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動詞の目的語になる動名詞について

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On Gerunds as Direct Objects of Verbs*

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1. Introduction

The verbs illustrated in the Verb Pattern 17A of Hornby[1] have a gerund as the direct object. In this paper, the author tries to explore the properties that make some verbs have only a gerund and do not allow them to have an infinitive as the direct object. After some verbs the gerund is more frequently used than the infinitive, and after other verbs the infinitive is preferred. According to Jespersen,[2] after the verbs, *hate* and *like*, the infinitive is mostly used with reference to a special occasion, while the gerund is more appropriate to a general statement.

I hate *lying*. (the vice in general)
I hate to *lie*. (in this particular case)
I don't like (I dislike) *smoking*. (I object to the habit; cp—with the sunstantive: I don't like tobacco-smoke)
I should like *to smoke* now. (thus always after *I should like, Would you like*?)

According to Hornby,[3] after verbs indicating (dis)like and preference, the gerund is used for general statements; the *to*-infinitive is preferred for statements about a particular occasion, especially when the verb is used with *would* or *should*.

We, however, find many instances which can not be accounted for by this distinction. Fowler,[4] for instance, says "The variety of cases in which the question aries is so vast, and the rules that should answer it would be so many and need so many exceptions, that it is better not to state them."

In view of the tense and the property of the gerundive complement in the deep structure,[5] the author seeks to obtain some evidence to show that the gerunds occur as the direct object of some particular verbs that have some natural and distinct properties of requiring the gerund, as against the properties of the verbs requiring the infinitive as the direct object.

2.0 On the gerund as the direct object and the verbs requiring the gerund

Judging from the tense of the gerundive complement in the deep structure, the verbs are classified into five groups.

2.1 Group I

remember, recall, recollect, forget, etc.

These verbs are the factive verbs which require the past tense of the gerundive complement in the

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deep structure. According to the Kiparskys,[6] factive verbs can have as their objects the noun *fact* with a gerund and gerunds can be objects of factive verbs. But Stockwell, Schachter and Partee[7] claim that some verbs can have a deep structure head noun such as *activity / action.*

a. I remember *seeing* him once.
b. I can't recall *visiting* there.
c. I recollected *having seen* her somewhere.
d. I'll never forget *hearing* her song.

The gerunds in the above sentences (a–d) are verbal gerunds.[8]

I remember — the action (fact) — I see him once
⇒ (OF-INSERT) I remember — the action (fact) of — I see him once
⇒ (GERUNDIVIZATION) I remember — the action (fact) of — my seeing him once
⇒ (ACTION-DEL) I remember seeing him once

This observation leads to the conclusion that the action expressed in the gerundive complement in this group takes place prior to the action described by the verb in the main sentence as can be seen from the property of requiring the past tense of the complement in the deep structure. In other words, the factive verbs in this group presuppose the existence in the past of the action expressed in the gerundive complement.

2.2 Group II

regret, deplore, resent, ignore, etc.

These verbs are the factive verbs which require either the present tense or the past tense of the gerundive complement in the deep structure.

a. I regret *being unable* to come.
= I regret that I can not come.
I regret *saying* that I could not come.
= I regret that I said that I could not come.
b. You resent *my being* here.
= You resent it (the fact) that I am here.
They resented *his having been away.*
= They resented it (the fact) that he had been away.

This observation can lead us to the conclusion that the gerunds after these verbs are also verbal gerunds which express that the state or the action described in the gerundive complement is in the present or was in the past. The factive verbs in this group presuppose the existence of the state or the action expressed in the gerundive complement in the present or in the past.

2.3 Group III

a. aspectual verb . . . . . finish
b. negative implicative verb . . . . . avoid, escape
c. negative causative verb . . . . . prevent
d. others . . . . . (can not) help, postpone, put off

These verbs are the non-factive verbs which require the present tense of the gerundive complement in the deep structure, that is to say, the tense of the verb in the main sentence accords with that of the gerundive complement.

a. I finished *reading* the book.
b. I avoided *visiting* him.
   He narrowly escaped *being hurt* in the accident.
c. What prevented your *coming*?
d. I couldn't help *admiring* him.
   You must not postpone *answering* his letter any longer.
   Don't put off *answering* the letter.

The gerunds in the sentences (a–d) are verbal gerunds. The action or the state in the gerundive complement is presupposed to take place in the present or in the past, that is to say, at the same time when the verb in the main sentence indicates.

2.4 Group IV

mind

This verb is a factive verb which expresses concern about the future or the present event and requires the future or the present tense of the gerundive complement in the deep structure.

I don't mind your *smoking* a bit.

The action expressed in the verbal gerund is presupposed to take place in the future or in the present. This verb presupposes the existence of the fact (action) that you smoke in the present or in the future.

2.5 Group V

propose, suggest

These verbs are the non-factive verbs which require the subjunctive present in the gerundive complement.

a. She proposed *dining* together at the same table.
= She proposed that we dine together at the same table.
b. I suggested *staying* there another day.
= I suggested that we stay there another day.

These verbal gerunds in these sentences do not express an abstract action, but a concrete and actual one which is quite within the bounds of possibility to be realized.

As we have already said, an investigation of the verbs which have a gerund as the direct object and of the gerunds after them leads us to the conclusion that the gerunds occur in the following cases concerning the action or the state expressed in the gerundive complement. That is, they occur:

1. When the existence of an action (a fact) or a state is recognized in the past.
2. When the existence of an action (a fact) or a state is recognized or presupposed in the present.
3. When the existence of an action or a state is quite whithin the bounds of possibility in the future.

3.0 Comparison with infinitival complement

When we compare the gerundive complement with the infinitival one, a remarkable difference is found between them. The following verbs have a *to*-infinitive as the direct object.

want, wish, hope, refuse, offer, etc.

I want *to go* there.
I wish *to see* you.
We hope *to see* you soon again.
He refused *to discuss* the question.
I offered *to lend* her the money.

The action expressed in these infinitival complements is not a concrete and actual one in the past or in the present but an abstract one which is not always realizable.

Further, we can get evidence to support the above-mentioned principles in 2.5 by examining the verbs indicating (dis)like and prefernce such as *hate, like, love* and *prefer.*[9)]

a. She hated *shopping.*
b. I hate *to disappoint* you, but...
c. Do you like *going* to concerts? — That depends on the kind of concert.
d. Would you like *to have a look* at my stamps?
e. On the whole I prefer *walking* to *cycling.*
f. You can take the 8.20, unless you prefer *to stay* another night.

The gerundive complements in (a, c, and e) presuppose the actions (the facts) that in (a) *she shops*, in (c) *you go to concerts*, and in (e) *I walk* and *I cycle*, in everyday life. But the infinitival complements in (b, d, and f) do not presuppose that in (b) *I disappoint you*, in (d) *you have a look at my stamps* and in (f) *you stay another night.*

4.0 Conclusion

In this paper, the author argues that the gerunds as the direct object of some verbs are verbal gerunds and considered from the point of view of the tenses of the gerundive complement in the deep structure, the verbs are classified into five groups, for the tense of the gerundive complements depends upon the kind of the verb which they follow. On the basis of his observations exemplified in the present paper, the author wants to argue that the gerunds as the direct object of verbs occur when the existence of an action or a state is recognized or presupposed in the past or in the present and when in the future, the existence of an action or a state is judged to be quite realizable as a concrete and actual one, though the author can not help recognizing concerning the use of gerundive objects that there must be some cases in which the principles proposed in this paper are inapplicable.

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