater** is so much fun. (Subject)
- **Running with scissors** is a terrible idea. (Subject)
- **Swimming in the sea in winter** is unthinkable. (Subject)

Infinitive Phrase: An infinitive phrase consists of an infinitive (the base form of a verb preceded by 'to') along with any modifiers or complements. Infinitive phrases can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Examples:

- We like **to eat berries**. (Noun)
- I need a warm coat **to wear in the winter**. (Adjective)
- I came here **to tell you goodbye**. (Adverb)

Bare Infinitives: After modal verbs (like should, might, could), the infinitive verb form drops the 'to'. This is still considered an infinitive phrase.

Examples:

- I think you **should go** home now.
- She **might know** the answer.
- We **could say** hi.

Participle Phrase: Participle phrases consist of a participle (verb form ending in -ing for present participles or -ed for past participles) and accompanying words. They function as adjectives.

Examples:

- **Surprised by the course of events**, Annie headed home. (Present participle)
- **Excited for its dinner**, the dog ran into the kitchen. (Past participle)
- Look at the man **running on the beach**. (Present participle)

Appositive Phrase: An appositive phrase consists of an appositive noun that provides additional information about another noun. It is set off by commas, dashes, or parentheses and functions to elaborate on or clarify the noun it follows.

Examples:

- I bought pizzas for dinner and strawberries, **my favorite fruit**, for dessert.
- **Mr. Smith, a published author**, is also the high school's new headteacher.
- My favorite character is Sophie (**the protagonist's daughter**).
- Her husband - **the CEO of the company** - just bought a yacht.

These examples illustrate how each type of phrase operates within sentences, providing additional context and detail to enhance understanding and expression in language.

Moving to verb phrases, the dominant word within such phrases is a verb. For example, in the phrase "take an apple," the verb "take" not only acts as the main action but also governs the relationship with "an apple." This syntactical connection in verb phrases is integral to their role within sentences.

An example from Uzbek illustrates this: "Kitobxon bilan har qanday uchrashuv yozuvchining mas'uliyat hissini oshiradi" (Any meeting with the reader increases the writer's sense of responsibility). Here, "increase the feeling" functions as a verb phrase where "increase" is the dominant verb, illustrating how such phrases operate independently yet contribute meaningfully to sentence structures.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, recent studies emphasize the importance of phrases in their connection to complete sentences. Moreover, the derivational aspects of phrases are crucial for both logical and grammatical comprehension, underscoring their significant role in linguistic analysis and communication.

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