

Understanding Subject Complements in English Grammar

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Abstrak

Pelengkap Subjek Berperan Penting dalam Tata Bahasa Inggris dengan Memberikan Informasi Tambahan tentang Subjek, yang Dengan Demikian Meningkatkan Kejelasan dan Kekayaan Komunikasi. Makalah ini Bertujuan untuk Menjelajahi Bentuk, Fungsi, dan Jenis Pelengkap Subjek, Serta Cara Mengenalinya dalam Kalimat. Dengan Menggali Peran Pelengkap Subjek, Pemahaman yang Lebih Dalam tentang Struktur dan Makna Bahasa Dapat Dicapai. Pembahasan Meliputi Definisi Pelengkap Subjek, Jenisnya (Nominatif Predikat dan Adjektiva Predikat), dan Pentingnya Kata Kerja Penghubung dalam Menghubungkan Subjek dengan Pelengkap Subjek. Contoh Disediakan untuk Mengilustrasikan Konsep dalam Praktik, Membantu Pengenalan dan Pemahaman Pelengkap Subjek dalam Kalimat.

Kata kunci: *Subjek, Pelengkap, Kata Kerja, Predikat, Kata Kerja Penghubung, Predikat Kata Sifat, Subjek Pelengkap Dalam Kalimat, Predikat Nominatif, Menghubungkan, Informasi*

Abstract

Subject Complements Play A Crucial Role In English Grammar By Providing Additional Information About The Subject, Thereby Enhancing The Clarity And Richness Of Communication. This Paper Aims To Explore The Forms, Functions, And Types Of Subject Complements, As Well As How To Recognize Them In Sentences. By Delving Into The Role Of Subject Complements, A Deeper Understanding Of Language Structure And Meaning Can Be Attained. The Discussion Covers The Definition Of Subject Complements, Their Types (Predicate Nominatives And Predicate Adjectives), And The Importance Of Linking Verbs In Connecting Subjects To Subject Complements. Examples Are Provided To Illustrate The Concept In Practice, Aiding In The Recognition And Comprehension Of Subject Complements In Sentences.

Keywords: *Subject, Complement, Verb, Predicate, Linking Verb, Predicate Adjective, Subject Complement In Sentence, Predicate Nominative, Connect, Information*

INTRODUCTION

Subject complements are integral to the structure of many sentences in English. They provide additional information about the subject, helping to clarify and enhance the meaning of the sentence. This journal entry explores the concept of subject complements, their identification, and their role in sentence structure. Various scholars, such as Radford (2004), assert that Complement behaves as a facilitator adding information/meaning. Quirk et al. (1985) show that although, traditional grammarians restrict their complement analysis to the verb complementation that deals with the object as well as adjective complementation, recent postulation by the functionalist grammarians explores functioning of complementation in subject constituent dubbed as 'subject complement with the syntactic constituents it operates.

METHODS

It has already been discussed that nouns, noun phrases, adjectives and adjective phrases can be used as complements. One way to identify subject complements is by checking if they belong to any of these four categories. However, there is another way too – subject complements can be describing words, words that mention a name (proper noun), a position or a profession.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A subject complement is a noun, noun phrase, adjective or adjective phrase that provides the readers with more information about the subject in the sentence.

Types Of Subject Complement

There are two types of subject complements:

1. Predicate Nominative

A predicate nominative is a noun/pronoun which follows our linking verb and renames or identifies the subject. It is called “predicate” because it comes after the verb, and “nominative” because it is in the nominative case.

For example, in the sentence, “She is a teacher,” the linking verb “is” connects the subject “she” to the predicate nominative “teacher.” Another example is, “My favorite color is blue.” Here the linking verb “is” connects the subject “my favorite color” to the predicate nominative “blue.”

More example :

- John is a doctor.
“doctor” renames the subject “John”.
- My brother became a teacher.
“teacher” renames the subject “my brother”.
- The winner was Sarah.
“Sarah” renames the subject “the winner”.
- This city is our home
“home” renames the subject “this city”.
- Their goal was victory.
“victory” renames the subject “their goal”.

2. Predicate Adjective

A predicate adjective comes after linking verbs and describes our subject. It is called “predicate” because it comes after the verb, and “adjective” because it is an adjective.

For instance, in the sentence, “The food smells delicious,” the linking verb “smells” connects the subject “food” to the predicate adjective “delicious.” Another example is, “He seems happy today.” Here the linking verb “seems” connects the subject “he” to the predicate adjective “happy.”

More example :

- The soup tastes delicious.
“delicious” describes the subject “the soup”.
- She felt happy.
“happy” describes the subject “she”.
- The sky looks cloudy.
“cloudy” describes the subject “the sky”.
- His idea sounds interesting.
“interesting” describes the subject “his idea”.
- The movie was exciting.
“exciting” describes the subject “the movie”.

Recognizing Subject Complements

Subject complements can be identified by first locating the verb in the clause and determining if it is a linking verb or an action verb. Linking verbs, unlike action verbs, do not show action but instead serve as a bridge between the subject and the subject complement. Common linking verbs include "be," "become," "seem," "appear," and "feel."

The most common linking verb is be. Other common linking verbs (with examples of subject complements in parentheses) include appear (the best plan), become (my neighbor), seem (obvious), feel (foolish), get (ready), look (cheerful), sound (strange). Subject complements are typically noun phrases, as in (1)-(4) above, or adjective phrases, as in (5)-(8) above." (Gerald C. Nelson and Sidney Greenbaum, *An Introduction to English Grammar*, 3rd ed. Routledge, 2009)

Examples of Linking Verbs

1. Sentence: "He is a doctor."
 - Analysis: The linking verb "is" connects the subject "he" to the subject complement "doctor."
2. Sentence: "She is a teacher."
 - Analysis: The linking verb "is" connects the subject "she" to the predicate nominative "teacher."
3. Sentence: "My favorite color is blue."
 - Analysis: The linking verb "is" connects the subject "my favorite color" to the predicate nominative "blue."

Summary

A subject complement is a crucial part of a sentence that follows a linking verb and describes or identifies the subject. It can be either a predicate nominative or a predicate adjective. Recognizing and understanding subject complements can significantly enhance one's grammatical skills, leading to clearer and more effective communication.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, subject complements play an essential role in sentence structure by providing additional information about the subject. By mastering the use of linking verbs and recognizing subject complements, one can improve their ability to construct meaningful and grammatically correct sentences.

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