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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE CATEGORY OF TEMPORALITY AND ITS EXPRESSION IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract

The present article investigates the category of temporality in the English language and demonstrates the ways of its expression in English sentences. The author enumerates types of adverbial modifier of time and enlightens the problem of expression of temporality in the structure of English sentence. The article covers a deep linguistic analysis of the syntactic component of adverbial modifier of time in English. The article provides a definition of the grammatical term "adverbial modifier of time" and ways of its expression in English sentences.

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Materials and methods:-

Actuality of the theme of the research is vivid in deep investigation of the category of temporality in the English language system. Temporality was partially studied by some linguists but till the present time there is no exact conception on this problem. Such linguists as V. Jigadlo, I. Ivanova, L. Iofic left very important theoretical issues concerning parts of sentences expressing temporality.

In our research work we have used componential analysis for revealing component of temporality in the structure of English sentences. Various positions of methods of transformation and distribution were also used in the research work.

Results and Discussion:-

In the present article we are interested in adverbial modifier of time which express the category of temporality. The adverbial modifier is a secondary part of a sentence, pointing out the word denoting action, qualities of action, conditions of action, measures, degrees and qualities of actions. Morphological expression of adverbial modifier is often expressed by adverbs.

Together with these in the function of adverbial modifier nouns + prepositions or prepositions separately are widely used in many cases. Adverbial modifier in the English language in narrow meaning – is secondary part of sentence, denoting time, place of action (why, when, where, etc.) action takes place. English adverbial usually belongs to verb, clarifying where, when, why the action is taken place¹. It is very often used at the end of sentences and in the beginning it intensifies its meaning.

¹ Ilyish B.A. The structure of modern English language. - Moscow: Enlightenment, 1965. – P.112.

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Adverbs usually belong to verbs in finite and non-finite forms, seldom to adjectives and adverbs. Adverbials have a great placement in sentences especially in the English language, rather than other parts of sentences². They can be placed in the beginning, middle and at the end of the sentences. However, it depends on its meaning, ways of expressing and specific types of adverbials have fixed place in the sentences. General rule is that adverbial modifier can't separate object from verb. English adverbial modifier of time can be divided into adverbial modifier of indefinite time and adverbial modifier of definite time.

Adverbial modifiers of indefinite time can be expressed by the following adverbs: *often, ever, never, always, seldom, just, already, usually, sometimes, soon*.

They usually stand between subject and predicate or before the notional verbs:-

We often have lunch in this café.

He has never seen her before.

Adverbial modifier of definite time stands either in the beginning or in the end of sentences:

I saw my aunt yesterday.

Yesterday I saw my aunt.

When a number of adverbial modifiers are used more precisely denoting time precedes the general ones:

I shall come here at two o'clock tomorrow.

Specific type of adverbial modifier of time is expressed by conjunctions *when* and *while*, followed by nouns with prepositions or without, adjectives or adverbs. However, while analyzing compound sentences of time it's impossible not to mention important points. Compound sentences of time serve as action denoting time, expressed by verb-predicate of the sentence³. They are introduced by a number of conjunctions – simple and compound: *while, when, whenever, till, until, as soon as, as long as, so long as, since, directly after, before, now that, no sooner than, hardly when*, etc.

We can demonstrate their usage in the following examples:

"Bless my soul," said Mr. Pickwick as they stood upon the pavement while their coats were being put in.

As soon as I remembered I was not defenseless, courage flowed again in my heart.

Some conjunctions serve for expressing other logical connections and in this way obtain new meaning. For example, conjunction *when* besides its direct meaning can be translated as "suddenly", "unexpectedly":

The boy sat down on a stone to take a pebble out of his shoe when he saw a beggar approaching him.

Another example is that conjunction *while* can be subordinate conjunction with time denotation "at that time as" "and", "but":

While you played the piano, I was talking to mother.

The productions brought into the country are termed its imports, while those which are sent out are known as exports.

To make a large body of men sing together is a hard task, while (=but, and) to make an orchestra play together is even more difficult.

If we make deeper analysis of temporality, we can find some types of it:

1. Pure temporality. He visited us on Monday. This element can be replaced by adverb *then*: He visited us on Monday → He visited us then
2. Identifier of temporality: Today is Christmas holiday. In this sentence the element *today* can be replaced by the adverb *now* but it can't be replaced by adverb *then*: Today is Christmas holiday → Now is Christmas holiday.
3. Temporal ablative syntaxeme: I hope you return from the war... In this sentence instead of the preposition *from* temporal preposition *after* can be used: ... you return from the war → you return after the war

² Blokh M. Theoretical grammar of English. – Moscow: High school, 2000. – P.84.

³ Hengeveld K. Questionnaire: the internal structure of adverbial clauses. - Amsterdam, 1991. – P.165.

4. Temporal terminal (limited in time): The suspension until January 2 still stands. To prove that in this sentence temporal terminal syntaxeme is used, we can apply to the following method of experiment: The suspension until January 2 still stands → to suspend until January 2 → to suspend till January 2 → to suspend to January 2.
5. Temporal manner syntaxeme: Television was left on from morning till night. To prove that this sentence really has the element of manner of action, we'll use the method of transformation-interrogation (with the help of: *in what way, how, thus*): Television was left from morning till night → In what way was television left on? → How was television left on? → Television was left from then on → Television was thus left on.

So, temporality can be expressed in various ways, each of them should be deeply investigated.

Russian linguists A. N. Gvozdev⁴ gave the following classification of temporal relations:

1. The action is done in a definite period of time or at a definite time: He has done his research in three years. He worked here from January till May. She drops at this café in the morning.
2. The action is done in limited time with demonstration of beginning or end: He began earning money from the age of eleven. I will do this work till 5 p.m.
3. The action is done in the time which doesn't match the pointed in the sentence time: They left till sunrise. In an hour before the working day he had a habit of sitting on a bench and reading a morning newspaper.

Quirk R. Greenbaum S., Zeech G., Svartvich J.⁵ have their own point of view on the problem of adverbial modifier of time: "Time adjuncts can be divided into four main semantic classes:

1. when-point of time (today); boundary of time (afterwards);
2. duration-length of time (briefly); from some preceding point in time (since);
3. frequency-definite period (daily) or number (twice); and indefinite-usual occurrence (usually); continuous (always); high (often); low or zero (occasionally, never).
4. other relationship (already) ”.

The interesting fact is vivid in simple English sentences when temporality can be expressed by the predicate of the sentence:

1. He was in prison for ten years.
2. He has been in prison for ten years

In both sentences there is adverbial modifier of time *for ten years* but in the first sentence it can be replaced by adverb *then* because the action is in the past and it is finished: He was in prison for ten years → He was in prison then. We can even continue the idea of this sentence: He was in prison for ten years but he is out now.

As for the second sentence, the adverbial modifier of time *for ten years* can't be replaced by the adverb *then* because the action is not finished and is going on: He has been in prison for ten years ↔ He is still there.

If we investigate the category of temporality due to the time of action, we can conclude that:

- 1) If the action is done in the past tense, the following temporal syntaxemes are used:

I saw him	{	yesterday / evening last night / last Monday a week ago / a month ago in the morning on Wednesday, in June at four o'clock the other day
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⁴ Gvozdev A. N. Modern Russian literary language. Part II. Syntax. – Moscow: Enlightenment, 1973. – P. 123.

⁵ Quirk R. Greenbaum S., Zeech G., Svartvich J. A university and Grammar of English. – Moscow: High school, 1982. – pp. 209-210.

2) If The present perfect tense is used in the sentence the following temporal syntaxemes are used:

I haven't seen him	}	since Tuesday / last week
		since I met you
		so far / up to now
		lately

3) The past Indefinite or the present perfect is used the following temporal syntaxemes can be used:

I	}	saw	}	him	}	today
		have seen				this week, this month, this year
or						recently
He always /never forget			}			My wife's birthday
He has always / never forgotten						

As we see, the English language is very rich in the ways of temporality expression and it is defined by asking question *when?* :

1. Tomorrow is a Saturday.
2. The term starts at the beginning of February.
3. The match takes place on Thursday.
4. He retires next month.

Most prepositions such as *at, on, in, during* play important role in temporality formation: at 10 o'clock, at 6.30, at noon; on Sunday, on the following Sunday; in the morning, in April, in spring, during the morning, during April, during spring etc.

Conclusion:-

1. Adverbial modifiers of indefinite time can be expressed by the following adverbs: *often, ever, never, always, seldom, just, already, usually, sometimes, soon*. They usually stand between subject and predicate or before the notional verbs.
2. Adverbial modifier of definite time stands either in the beginning or in the end of sentences.
3. Specific type of adverbial modifier of time is expressed by conjunctions *when* and *while*, followed by nouns with prepositions or without, adjectives or adverbs.
4. Compound sentences of time serve as action denoting time, expressed by verb-predicate of the sentence. They are introduced by a number of conjunctions – simple and compound: *while, when, whenever, till, until, as soon as, as long as, so long as, since, directly after, before, now that, no sooner than, hardly when*, etc.
5. Adverbial modifiers of time can denote present, past and future actions. They point at the tense of verb.