

4/р  
75643  
Одеський національний університет імені І.І.Мечникова

Факультет романо-германської філології

Кафедра граматики англійської мови

## Дипломна робота

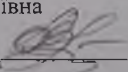
бакалавра (СД)

на тему: «Функціонування часів групи Continuous у текстах різних функціональних стилів у сучасній англійській мові»

«Functioning of the Continuous Tenses in the Texts of Different Functional Styles in Modern English»

Виконала: студентка денної форми навчання  
напряму підготовки 6.020303 Філологія

Кушнір (Чорна) Тетяна Аркадіївна

Керівник ст. викл. Жук В.А. 


Рецензент к.філол.н., доц. Григорян Н.Р.

Рекомендовано до захисту:  
протокол засідання кафедри  
№ 14 від 15.05.2017 р.

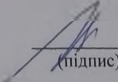
Захищено на засіданні ЕК № 2  
протокол № 76 від 28.06.17

Оцінка добре / B / 85  
(за національною шкалою, шкалою ECTS, бали)

Завідувач кафедри

  
(підпис) Карпенко О.Ю.

Голова ЕК

  
(підпис) Колегаєва І.М.

Одеса – 2017

429641

## CONTENTS

Introduction .....	4
Part I. Review of theoretical problems.....	7
1. General considerations.....	7
2. The category of tense in English.....	10
3. The category of aspect in English.....	10
4.....	
The aspectual character of the verb .....	13
5.....	
The grammatical status of the Continuous forms .....	15
6. Artistic prose.....	17
7. Notes on the English newspaper .....	19
Part II. The Grammatical contents and use of the Continuous tenses .....	25
1. Semantic patterns of the Continuous tenses.....	25
Pattern I .....	25
Pattern II .....	27
Pattern III .....	28
Pattern IV .....	29
2. The use of Continuous tenses in fiction .....	30
The Present Continuous:	
Pattern I .....	30
Pattern II .....	31
Pattern III.....	31
Pattern IV.....	32
The Past Continuous:	
Pattern I .....	34
Pattern II .....	35
Pattern III .....	36
Pattern IV.....	37
3. The use of Continuous tenses in newspaper texts .....	39
The Present Continuous:	
Pattern I .....	39
Pattern II .....	39
Pattern III .....	41
Pattern IV.....	41
The Past Continuous:	
Pattern I .....	43
Pattern II .....	44
Pattern III .....	45
Pattern IV.....	46
Conclusion.....	48
Literature .....	50

## INTRODUCTION

The present graduation thesis deals with the non-perfect Continuous tenses as used in modern English language. The choice of the subject has been determined by the fact that however old they are, the Continuous tenses (also known as the long, definite, expanded, dynamic, or progressive forms) are still an issue of keen discussion among the English grammarians, both in this country and abroad.

The *methods* of the present investigation were:

- of linguistic and structural analysis;
- descriptive;
- quantitative;

The *task* is to define the frequency of usage of the Continuous Tenses of two different functional styles in the Modern English language.

A great deal of monographs, dissertations and academic articles have been devoted to the English tenses as a system, and the Continuous ones in particular. Yet, no agreement has been reached as far as the grammatical content of these tenses is concerned. Traditional views, however, are beginning to give way to new ones and more linguists are trying to reconsider the whole system of the English tenses.

The establishment of the status of the Continuous tenses in the system of the English tenses cannot be considered complete or reliable, unless a thorough study based on a substantial amount of samples of their actual usage is carried out.

This work is intended as a small contribution to the cause endeavouring to look upon the Continuous tenses in the light of the statistical data obtained from the printed matter of two kinds, viz. the English newspaper and fiction.

The English newspaper appears to be a source for linguistic analysis. Being specially designed to render the latest news, the newspaper reacts very quickly to

new developments in the life of society. Hence, it is but natural that the slightest changes in the language emerge on the newspaper pages. Therefore, when trying to study the present stage in the development of the English language one must consider the modern English newspaper as one of the basic sources of linguistic material.

Being less prone to change, unless it is some latest trend of experimental prose, works of the belles-lettres style, on the whole, are fairly universal in reflecting different layers of language, thus presenting another reliable source of material for linguistic analysis.

Part I of this thesis presents a review of the views held by some linguists as regards the theoretical issues bearing on the problem of the Continuous forms. The author tried to summarize the divergent opinions of some grammarians concerning the grammatical content of the Continuous forms. Some other issues, viz. the origin of the Continuous forms, the problem of the context, the peculiarities of the material analysed, etc., also required elucidation or at least statement in passing.

Part II is totally devoted to the findings of our research work, the objective of the latter having been the accumulation and processing of a sufficient amount of examples of actual usage of the Continuous forms in Modern English. The establishment of the typical uses of these forms was carried out on the material obtained from the following sources: *Theatre* by W.S. Maugham, *Nine Stories*, *Franny and Zooey* by J.D. Salinger, as well as the British newspapers *The Observer* (dated 16.07.2016 and 30.07.2016) and *The Sunday Times* (dated 15.01.2016). The fiction texts amounted to about 500 pages. Approximately the same amount of newspaper texts (60 newspaper pages), in terms of words per page; was analysed with a view to comparing both sources as regards the use of the Continuous forms. Consecutive selection of all instances of usage of the Present, Past, and Future Continuous tenses of the Indicative Mood was carried out and cards containing about 1,500 examples of usage were piled up. Different forms showed different frequency. The following data will illustrate this. The Present Continuous was used 740 times in the texts analysed (both fiction and

newspapers). The past Continuous was used 710 times. The Future Continuous was used 21 times (10 in fiction and 11 in newspapers). Due to the low frequency of the latter, the establishment of its grammatical content was not considered as possible or reliable. For this reason the Future Continuous was excluded from the analysis.

In the course of analysis four semantic patterns of the use of the Continuous forms were established. Their distribution is given in special sections. All patterns are supplied with a sufficient quantity of examples.

Statistical counts were also made of all the verbs appearing in the Continuous forms, as well as of the adverbs and adverbial phrases combined with these forms. These are arranged in separate frequency lists.

## CONCLUSION

The problem of the Continuous forms is one that still requires a thorough study based not only on the linguistic intuition of this or that student of English, but also on a sufficient body of samples of their actual rather than coined uses, as well as a scientific approach including statistical counts. Combined, these investigation means can best serve to help find solution to the complicated and long existing problem of the establishment of the grammatical content of the Continuous tenses and their place in the English system of the finite forms of the verb.

The present work was intended as an attempt to shed some light on the above problem as well as give a summary of the existing views in that regard. The linguists referred to in this work are those whose authority as regards the English grammar is often taken for granted. A closer look at the problem in question, however, shows a diversity of opinion, which is the result of the complexity of the issue, that can hardly be underrated. The differences are observed, first of all, in the question of the aspectual and temporal status of the Continuous forms.

The results of the study, carried out on the material from sources belonging to the Modern English language, revealed that the Continuous forms have one essential meaning, which is present in all cases of usage. This is the representation of verbal processes as progressing with reference to the speaker's mental present, past, or future. A number of secondary meanings are only concomitant and appear depending on the context, the latter playing a significant role in the realisation of the grammatical meaning of any form. Among the most frequently used are the secondary meanings of: futurity (with a shade of modality) due to one's previous decision; consistency in performing a regular pattern of action or quality; limited duration (or temporariness) of the action or state as opposed to verbal processes denoted by the Indefinite tenses; incompleteness of the verbal process; simultaneity to another verbal process or temporal point; vividness of description; emotive colouring or emphasis. Not all these meanings are realised in every case. But

whenever they are foregrounded, they are always concomitant with the essential meaning of progression.

The statistical counts of the actual uses of the Continuous forms revealed that of the three tenses in question the Past Continuous is the most frequent one in fiction texts, and the second most frequent in newspaper texts. The Present Continuous is the most frequent tense when counted on the aggregate, as well as in newspaper texts.

In fiction texts, the Present Continuous is most frequently used to denote verbal processes actual at the moment of speaking or the moment referred to the speaker's mental present (in about 65% of its uses). In newspaper texts, it is normally used to denote verbal processes actual and progressing in the present period of time rather than present moment (in about 87% of its uses).

In 68% of its uses in newspaper texts the Past Continuous denotes verbal processes actual and progressing in a certain period of time in the speaker's mental past. In fiction texts, it normally expresses verbal processes actual and progressing at a given moment in the speaker's mental past (in about 77 % of its uses).

## List of Literature

1. Авдеев В.В. Видовременные формы современного английского языка- Пенза, 1971.—71 с.
2. Аракин В.Д. История английского языка- М., 1985.— 256с.
3. Бархударов Л.С., Штелинг Д.А. Грамматика английского языка- М., 1973,—424с.
4. Воронцова Г.И. Очерки по грамматике английского языка- М., 1960,—399с.
5. Есперсен О. Философия грамматики- М., 1988.— 404с.
6. Зернов Б.Е., Варшавская.А.И., Чахоян Л.Г1. и др., Спорные вопросы английской грамматики-Л., 1988.—208с.
7. Иванова И.П. Вид и время в современном английском языке- Л., 1971,—200с.
8. Иванова И.ГГ, Бурлакова В.В., Почепцов Г.Г. Теоретическая грамматика английского языка- М., 1981.—286с.
9. Ильиш Б.А. История английского языка- М., 1978.— 420с.
10. Комиссаров 13.Н. Теория перевода (лингвистические аспекты)- М., 1990,—253с.
11. Кодухов В.И. Общее языкознание- М., 1974.—303с.
12. Лайонз Дж. Введение в теоретическую лингвистику- М., 1978.— 543с.
13. Плоткин В.Я. Грамматические системы в английском языке- Кишинев, 1975.—127с.
14. Раевская Н.Н. Очерки по стилистической грамматике современного английского языка- Киев, 1973.—144с.
15. Смирницкий А.И. Морфология английского языка- М.,1989.—440с.
16. Огепкина Т.Н. Аспектуальные средства английского языка (функциональный подход)- Воронеж, 1989.—54с.
17. Тураева З.Я. Категория времени. Время грамматическое и время

художественное- М., 1979.—219с.

18. Чейф У. Значение и структура языка- М., 1975.—432с.
19. Galperin I.R. Stylistics- Moscow, 1986,—332p.
20. Ganshina M.A., Vasilevskaya N.M. English Grammar- Moscow, 1984,—548p.
21. Giering D., Graustein G., Hoffmann A., et al. English Grammar: a University Handbook- Leipzig, 1999.—406S.
22. Gordon E.M., Krylova I.P. A Grammar of Present-day English- Moscow, 1982.—336p.
23. Ilyish L3.A. The Structure of Modern English- Leningrad, 1981.—366p.
24. Kaushanskaya V.L., Kovner R.L., Kozhevnikova O.N., et al. A Grammar of the English Language- Leningrad, 1989.—319p.
25. Korsakov A.K. The Use of Tenses in English- Kiev, 1978.—224p.
26. Quirk R., Greenbaum S., Leech G., Svartnik J. A Grammar of Contemporary English- Longman, 1988.—1120p.
27. Rastorgueva T.A., Zhdanova I.F. History of the English Language- Moscow, 1982, vol.2.—176p.
28. Kirkpatrick B. The Oxford Paperback Thesaurus: over 300,000 words, 1994,—909p.
29. Maugham W.S. Theatre: A Novel- Moscow, 2002.—288p.
30. Salinger J.D. Nine Stories; Franny and Zooey; Raise High the Roof Beams, Carpenters- Moscow, 1992.—437p.
31. The Observer. 16.07.2016.
32. The Observer.30.07.2016.
33. The Sunday Times. 1 5.01 .2016.
34. Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture: over 80,000 words. Longman group UK Limited, 1992.—1528p.

## РЕЗЮМЕ

Дана дипломна робота присвячена вивченню особливостей функціонування часів групи Continuous у текстах різних функціональних стилів. Мета роботи - встановлення частотних характеристик вживання часів групи Continuous у художніх та публіцистичних текстах. Матеріал аналізу склали два текстових масиви відповідно художніх та публіцистичних текстів однакової довжини, що уможливило порівняти отримані результати.

Мета і завдання дослідження обумовили структуру роботи, яка складається із Вступу, двох розділів, Висновків, Літератури.

У першому розділі викладено теоретико-методологічну базу дослідження, яку склали роботи видатних вітчизняних і зарубіжних вчених. Другий розділ містить власне дослідження і починається з виокремлення чотирьох моделей часів групи Continuous. Далі розглянуто функціонування виокремлених моделей в художніх та публіцистичних текстах відповідно.

Проведене дослідження уможливило зробити такі важливі висновки:

- Інваріантним значенням часів групи Continuous є позначення вербальних процесів, які протікають відносно ментального теперішнього, минулого і майбутнього мовця.
- Крім інваріантного значення, часи групи Continuous мають цілу низку вторинних значень, що реалізуються у контексті.
- Серед найуживаніших вторинних значень часів групи Continuous є позначення спланованої дії у найближчому майбутньому; позначення дії, яка має місце не в момент мовлення, а у широкому теперішньому; а також експресивна передача повторюваної дії (звичайно - з прислівниками *always, constantly, continually, etc.*).
- У художніх текстах Present Continuous превалює над Past Continuous і вживається у 65%, тоді як Past Continuous більш характерний для газетного тексту (68%), ніж Present Continuous.

Отримані результати, а також фактичний матеріал суцільної вибірки, може прислужитися на практичних заняттях з граматики англійської мови, у курсі стилістики англійської мови. Перспективу подальших студій вбачаємо у вивченні особливостей функціонування часів групи Continuous у наукових текстах.