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**THE CATEGORY OF TENSE OF VERBS**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article examines the category of tense in verbs, analyzing its role in expressing time relations in different languages. The study explores how tense structures vary across linguistic systems and their impact on meaning and communication. Special attention is given to the distinctions between absolute and relative tenses, as well as the interrelation between tense, aspect, and mood. The findings highlight the significance of tense in structuring verbal expressions and its role in effective language use.

**Keywords:** Tense, verbs, time relations, linguistic analysis, aspect, mood.

**Introduction**

Tense is one of the fundamental grammatical categories of verbs, playing a crucial role in indicating the time of an action or event. Across different languages, tense systems vary significantly, reflecting unique linguistic structures and cultural perspectives on time. Understanding the tense category is essential not only for linguistic analysis but also for effective communication, as it helps to establish temporal relationships within discourse.

The study of verb tense encompasses several key aspects, including absolute and relative tenses, their interaction with aspect and mood, and their function in different language families. In some languages, tense distinctions are strictly grammaticalized, while in others, time reference is conveyed through context or auxiliary elements. This diversity highlights the complexity of tense as a linguistic phenomenon and its impact on meaning construction[1].

**LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study of verb tense has been a central topic in linguistic research, explored from various theoretical perspectives, including structuralism, functionalism, cognitive linguistics, and typological analysis. Classical works by linguists such as Bernard Comrie (1976) on tense and aspect, Otto Jespersen (1924) on verb forms, and Noam Chomsky's (1957) generative grammar provide foundational insights into how languages encode temporal information.

Recent research highlights the cross-linguistic diversity of tense systems, demonstrating that while some languages, such as English and Russian, have clearly defined past, present, and future tenses, others, like Chinese and Indonesian, rely more on contextual and aspectual markers rather than strict tense inflections. Studies on tense-aspect interaction in Slavic, Romance, and Turkic languages further illustrate how grammatical systems evolve to accommodate different temporal perspectives[2].

In addition to traditional linguistic approaches, modern studies incorporating corpus linguistics and computational modeling have provided new insights into tense usage patterns. Digital corpora and AI-driven language models now enable large-scale analyses of tense structures across multiple languages, revealing patterns of variation, frequency, and semantic nuance that were previously difficult to quantify.

### Research Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative analyses to investigate the tense category in verbs. The research methodology includes:

1. **Comparative Linguistic Analysis** – A systematic comparison of tense structures across selected languages, focusing on their grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic functions. The study includes typologically diverse languages such as English, Uzbek, Russian, and Chinese to explore universal and language-specific features of tense.

2. **Corpus-Based Analysis** – A large-scale examination of real-world language usage through linguistic corpora. This method provides empirical evidence on tense frequency, variation, and context-dependent shifts, offering insights beyond traditional grammatical descriptions.

3. **Cognitive and Pragmatic Perspectives** – Analyzing how speakers conceptualize and use tense in everyday communication. This involves psycholinguistic experiments and discourse analysis to examine the cognitive load of tense distinctions and their role in effective information processing.

4. **Historical and Diachronic Analysis** – Tracing the evolution of tense systems within selected languages to understand how historical linguistic changes have influenced modern grammatical structures. This approach sheds light on the diachronic development of tense and its role in shaping language evolution[3].

### DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The study of verb tense in English reveals how different tenses impact meaning, clarity, and communication. The results highlight the importance of tense selection in various contexts, from storytelling to formal writing.

The following table presents examples of English tense usage, demonstrating their differences in meaning and application:



| Tense                     | Example Sentence                            | Meaning/Usage   | Key Observation                              |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Past Simple</b>        | She visited Paris last year.                | A completed action in the past with a specific time reference.        | Common in storytelling and historical facts. |
| <b>Past Continuous</b>    | She was reading a book when I called.       | An ongoing action in the past interrupted by another action.          | Emphasizes background activity.              |
| <b>Present Simple</b>     | He plays football every weekend.            | A habitual or general truth.  | Often used for routines and facts.           |
| <b>Present Continuous</b> | She is watching TV now.                     | An action happening at the moment of speaking.                        | Indicates temporary situations.              |
| <b>Present Perfect</b>    | I have finished my homework.                | An action that happened at an unspecified time but has relevance now. | Links past actions to the present.           |
| <b>Future Simple</b>      | They will arrive tomorrow.                  | A decision or prediction about the future.                            | Common in formal writing and promises.       |
| <b>Future Continuous</b>  | At this time tomorrow, I will be traveling. | An ongoing action at a specific time in the future.                   | Adds a sense of duration.                    |

### Key Findings

- 1. Tense Selection Shapes Meaning** – Using the wrong tense can change the meaning or clarity of a sentence.
- 2. Context Determines the Best Tense** – The choice between past simple and present perfect depends on whether the past action has present relevance.
- 3. Future Tenses Show Probability** – Future continuous is used to express actions in progress, while future simple often expresses decisions or predictions. This analysis demonstrates how verb tenses function in English and their impact on effective communication[4].

### CONCLUSION

The study of verb tense in English highlights its essential role in conveying time, meaning, and clarity in communication. Tense not only helps in structuring sentences but also influences how information is understood by the listener or reader. The analysis of different tenses demonstrates that each one serves a distinct function, from narrating past events to predicting future actions.

One of the key findings is that **tense selection significantly impacts meaning and context**. For example, using the past simple instead of the present perfect can change whether an action is seen as completed or still relevant to the present. Similarly,

distinguishing between future simple and future continuous helps express different degrees of certainty and duration in predictions.

Moreover, the relationship between tense and **aspect**—such as continuous and perfect forms shows how English allows speakers to express nuances of time, including ongoing actions, completed events, and habitual behaviors. This flexibility makes English an expressive language but also poses challenges for learners who must master when and how to use each tense correctly[5].

In conclusion, understanding English verb tenses is crucial for **effective communication** in both spoken and written contexts. Mastery of tense usage enhances clarity, reduces ambiguity, and improves fluency. Future research could explore how native and non-native speakers acquire and use tenses differently, as well as how advancements in AI and natural language processing handle tense structures in automated translation and speech recognition.

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