# SYNTACTICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH SPEECH VERBS

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**Annotation:** *This article is devoted to determining the degree of influence of each of these tools on the implementation of speech verbs in the context. In this article syntactical characteristics of English speech verbs are studied.*

**Key words:** *speech verbs, speech activity, lexical units, realization of verbs.*

**Аннотация**: *Настоящая статья посвящено установлению степени влияния каждого средств речевых глаголов на реализацию их в контексте. В этом статье изучено синтетические характеристики речевых глаголов в английском языке.*

**Ключевые слова**: *глаголы говорения, речевой деятельность, лексические единицы, реализация глаголов.*

**Introduction.** The complexity of the semantic structure of any word lies in the fact that lexical and grammatical meanings are closely intertwined in the word.

The semantic structure of the verb, which expresses an action understood in the broadest sense of the word, is particularly complex. Any action is associated in our consciousness with a wide range of phenomena: with time, space, the agent of action, various objects, etc. in language, this is fixed by lexical and grammatical means.

The method of contextual analysis was used to study 100 examples taken by the method of continuous sampling from the works of English and American writers of the second half of the XX century.

**Main part.** Analysis of the frequency of use of different verbs of speech allowed us to identify the most frequent verbs, medium-frequency and single.

Most often used verbs that convey the general categorical concepts of speech activity: *say, tell, talk, speak, ask.* This indicates that the content of the information itself is more important to the interlocutors, rather than the manner of its presentation and the accompanying emotions.

Classical verbs of speech that simply indicate a message and introduce it without characterizing it in any way are contrasted with other verbs of speech that combine in their meaning the semes of a simple statement of a speech situation and one or another aspect of this situation.

Middle-frequency verbs include: answer, reply, murmur, call, announce, comment, shout, declare, whisper, discuss, utter.

All the other selected speech verbs are low-frequency and singular: bicker, blubber, brag, chat, chatter, chuckle, claim, command, confess, converse, cry, curse, exclaim, growl,

grumble, inform, inquire, lie, moan, mumble, mutter, pray, pronounce, query, question, request, respond, scream, shriek, spout, stammer, state, swear, taunt, wail, whimper, whine, yell.

Thus, in modern English, lexical units that differ in their semantic composition function as verbs that have the meaning of speaking.

Syntagmatic properties of a word are established when considering words as elements of a syntagmatic chain. Their valence characteristics are essential for description in this approach. The absence or presence of a word-dependent environment, its structural optional or obligatory, and the factors that determine them all together form the syntagmatic range of the word as a unit of the language system.

The implementation of word meanings occurs in context due to a certain combination of syntactic, grammatical, and lexical means. This article is devoted to determining the degree of influence of each of these tools on the implementation of Speech verbs in the context.

Describing the types of discourse in which verbs of speech are used, we can distinguish the text, the speech of the characters and the speech of the author, which, in turn, can be divided into prepositional, interposition or standing in a postposition to the speech of the characters.

It was found that the most characteristic type of discourse in which verbs are used is the author's speech, which introduces direct speech - 50% of the total volume of verbs included in the sample.

For example:

"I don't entirely understand it myself," Marvell answered slowly.

In a sentence, speech verbs most often perform the function of a simple verb predicate-83 %.

Analysis of the syntactic environment of speech verbs showed that in most cases - 57% - semantic incompleteness of speech verbs requires surrounding them with a prepositional-nominal group.

The role of the dependent environment can be defined as the concretization of the idea of speaking.

Speech verbs with a simpler seminal structure tend to expand their semantics in Syntagmatic by clarifying: say, tell, ask, talk, speak, answer.

For example:

Dora began to say something to him, but he went off without looking at her.; Yet she had only to speak a few quiet words, put a finger on his sleeve placating.;

He instead went to the Headmaster and told him the whole story.;

He hefted the gun in his hand and asked a question with knitted black eyebrows.

Verbs whose meaning structure is complicated by differential semes are more context-independent: blubber, chatter, chuckle, growl, grumble, inquire, moan, pray, pronounce, scream, shriek, spout, stammer, swear, taunt, wail, whimper, whine, yell.

For example:

"I'm not a baby-sitter," the tall man grumbled.;

"Lewis is weak," pronounced Jane, "and you are strong because you're sure inside yourself.";

"Who was spouting?"

The study of the syntactic environment also made it possible to distinguish the following categories of verbs that have a mandatory environment:

1. direct-prepositional-transitive single-object verbs: announce, chat, comment, confess, converse, cry, declare, discuss, murmur, reply, say, shout, utter, whisper.

2. straight-forward/prepositional-transitive verbs: answer, ask, call, command, inform, request, tell.

3. direct-prepositional-transitive two-object verbs: speak, talk.

4. direct-transitive verbs: bicker, claim, curse, exclaim, mumble and mutter, state.

5. prepositional-transitive verbs: brag, lie, respond.

6. construction without transitive verbs: query, question.

During the analysis of grammatical features of English speech verbs in the context, it turned out that the most characteristic for verbs of speaking, as for all verbs, is the use in the personal form-83 %, in the indicative mood, in the active voice-79 %.

For example:

"But didn't he do it at that time?"inquired Mrs. Donnellson sternly.;

It sounded as if he was telling the truth.;

They were still talking in low voices.;

Michael had declared that he had no taste, even in so would-be charitable an atmosphere, for washing dirty linen in public. This is due to the fact that Speech verbs are anthropocentric and characterize an action in terms of its activity. The number of uses of speech verbs in the passive voice is insignificant-1.4 %: And he guessed, he began to know her so well, why the word had not been spoken: less a shyness than a kind of pride.;

Famous names were already announced.

It is interesting to note that in the vast majority of examples, Speech verbs are used in Past Indefinite. This is due to the fact that the speech verbs are most characteristic in the narrative, that is, when describing events that took place in the past, as well as in talking about past events.

Among non-personal forms of speaking verbs, the infinitive comes first in frequency of use - 13 %:

But it would have eased his heart to have told her everything himself.;

He decided that Toby must be spoken to.

This is due to the fact that the infinitive form is the most flexible (among non-personal forms) both in terms of meaning and in terms of functions performed in the sentence.

Verbs that make up the core of the lexical-semantic group of verbs of speaking: say, tell, ask, talk, speak, show a great ability to speak in different personal and non-personal forms.

It is particularly important to note the verbs tell and say, which in this regard can be called universal verbs. This is due to both the overall high frequency and their simple

seminal structure. For medium - and low-frequency verbs, the use of Past Indefinite Active is predominant.

Syntactic indicators for speech verbs are additions and circumstances. The study of additions showed that nouns and pronouns are mainly used in this function.

However, if in the direct complement function nouns and pronouns account for approximately the same number of examples - 38 % and 37 %, respectively, then in the function of the non - direct indirect complement, pronouns are most characteristic-78 %, and in the function of the prepositional indirect complement - nouns.

It is interesting to note that the direct complement function uses nouns that are directly related to the process of speaking, such as question, word, story, truth, lie, name, as well as nouns that indicate a greeting or prayer, for example:

He had said those words to comfort her.;

"Okay, I was only asking a natural question.

"Toby now wanted to say his prayers.

Analysis of the compatibility of speech verbs with prepositional indirect addition allowed us to determine the verbs speak and talk as having a high ability to control. They can form prepositional indirect additions with six different prepositions.

For example:

"And I won't find anything if I can't talk to anyone.";

"I don't know, he never talks about her."; some of his supporters were talking of shifting to Jackson;

"Di doesn't talk with strangers.";

They were talking at each other in center stage.; no one would ever dare talk against a judge or his wife.

In addition, the verbs speak and talk can simultaneously have two prepositional indirect additions introduced by different prepositions:

"last week James spoke to us about representation.";

Mavis was at the Hall of Justice talking to her lawyers about bail bond;

Then Catherine spoke to Michael of her brother.

The average ability to control is characteristic of verbs tell, say, ask, answer, combined with 3-5 prepositions. Other verbs have a low ability to control.

A circumstance is an optional element of the verb's environment and, however, it is a circumstance that can specify the meaning of a particular verb. The main role in this function is played by the circumstance of the way of action, which makes up 60 % of the number of examples in which the verb of speaking is determined by the circumstance. In the predominant number of examples, the circumstance of the mode of action characterizes not so much the pace of speech or its volume, as its tone, manner, and emotional coloring.

For Example:

"Augh!"she said viciously;

"I must finish my tour of inspection," she said abruptly;

"They wouldn't... misrepresent," Rachel said tonelessly;

Rachel was forced to say firmly:

"Lewis, I cannot feel comfortable here any longer.

It should also be noted that the syntactic environment of speech verbs often includes nouns related to the lexical-semantic group speaking verbs: voice, tone, whisper, laugh, breath, question, word, story, language.

For example:

"This is the visitors' chapel," said Mrs. Mark, speaking in such a low whisper that Dora could hardly hear her.;

"Amen," said Rachel under her breath;

Thank you," said Dora in a low voice.

The analysis of the breadth of syntactic connections of speech verbs made it possible to identify the most frequent syntactic constructions:

SV (speech verb) + Adverbial modifier

SV + Additional subordinate clause

SV + Direct Object

SV + Prepositional indirect Object

The verb is the organizing center of the sentence's syntactic construction. Conceptual relatedness in verbal syntactic constructions is set by a variable component-syntactic indicators.

The constant component the verb is usually characterized by a shift in meaning. When functioning in speech, the word meaning of a verb can not only weaken or accentuate one of the semes that is significant for the communication situation, implement certain system associative features, but also acquire speech occasional semantic features as a result of the interaction of meanings in the text.

**Conclusion.** This study allows to draw the following conclusions: syntax by itself is not similar social factor; the role similar social criteria for the allocation of values of speech verbs plays a syntactic structure, combined with the force index syntax indicators.

Thus, we can say that speech verbs belong to the group of verbs in which the relationship between the functional purpose of verbs, their lexical expression and syntactic constructions is most clearly used.

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