Proposition of Reduced Sentences with Non-Finite Clauses

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Abstract: The non-finite form of verbs: Gerund, Infinitive and Participle take participation in organization of reduced sentences which are called as semi-complex sentences or sentences with non –finite clauses (verbless clauses). The main aim of the article is to analyze the transformation of a finite clause to a non-finite clause and define the contents of propositions in these complex and semi-complex sentences. Finite clauses contain verbs which fulfill the function of predicates, which agree with subjects. In a non-finite clause, the subject is deleted if it is the same as the subject of the main clause. When finite clauses transform into non-finite clauses, the predicates of subordinate clauses become 'substantivized' or 'adjectivized' and change their functions, taking functions of nouns, adjectives and adverbs. The modified predicates of subordinate clause changing their functions become action subjects, action objects, action adverbial modifier and action attribute in proposition of non-finite clauses.

Key words: Verbs · Reduced sentences · Adverbial modifier

INTRODUCTION

The notion 'proposition' was used for logical semantics. The term 'proposition' introduced by stoics as expression of thought by language [1, 3]. If we take into consideration that language expresses the results of thinking process, in that case logical semantics and sentence semantics are the same, because the main task of language is to render adequately the results of deep structure into surface structure. Language only interprets proposition of thinking process, language doesn't create ideas, inferences, conclusions, because it only expresses proposition of deep structure. Being means of surface structure, language doesn't make problem solving and decision making processes, it only reflects or states. Though there are different opinions about the role of language, one of these is that 'language is not means of expressing of ready thought, it is the means of creating of it, it is not reflection of existing of world contemplation, it composes its activities' [2].

Both thinking process and language are inherent to human being, proposition of thinking process is determined by human being's intention and transformed into surface structure by language. Proposition of sentences is expressed by word meanings, as noted by D.A. Shteling, 'all content side of a language, its semantics, pierce through by human being' [3]. Grammar only helps to adapt set of word meanings which is necessary for compiling sentence according to a presented proposition. According to J.J. Kaltz. and J.A. Fodor, 'the deep structure is based on the notion 'semantic tree' and the structure of it consists of words, joined through pasting together with their semantics' [4]. Grammar itself without word meanings doesn't arrange proposition of a sentence and grammar only arranges word meanings from the point of subject, predicate, object, adverbial modifier and attribute. For grammar 'Trees think about it' or 'They think about it' are correct from the point of grammar rules. A healthy person from the point of cognition doesn't pronounce the first sentence, knowing that a tree is an animate concept. True and false values of proposition of a sentence depend on cognitive state of a person and his positive or negative intension to say 'true' or not according to situations. On opinion's of Morris Ch. 'there are three types of relations of sign in process: relation of a sign to a denoted thing (semantics), relation of a sign to other signs (syntactic) and relation of a sign to speech participants [5]. These three aspects are lexis (meaning) which determines the frame of proposition, grammar which

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organizes relation between lexes in order to express proposition of sentences and phonology which encode syntactical modified lexes meanings according to the context of proposition. This triad exists as meaningful element of a language when they function together, separately they are nomenclatures of a language.

N. Chomsky noted inessentiality of semantic factors for syntactic description of a sentence in his early work, at the same time he noticed interrelation between structure and elements being found out in formal grammar analyses and specific semantic functions. In his latest investigation, he came to the conclusion about necessity of analyses not only syntactical structure and phonological components of utterance, but also its semantics [6].

The Main Part: Proposition of sentences is different. How many heads so many propositions are? Different propositions need different language structures, words, grammar organizations and phoneme encoding. According to types of proposition there are different types of sentences: simple, composite which is divided into two: complex and compound and they in their turn divide into two: semi complex (finite clause and non-finite clause) and semi-compound. The main grammar means for organization of propositions of sentences are subject, predicate, object, attribute and adverbial modifier and their location in a sentence and their type of connections.

There are debates about what kind of members must be primary, what are secondary in organization of sentence. Many linguists consider that a predicate is primary, some of linguists consider a subject is primary, the third consider that they together are primary members of a sentence. According to Tenier L. basic distribution of a sentence to subject and predicate belong to formal logic sphere which have no connection with linguistic sciences. And it points out that predicate is the centre of a sentence and subject is considered not to be as the main member of a sentence and put it in one line with object [7].

Without subject an action is not carried out and this important moment is fixed in grammar especially by subject predicate agreement, that is why a verb has noun categories such as number and person. Subject expresses intension of a person which defines plane of content of a proposition, predicate is an organizing force of members of sentences in accordance with an intension of a subject. According to Fillmore Ch., "sentence in its deep basis is interpreted as consisting of verbs and one or more noun group, which each of them connects with verb in certain case" [8].

From the point of proposition of logics there is no permanent privileged element, because everything depends on intension of human being. If human being thinks about action in that case a predicate of a sentence is important; if human being is interested in the time of finishing or beginning of something, in that case an adverbial modifier is important, if human being is interesting in sign or properties of something in that case an attribute is important.

From the point of organization of a sentence proposition, probably the predicate has a dominant position, because of its highest valence. Having six categories, a verb functions as the center of gravitation of members of sentence including peripheral members. For example, 'he was writing at 7 o'clock yesterday. The predicate 'was writing' is in the Past Tense, that is why 'yesterday' was used, but not 'tomorrow'; process aspect (Continuous) requires the preposition 'at' in order to indicate that the action took place namely at that moment. Proposition of a sentence defines the syntax of a sentence and it in its turn defines appropriate word meanings, grammar and phoneme encoding.

Non–finite form of verbs are the most difficult branch of grammar having morphological form of verbs and syntactical functions of noun, adjective and adverbs. M.Y. Blokh called non-finite form of verbs as verbids. On his opinion 'verbids are the forms of the verb intermediary in many of their lexico-grammatical features between the verb and the non-processual parts of speech. The mixed features of these forms are revealed in the principal spheres of the part-of-speech characterization, i.e. in their meaning, structural marking, combinability and syntactic functions [9].

According to saving principle of a language, non –finite form of verbs take participation in compiling of reduced sentences, making non-finite clauses. If we compare complex sentences and semi-complex (with non-finite clauses) sentences, the propositions of them are the same, but only the structure of their arrangement of sentences is different.

Gerund, Participle and Infinitive constructions organize the reduced part of semi-complex sentences, expressing processual adverbial modifier, processual attribute, processual subject and processual object sectors of proposition of semi complex sentences.

For Example:

- After I had read the letter I put it into the drawer (complex sentence)

- After reading the letter I put it into the drawer (Gerund-semi-complex).
- Having read the letter I put it into the drawer (Participle-semi-complex).

The proposition of the complex (CS) and semi-complex sentences (SCS) which have non-finite clause formed by Gerund and Participle constructions don't change, only they have structure transformations.

The structure of CS and SCS is different. CS consists of two predicate centers 'had read' and 'put' and they with their subjects formulate the main idea of proposition of the sentence. The subordinate clause of the CS has the conjunction 'after' which plays the main role in expressing of the sentence proposition, practically the predicate 'had read' loses its dominant position as the center of the sentence because it is subjected to the conjunction 'after'. When CS transforms into SCS, the subordinate adverbial clause manifests itself as processual adverbial modifier expressing aspect, voice properties of a verb.

'Had read' is substantivized and it expresses the function of adverbial modifier (AM) of time and stands at the beginning of the sentence as AM usually locates. Here we see the substitution of functions.

Complex and two types of semi-complex sentences given above have such similarities. They have:

- Subordinate clauses;
- Taxis: nonsimaltanuous
- The main clause doesn't change from the point of structure and proposition;
- Actions belong to one the same subject;
- The same volume of information of proposition of CS and SCS;
- The same communicative values;
- CS and SCS have the main clause;
- The same functional semantic field.

The complex and two types of semi-complex sentences have differences. They are:

- Different sentence structure;
- Compressing elements in SCS;
- Saving language elements in SCS;
- Non-finite clause is 'substantivized' or 'adjectivized';
- Center shift in SCS.

If we analyze SCS from the point of its non-finite constituents, the Gerund 'after reading'and the Participle ' having read' take aspect, voice categories from the verb. The predicate of CS 'had read' expresses all verb categories: aspect, voice, tense, mood, number and person for subject and predicate agreement. Both of them have a nonsimultaneous taxis relation. Taxis is defined by Maslova Yu.S. as 'time correlation of actions in semi-predicative constructions' [10]. Non –finite clause is also called as 'semi-predicative' constructions. The action of CS 'after I had read the letter' takes place before 'I put it into the drawer', it has non-simultaneous taxis, so does SCS, 'after reading the letter' and 'having read the letter' also take place before the action of the main clause'I put it into the drawer'. When CS transforms with the help of non-finite form of verbs into SCS, syntactical functions of finite subordinate clause changes. The subordinate finite clause of CS with conjunction 'after' has the prerequisite to be the adverbial modifier of time, because 'after' dominates and influences to other members of this part even to the predicate. The predicate 'had read' of CS becomes the processual adverbial modifier of time thanks to conjunction 'after': 'after reading' and 'having read' where implicit adverbial modifier becomes explicit which concretizes and specifies the predicate of the main clause. The meaning of 'had read' is preserved in SCS, only it loses some category qualities of the verb, such as tense, mood. Having aspect and voice properties, 'having read' and ' after reading' have half 'process' properties. When CS transforms into SCS, the Participle and Gerund constructions have syntactical functions of noun, adjective and adverb and partly verb qualities of the verb.

The volume of propositions of CS and SCS don't change by transformation, only there was a substitution of functions, verb-predicate takes noun, adjective and adverb functions.

Having the syntactical functions of noun, adjective and adverb, non–finite form of verbs indicate the function of adverbial modifier, objects (simple, compound), subjects (simple and compound), attribute and part of nominal predicates. And non-finite constructions fulfill above mentioned functions, expressing their essence in the proposition of sentences and speech.

- (a).When the pupil were writing the dictation they made some mistakes (CS).
- (a). 'In writing the dictation the pupil made some mistakes' (SCS –gerund).

- (a). 'Writing the dictation the pupil made some mistakes (SCS – participle).

In these sentences non-finite form of verbs function as adverbial modifier, expressing time-process sector of proposition of a sentence.

In these sentences Participle and Gerund constructions express processual adverbial modifier, in previous examples, Participle and Gerund constructions also express processual adverbial modifier, but the difference of these two set of adverbial clauses are in taxis. Two predicate centers here ('were writing' and 'made') in CS take place simultaneously and the main predicate centre (made) and processual adverbial modifier clauses ('in writing' and 'writing') in SCS (2a,3a) also take place simultaneously. Participle and Gerund constructions in non-finite clause of SCS (2a, 3a) concretize the time of the main predicate in the proposition of the sentence. Non-finite clauses of these sentences subordinate to the predicate of main clause 'made'. In order to make verb-predicate of subordinate clause 'substantivized' and 'adjectivized', it should be compressed.

Infinitive constructions as the component of semi-complex sentences express also adverbial modifier of purpose segment of proposition.

To drive a car in a big city, one should be an experienced driver (SCS).

It also has all properties inherent to semi-complex sentences.

Non–finite clauses express the attributive sectors of propositions of CS.
1. Water *which has weight and occupies* space is a form of water
1.1. Water, *having* weight and *occupying* space, is a form of matter.
2. They discussed about the book *which was written.*
2.1 They discussed about the article *written.*
3. They are discussing about the article *which will be written.*
3.1 They are discussing about the article *to be written.*

Attribute is needed to describe subjects and objects and when the finite form clause transforms into the non-finite processual adjective clause it expresses all attribute properties in proposition of a sentence. When CSs (1,2,3) transform into SCSs (1.1, 2.1. 3.1), the non–finite processual attribute clauses express aspect,

voice category properties. In the first sentence (1) the predicate of the subordinate attributive clause is in the active voice and Indefinite aspect, that is why the non-finite clause formed with Participle construction (1.1) is also in the active voice and Indefinite aspect. In CS (2, 3) subordinate attributive clauses are in the passive voice and Past and Future Indefinite aspect ('was written'; 'will be written') and these morphological characteristics: passive voice and Indefinite aspect are preserved in non –finite clauses (2.1,3.1) (even Tense category tries implicitly manifests itself) 'written' and 'to be written'.

Non-finite clause express the processual object (simple and compound) sectors of propositions of sentence.

- They watched that he was coming and going (CS).
- They watched his coming and going (SCS).
- They wanted that he had been invited till Monday (CS).
- They wanted him to have been invited till Monday (SCS).

In expressing a complex object, a non -finite clause also expresses aspect and voice properties of a verb. The predicate (was coming and going) of the subordinate object clause of CS (1) is in the Past Continuous Active and non-finite clause(1b) also expresses processual object (coming and going). The predicate (had been invited) of the subordinate object clause of CS (2) expresses the Past Perfect Passive and the non-finite object clause of SCS (2b) expresses passive result (having been invited).

Non-finite form of verbs and their constructions express subject (simple and compound) sectors of propositions of a sentence.

- That Kate was appointed to this position was right (CS).
- Kate's being appointed to this position was right (SCS).
- He is considered that he is a good teacher (CS).
- He is considered to be a good teacher (SCS).

In expressing complex subject, the non -finite clause also expresses aspect and voice category properties of a verb. The predicate (was appointed) of the subject clause of CS (1) expresses the Past Indefinite Passive and non-finite subject clause of SCS (1c) expresses it in the same format (Kate's being appointed).

The predicate (is) of the complex subject clause of CS (2) is in the Present Indefinite Active and non – finite subject clause of SCS (2a) expresses active fact action subject (*to be* a good teacher).

Each member of sentence is responsible for a certain sector of sentence proposition. The parts of speech try to compensate the missing elements, which are necessary for expressing proposition of sentences by mixing morphological and syntactical properties of each other as in the case of non-finite clauses.

RESULTS

Different propositions of thinking processes: thoughts, ideas, inferences, simple information for exchange and etc. will be expressed by different types of sentences, either it will be full sentences, or it will be reduced sentences, or simple sentences, or compose and others. Each type of sentences will be expressed with the help of word meaning and functions, the latter is called as subjects, predicates, objects, attributes and adverbial modifies in compiling sentences. According to propositions of sentences, types of sentences will be identified. Practically all parts of speech have modifying properties, for example, nouns become adjectives (adjectivized nouns: table lamp), adjectives become nouns (rich- the rich) and verbs have functions of nouns, adjectives and adverbs and thanks to such modification of parts of speech we receive such phenomena as processual subject, processual object, processual attribute and processual adverbial modifier. Such phenomena are made on the basis of language saving principle. This principle gives opportunities to parts of speech to modify themselves in order not to invent new things in language which make load not only to language but also to cognition. The existence of non-finite form of verbs is evidence of inner systemacy and orderliness of a language. Language as a living organism produces lucking elements with the help of other language units as we see in examples of non–finite form of verbs, which combine incompatible qualities: some verb properties and noun, adjective and adverb functions, extending their pragmatic opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The opportunity of language in creating means of expression is endless. If there are different opinions to one inference of thinking process, in that case language also should have different means to express them and non –finite clauses are one type of syntax transformations.

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