SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS INTERFACE ANALYSIS ON VERB TELICITY IN ENGLISH SENTENCE

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ABSTRACT

As the core of a sentence, a verb can be analyzed using syntax and semantic interface based on the verb situation type. One aspect in the verb situation is telicity which shows the process shown by the verb whether it involves a bounded activity or unbounded activity with an inherent endpoint. This paper analyzes the verbs telicity based on the verb classes proposed by Vendler (1967) namely achievement, accomplishment, activities, and states. The analysis aims to find the semantic feature of a verb using syntax and semantics interface. The data in the form of sentences were taken from Hemingway's short story *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*. The analysis employs a descriptive qualitative method using the observation technique. The data was presented in both formal and informal methods. The results show that it can be analyzed both syntactically and semantically. Accomplishment and achievement verbs are while activities and state verbs are a.

Keywords: verb, syntax-semantics interface, telicity, telic, atelic.

A. INTRODUCTION

Analysis of sentences with the concept that verbs are central / core sentences can be analyzed by the study of syntax by looking at syntactic and semantic behavior of these verbs. Active sentences in English can be seen from the function elements and function filler categories as well as from semantic elements verbs in the form of aspects that have grammatical and lexical elements. In understanding sentences, the reader experiences from various perspectives (Kreidler, 2002: 198) which is manifested in the form of verbs. Historically, studies of syntactic and semantic interfaces regarding

verbs and situations began in 1967 through the writing of Zeno Vendler under the title '*Verbs and Times*' (Griffiths: 77).

Telicity is things that concern whether or not an action is complete or not (Kridalaksana, 2008: 238). Telic shows that an action is clear when the deadline is at the same time while the atelic shows things about actions that are not clear or incomplete (22). The two main topics on verbs and situations can be seen semantically with the terms achievement/accomplishment and accomplishment (Griffiths, 2006: 67; Kreidler, 2002: 206, Saeed, 2016: 115). Thus, the syntactic-semantic analysis makes a comprehensive verb analysis seen from its position in the structure of a sentence and the elements of meaning contained in each verb. The formulation of the problem of this paper is how does the description of telicity verbs in English syntactically and semantically? The purpose of the analysis in this paper is to describe the analysis of verb syntactic behavior that shows telicity in English sentences and to describe the semantic analysis of verbs showing telicity in English sentences.

B. Literature Review

The discussion of verbs and types of situations is discussed in semantic theory which describes the testing of the meaning of verb conditions both syntactically and semantically. Some experts discussing this connection are Griifith (2006) who discusses verbs and situations, secondly, Kreidler (2002) includes a discussion of verbs in terms of aspects, Saeed (2016) in the Semantic Sentence discussion in the form of Situations. Meanwhile, Valin (2005) in *Exploring the Syntax-Semantic Interface* describes verb classes in lexical representations and semantic roles, verb telicity and also semantic verb features which can be seen from four aspects namely [± static], [± dynamic], [±], [± punctual]. Then, Levin (2007) discusses the lexical semantics of verbs with the approach of the lexical-semantic representation of a verb. Levin explains that verbs can be classified according to the internal temporal structure of events indicated by a verb. He also explains the proof to determine the categorization of the verb class and finally the existence of characteristics that are relevant to the aspectual concept of verbs.

The discussion in this paper uses a syntactic and structural-semantic analysis approach that is based on the theory that verbs can be seen from their telicity based

on their syntactic and semantic behavior. The theory employed to analyze existing data is the theory of syntactic and semantic interfaces involving verb problems and types of situations based on one of the semantic verb features in the form of telicity. Valin (2005: 32) and Saeed (2016) classify verb classes according to their meaning to be four based on the opinion of Vendler (1967), namely *states, achievements, accomplishments*, and *activities*. Meanwhile, Pavey (2010: 94) classifies predicate classes into five namely *states, activities, achievements, accomplishments* and *semelfactives*.

States verb explains internal feelings, conditions or properties, and circumstances. States verbs can be temporary or permanent but do not have an inherent endpoint (Pavey, 95). Activities verbs involve actions and like static verbs, these verbs do not have an inherent end. Activities verbs are dynamic in that they involve actions and can occur with adverbs (96). Achievements verbs class type describes instant state changes with a very short time and does not have an inherent end goal (97), these verbs include non-dynamic and cannot be followed by an adverb (98).

Telicity can be seen from the characteristics of the class of verbs described earlier. Kreidler (206) classifies states and activity verbs as atelic while achievement and accomplishments verbs are categorized into telic verbs because they have a clear result (207). Judging from the syntactic behavior, telicity can be seen from sentence structure with telic verbs that object NP counts while atelic verbs have *mass* NP objects (Levin, 2007: 11).

C. Research Methodology

This is qualitative descriptive research which includes three stages, namely the stage of providing data, the stage of data analysis and the stage of presenting the results of the analysis (Sudaryanto, 2015: 6). The stage of providing data is done by referring to the method by listening to the use of written language in short stories. The technique of data collection was carried out by recording techniques with data sources derived from the sentence in Ernest Hemingway's short story "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber". The phase of data analysis is done by a referential equivalent method to analyze lingual units in sentences based on designated referents, namely in the form of verbs in active sentences seen from aspects (syntax) and types of situations (semantics). The presentation of the results of the analysis informally is in the form of

the results of the presentation in the form of words/sentences, while the presentation of data formally is the presentation of the results of the analysis in the form of a table of componential meaning for each verb to the type of situation.

D. Findings & Discussion

1. Telic Verbs in English sentences.

To test the quality of a verb, the categorization of verbs according to the type of situation needs to be determined. Verbs can be recognized by observing semantic behavior, syntactic behavior, and morphological forms (Alwi, Dardjowidjojo, Lapoliwa, Moeliono, 2010: 91). The categorization of verbs into several verb classes in this paper is seen only from syntactic and semantic behavior. Telic verbs state that the action is complete or targeted, while the atelic verbs state that the action has not been completed, or has not been completed. In general, verbs in English are divided into two, a namely lexical verb such as *walk, write, play*, etc. and auxiliary verbs like *do, have, can, must,* etc. (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 26). Regarding its form, the verb is divided into five forms namely base (call), -s form (calls), past, -ing participle (calling) and -ed participle (called) (27).

The discussion of telicity cannot be separated by a discussion of aspects of a verb. In general, English has two types of aspects grammatically, namely perfect and progressive which are expressed both syntactically and morphologically. Besides, English also has semantic aspects that are indicated by *verb strings* (Lobeck and Denham, 2014: 96). Meanwhile, Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 40) explain that aspects related to "manner in which the verbal action is experienced or perceived". Based on this understanding, Quirk and Greenbaum (46) divide the verb meanings into two types, namely *dynamic* which includes *activity verbs, process verb, verbs of bodily sensation* and *transitional verb* as well as a *stative verb* which includes *verbs of inert perception* in addition to *cognition and relational verb* (47) . Thus, verbs can be seen from the types of meanings described earlier syntactically.

As the description of verbs above, verbs with telic aspects can be analyzed through sentence types with accomplishments and achievements. The first type of discussion of verbs is the accomplishment verb class. This type of verb can be seen syntactically in active sentences with present, continuous, past and future times.

Viewing from its meaning, this verb shows changes that occur over a long period and express actions that are targeted (Pavey, 98). Besides, the accomplishment verb has an abounded process (Kreidler, 119). The following are examples of sentences that have different types of accomplishments:

(1) She <u>was walking over</u> from her tent looking refreshed and cheerful and quite lovely.

(2) That afternoon, late, Wilson and Macomber <u>went out</u> in the motor car with the native driver and the two gun-bearers.

(3) She <u>is away</u> for twenty minutes and now she is back.

(4) He <u>was running</u>; running wildly, in panic in the open, running toward the stream.

Verbs in the example sentences are classified into accomplishment verbs which can be seen from their syntactic and semantic behavior. In sentence (1), sentence construction is in the form of active sentences with progressive aspects with markers verb *-ing* as active verb markers. In that sentence, the predicate "walkover" with a progressive form indicates the existence of events that occur durative or at a certain time. Besides, the description of the time implied in the sentence can be tested with the question "How long was she walking over?". In addition to having a durative meaning, the verb of 'walkover' in sentence (1) is a verb that requires the presence of the subject as an agent and complement in the form of an initial statement indicated by the phrase "from the tent" with the aim of "looking refreshed and cheerful and quite lovely".

Semantically, the verb "walking over" in a sentence (1) has the type of event that the subject 'she' performs with a clear purpose with the process of a "walkover" process completion. Besides, the verb walkover has a dynamic semantic nature that shows events carried out by someone and changes the situation from one event to another with a different place. Of all the verb characteristics, verbs in the sentence (1) can be said including tells verbs which are characterized by accomplishment verbs and have semantic features such as [+ durative], [+ dynamic] and [+telic].

An example of a telic verb is shown in a sentence (2) with the verb "went out" as an accomplishment verb. As seen from its syntactic structure, sentence (2) has a function structure adverbial of time-subject-predicate-adverbial of place. Sentence (2) has an intransitive active sentence construction followed by a compliment in the form of a place described as the target of the verb "went out". Semantically, the verb "went out" has the meaning of durative events that can be tested with the question "how

long did they go out?". Besides, the verb in a sentence (2) shows an event that implies a dynamic situation carried out by the subject to a destination in the form of a particular place. With the durative characteristic and the purpose of the verb "went out", the verbs in a sentence (2) can be grouped as telic verbs with accomplishment verb classes and can be expressed by testing the question of how long the situation from the went out verb can be terminated.

Sentence (3) is a telic verb indicated by active sentence construction with an adjectival verb "is away". The verbal phrase is away consists of two words, namely the auxiliary "be" in the past form as the main verb and the adjective "away" which can be interpreted as one meaning namely "go away". Auxiliary "is" in a sentence (2) is the main verb because is the only verb in a sentence (2) (Lobeck and Denham, 88). Thus, sentence (2) which is an equivalent compound sentence has a verb "is" which is interpreted as "away" and "back" as an active verb form. Judging from the meaning of the verb, "is a way" has a durative feature that is marked with a description of the time "for twenty minutes". Thus, the durative aspect of this verb can be tested by "How long is she away?" And of course, implicitly shows the purpose of the subject "she" goes and there is a clear final goal. The telicity of the verb is away is indicated by the duration of the verb "is away" carried out by the subject she with dynamic verb types and also the inherent endpoint to the destination from the verb "is away" which is not mentioned in the sentence and also the inherent point in the verb phrase is back to the place take action.

Sentence (4) almost has the same sentence structure as a sentence (1) in terms of the progressive aspects used. It has the main verb, namely 'was running' which is then followed by verb repetition running as a form of literary language variation from the data source. The sentence has a syntactic function structure in the form of subject-title and place description. The difference with a sentence (1) is in the complement in the form of prepositional phrases beginning with the word 'toward '. This preposition indicates a description of the purpose of the verb "was running" done by the subject "he". From this example, the intransitive active sentence structure with progressive verbs contains the meaning of events that show telicity seen from the run verbs with characteristics of [+ durative], [dynamic], [+], [+ goal] and included in the accomplishment verb class.

The second type of verb class that shows telicity is the achievement verb. This class of verbs is described by changing circumstances which are the instantaneous change of state (Pavey, 97). This type of verb also shows a clear endpoint, but the thing that distinguishes it from the accomplishment verb is the relatively shorter duration of achievement verbs. Besides, the verbs are achievable including non-dynamic because they do not involve actions and cannot be followed by information (98). This verb has components meaning [+ dynamic], [+ instantaneous], [+telic]. The following are examples of this verbs that fall into the class of verb achievement:

(5) You <u>killed</u> the first bull.

(6) The car <u>stopped</u>.

(7) He <u>had decided</u> now that to break would be much easier.

In sentence (5) the active sentence construction is indicated by the 'killed' verb followed by the object in the form of 'the first bull' noun. Sentence (5) is an active sentence with the structure of the function S-V-O and each function forms the role of the agent-process-patient, 'You' as the subject, 'killed' fills the verb function while the first bull is the filler of the object. From this structure verb, 'killed' shows the meaning of the punctual situation which explains the change from life status to death status with a punctual period/ on time. Seeing from the type of event, this achievement verb has a clear endpoint in the form of a change in state from life to death but in a short period. The achievement verb can be tested by the test described by Valin (35) of which is that it cannot occur in a progressive form, adverbs such as actively, slowly, for an hour and in an hour for example:

(5a) * You <u>are killing</u> the first bull.

(5b) You killed the first bull * <u>actively / slowly</u>.

(5c) You killed the first bull * <u>for an hour / in an hour</u>.

From these tests, the verb achievement can be distinguished from the accomplishment verb in terms of the duration of the transition in changing circumstances. However, these verbs have similarities in terms of telisities in the form of clear endpoints. Thus, the achievement killed 'verb in a sentence (5) is included in the telis verb which has components of the meaning of antistatic, [-dynamic], [+], [+ punctual].

Sentence (6) is an active sentence that has a subject-predicate construction. Verb filler predicate is an intransitive verb that an object cannot follow because the

subject is filled with non-human nouns in the form of "The car". The verb 'stop' can be seen meaningfully as a dynamic verb but shows events that are only brief and timely/punctual. "Stop" indicates the change in the state of the "car" object from a moving state to a certain position. Thus the stop verb in a sentence (6) can also be said as a telic verb because there is an endpoint of the event indicated by the verb in the sentence.

Sentence (7) with the verb "had decided" is included in the past perfect which shows the event that has occurred with a certain endpoint in the past. Now time markers show that the filler element of the subject "he" has done something to "decide" something "now" that was thought of in the past. This shows that when the subject takes a decision action does not require a long time [-durative]. This can be proven by testing that the verb decide includes the achievement with progressive addition, for example:

(7a) * He <u>had been deciding</u> now.

This is because the process of deciding something is punctual and also dynamic. This verb is categorized as telic because, besides the type of verb class that includes achievement, this verb also shows a process with a clear endpoint.

Overall, both the accomplishment verb and the achievement verb are included in the telic verbs because they have an inherent ultimate goal. The fundamental difference between the two types of verbs lies in the characteristic duration of each verb that the accomplishment verbs require more intensive time than the relatively shorter achievement. In addition, the syntactic behavior of the two verbs has the same structure in the form of active sentences that have a structure of subject-predicate-complement functions or subject-predicate objects with differences in progressive aspects that can occur in sentences with accomplishment verb sentences while in sentences with achievement verbs sentences are not grammatical if they are changed in to progressive form.

2. Atelic Verbs in English sentence.

Atelic verb is a verb that shows the meaning that the event shown by the verb is not yet complete and does not have an inherent end. Types of verb classes that can be classified into atelic verbs are *states* and *activities* verb (Kreidler, 2002: 206). The first type of verbal verb that is discussed is the state verb which can be defined as a verb

that describes a person's internal perception of something and cognition (Quirk and Greenbaum: 47). Pavey (95) explains that verb states are usually in the form of internal feelings and do not have a clear end goal. Examples of sentences with atelic verbs are:

(8) He <u>hated</u> Robert Wilson the most.

(9) He was very <u>embarrassed</u>.

The two sentences above are active sentence types with verb states or verbs that indicate the state in the form of past tense. The sentence (8) is an active sentence with the structure of the subject-predicate-complementary function. 'He' as the filler element of the subject followed by the 'hated' verb requires one element as a complement filled with another noun, 'Wilson'. The sentence structure shows the predicate verb function that has a meaning that affects the constituents on the right and left. Grammatically, sentences with state verbs cannot also be converted into progressive forms to:

(8a) * He *was hating* Robert Wilson the most.

Semantically the verb 'hated' shows a fixed situation without any internal phase or change (Saeed, 115). Verb 'hate' shows a situation that does not have a clear ultimate goal so that it can be said that the verb states 'hate' belongs to atelic. In terms of the verb duration, 'hate' indicates a condition that is not dynamic because it cannot be measured by the time stated for sentences (8). In general, the 'hate' verbs included in the Verba states class with [-ynamic], [-durative], [-] characteristics.

Sentence (9) syntactically consists of the subject-predicate-subjective complement. This is because the verb is linking as a semantic designation because it describes the state of the subject. Linking verb is also called copular / copulative verb (Riley and Parker, 1998: 106). Verbs are followed by adjectives that explain the subject 'he'. In terms of semantics, verbs that are embodied refer to the state of the subject that does not involve a particular process. Therefore, the copular verb that links subjective complement subjects can be categorized as atelis verbs. Besides, sentence (9) cannot be given a time statement which implies that the absence of duration in the event indicated by the verb was embedded. Therefore, the general characteristics of these copular verbs are [-dynamic], [-durative] and [-telic].

The second atelic verb is the verb with the class 'activities verb'. Activity verbs are nonstatic and involve action but do not have a clear end goal as expressed by several

examples such as *dance, watch, swim* and *march* (Pavey, 96). Activities verbs are dynamic because they can be followed by a description of the adverb of manner. This is in contrast to sentences with a 'state' verb. The following are examples of sentences with verb activities:

(10) Macomber <u>watched </u>the buffalo got bigger and bigger.

(11) The woman <u>was crying</u> hysterically.

Sentence (10) is an active sentence with a subject-predicate-object-description function structure. Predicates are filled with transitive watch verbs in the form of past tense. As a transitive verb, structurally this verb requires objects as targets and also subjects as agents/actors. Seeing the type of event, the verb 'watched' are intentional activities with perceptions directed at seeing things. However, watch indicates obscurity of purpose and when the activity ends and is considered as an unbounded process. The verb sentence of activity can be measured in units of time so that it is durative, but the length of time indicated by the activity verb does not have a clear endpoint so that it can be categorized as an atelis verb. Therefore, the verb "watch" in sentence (11) is categorized into the activity verb class with [-static], [+ durative] and [-telic] features.

The last illustration in a sentence (11) shows an intransitive active sentence with past progressive. The sentence has a subject + predicate + adverb. Verb crying refers to activities that have no inherent end and are also included in verbs with dynamic features. This is indicated by the presence of 'hysterically' explained information that describes the verb 'cry'. Thus, 'cry' has [dynamic] feature. As seen from the telicity, the verb 'cry' indicates activity or process that is not time-bound so that they will become awkward when it is added to the meaning that shows telicity such as 'in ten minutes' (Valin, 37) such as:

(11a) She <u>was crying </u>hysterically * in ten minutes.

With the above characteristics, it can be concluded that cry verbs, including inactivity verb and classified in atelic verbs that have semantic [-static], [+ durative] and [-] features.

Overall, the type of verb based on the situation has different semantic features that determine the telicity level of a verb. The type of verb will determine the ity which can be seen from the presence of other semantic features on each verb. As a general description of the components of the distinguishing features of each type of verb-

based on their ity can be seen in the table summarized from Saeed (2016: 119), Griffith (2006: 71) and Valin (2005: 33) below:

Telicity	Type of Verb	Durative	Static	Goal
Telic	Achievement	[-]	[+]	[+]
	Accomplishment	[+]	[-]	[+]
Atelic	State	[+]	[+]	[-]
	Activitiy	[+]	[-]	[-]

D. CONCLUSION

Semantic syntax inter cafe analysis is two studies that influence each other. Syntactic studies are needed to see the effect of verbs on the presence of other elements such as the subject and object or complement in a sentence. Semantic types of verbs can be seen to find out the type of verb situation, namely state, activity, achievement and accomplishment verbs. The four types of verbs have different semantic features and can be used to observe the telicity of each type of verb. Verbs of state and activity can be classified into atelic verbs while verbs of achievement and accomplishment are included in telic verbs. The telicity of verbs is based on whether or not a situation is complete and whether there is an inherent endpoint of a verb situation.

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