



## Specific Lexical-Grammatical Features of English Copulatory Verbs

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**Abstract:** Copulative verbs are an essential part of the English language as they provide a crucial link between the subject and predicate in a sentence. These verbs, also known as linking verbs, establish a relationship between the subject and a noun, pronoun, or adjective that follows it. This article focuses on the specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs and their importance in sentence construction.

**Key words:** copulative verbs, linking verbs, lexical-grammatical features, sentence construction.

### Introduction:

Copulative verbs are an essential part of the English language as they provide a crucial link between the subject and predicate in a sentence. These verbs, also known as linking verbs, establish a relationship between the subject and a noun, pronoun, or adjective that follows it. This article focuses on the specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs and their importance in sentence construction.

Copulative verbs, also known as linking verbs, are verbs that connect the subject of a sentence to a complement, which can be a noun, pronoun, or adjective. Copulative verbs do not express action, but instead describe a state or condition. The following are some of the most common copulative verbs in English:

1. **Be:** The verb "be" is one of the most common copulative verbs in English. It is used to connect the subject to a complement that describes the subject's state or condition. For example, "She is happy" or "He was tired."
2. **Seem:** The verb "seem" is used to describe an appearance or impression. For example, "She seems tired" or "He seems happy."
3. **Look:** The verb "look" is used to describe the appearance or condition of something or someone. For example, "She looks tired" or "The cake looks delicious."
4. **Feel:** The verb "feel" is used to describe a physical or emotional sensation. For example, "She feels cold" or "He feels happy."
5. **Sound:** The verb "sound" is used to describe a sound or a voice. For example, "The music sounds loud" or "She sounds happy."
6. **Become:** The verb "become" is used to describe a change in state or condition. For example, "He became angry" or "She became a doctor."
7. **Remain:** The verb "remain" is used to describe a continuation of a state or condition. For example, "He remained calm" or "The sky remained clear."

In summary, copulative verbs play an essential role in English sentence construction by linking the subject to a complement. By understanding and mastering the usage of copulative verbs, learners can improve their language skills and communication in the English language.

### Methods:

To identify the specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs, we analyzed the usage of the following verbs: be, become, seem, appear, feel, look, and sound. We examined their syntax and their semantic function in various types of sentences, including simple sentences, compound sentences, and complex sentences.

To identify the specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs, several methods can be used. The following are some common methods:

1. **Corpus analysis:** A corpus is a large collection of texts that can be used for linguistic analysis. Corpus analysis involves examining a large number of texts to identify patterns of language usage. A corpus can be used to identify the most common copulative verbs in English, their syntactic patterns, and the types of complements that follow them.
2. **Sentence analysis:** Sentence analysis involves examining individual sentences to identify the role of copulative verbs in sentence construction. By analyzing the syntax and the semantic function of copulative verbs in different types of sentences, learners can identify their lexical-grammatical features.
3. **Language textbooks:** Language textbooks often provide detailed explanations of the lexical-grammatical features of copulative verbs. Textbooks can be used to learn about the types of complements that follow copulative verbs, their tense and aspect, and their subject-verb agreement.
4. **Online resources:** There are numerous online resources available for learners to study the specific lexical-grammatical features of copulative verbs. These resources can include grammar websites, instructional videos, and language learning apps.
5. **Consultation with language experts:** Learners can seek guidance from language experts, such as teachers or tutors, to learn about the specific lexical-grammatical features of copulative verbs. Experts can provide personalized guidance and feedback to learners to help them improve their understanding and usage of copulative verbs.

In summary, there are several methods that learners can use to identify the specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs. Corpus analysis, sentence analysis, language textbooks, online resources, and consultation with language experts are some common methods that learners can use to improve their understanding and usage of copulative verbs.

### Results:

The specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs can be classified into several categories. These features include:

1. **Tense and aspect:** Copulative verbs can take different tenses and aspects depending on the context and the meaning of the sentence. For example, "She is singing" (present continuous), "She was singing" (past continuous), "She will be singing" (future continuous), "She has been singing" (present perfect continuous), etc.
2. **Complements:** Copulative verbs require a complement, which can be a noun, pronoun, or adjective. The type of complement that follows a copulative verb can provide additional information about the subject of the sentence. For example, "He is a doctor" (noun complement), "She looks tired" (adjective complement), "They seem happy" (adjective complement), etc.
3. **Subject-verb agreement:** Copulative verbs agree with the subject of the sentence in terms of number and person. For example, "She is happy" (singular subject), "They are happy" (plural subject), "He is singing" (third-person singular subject), "We are singing" (first-person plural subject), etc.

4. Negation: Copulative verbs can be negated by adding the word "not" after the copulative verb. For example, "She is not happy" or "He is not singing."
5. Modal auxiliaries: Copulative verbs can be combined with modal auxiliaries to express different degrees of possibility, necessity, or obligation. For example, "She might be happy," "He should be singing," etc.
6. Passive voice: Copulative verbs can be used in the passive voice to describe a state or condition. For example, "The cake was baked by her" (passive voice), "She baked the cake" (active voice).

In summary, the specific lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs include tense and aspect, complements, subject-verb agreement, negation, modal auxiliaries, and passive voice. By understanding and mastering these features, learners can improve their language skills and communication in the English language.

The analysis revealed the following lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs:

1. Syntax: Copulative verbs are always followed by a complement, which can be a noun, pronoun, or adjective. For example, in the sentence "He is a doctor," "is" is the copulative verb, and "doctor" is the complement.
2. Tense and aspect: Copulative verbs have a limited range of tenses and aspects, primarily present tense and present participle. For example, "is," "am," "are," "was," "were," "being," and "been" are copulative verbs.
3. Semantic function: Copulative verbs connect the subject with the complement, but they do not express action. Instead, they express a state or condition. For example, in the sentence "She looks tired," "looks" is the copulative verb, and "tired" is the complement that describes her condition.
4. Subject-verb agreement: Copulative verbs agree with the subject in number and person. For example, in the sentence "They are doctors," "are" agrees with the plural subject "they."
5. Negation: Negation of copulative verbs involves using the negative particle "not" after the copulative verb. For example, in the sentence "He is not a doctor," "not" negates the copulative verb "is."

The specific lexical features of English copulative verbs refer to the vocabulary and semantic properties of these verbs. Here are some common lexical features of English copulative verbs:

**Core meanings:** Copulative verbs express a relationship between the subject and a complement. The most common copulative verbs in English are "be," "seem," "appear," "become," and "remain." These verbs have core meanings that are related to states of being, appearance, change, and continuation.

**Synonyms:** English has many synonyms for copulative verbs. For example, "look," "smell," "taste," and "feel" can also be used as copulative verbs in certain contexts. These verbs express a relationship between the subject and a complement that describes a sensory experience or a perception.

**Idiomatic expressions:** Copulative verbs are often used in idiomatic expressions that have specific meanings that cannot be inferred from the individual words. For example, "be on cloud nine," "feel blue," "look down on," and "seem like a good idea" are all idiomatic expressions that use copulative verbs.

**Collocations:** Copulative verbs often collocate with certain adjectives and nouns. For example, "be happy," "seem tired," "look beautiful," and "become angry" are common collocations that use copulative verbs.

**Polysemy:** Some copulative verbs have multiple meanings that are related to their core meanings. For example, "be" can be used to express identity, location, or existence in addition to its copulative meaning. "Seem" can also be used to express possibility or likelihood.

In summary, the specific lexical features of English copulative verbs include core meanings, synonyms, idiomatic expressions, collocations, and polysemy. Learners can improve their

understanding and usage of copulative verbs by studying these lexical features and practicing their use in different contexts.

### Discussion:

The lexical-grammatical features of English copulative verbs are crucial in sentence construction as they help establish a clear relationship between the subject and the complement. Copulative verbs do not express action but instead describe a state or condition, making them distinct from action verbs. They also have a limited range of tenses and aspects, primarily present tense and present participle, which are essential in determining the timing and duration of the state or condition expressed.

The specific grammatical features of English copulative verbs refer to the syntactic and morphological properties of these verbs. Here are some common grammatical features of English copulative verbs:

**Intransitive verbs:** Copulative verbs are intransitive, meaning they do not take a direct object. Instead, they are followed by a complement that describes the subject. For example, "She is a doctor" or "He seems happy."

**Linking verbs:** Copulative verbs are sometimes called linking verbs because they link the subject to the complement. This linking function is essential to the meaning of the sentence.

**Non-finite forms:** Copulative verbs can also take non-finite forms, such as the infinitive ("to be") and the gerund ("-ing" form). For example, "Her dream is to be a musician" or "His hobby is playing guitar."

**Modal verbs:** Copulative verbs can be combined with modal verbs to express modality, such as possibility, necessity, or permission. For example, "She must be tired" or "You should be careful."

**Passive voice:** Copulative verbs can be used in the passive voice to describe a state or condition. For example, "The cake was baked by her" (passive voice), "She baked the cake" (active voice).

**Question and negation:** In questions and negations, copulative verbs can be inverted with the subject or followed by the word "not" to form negative sentences. For example, "Is she happy?" or "She is not happy."

**Subject-verb agreement:** Copulative verbs agree with the subject in terms of number and person. For example, "She is happy" (singular subject), "They are happy" (plural subject), "He is singing" (third-person singular subject), "We are singing" (first-person plural subject).

In summary, the specific grammatical features of English copulative verbs include intransitivity, linking function, non-finite forms, modal verbs, passive voice, question and negation, and subject-verb agreement. By understanding and mastering these features, learners can improve their use of copulative verbs in English.

### Conclusions and Suggestions:

In conclusion, copulative verbs play a critical role in the English language by linking the subject and complement in a sentence. Understanding their lexical-grammatical features is essential for effective communication in written and spoken English. It is recommended that language learners and writers pay close attention to copulative verbs and their usage to improve their language skills.

In conclusion, mastering the usage of copulative verbs can improve language skills and communication in the English language. As a suggestion, language learners and writers should pay close attention to the lexical-grammatical features of these verbs to ensure effective sentence construction.

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