

## SECTION 6. GENERAL LINGUISTICS

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### THE INTERACTION BETWEEN WORD-CLASS POTENTIAL AND SENTENCE TYPE IN THE EXPRESSION OF STATES

### ВЗАЄМОДІЯ МІЖ ПОТЕНЦІАЛОМ КЛАСУ СЛІВ ТА ТИПОМ РЕЧЕННЯ У ВИРАЖЕННІ СТАНІВ

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The **purpose** of this research is to determine the regularities of correlation between the part-of-speech potential of words denoting states and the types of sentences in modern English, as well as to describe the syntactic functions these words perform.

The **object** of the study is words denoting states (*words of the category of state*). The **subject** of the study is the peculiarities of their functioning in different types of English sentences.

**Introduction.** In modern linguistics, the study of the category of state occupies an important place, as it combines grammatical, lexical-semantic,

and syntactic aspects of language. Words denoting states express physical, emotional, or mental conditions of a person or environment and function in different sentence types. Their analysis provides insight into the mechanisms of predication and sentence structure in English.

The theory of categorization of words into lexical-semantic groups (or lexical fields) by their semantics has long been practiced by various scientists (Fillmore, Brinton, Levin etc.). However, we can not simply categorize them without the context and hence their place in a sentence structure.

For example, in Wallace Chafe's work verbs in particular are observed within a semantic structure. He states that without a knowledge of semantic structure, we are ignorant of the processes of semantic formation [2, p. 73].

Geoff Thompson's systemic functional grammar, he also shares that the categories of verbs must be based on grammatical as well as semantic differences [6, p. 78].

Jespersen's essential grammar book categorizes sentence analysis by examining "notional syntagmas," such as predicative, objective, attributive, and adverbial groups within a sentence. It lays the basis for analysis of the role of words denoting states in a sentence structure.

## Main Results

**1. Functions of Words Denoting States.** Words of the category of state most often function as the *main part of the predicate* or as a *predicative element*. They may occur both in *impersonal* and *two-member sentences*, depending on the grammatical structure [7, p. 256].

- **Words of the category of state as the main part of the predicate.**

Words denoting states (such as *cold, hot, dark, noisy, necessary, possible*) often function as the central element of the predicate in impersonal sentences. They describe physical, emotional, or situational conditions.

**Examples:** "It is cold in the room." → *cold* denotes a physical state; it is the key element of the predicate. "It was dark outside." → *dark* expresses an In these sentences, the words *cold, dark*, are not attributes but *state predicates* – they define the general situation rather than a property of a specific noun.

- **Words of the category of state as a predicative element.**

In two-member sentences, such words can appear as part of the compound nominal predicate, describing the subject's emotional or physical state. **Examples:** "*She felt tired.*" → *tired* functions as a predicative complement describing the subject's state. "*He was afraid.*" → *afraid* expresses an emotional condition. Here, the words *tired, afraid* serve as predicative complements linked with verbs (*was, felt, seemed, became*) – showing *how* the subject is, rather than *what* it does.

- **Mixed use in different grammatical structures.** Sometimes, state words can shift between impersonal and personal constructions depending

on meaning. **Examples:** “*It is hot.*” → impersonal, general condition. “*I am hot.*” → personal, individual physical state.

**2. Words of State in Impersonal Sentences.** Impersonal sentences in English typically have no concrete subject, or the subject is expressed by the formal pronoun *it*. Such constructions describe the general state of nature, time, or circumstances **Examples:** “*It is cold outside.*” – The weather is cold. “*It is getting dark.*” – It is becoming dark. Here, adjectives such as *cold*, *dark*, serve as *predicative elements* that express environmental or situational states.

**3. Words of State in Two-Member Sentences.** In two-member sentences, words denoting states are combined with the subject and a linking verb, forming a *compound nominal predicate*. **Examples:** “*He was afraid to speak.*” – He felt fear to speak. “*She was awake when he entered.*” – She was not asleep when he came in. In these examples, adjectives *afraid*, *awake* function as *predicatives* expressing *mental or physical states* of the subject.

**4. Stative Verbs.** Stative verbs denote internal, emotional, or mental conditions and are non-progressive, i.e., they are not used in the *Continuous* forms. **Examples:** “*I know the answer.*” – Knowledge as a mental state. “*She loves her job.*” – Emotional attachment as a state.

Such verbs *know*, *love* describe *static states* rather than dynamic actions.

**5. Nouns Denoting States.** Nouns such as *rest*, *fear*, *watch*, *peace*, *silence* often express *psychological, physical, or environmental states* when combined with linking verbs *be*, *remain*, *stay*. **Examples:** “*It was a relief to hear the news.*” – A mental state of relief. “*There was silence in the room.*” – The state of stillness. These examples illustrate how *nominal forms* can realize the semantics of state within the structure of a sentence.

### Scientific Novelty

The study clarifies the *correlation between part-of-speech categories* (adjectival, verbal, nominal) and sentence types, showing that words denoting states serve as *universal means of predication* in English. They realize their meaning both grammatically (through syntactic position) and lexically (through semantic content).

### Conclusions

- Words of the category of state are **polyfunctional**: they can serve as predicatives, predicates, attributes, or parts of compound predicates.
- Impersonal sentences typically express **natural or environmental states**, while two-member sentences express **mental or physical states** of a subject.
- Words denoting states **unite grammatical and semantic predication**, functioning as a core mechanism of expressing conditions and experiences in English syntax.

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