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ENGLISH PREDICATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS: STRUCTURE AND TYPES

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Abstract

This paper deals with the typology of predicative constructions in the English language based on their structure. It provides a theoretical overview of the existing standpoints as for the above mentioned language phenomenon, specifying the structure of the English predicative constructions, and determining their types.

Any predicative construction consists of two parts – nominal + verbal. Between the two parts of the predicative construction there is a secondary predicative relation, i.e. the relation similar to that as the subject and the predicate have. The predicative construction may be used only when there are two different doers of the actions in the sentence. As soon as there are three types of verbals in English (the Infinitive, the Gerund, and the Participle), it is only logical to identify infinitival, gerundial, and participial predicative constructions: there is no predicative construction without a verbal, and then the name of the construction indicates the type of the verbal used in it. As a result of the study eleven types of predicative constructions were defined, namely: two gerundial types (Gerundial and Half-Gerundial), three infinitival types (Objective Infinitive, Subjective Infinitive, and For-to-Infinitive), six participial types (Objective Participial, Subjective Participial, Nominative Absolute Participial, Prepositional Absolute Participial, and two purely absolute constructions where there is no explicit verbal constituent but it is implied and can be easily restored – Nominative Absolute (Participial) and Prepositional Absolute (Participial)).

The paper is believed to be of practical use for future translators / interpreters and English-language teachers, for it gives both an overall idea of a predicative construction as of an English language economy means and syntactic functions of all predicative constructions in the sentence.

Keywords: *predicative construction, secondary predication, verbal, infinitival, gerundial, participial, absolute.*

1. Introduction.

Every language follows its own [language] economy principle (“that of the least effort” (Goipova et al., 2020, p. 12435; Vicentini, 2003, p. 38; Zhou, 2012, p. 100)) embodied in different language means on various linguistic (phonological, lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic) levels. Linguists tend to explain the existence of such a phenomenon with human being’s “indolence” (Zhou, 2012, p. 100). This principle “aims at the maximum effect with the least input. It displays itself in each language in different ways” (ibid). H. Kobayashi hypothesizes that “linguistic economy is best achieved when both addressee’s mental energy and speaker’s articulatory energy are optimally economized, in accordance with Jespersen (1949)” (Jespersen, 2010; Kobayashi, 2015, p. 52). A. Vicentini concludes that “economy in language has a strong controlling function over the whole [linguistic] system, something which is carried out with the least possible cost in terms of energy” (2003, p. 37). A speaker’s ability to choose short words and use fluent concise grammatical constructions proves a high level of language knowledge and communicative skills. In case an addressee has similar knowledge and background, s/he can decode the message properly. Then it is the language economy principle ‘in action’ as it allows both an addresser and an addressee to achieve maximum results with the least efforts. The English predicative construction is a tangible example of such a principle on the syntactic level, thus making the study of its structure and types *topical*.

2. Literature Review.

As it traditionally happens, the language phenomena are better studied and described by those who tend to elaborate them for foreigners or people who learn foreign languages. The results of such researches find their implementation in theoretical and practical grammars. That is why this section of our paper outlines the data from grammars by the English-, Ukrainian-, and Russian-language scholars.

To start with, we would like to note that 'an English predicative construction', in our opinion, is a language construct with two constituents (nominal + verbal) between which the secondary predicative relation exists. As soon as there are three verbals (= verbids = non-finite forms of the Verb as part of speech) in English, predicative constructions can be of various types.

The available in different sources data on the predicative construction evidence the variety of information. Within this section an overview for 1951–2021 years is presented.

Thus, M. Ganshina & N. Vasilevskaya (1951) tell about constructions or complexes with verbals in three sections dealing with 'The Infinitive' (p. 209–223), 'The Gerund' (p. 223–231), and 'The Participle' (pp. 231–239). Three constructions / complexes are given for the Infinitive: 'Accusative With the Infinitive' (p. 217), 'Nominative With the Infinitive' (p. 219), 'Constructions With the Subject of the Infinitive Introduced by *for* (*for*-Phrase)' (p. 221); 2 – for the Gerund: 'Complex with the gerund' (p. 229), 'Complex with the half-gerund' (p. 241); and 4 – for the Participle: 'Accusative With the Participle' (p. 236), 'Nominative With the Participle' (p. 237), 'Complexes introduced by *with* or *without*' (p. 242), 'Nominative Absolute' (p. 237). One of the most important things that is mentioned in this *English Grammar* is the definition of 'the predicative construction': "a complex with a verbal is such a construction in which the verbal has the function of a secondary predicate and is associated with a secondary subject (a noun or a pronoun denoting the subject of its action)" (p. 239). It means that the authors emphasize two (at least) predicative centres in the sentence and availability of primary and secondary predicative relations.

In 'Living English Structure' (Stannard Allen, 1967) we can find two sections (Section 38 'Infinitive' (pp. 182–186) and Section 39 'Gerund and Present Participle' (pp. 186–195)) with no comments as for predicative constructions but illustrations to some structures: "*He wasn't rich enough (for her) to marry*" (p. 185); "*Do you object to our smoking?*" (p. 188), "*We insisted on rich and poor being treated alike*" and "*I don't like your / you coming late every time*" (p. 188), "*Please excuse (pardon, forgive) my disturbing you*" (p. 191), "*I heard him practising his violin*" (p. 194) (highlighted bold here and below by Lemish). No types or explanations for predicative constructions are provided.

B. Ilyish (1971) gives a brief description of verbals in 'Chapter XIV The Verb: Verbals' (pp. 130–136). Predicative constructions as such are not mentioned though it is possible to detect some examples of them: "*Do you mind my smoking?*"; "*Do you mind me smoking?*" (p. 136).

A. Smirnitsky (1975) includes in his work dealing with the English syntax 'Chapter X – Objective – Predicative Member' (p. 251) where on page 253 he remarks that in the sentence analysis traditional grammars define not only the members of the sentence but also some special constructions, for example infinitival, participial, etc. One of the most typical and most often used is named 'Accusativus cum Infinitivo' or 'Complex Object'. Amid the structural elements there is mentioned an object expressed by a noun in the common case and a pronoun in the objective case plus an infinitive: "*I saw him run*". While the Dutch scientist O. Jespersen considered such type of relations as nexus, i.e. relation similar to that of a subject and a predicate, A. Smirnitsky argues on the rationality of making such analogy (p. 253).

I. Ivanova et al. (1981) in their ‘Theoretical Grammar of Modern English’ distinguish the predicative construction with *for*: “*It’s extremely funny for me to be consoling you* (Snow)” (p. 82); the ‘Absolute construction’: “*He went out of sight, Mrs. Thompson walking sedately beside him* (Braine)” (p. 85), and the ‘Second-predicative construction with *-ing*’ (no differentiation between Gerund and Participle I (P-I) is provided, making it very doubtful in some cases): “*I hope you don’t mind me consulting you like this?* (Spark)” (p. 86).

M. Blokh (1983; 2004) writes that verbids “express semi-predication, building up semi-predicative complexes within different sentence constructions”, or they “express the so-called ‘secondary’ or ‘potential’ predication, forming syntactic complexes directly related to certain types of subordinate clauses” (p. 104). It is proved by several pairs of sentences among which we can compare the following ones: “*Have you ever had anything caught in your head?*” and “*Have you ever had anything that was caught in your head?*” – the first sentence has the ‘semi-predicative’ (as it is called by M. Blokh) construction ‘*anything caught in your head*’ (‘The Objective Participial Construction’ in our terminology) making the whole sentence simple, the second sentence is a complex one with the subclause ‘*that was caught in your head*’ depending upon ‘anything’. On page 106 the infinitive construction ‘for-to infinitive phrase’ is presented with the example “*For that shy-looking young man to have stated his purpose so boldly – incredible!*”.

There is also the notice that “With some transitive verbs (of physical perceptions, mental activity, declaration, compulsion, permission, etc.) the infinitive is used in the semi-predicative constructions of the complex object and complex subject, the latter being the passive counterparts of the former”, for instance: “*We have never heard Charlie play his violin. → Charlie has never been heard to play his violin*” (ibid). The first sentence presents the semi-predicative construction of the complex object (have heard what? – *Charlie play his violin*), and the second – of the complex subject (*Charlie ... to play his violin*).

M. Blokh provides some examples of the gerundial construction (e.g.: “*Will he ever excuse our having interfered?*”) (p. 110). He also mentions some semi-predicative complexes with the present participle “of objective and subjective types” (“*Nobody noticed the scouts approaching the enemy trench with slow, cautious, expertly calculated movements*” – objective; “*The telephone was heard vainly buzzing in the study*” – subjective), as well as “complexes of detached semi-predication” (“*The messenger waiting in the hall, we had only a couple of minutes to make a decision*”. “*The dean sat at his desk, with an electric fire glowing warmly behind the fender at the opposite wall*”) (p. 112). The latter the author calls “complexes of descriptive and narrative stylistic nature”. For the past participle semi-predicative constructions “of complex object”, “of complex subject”, and “of absolute complex” are identified (e.g., “*Will you have my coat brushed up, please?*” – “of complex object”; “*The preliminary talks completed, it became possible to concentrate on the central point of the agenda*” – “of absolute complex”) (pp. 113–114).

E. Morokhovskaya (1984) first calls predicative constructions as “predicative word-groups” which are “traditionally recognized as constructions of “secondary predication” or simply as predicative constructions” (p. 174). There is also used the synonym ‘non-finite predication’ that in our opinion can be an alternative term because of the hint at the verbal constituent in the construction. She stresses the point that the difference between finite and non-finite predication “remains syntactical only because the semiological information conveyed by the units of finite and non-finite predication seems to be the same” (ibid), i.e. the constituents of non-finite predication differ from finite but the relations they render are similar. E. Morokhovskaya also notes the ability of the predicative construction to designate “the units of the non-finite predication with the infinitives and with the V_{ing} -forms” (p. 175).

Among the characteristics of the predicative construction / complex she detects invariant patterns of predicative units, their morphological and syntactic variations.

O. Yagodnikova et al. (1989) give the information about non-finites of the English language in the form of tables which is comprehensive and very useful for those who would like to receive a clear idea of the problem discussed. Tables 27–34 (pp. 37–49) are of special interest as soon as they present the data on the left-hand combinability of the predicative constructions, their patterns (constituents), examples, notes, and syntactic functions. Table 29 (pp. 41–42) describes the use of constructions after some semantic classes of verbs. More details are provided in the ‘Results’ section of this paper.

In the ‘English Grammar’ by Yo. Bermann (1993) there are four sections dealing with the English verbals and the constructions they can be constituents of, namely: Section ‘The Infinitive’ (pp. 155–166), Section ‘Gerund’ (pp. 166–174), Section ‘Participle I’ (pp. 174–183), and Section ‘Participle II’ (P-II) (pp. 184–189). It should be noted that in this source some information on the possible structure of the predicative constructions is outlined. For instance, for ‘Infinitive Complex with preposition *for*’ the structure “for + n. + to v” is provided plus there is an addition that there can be a substitution for “n.” in the form of “personal pronoun in the objective case”: “*It is necessary for them to do the work today*” (Bermann, 1993, p. 162). Of special interest are three-membered verbal constructions identified by the scholar: ‘Three-membered Verbal Construction with Infinitive’ – “(want) + n / Pron obj + Inf” (“*I (want) + the students + to read*”) and ‘Subjective Infinitive Complex’ – “S + is said + to V” (“*He is said to arrive*”) (p. 164).

As for the Gerund, there is no mentioning of separate constructions or complexes but Gerund with the possessive pronoun or noun in the genitive case is indicated and illustrated with “*Can we rely on your assistant’s doing it?*”, “*I was afraid of somebody’s entering the room*” (p. 173).

Three more constructions are given for P-I: ‘Three-membered Verbal Construction with Participle I’ – “... see + n. + I-ing” (“*I see the ship coming*”) (p. 181). ‘Subjective Participial Complex’ – “S + is seen + I-ing” (“*The ship was seen coming*”) (p. 182), and ‘Absolute Participial Complex’ – “So I-ing” (“*Weather permitting, we shall leave the harbour at midnight*”) (ibid).

P-II is a constituent of one ‘Three-membered Verbal Construction with Participle I’ – “... see + n. + III (ed)” (“*I found the envelopes opened*”) (pp. 188–189).

R. Murphy (1997) mentions only some separate structures like [verb + somebody + -ing]: “*I can’t imagine George riding a motorbike*”, “*I don’t mind people keeping me...*” (p. 104); [verb + object + to]: “*I wouldn’t recommend anybody to stay in that hotel*”, and some others (p. 108).

M. Swan & C. Walter (1997) give neither: neither separate account for predicative constructions nor their names or types. They just include some examples of the analysed phenomena in the section ‘Structures after Verbs, Adjectives and Nouns’. Under the title ‘-ing forms as subjects, objects etc.’ we can find the following illustrations: “*Do you mind my smoking? I don’t like his borrowing my things without asking. I don’t like him borrowing my things without asking. She was upset about John leaving home*” (p. 195).

Under the title ‘to -ing’ there is the following example: “*I object to people trying to sell me things over the telephone*” (it is as it looks in the original) (p. 198), but for the purpose of our research it must be as follows: *I object [to people trying] to sell me things over the telephone.*

Under the title ‘verb + object + infinitive’ we can see the examples with the indication that “Some verbs can be followed by **object** + **infinitive**. Examples: *want, prefer*”: “*He wants me to wash his socks*”, “*I would prefer you to pay now*” (Swan&Walter, 1997,

p. 202). Since our paper deals with pure predicative constructions, we need to have sections in bold in a different way: *He wants [me to wash] his socks. I would prefer you to pay now.* More examples of separate structures with the remark “*Let and make are followed by object + infinitive without to*” can be found on page 203: “*Don’t let me forget to phone Jill*” → *Don’t let me forget to phone Jill*, “*You make me laugh*” → *You make me laugh*; “Passive structures with make have the infinitive with to”: “*He was made to apologize*” → *He was made to apologize*.

Under the title ‘**-ing form and infinitive both possible**’ we can notice the illustrations satisfying our requirements after *allow* and *permit*: “*We don’t allow/permit people to smoke*” (p. 204) → *We don’t allow/permit people to smoke*. There we can also find the remark that the verbs *see*, *hear*, *watch* and *feel* can be followed by “**object + infinitive without to or object + -ing form**” (p. 205). It is necessary to take into account that the first one is used to talk about a completed action, and the second – an action going on: “*I saw her pick up the parcel, open it and take out a book*” → *I saw her pick up the parcel, open it and take out a book*; “*I last saw him walking down the road towards the shops*” → *I last saw him walking down the road towards the shops*. “*I heard her play Bach’s A Minor concerto on the radio last night*” → *I heard her play Bach’s A Minor concerto on the radio last night*. “*As we passed his house we heard him practising the violin*” → *As we passed his house we heard him practising the violin*.

Under the title ‘**for ... to ... after adjective/noun**’ the examples with the indication that “After an adjective or a noun, if an infinitive needs its own subject this is introduced by **for**” are given: “*Ann will be happy for the children to help you*”, “*My idea was for her to learn Russian*”, “*It is impossible for her to come*” (p. 208). Another remark states that “After some adjectives, we can use an infinitive to mean ‘for people to...’” – “*She’s easy for people to amuse*” (p. 209) → *She’s easy for people to amuse*.

To summarize, M. Swan & C. Walter (1997) draw attention to specific use of some structures after certain verbs, nouns, and adjectives without classifying such structures.

N. Kobrina et al. in their ‘English Practical Grammar: Infinitive, Participle-I, Participle-II, Gerund’ (1999) provide elaborate information on ‘Non-Finite Forms of the Verb (Verbals)’ (pp. 77–125). As for predicative constructions with the Infinitive the authors state that traditionally there are 3 types (the objective with the infinitive construction and the so-called for-to-infinitive construction): “Traditionally they are called the complex subject, the complex object, and the for-to-infinitive complex” (p. 94). It is also possible to distinguish one more infinitive construction (as they mention) which is generally called ‘the subjective infinitive construction’ or ‘the nominative infinitive construction’. There are language illustrations for the above mentioned types of constructions (e.g.: “*I saw him cross the street*”, “*He longed for me to see the truth*”) but it is not always clear which parts of the sentences these constructions are. What does deserve attention is the scientists’ wording that “the nominal and the verbal elements are understood as forming a complex with subject-predicate relationship” (ibid), where two-membered (a nominal element + a verbal element) structure of the predicative construction and a kind of predicative relations between these two elements are emphasized.

Further, it is possible to find some examples of gerundial constructions but there is no mentioning of any types, for instance: “*Excuse my interrupting you*”, “*I insist on John’s staying with us*” (p. 98). Then on page 100 we see the word combination “a gerundial predicative construction” (“*I remember John’s telling me that story once*”), on page 115 – ‘The objective participial construction’ (“*We heard them singing*”), 117 – ‘The nominative absolute participial construction’ (“*The novel having been read, Jane (she) put it aside*”), 118 – ‘Prepositional absolute participial construction with participle I’ (“*Andrew went into*

the house with his heart beating fast”), 124 – ‘The objective participial construction with participle II’ (“*I must have my watch mended*”), 125 – ‘The nominative absolute participial construction with participle II’ (“*He sat on the sofa, his legs crossed*”) and ‘The prepositional absolute construction with participle II’ (“*She went on reading with her eyes fixed on the pages of the book*”). In general, we managed to count ten types of predicative constructions described and commented on their elements and syntactic functions.

V. Kaushanskaya et al. (2000) include in their ‘English Grammar’ Chapter VIII (‘The Non-finite Forms of the Verb (The Verbals)’) (pp. 153–203) with 3 sections: ‘The Participle’, ‘The Gerund’, and ‘The Infinitive’. The first section dealing with ‘The Participle’ (pp. 154–170) contains the subsection ‘The Predicative constructions with the participle’ (p. 165), namely: ‘The Objective Participial Construction’ (p. 165), ‘The Subjective Participial Construction’ (p. 166), ‘The Nominative Absolute Participial Construction’ (p. 167), ‘The Prepositional Absolute Participial Construction’ (p. 168), and ‘Absolute constructions without a participle’ – ‘The Nominative Absolute Construction’ and ‘The Prepositional Absolute Construction’ (p. 169). The next section ‘The Gerund’ (pp. 170–185) has ‘Predicative constructions with the gerund’ (p. 173) where there are no separate types identified though two parallel constructions of the type are mentioned (depending upon the expression of the nominal element of the construction) (p. 174). Section ‘The Infinitive’ (pp. 185–203) presents ‘Infinitive constructions’ (p. 195), i.e. ‘The Objective-with-the-Infinitive Construction’ (ibid), ‘The Subjective Infinitive Construction’ (p. 199), and ‘The for-to-Infinitive Construction’ (p. 201). To sum up, ten types (with some ‘parallel’ ones) of predicative constructions can be established based on the data provided.

Ye. Korneyeva (2004) presents four separate blocks for four English verbals – the Infinitive, the Participle-I, the Participle-II, and the Gerund. The Predicative Constructions (complexes) are given correspondently. Four types of predicative constructions with the Infinitive (pp. 84–101) are provided for the first block: ‘The For-to-infinitive construction’ (p. 84–88), ‘The Objective with the infinitive construction’ (pp. 89–99), ‘The Absolute nominative infinitive construction’ (pp. 99–100), and ‘The Absolute prepositional nominal infinitive construction’ (pp. 100–101). She notices that the structure is common of all constructions, that is all of them consist of the infinitive denoting an action or a state and a nominal member expressed by a noun or a pronoun. The relation between the verbal and nominal constituents is called predicative and it is similar to a subclause in the sentence.

For the second and third blocks there are three types of predicative constructions (complexes) with the Participle I and the Participle-II mentioned for each of them: ‘The Objective with Participle I construction’ (pp. 125–129), ‘The Absolute nominative with Participle I construction’ (pp. 129–132), and ‘The Absolute prepositional nominal construction with Participle I’ (pp. 132–134) – for the 2nd block; ‘The Objective with Participle II construction’ (pp. 150–154), ‘The Absolute nominative with Participle II construction’ (pp. 154–156), and ‘The Absolute prepositional nominal construction with Participle II’ (pp. 156–157) – for the 3rd block.

Predicative Constructions (complexes) with the Gerund (pp. 168–170) are of four types depending upon the expression of the nominal element: 1) a possessive pronoun as a nominal constituent (“*I don’t like his going there very much*” (p. 169)), 2) a noun in the genitive case (“*I shall feel happy about Henry’s being under his charge*” (ibid.)), 3) a personal pronoun in the objective case (“*Do you remember him beating you about the face?*” (ibid.)), 4) a noun in the common case (“*I left without his boys seeing me*” (p. 170)).

Thus, Ye. Korneyeva distinguishes fourteen types of predicative constructions.

L. Verba & G. Verba (2006) include in their ‘Modern English Grammar’ section ‘Non-finite Forms of the Verb’ (pp. 85–122) and describe 8 complexes: ‘The Objective

Infinitive Complex' (“*I like Helen to sing this song*” (p. 91)), ‘The Subjective Infinitive Complex’ (“*He was seen to run to the train*” (p. 94)), ‘The Prepositional Infinitive Complex’ (“*It’s time for us to go*” (p. 97)), ‘The Objective Participle Complex’ (“*I saw him walking in the garden*” (p. 108)), ‘The Subjective Participle Complex’ (“*A plane was heard flying high in the sky*” (p. 110)), ‘The Absolute Participle Complex’ (“*The rain having stopped we went home*” (p. 111)), two ‘Complexes with the Gerund’ (pp. 119–121): “*They were afraid of my finding out the truth (Dickens)*” (p. 120) (a noun in the Possessive Case or a possessive pronoun and a Gerund), “*I hadn’t much hope of his plan working (Braine)*” (ibid.) (a noun in the Common Case or a personal pronoun in the Objective Case and a Gerund).

L. Chernovatyy et al. (2007) give some information on non-finites (pp. 214–224) but they do not mention any predicative construction let alone some cases of the verbals use, for instance for the Infinitive: “*She asked him to leave*” (pp. 215).

In section “Non-finite clauses” of ‘Collins Cobuild English Grammar’ (2011) there is a definition for a non-finite clause as of “a subordinate clause that contains a participle or an infinitive, and that does not contain a stated subject” (p. 389). However, further it is possible to find some illustrations of non-defining clauses with the subject that evidence predicative constructions / complexes existence: “*Jack being gone, Stephen opened his second letter*” (p. 391) – ‘Nominative Absolute Participial Constructions’ in our interpretation. Then there are more examples to mention that “something that is happening at the same time as the event or situation described in the main clause”: “*The embarrassed young man stared at me, his face reddening*”, “*The old man stood up with tears running down his face*”, “*The argument having finished, Mr Lucas was ready to leave*” (ibid.), “*He came into the room, his hat in his hand*” (p. 392).

T. Drozdova et al. (2012) also pay attention to such English language phenomenon as predicative constructions though they do not use the term ‘predicative constructions’, describing only five of them. Thus, the authors outline the following units: ‘The Gerundial Construction’ (p. 296), ‘The Infinitive Constructions’ (p. 314) – 3 types: ‘The Complex Object’ (p. 314), ‘The Complex Subject’ (p. 320), and ‘The for-to-Infinitive Construction’ (p. 328); ‘The Absolute Participial Construction’ (p. 346).

It is stated that “there are cases when the Gerund is related to its own ‘subject’ (nominal element), expressed by a noun or a pronoun” (p. 296), and not to the subject of the sentence, e.g. “*We appreciate your helping us*” (ibid.). It is obvious that there is neither definition of Gerundial construction, nor clarification as for its structure. Moreover, there is no mentioning of the existence of any types of ‘The Gerundial Construction’. But to be fair it is necessary to stress that there is a remark concerning different ways of the nominal element expression in the construction (as in Ye. Korneyeva (2004)) which can be in different cases: a noun in the possessive case / a possessive pronoun for a living being or a noun for a lifeless thing / several nouns in the common case. It is illustrated as: “*Do you mind my smoking?*”, “*Our talk was prevented by Richard’s coming back*”, “*I object to Mary and Jane going out on such a windy day*”, “*I said something about my clock being slow*” (Drozdova et al, 2012, p. 296).

The Infinitive Constructions are introduced in a similar to the Gerund way, that is it is stated that “The Infinitive may have “a subject” of its own within the sentence. In this case it forms with it a construction: the Complex Object, the Complex Subject, the for-to-Infinitive Construction” (p. 314). It is mentioned that ‘the Complex Object’ can also be called as ‘the Objective-with-the-Infinitive Construction’ and it ‘consists of a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the objective case and the infinitive’ = “Subject + Predicate + Noun (Pronoun) + Infinitive”: “*I want Mother (her) to help me*” (p. 314) – here we can see the structure almost to the whole sentence.

Then the peculiarities of 'The Complex Subject' use are outlined, namely its use with three groups of verbs (sense perception, mental activity, and reporting, e.g. "**She** was heard **to laugh heartily**"), with some word groups (*to be likely, to be unlikely, to be certain, to be sure*) and pairs of synonyms (*to seem / to appear, to prove / to turn out, to happen / to chance*, e.g. "**He** is unlikely **to know** her address", "**They** seem **to have quite forgotten** us already" (p. 323)).

Further there are given 7 cases of usage of 'The for-to-Infinitive Construction' (pp. 328–329).

In section dealing with participles there is an item 3.3 'Have Something Done' telling about the construction 'Have + object + Past Participle' (p. 343) which can also be added to the list of constructions: "**We had the roof repaired yesterday**" → "**We had the roof repaired yesterday**".

The example for 'The Absolute Participial Construction' is represented with "**The letter having been written, he went out to post it**" (p. 346) → "**The letter having been written, he went out to post it**".

Ye. Vikulova (2014) states that the verbals "still do express the secondary predication (potential predication, semipredication) forming syntactic complexes directly related to certain types of subordinate clauses, e.g.: *We expect him to take this offer* – *We expect that he will take this offer*" (p. 44). Thus, she admits the existence of predicative / semipredicative constructions, but she calls them 'complexes' or 'phrases' first – 'for-to-infinitive phrase', e.g.: "*It is not easy for him to show up in a society*". Then the scholar gives examples for the semi-predicative constructions of 'the Complex Object' and 'the Complex Subject' for the Infinitive (p. 45) and for the Participle-I. 'The absolute participial construction' Ye. Vikulova considers to be of the other type of secondary predication, for instance, "**My chief being on a sick leave, I had to make a decision myself**" (p. 47).

V. Nikonova & I. Garbar (2016) in their 'English Grammar in Theory and Practice (Non-Finite Forms of the Verb. Modal Verbs)' single out 'Predicative Constructions with the Infinitive' (pp. 9–13), 'Predicative Constructions with the Participle' (pp. 19–23), and 'Predicative Constructions with the Gerund' (pp. 27–31).

On pages 9 and 19 'predicative constructions' are defined as "as structures in which the syntactic functions of the component parts differ from the function of the phrase as a whole". Then the authors present *three types* of the modern English predicative constructions *with the Infinitive*: 'the Objective-with-the-Infinitive construction', 'the Subjective-with-the-Infinitive construction', and 'the for-to-Infinitive construction' (pp. 9–13); and *four types* of the predicative constructions *with the Participle*: 'the Objective Participial construction', 'the Subjective Participial construction', 'the Nominative (Absolute) Participial construction', and 'the Prepositional Nominative (Absolute) Participial construction' (pp. 19–23). On page 23 there is information on 'Absolute Participial Constructions without the Participle', 'Absolute constructions' defined as having no participles but including adjectives, prepositional phrases or adverbs as the second element. Among such constructions 'the Nominative Absolute construction' and 'the Prepositional Absolute construction' are mentioned. On page 27 *four more types* of predicative constructions (this time *with the Gerund*) are added. The latter four types depend upon the nominal element of the construction which can be expressed by 1) "a noun in the common case", 2) "a noun in the possessive case", 3) "a possessive pronoun in the dependent form", 4) "a pronoun which has no distinctions".

In general, we counted thirteen types of predicative constructions ('the Nominative Absolute construction' and 'the Prepositional Absolute construction' inclusive) singled out by V. Nikonova & I. Garbar. It should be noted that all the types of the predicative

constructions are followed with their structural (sometimes the structures given include the elements not belonging to the predicative constructions as on page 21 for instance) and semantic details, as well their usage specificity (syntactic functions inclusive) description with language illustrations.

Recently, it has become more often the case that scientists focus on separate types of predicative constructions to study them based on their features or just applying new approaches. For instance, V. Zhukovska (2021) has been researching the English Absolute Construction with employment of the collostructional analysis and corpus approach.

As demonstrated by the literature review, no comprehensive data regarding the structure and types of the English predicative constructions had been presented.

3. Aim and Objectives.

The *aim* of the paper is to provide the structure and advise on the motivated types of the English predicative constructions.

It was achieved by solving the following *objectives*:

- to give a theoretical overview of the existing standpoints regarding the notion of the predicative construction;
- to specify the structure and syntactic functions of the English predicative constructions;
- to determine the types of the above mentioned language phenomenon.

4. Methodology.

The results were obtained with the help of such *general scientific methods* as *analysis* (to search for necessary pieces of information through numerous language studies in Literature Review) and *synthesis* (to systematize the data obtained from the analysis), *induction* (to proceed from an individual case to the whole abundance of uses) and *deduction* (to make individual conclusions based on the generalized ideas), *comparison* (to identify the commonalities among the scientists' viewpoints) and *contrasting* (to focus on differences of the outcomes of the scholars). Among the *specific linguistic methods*, the most efficient was a *structural* method with its distributional (to define the environment of the predicative construction in the sentence and hence its syntactic functions) and immediate constituents' analysis (to determine the components of each predicative construction).

The language data to illustrate the structure, syntactic functions and types of the English predicative constructions were taken from novel by Sylvain Reynard "Gabriel's Inferno" (2011).

5. Results.

Before presenting the results to this study we would like to stress the point that we completely support the primary division of all predicative constructions into infinitival, participial, and gerundial depending upon the verbals (the Infinitive, the Participle, or the Gerund) available in them. However, the availability of a verbal in the sentence does not determine the use of the predicative construction. In addition, it is important to differentiate between 'predicative constructions' and 'predicative complexes'. The major difference is in the number of doers of the actions and actions themselves in the sentence. In case of the predicative construction there are always two different doers of the actions – one (or several) as a subject within primary predication but another (or several others) as a nominal constituent within secondary predication.

For example:

I want to know the English Grammar well. – There is the Infinitive but no predicative construction in this sentence as we have only one doer (**I**) of two actions (**want** and **know**).

I want [you to know] the English Grammar well. – There is the predicative construction with the Infinitive in this sentence as we have two different doers (**I** and **you**) of two actions (**want** and **know**).

[Sharing the room with Peter] Boris could hear almost all his telephone calls. – This sentence has the predicative complex (**Sharing the room with Peter**) because Boris is the only doer of the actions here.

Boris could hear almost all Peter's telephone calls', [Peter being his neighbour]. – There is the predicative construction with the Participle (P-I) in this sentence (**Peter being his neighbour**) for we have two different doers of the actions – **Boris** and **Peter**, and two different actions – **hear** and **be**.

Thus, the predicative construction is a construction with two major constituents the second of which is always one of the verbals. The obligatory condition for the predicative construction existence is availability of not less than two different doers and two different actions in the sentence with the secondary predicative relation between the major constituents of the discussed structure.

5.1. Structure of the English predicative constructions.

As it has been mentioned before, any **predicative construction** consists of **two constituents** = **nominal** + **verbal**. A **nominal** constituent can be expressed by **a noun** or **a pronoun**. A **verbal** constituent is expressed by an explicit / implicit **verbal** (the Infinitive, the Participle, or the Gerund). The **nominal** part is the **doer** of the action (different from that of the subject), the **verbal** part is the **action** itself (different from that of the predicate). Between the two constituents of the predicative construction there is **secondary** predicative relation, i.e. the relation as the subject and the predicate have.

Please note that within this section the following designations are used:

N_{com} – for the Noun in the Common Case,

N_{poss} – for the Noun in the Possessive Case,

Pron_{nom} – for the Personal Pronoun in the Nominative Case,

Pron_{obj} – for the Personal Pronoun in the Objective Case,

Pron_{poss} – for the Possessive Pronoun in the conjoint (dependent) form,

(to) V – the Infinitive with / without the particle 'to',

Ving – the Gerund,

P-I – the Present Participle,

P-II – the Past Participle,

(prep) – any preposition required by the previous verb / noun / adjective,

for – the preposition 'for' as an element of the predicative construction,

[...] – the position of the predicate / part of the predicate not belonging to the predicative construction.

The elaborate study of the available theoretical data on the predicative construction as a language economy means verified with the language illustrations enabled us to conclude that **the predicative constructions with the Infinitive** can have the following structural models:

N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + (to) V;

N_{com}/Pron_{nom} + [...] + to V;

for + N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + to V.

The predicative constructions with the Participle can be of the following structures:

N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + P-I / P-II;

N_{com}/Pron_{nom} + [...] + P-I / P-II;
 N_{com} + P-I / P-II (detached with commas or dashes);
 with + N_{com} + P-I / P-II (detached with commas or dashes);
 N_{com} + [P-I implied] (detached with commas or dashes);
 with + N_{com} + [P-I implied] (detached with commas or dashes).

The predicative constructions with the Gerund can have the structural models as follows:

(prep) + N_{poss}/Pron_{poss} + Ving;
 (prep) + N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + Ving.

The total number of structures identified makes 11.

5.2. Syntactic functions of the English predicative constructions.

The sources under analyses reveal that on the syntactic level finites are used in the only function of a simple predicate but the verbals can be used in many functions except the function of a predicate. What is also true is the fact that the left-hand combinability of the finites is always the subject expressed by a noun or its equivalent, with their right-hand combinability being various. Both the left-hand and the right-hand combinability of the verbals is various. The above mentioned determines the variety of the predicative constructions syntactic functions as soon as such constructions can contain any of existing verbals – the Infinitive, the Participle, and the Gerund.

The aim of this paper does not presume defining the specific uses and conditions of such use of the predicative constructions (it is possible to find the detailed information on this issue in V. Nikonova & I. Garbar (2016), for example). So, this section of our results will be limited by providing all the possible syntactic functions of the English predicative constructions in the sentence followed by their illustrations.

The crucial thing in identifying the syntactic function of the predicative construction is not to forget that the whole construction (with all its constituents) fulfills the function of only one member of the sentence, that is why functions of the predicative constructions always start with the word ‘complex’. When we state that the predicative constructions never function as a predicate it means that the scope of the possible syntactic functions cover ‘Complex Subject’, ‘Complex Predicative’ (part of a predicate), ‘Complex Object’, ‘Complex Attribute’, and ‘Complex Adverbial Modifier’ (of various kinds).

Below one can find the language illustrations from novel by Sylvain Reynard “Gabriel’s Inferno” (2011) to all of these complex functions given above (predicative constructions are in bold, the major constituents are framed with brackets; [it] as a formal subject is also given in brackets but not in bold).

Complex Subject

“**[I]** don’t turn out **[to know]** this man.”

“**[They]** were heard **[talking]** together.”

“**[It]**’s hard **[for me to depend]** on someone else.” (p. 343).

“**[It]** isn’t a stretch **[for me to believe]** that you have something that you don’t know how to use.” (p. 408).

“He realized at that moment how stressful **[it]** would be **[for her to sit]** above him naked and exposed, responsible for what was to happen.” (p. 501).

Complex Predicative (part of a predicate)

“What I desire is **[for you to stop]** kneeling to me, Gabriel.” (p. 491) (linking ‘is’ + predicative).

Complex Object

“Rachel watched [**him begin**] to pace and wondered what he was afraid of.” (p. 68) (watched what?).

“For the rest of my life, I’ll dream of hearing your [**voice breathe**] my name.” (p. 65) (hearing what?).

“She whirled back around to see [**Julia swallowing**] her tongue.” (p. 42) (to see what?).

“And he wishes [**for me to convey**] his very best greetings and -” (p. 435) (wishes what?).

“She chewed at the inside of her mouth as she waited [**for him to continue**].” (p. 481) (waited for what?).

“Would you mind [**my opening**] the window?” – Ви не заперечуєте, якщо я відкрию вікно? – emphasizes the action.

“Would you mind [**me opening**] the window?” – Ви не заперечуєте, якщо вікно відкрию я? – emphasizes the doer of the action.

Complex Attribute

“I don’t think it’s a good idea [**for us to go out**] together – in public.” (p. 347) (what kind of idea?).

“Gabriel made an executive decision and decided it was time [**for them to go**] home.” (p. 107) – Complex Attribute (what kind of time?).

Complex Adverbial Modifier

“You don’t have to have sex with me in order [**for me to make**] you feel wanted.” (p. 425) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Purpose (have what for?).

“It seemed [**too**] incredible [**for her to be writing**] about him and [**calling**] him her own.” (p. 131) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Result / Reason).

“They were seated [**too**] far away [**for Gabriel to see what was going on**], but he observed that Paul had turned toward Julia, [**his hand disappearing**] near her lap.” (p. 295) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Result + Complex Adverbial Modifier of Attendant Circumstances (and at the same time).

“She was silent as she felt the energy between them shift, like a serpent circling back on itself, swallowing itself whole, [**anger and passion feeding off**] one another.” (p. 215) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Attendant Circumstances (and at the same time).

““I missed you. So much,” she whispered, her [**lips moving**] against his tattoo.” (p. 172).

“But [**with**] his [**eyes**] determinedly but somewhat distantly [**fixed**] on her, she knew she could not have what she wanted.” (p. 33) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Cause.

“Of course, [**with**] his [**eyes closed**] he had little success.” (p. 165). – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Cause.

“He pulled her closer, snaking his arm beneath her neck and down to her waist where he splayed his hand, [**fingers wide**], at the small of her back.” (p. 65) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Attendant Circumstances (and at the same time).

“He gently rolled her onto her back and placed his hands on either side of her hips, hovering over her – [**eyes wide**] – staring longingly and intensely down into her very soul.” (p. 65) – Complex Adverbial Modifier of Attendant Circumstances (and at the same time).

“[**Breakfast**] over, he went to his counting house.” – P-I is implied: [**Breakfast being** over].

“I found him ready, [**with his stick**] in his hand.” – P-I is implied: [**with his stick being** in his hand].

It is obvious that in modern English there are abundance of predicative constructions used but based on our limited number of samples it is already clear that some of them can be used only in one syntactic function.

5.3. Types of the English predicative constructions.

The specified in items 5.1 and 5.2 of this paper structure and syntactic functions of the English predicative constructions ground their division into corresponding types:

- 1) The Gerundial Construction ((prep) + N_{poss}/Pron_{poss} + Ving);
- 2) The Half-Gerundial Construction ((prep) + N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + Ving);
- 3) The Subjective Infinitive Construction (N_{com}/Pron_{nom} + [...] + to V);
- 4) The Objective Infinitive Construction (N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + (to) V);
- 5) The For-to-Infinitive Construction (for + N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + to V);
- 6) The Subjective Participial Construction (N_{com}/Pron_{nom} + [...] + P-I / P-II);
- 7) The Objective Participial Construction (N_{com}/Pron_{obj} + P-I / P-II);
- 8) The Nominative Absolute Participial Construction (N_{com} + P-I / P-II (detached with commas or dashes));
- 9) The Prepositional Absolute Participial Construction (with + N_{com} + P-I / P-II (detached with commas or dashes));
- 10) The Nominative Absolute (Participial) Construction (N_{com} + [P-I implied] (detached with commas or dashes));
- 11) The Prepositional Absolute (Participial) Construction (with + N_{com} + [P-I implied] (detached with commas or dashes)).

The motivation behind such division is in four obvious criteria:

- its 'superficial' simplicity: every type has an element naming the verbal constituent (the Gerund, the Infinitive, or the Participle; (Participial) in the round brackets means the formal omission of the verbal from the predicative construction structure but its availability and easy decompression in the semantics of such construction);
- if a predicative construction can fulfil only one syntactic function in the sentence, then this function is already marked in the name of the type ('Subjective' means functioning of the construction as a *Complex Subject*, and 'Objective' – as a *Complex Object*);
- if there is the word 'Absolute' in the name of the type, then a construction is detached (as a rule);
- the availability of the word 'Prepositional' ('For' inclusive) means that a construction starts with the preposition ('with' or 'for').

6. Discussion and Conclusions.

The results of this paper are believed to be in practical use for future translators / interpreters and English-language teachers, for they give both an overall idea of the predicative construction as of an English language economy means as well as the functions the predicative construction can fulfil in the sentence. To receive the elaborate information on the use specificity of the English predicative constructions, classes of verbs or adjectives they can depend on, we recommend to address the Grammars from the Literature Review and also the concise but useful material in 'English Practical Grammar' by N. Lemish (2012, pp. 95–98).

The theoretical overview of the existing standpoints as for the predicative construction as a language phenomenon made it possible to specify the structure and syntactic functions of such constructions with the further establishment of their types.

Currently we find it logical to talk about eleven types of the English predicative constructions: two gerundial ones, three infinitival, and six participial despite the fact that in two participial types (Nominative Absolute (Participial) and Prepositional Absolute (Participial)) the Participle itself is omitted in the surface structure. But we still defend our position as for this division because of such participial constituent being always implied and easily restored if there is any need to do it.

Further research can deal with studying the ways of the English predicative constructions rendering in the Ukrainian translation, especially with the corpus approach employment.

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Анотація

У статті розглядається типологія англійських предикативних конструкцій на основі структурного критерію. Метою наукової розвідки є теоретичний огляд актуальних точок зору щодо вищезазначеного мовного феномена з уточненням компонентів структури предикативних конструкцій англійської мови, а також встановленням їх типів.

Кожна предикативна конструкція має два компоненти: називний + вербальний (репрезентований однією з безособових форм дієслова). Ці два компоненти знаходяться у відношеннях вторинної предикації, тобто у відношеннях, аналогічних тим, що існують між підметом і присудком. Предикативна конструкція може вживатися тільки в тому випадку, коли в реченні наявні два різних виконавці дій. З огляду на той факт, що в англійській мові є три типи безособових форм дієслова (інфінітив, герундій і дієприкметник), логічним є ідентифікація предикативних конструкцій інфінітивних, герундіальних і дієприкметникових, оскільки тоді назва конструкції вже вказує на тип безособової форми дієслова, наявний в її структурі. Як наслідок, було визначено одинадцять типів предикативних конструкцій, а саме: два герундіальні типи (*Gerundial* і *Half-Gerundial*), три інфінітивні типи (*Objective Infinitive*, *Subjective Infinitive* і *For-to-Infinitive*), шість дієприкметникових типів (*Objective Participial*, *Subjective Participial*, *Nominative Absolute Participial*, *Prepositional Absolute Participial* та дві повністю абсолютні конструкції, які не містять експліцитного вербального компонента, але цей компонент має на увазі та може бути легко відновлений (*Nominative Absolute (Participial)* і *Prepositional Absolute (Participial)*)).

Результати статті матимуть практичне застосування для майбутніх перекладачів (усних і письмових) і вчителів англійської мови, оскільки презентують загальне поняття про предикативну конструкцію як засіб мовної економії (в англійській мові) та подають функції предикативних конструкцій в реченні.

Ключові слова: предикативна конструкція, вторинна предикація, безособова форма дієслова, інфінітивна, герундіальна, дієприкметникова, абсолютна.