

ANALYSIS OF THE FINITE VERB PHRASES IN THE SHORT STORIES *THE GIFT OF THE MAGI* AND *COSMOPOLITE IN A CAFÉ* BY O. HENRY

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Abstract

This research focused on finding the types of finite verb and main verbs. The researcher used the short stories *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café* by O. Henry to limit the finding data. The method of this research is qualitative research. The result of this research showed that there are 361 finite verb phrases and divided into two types of finite verbs, 1. Main verbs stand-alone which occur mostly with 65.93%, 2. Auxiliaries stand with the main verb with 34.07% which may be modal (29.27%), passive (18.70%), perfective (24.39%), progressive (6.50%), combination of two auxiliaries (12.20%), and the negative do- periphrasis auxiliary (8.94%). Based on 361 data's of finite verb phrases, the researcher found the most dominant type of main verb is action verb with 62.05% and stative verb with 37.95%.

Keywords: action verb, finite verb, short story, stative verb

INTRODUCTION

Language is the way people to communicate each other. Each country has their own language but some countries learn other languages to communicate with other people. In this era globalization, many foreign companies and free trades spread out so that, the using of English as an international language become important in order to communicate with other people. Language cannot be separated with its structure. Learning vocabularies and its function, expression and the meaning and also the structure of sentences are the way of learning a language. English is the language that most people use in this world to communicate even the speakers do not use English as their mother tongue but people mostly use English when they abroad, they use English to

communicate with people in there. Learning English is also learning the grammar. It is important to know how structure of word is formed because people can easily understand kind of word class in a sentence

Yule (1998) stated that the most basic element in an English sentence is the verb. Verb is an important part in a clause or a sentence because it describes an action that is done by the subject. Verb not only describes an action but also state, condition, process, question, statement, etc. Tallerman (2015:40) states "The major function of verbs is to express what is known as 'predication'. A predicate expresses an 'event' in the sentence, which may be quite literally an event (such as collapse or explode) but also includes actions, processes, situations, states and so on". In the sentence, *He drinks the milk*, the word *drinks*

is classified as a predicate because it shows an action that is done by the subject *He*. Verb has many variations. It can be finite or non-finite, it also can be action or stative verb.

Based on Kerns and Schwartz (1972) finite forms assert or question, etc., an action or state and must imply person (or impersonality) of the subject and the mood, as well as tense, voice, and number (but no gender except in periphrastic forms). Finite verb is verb that marks the tense, present or past and influence the agreement with its subject and the number (singular/plural). Finite verb is divided into many types, transitive or intransitive, linking verb, auxiliary verb and action or stative verb. In a clause or a sentence, it must have at least one finite verb to construct a clause or a sentence. Meanwhile, non-finite verb is the opposite of finite verb. Based on Tallerman (2015:84) stated that non-finite verb does not like finite verb who can form such as aspect and mood and non-finite verb does not mark the tense.” Finite verbs phrases can show an action verb or stative verb.

According to Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard. Besides, stative verbs denote that person or things are in a particular state or condition. Action verbs explain what is done by the subject so that it describes an action. Meanwhile, stative verb describes an opinion or thought, sense, and emotion. Moreover, Cook (1989:195) explains that Action verbs express a dynamic agentive

event. Meanwhile, Stative verbs express a notionally stative situation. Stative verb and action verb have common words that are classified as action verb or stative verb. For example, be is generally classified as stative verb and play is classified as action verb. Types of finite verb and main verb can be found in any literary works such as novel, poem, poetry, short story, etc.

Short story is one of the literary works that is very interesting to be discussed. There are a lot of elements in short story that is not only about the content of the short story but also the structure of words, phrases and sentences to write a short story. One of author that has been published many great short stories is O. Henry or William Sidney Porter. He was an American short story writer. His stories are known for their surprise endings such as *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café*.

The Gift of The Magi published in 1905. Meanwhile, *Cosmopolite in a Café* published in 1906. *The Gift of The Magi* tells a story of a husband and wife who wanted to buy Christmas gifts for each other but they did not have enough money. This short story is a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving. Besides that, *Cosmopolite in a Café* tells about a man who claims to be 'a citizen of the world.' When the man becomes embroiled in a fight, his true feelings are revealed. These stories are really interesting and enjoying to be read. Moreover, there are many kinds of verb that are found in

both short stories. Fatma (2012:1) states that short story is one of the oldest types of literature, and it has existed in many forms, including myths, fairy tales, ballads and parables. A short story sometimes contains little or no dialogue, but it also be made up of dialogue while the description is brief.

There are several studies in this research which are related to this study. First, Nirwesti (2007) in her thesis *A Study on Grammatical Meaning of Finite Verb Phrases in The Jakarta Post Headline News Issued in January 2007* which discussed finite verb phrases found in Jakarta Post articles and identified the grammatical meaning of finite verb phrases. Second, Mala (2010) in her journal study entitled *Syntactic Functions of Finite and Non-Finite Clauses in Academic English*. Her study discussed about four categories in 100 consecutive sentences in four research articles from psychology and economics published at the beginning of the 20th century and a hundred years later. The next related study is done by Muhartoyo (2016) in his research entitled *A Study on the Completeness, Finite Verb Tense, and Voice of Coconut Research Abstract* which mainly discussed about the completeness in abstract elements, finite verb tenses, and the voice of coconut research abstracts. And the last related study is done by Sudarmo (2007) in her study which entitled *The Effects of the Employment of Dynamic and Stative Verb in Hemingway's "In Another Country" and "The Killer"*. His research discussed about

dynamic verb or action verb and stative verb found in short stories by Hemingways.

This research discussed about types of finite verbs and main verbs found in the short stories *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café* by O. Henry and also analyzing the finite verbs and main verbs based on each type. *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café* are the best short stories by O. Henry because both short stories have the plot twist ending and surprised the reader and also both short stories contain many finite verb phrases that can be classified based on its types. Finite verb is chosen as the topic of this reason because finite verb has many variations that can be found in a phrase, clause and sentence. Therefore, people can identify easily types of finite verb in a clause or a sentence. Moreover, the main verbs that have been found in both short stories are also classified based on the type of verb and stative verb.

METHODS

This research used qualitative research. The data which form words or the data being examined. Based on the data, the researcher found a deep meaning in the research. this method is suitable to find the meaning of the research by analyzing the data that have been found in the short stories *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café* by O. Henry. This research used several stages to collect the data by Reading the short stories *The Gift of The Magi* and

Cosmopolite in a Café by O. Henry, marking and listing the words that contain finite verb in a clause or a sentence whether it is main verbs or auxiliary stands with the main verb, collecting the data in the table, and classifying the main verbs based on action verb or stative verb. This research also used several steps for analyzing the data by identifying the words based on the kinds of finite verb, analyzing finite verbs that is kinds of main verb whether it is past time or present time. Moreover, analyzing the kinds of finite verb that is auxiliary stands with the main verb whether it is modal auxiliary, perfective auxiliary, progressive auxiliary, passive auxiliary, combination of two auxiliaries and negative do- periphrasis auxiliary, analyzing the verbs based on kinds of action verb or stative verb,

drawing conclusion in the most dominant types of finite verbs and main verbs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this research showed there are 361 data found in the short stories *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café* by O. Henry which is divided into two types, Main verbs stand-alone which occur mostly with 238 or 65.93% rather than Auxiliaries stand with the main verbs with 123 or 34.07%. Auxiliaries stand with the main verb are divided into, modals, passive, perfective, progressive, combination of two auxiliaries and negative do- periphrasis auxiliary. This result of types of finite verbs can be seen in Figure. 1 and types of main verbs in figure. 2.

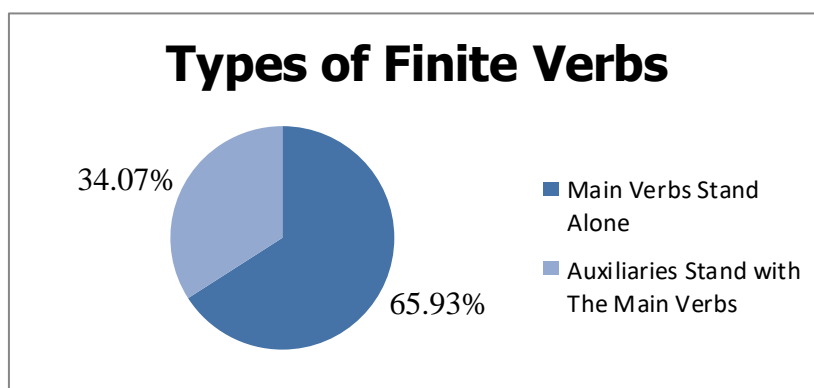


Figure 1. Types of finite verbs

Based on 361 data that have been found in found in the short stories *The Gift of The Magi* and *Cosmopolite in a Café* by O. Henry, the researcher found two types of main

verbs in finite verb phrases. Action verb which mostly occur in the source of data with 224 or 62.05% and the other is stative verb which less occur with 137 data or 37.95%.

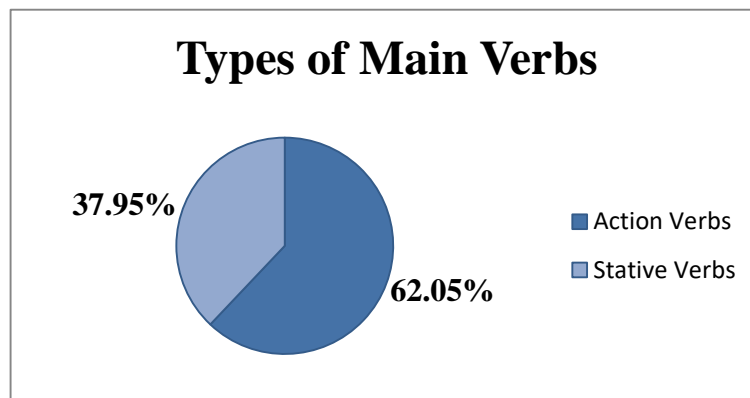


Figure 2. Types of main verbs

Main Verbs stand-alone (Present Time)

'before he **takes** a second... (The Gift of The Magi, GG5; p.3)

In the clause above, the finite verb is the word *takes* which agrees with the subject *he* as the third-person singular. The word *takes* marks the tense present. According to Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), "The term finite (which means 'limited') refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number". Moreover, the word *takes* is classified as action verb which shows an action. In the clause above, it is clear that the subject shows an action that is marked by the word *takes* as a verb. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

Main Verbs stand-alone (Past Time)

Pennies saved one and two (The Gift of The Magi, GG1; p. 1)

The word *saved* is classified as finite verb because it marks the tense past although there is no adverbial time in the clause or

sentence above. According to Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), "The term finite (which means 'limited') refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number". The subject in the clause or sentence above is the word *pennies* which shows a number. Furthermore, the word *saved* is considered as an action verb. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

Auxiliaries stand with the main verb

In this type of verb phrases, the verbs that function as the finite verbs are the auxiliary, while the main verbs are non-finite. The auxiliaries include modal auxiliaries, voice (passive) auxiliaries, perfective auxiliaries, progressive auxiliaries, some combinations of two auxiliaries and the negative do-periphrasis auxiliaries.

Modal Auxiliary

'but nobody **could** ever **count** my love for you. (The Gift of The Magi, GG16; p.4)

As it can be seen, the clause above has the word *could* which is considered as finite verb because it constructs the clause or sentence. Modal *could* be followed by the infinitive *count* which helps the infinitive contain meaning a possibility or ability. The subject of the clause or sentence is *nobody*. Modal auxiliary as its name cannot stand alone it must follow the infinitive or base form. The word *could* indicate the event is happened in the past because the word *could* is past form of the word *can*. According to Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), “The term finite (which means ‘limited’) refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number.” Additionally, *could count* has the word *count* as the main verb in the clause or the sentence. The word *count* is classified as an action verb that takes an action to express the subject is doing something physically or mentally. In the sentence above, it is clear that the subject is doing something that shows an action. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

Passive Auxiliary

...he was called 'Jim'... (The Gift of The Magi, GG3; p. 1)

In the sentence above, the word that is classified as finite verb is to be *was* which stands with the word *called*. In this sentence, the sentence is using passive voice with to be

as the auxiliary verb or helping verb and it is followed by the verb *called*. The word *called* is the past participle form of the word *call*. The finite verb *was* agrees with the subject *he* as the third-person singular so that the auxiliary verb used *was* to complete the sentence. According to Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), “The term finite (which means ‘limited’) refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number” In addition, *was called* is constructed by the be *was* as finite verb and the word *called* as main verb. The word *called* is classified as an action verb because the word *called* shows the action of the subject. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

Perfective Auxiliary

I've seen men from Chicago... (Cosmopolite in a Café, CC12; p.4)

The word *'ive* is the abbreviation of the word *have* and it is considered as finite verb. Perfective auxiliary stands with the past participle. In the sentence above, the past participle is the word *seen* which comes from the base form *see*. The word *have (ive)* agrees with the subject *I* so that the perfective auxiliary that must agree with the subject is *have*. Perfective auxiliary is combined with the main verbs that is attached with *-ed* or the past participle. The finite verb *have (ive)* marks the tense present time. According to

Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), “The term finite (which means ‘limited’) refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number”. Likewise, the word *have* is classified as finite verb and the word *seen* is classified as main verb. The word *seen* is considered as stative verb because it does not show an action and also the word *seen* is types of sense. Stative verb in the sentence above shows a perception/ cognition such as the word *see* (*seen*). According to Heidinger (1984:40),” Stative verbs denote that person or things are in a particular state or condition”.

Progressive Auxiliary

Her eyes were shining brilliantly, (The Gift of The Magi, GG4; p. 2)

In the sentence above, it is type of auxiliary stand with the main verb which progressive auxiliary. The auxiliary in the sentence above is to be *were*. The progressive auxiliary is combined with the present participle *shinning*, which originally comes from the base *shine* added with the suffix –*ing*. The finite verb *were* agrees with the subject *her eyes* as plural form. The word *were* refers the tense past time so that it is classified as finite verb. According to Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), “The term finite (which means ‘limited’) refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number”. Additionally,

were shinning is considered as an action verb because the word *shinning* that shows the action of the subject. Besides, action verb can be formed in the progressive aspect. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

Combination of two auxiliaries

This dark assertion will be illuminated later on. (The Gift of The Magi, GG1; p.4)

The word *will* is classified as finite verb and followed the word *be*. The word *will* is types of modal and it stands with the main verb *illuminated*. The past participle *illuminated* originally comes from the base *illuminate* which is attached by the suffix –*ed*. The subject of the sentence above is *this dark assertion*. Furthermore, the phrase *will be illuminated* contains the word *illuminated* that acts as a main verb of the clause or sentence which is classified as an action verb. Additionally, the word *illuminated* is considered as an action verb because it shows the action that is done by the subject. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

Negative do- periphrasis auxiliary

'If Jim doesn't kill me,' (The Gift of The Magi, GG3; p.3)

As it can be seen the word *doesn't* acts as a finite verb and it is followed by the word *kill*. The auxiliary *does* form the negative construction of the main verb *kill*. The finite verb *doesn't* agree with the subject

Jim as the third-person singular so that the auxiliary do that must follow the subject is *does*. The word *does* shows that the event is happened in the present time. According to Kortmann and Traugott (2006:15), "The term finite (which means 'limited') refers to a verb form that is marked for tense and potentially also for other grammatical categories like mood, person and number". In addition, the phrase *doesn't kill* has the word kill which acts as a main verb of the clause or sentence and it is classified as an action verb. Besides, the word *kill* is classified as an action verb because it denotes the movement or the activities that is done by the subject. Based on Heidinger (1984) action verbs denote movement or actives that can be seen or heard.

CONCLUSION

Based on finding data, the researcher found two types of finite verbs that is main verbs stand alone and auxiliaries stand with the main verbs. Besides, auxiliaries stand with the main verb have many types, 1. Modal auxiliary, 2. Passive auxiliary, 3. Perfective auxiliary, 4, progressive auxiliary, 5. Combination of two auxiliaries, 6. Negative *do-* periphrastic auxiliary. Moreover, the researcher also found two types of main verbs that is action verb and stative verb. Based on finding data, there are 361 finite verb phrases with the most dominant type is main verbs stand alone with 238 data and the occurrences is 65.93% rather than auxiliary stand with the

main verb with 123 data and the occurrences 34.07%. Besides, the researcher also found another dominant type in main verb that is action verb with 224 data and the occurrences is 62.05% and the other types which is less occur is stative verb with 137 data and the occurrences 37.95%.

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