Systemic Functional Approach in English Grammar as a Foreing Language

Enfoque sistémico funcional de la gramática del inglés como lengua extranjera

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ABSTRACT

It used to be confusing for english as a foreign language (EFL) learners to understand the meanings of past participle functioning as modifiers. The data was taken from workbook entitled english for secretaries and administrative personnel written by MariselaToselli and Ana Maria Milan. This study results that past participle is labelled as a classifier when it precedes the thing, whereas the past participle is labelled as a qualifier when it follows the thing. Past participle functioning as a classifier expresses restriction. Past participle as a qualifier characterizes or provides additional information about the thing.

Keywords: Classifier, english as a foreign language (EFL), nominal group, past participle, qualifier, thing.

RESUMEN

Solía ser confuso para los estudiantes de inglés como lengua extranjera (ILE) entender los significados del participio pasado funcionando como modificadores. Los datos se tomaron del libro de trabajo titulado Inglés para secretarias y personal administrativo escrito por Marisela Toselli y Ana Maria Milan. El resultado de este estudio es que el participio pasado se etiqueta como clasificador cuando precede a la cosa, mientras que el participio pasado se etiqueta como calificador cuando sigue a la cosa. El participio pasado que funciona como clasificador expresa restricción. El participio pasado como calificador caracteriza o proporciona información adicional sobre la cosa.

Palabras clave: Calificador, clasificador, cosa, grupo nominal, inglés como lengua extranjera (ILE), participio pasado.

INTRODUCTION

Which structure is used **collected data** or **data collected**? Do they have the same meanings? For most English learners, those two nominal group structures confused them. They were confused not only about the structures but also the meanings. In the first structure, past participle **collected** is placed before the main word **data**, and in the second structure, past participle **collected** is placed after the main word **data**. With different structures, past participles in the nominal groups must have different functions and different meanings.

To get a comprehensive understanding of the meanings of past participles in nominal group structures, we need to identify the functions of each component structuring them. The nominal group consists of several components. Some components have roles as modifying words and one component as a modified word. The past participle is one of modifying component in the nominal group serves particular functions and meanings.

Based on the reasons mentioned above, the writer believed that this topic is worth researching. In this study, the writer intended to describe the meanings of past participles functioning as Classifier and Qualifier (Alhassan&Shehu: 2019, pp.57-62).

Nominal Group

The group which always exists in a clause is the nominal group. In a clause, the nominal group can be as a subject, an object, or a compliment. It is called group as it is formed by several components. Eggins (2004) describes that "the nominal group is the part of the clause that contains nouns and the words that can accompany nouns". According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), a nominal group is split into a logical structure and experiential structure. The logical structure of nominal group concerns with the semantic relation between the Head and the Modifier or between dominant and dependent. A nominal group structure consists of ahead as an independent word or modified word, and modifiers as dependent words or modifying words. The modifier can be placed before head called premodifier, and after head called postmodifier. Experiential structure concerns how meaning is expressed in the group as the organization of experiences (Fombad&Jiyane: 2019, pp.47-58; Ahmad & Ahmad: 2019, pp. 746-778). A nominal group consists of modifying words are deictic, numerative, epithet, classifier and classifier, and a modified word is called thing.

In the nominal group, the words functioning as modifiers are realized by adjectives, nouns and participles, while a word as the head is realized by a noun (Simatupang et al.: 2018, pp.331-335).

Past Participle

The past participle is a verb used in perfect tenses, in passive voices, and to modify a noun. Past participle has two forms: they are regular forms and irregular forms (Littlejohn & Foss: 2009).

Spelling Rules	Examples
Base form + ed	walk → walked play → played
Verbs ending in -e + d	like → liked move → moved
Verbs ending in a consonant + y,change y → i + ed	carry → carried study → studied
Some verbs ending in a single consonant + the second last letter is a vowel → double the last letter + ed	plan → planned stop → stopped

Table 1. Forms of Regular Verbs

Spelling Rules	Examples
No change in base form	cut → cut put-put
Different spelling from the base form	write → written buy → bought

Table 2. Forms of Irregular Verbs

Here are the most common use of past participle in combination with some auxiliary verbs, as follows:

- The auxiliary verbs: have/had + past participle, to form perfect tenses.For example, I have worked.
- The auxiliary verbs: am/ is/ are/ was/were/been + past participle, to form passive voice. For example, The phone is charged.

Thing

Thing is a matter being talked in the nominal group and has formed from simple to complicated. Thing is modified by modifiers either premodifiers or postmodifiers. Thing is manifested in a noun (Moylan: 2018, pp.283-299). As written by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) say the element we are calling 'Thing' is the semantic core of the nominal group. It may be a common noun, proper noun or (personal) pronoun. Downing and Locke (2006) describe that the term 'entity' refers to not only concrete entities such as persons, objects, places, institutions and other 'collective' but also to the names of actions (swimming, laughter), abstractions (thought, excitement) and phenomena (thunder, success), among others (Ahmad & Sahar: 2019, pp. 1540-1543; Simatupang: 2019, pp.123-131).

Classifier

The classifier has the function to classify a Thing into its subclass, and it is represented by the noun, verbal noun, adjective and participles. According to Bloor and Bloor (2004) "classifier is one of a set of experiential functions in the nominal group; its function is to subclassify the Thing. It typically conflates with Modifier, and it is realized by a noun, participle or adjective". As written by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) "classifier indicates a particular subclass of the thing in question, e.g. electric trains, passenger trains, toy trains". Bloor and Bloor (2004) also define that "classifier identifies a subclass, for example, bus in the bus station, the classifier bus puts the item station in a subclass of stations, distinguishing it from the train station (or railway station), or more broadly from such things as petrol station (or gas station)".

The classifier also has words of the class verb which formed in past participles. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) explain when past participle functioning as the classifier, it typically has the sense of simple present (passive) = 'which is …-ed' (Ahmad & Ahmad: 2018, pp. 44-49; Perbawasari et al.: 2019, pp.1201–1211).

For example, spoken language ('language which is spoken')

Downing and Locke (2002) describe that classifiers are also realized by past participles expressing processes, for example, fallen leaves (leaves which are fallen) (Strauss: 2018, pp.21-48).

Qualifier

The component following the Thing is Qualifier. The qualifier is served by a prepositional phrase or relative clause. The prepositional phrase has form preposition followed by nominal group (Van Rooyen: 2019, pp.146-155). A clause functioning as Qualifier is referred to as a relative clause, especially, as a defining relative clause, for example, the children wearing a blue hat, the relative clause wearing the blue hat is a non-finite clause, we can say the children **who are wearing a blue hat**, the relative clause whichiswearing a blue hat is the finite clause. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) say that "Qualifier has the function of characterizing the

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Thing". Gerot and Wignell(1995) state that modification after the Thing (post-modification) is called Qualifier. Qualifiers provide additional defining or circumstantial information about the Thing. A Qualifier is almost always a prepositional phrase or a relative clause and is an example of embedding. For example, a snake **withrattles**, or a snake **which has rattles**(Wang: 2019, pp.60-81).

METHODOLOGY

Research Questions
There are two questions in this study:
1.   How could we distinguish past participle functioning as Classifier or Qualifier?
2.   How could we understand the meanings of the past participle as Classifier and past participle as Qualifier?

The technique of collecting data
The required data are taken from a textbook entitled English for Secretaries and Administrative Personnel written by MariselaToselli and Ana Maria Milan. The writer did several steps of collecting data for the details as follows:

1.   Collecting nominal groups with past participles as modifiers.
2.   Classifying past participles as Classifier and past participles as Qualifier.
3.   Analyzing the data to reveal the meanings

The Study Technique
In doing this study, the writer did library research to gain the theories and references to support the analysis. The collected data were analyzed in accordance with theories chosen, and then described based on the functional grammar points of views to gain more specific comprehension about the characteristics and the meanings between Classifier and Qualifier in past participle in the nominal group (Yahya et al.: 2018, pp.1-14).
There are some steps in analyzing the data. First, the data from the selected book are analyzed based on the positions to find out whether they belong to Classifier or Qualifier. Second, the data are analyzed based on the functions to get the meanings.

RESULTS

Past Participles as Classifier
(1)   Listen and say **the stressed words** in the questions. Practice asking and answering them with a partner.
(2)   During the nineteenth century, the word Mrs. began to be used to refer to **a married woman**.
(3)   Repeat the Workbook CD 3.2 and pause so they can complete **their unfinished answers**.
From data 1 to data 3, the clauses have nominal groups with past participles as Classifiers. Data 1 has the stressed words as the nominal group with the and stressed as modifiers and words as Head, the modified word. Based on the experiential structure of the nominal group, words function as Thing, stressed functions as Classifier, and the functions as Deictic. Stressed has past participle form as it is derived from the base form of verb stress added –ed. It functions as Classifier since the position precedes the Thing words, and it makes restriction the Thing words from other words. The nominal group stressed words couldbe interpreted words which are stressed. Stressed distinguish words from other types of words, such as unstressed words. If we

want to examine stressed as Classifier, we can ask using a short question: What types of words? The answer is stressed words (Serfling: 2009).

Data 2 has a married woman as the nominal group with a and married as modifiers and woman as Head, the modified word. Based on the experiential structure of the nominal group, woman functions as Thing, married functions as Classifier, and a function as Deictic. Married is past participle as it is derived from the base form of verb marry added –ed. It functions as Classifier since the position precedes the Thing woman, and it makes restriction the Thing woman from other women. Nominal group, a married woman, can be interpreted as a woman who is married. Married distinguishes a woman from other types of women, such as a single woman. If we want to examine woman is a Classifier, we can ask using a short question: What types of the woman? The answer is the married woman (Wang & Xu: 2018).

Data 3 has their unfinished answers as the nominal group with their and unfinished as modifiers and answers as Head, the modified word. Based on the experiential structure of the nominal group, answers function as Thing, unfinished functions as Classifier, and their functions as Deictic. Unfinished is past participle as it is derived from the base form of verb finish added –ed, and prefix –unto give the negative idea. It functions as Classifier since the position precedes the Thing answers, and it makes restriction the Thing answers from other answers. Nominal group their unfinished answers can be interpreted their answers which are unfinished. Unfinished distinguishes answers from other types of answers, such as finished answers or completed answers. If we want to examine unfinished is a Classifier, we can ask using a short question: What types of answers? The answer is unfinished answers.

DISCUSSION

Past Participles as Qualifier

Data 4: Revise **the structure used** in the activity.

Data 5: Play Workbook CD 4.1 pause so students can write **the information requested**.

Data 6: Based on **the interview strategies mentioned** earlier, students compare what the candidates did well and what did wrong during the interview.

From data 4 to data 6, the clauses have nominal groups with past participles as Qualifier.

Data 4 has the structure used as the nominal group with the and used as modifiers and structure as Head, the modified word. Based on the experiential structure of the nominal group, structure functions as Thing, the functions as Deictic, and used functions as Qualifier. Used is past participle as it is derived from the base form of verb use added –ed. It functions as Qualifier since the position follows the Thing structure. Qualifier used is formed from the reduction process of the relative clause. The relative clause which was used is reduced becoming used, the relative pronoun which and to be is being omitted. Qualifier used characterizes or provides additional information about the Thing structure. Based on the context of the clause, the nominal group the structure used can be interpreted the structure which students used. If we want to examine used is a Qualifier, we can ask using the short question: which structure? The answer is the structure was which used.

Data 5 has the information requested as the nominal group with the and requested as modifiers and information as Head, the modified word. Based on the experiential structure of the nominal group, information functions as Thing, the functions as Deictic, and requested functions as Qualifier. Requested is past participle as it is derived from the base form of verb request added –ed. It functions as Qualifier since the position follows the Thing information. Qualifier requested is formed from the reduction process of the relative clause. The relative clause which is requested is reduced becoming requested, the relative pronoun which and to be is being omitted. Qualifier requested characterizes or provides additional information about the Thing information. Based on the context of the clause, the nominal group the information requested can be

interpreted the information which the teacher requested. If we want to examine requested is a Qualifier, we can ask using the short question: which information? The answer is the information which is requested.

Data 6 has the interview strategies mentioned as the nominal group with the interview and mentioned as modifiers and strategies as Head, the modified word. Based on the experiential structure of the nominal group, strategies functions as Thing, the functions as Deictic, interview functions as Classifier, and mentioned functions as Qualifier. Mentioned is past participle as it is derived from the base form of verb mention added –ed. It functions as Qualifier since the position follows the Thing strategies. Qualifier mentioned is formed from the reduction process of the relative clause. The relative clause which was mentioned is reduced becoming mentioned, the relative pronoun which and to be is being omitted. Qualifier mentioned characterizes or provides additional information about the Thing strategies. Based on the context of the clause, the nominal group, the interview strategies mentioned can be interpreted the interview strategies which teacher mentioned. If we want to examine mentioned is a Qualifier, we can ask using the short question: which interview strategies? The answer is the interview strategies which were mentioned.

CONCLUSION

To comprehend the meaning of a clause, it is required to know the functions of each group and phrase forming it. To comprehend the meaning of a group, it is required to know the functions of each word forming it. That is the rule in functional grammar perspective. To understand the meaning of past participle as a modifier in nominal group structure, we need to know the functions of the words which form the structure. As Classifier, the past participle is placed before the Thing, and it functions to modify the Thing as the modified word. Past participle functioning as Classifier has meaning to classify or restrict the Thing from other Thing. On the other hand, past participle functioning as Qualifier is placed after the Thing, and it functions to modify the Thing as the modified word. It characterizes or provides additional information about the Thing.

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