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ОСОБЕННОСТИ УПОТРЕБЛЕНИЯ FUTURE CONTINUOUS В СОВРЕМЕННОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация: в статье поднимается вопрос о неоднозначном грамматическом статусе средств выражения будущего времени. Автор статьи анализирует форму *Future Continuous*, ее грамматический статус и выражаемое лексическое значение. В работе предполагается, что в отличие от других континуальных форм системы времен английского глагола, основным значением которых является выражение длительности действия или процесса, главной функцией *Future Continuous* является обозначение будущего нейтрального.

Ключевые слова: средства выражения, будущее время, грамматический статус, *Future Continuous*, длительность, нейтральное будущее.

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PECULIARITIES OF USING FUTURE CONTINUOUS IN THE MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Abstract: the article raises the question of the ambiguous grammatical status of the means expressing the future tense. The author of the article analyzes the *Future Continuous* form, its grammatical status and expressed lexical meaning. The

article assumes that unlike other continual forms of the English verb tenses system, the main meaning of which is the expression of an action's duration or a process, the main function of Future Continuous is to designate neutral future actions.

Keywords: *means of expressing, the future tense, grammatical status, Future Continuous, duration, neutral future.*

The means which express the future tense in English are different in terms of their grammatical status. An indication of grammatical or non-grammatical status is by no means always obligatory when this or that researcher describes means of expressing the future tense. Moreover, most often the focus of researchers' attention is precisely the description of the meanings of expressions, but not the assertion of their grammatical status. However, the question of the grammatical status of the means of the future tense's expression seems to be important for the following reasons:

1. Grammatical and non-grammatical means are distinguished as obligatory and optional, regular and irregular ways of expressing the meaning;
2. The formation of a grammatical form from a syntactic phrase indicates the existing need in the grammatical system of temporal forms of the English language to express this or that meaning regularly;
3. The grammatical form exists within the framework of the grammatical category; therefore, the grammatical status of the means of expressing the future tense confirms the existence or absence of the grammatical category of the future in the English language;
4. The difference in the status of the means of expression of the future tense may indicate the degree of importance of this or that shade of meaning of the future tense for the further development of the modern English language grammatical system.

We should consider the fact that in scientific works the issue of the grammatical status of the means of expressing the future tense often remains outside the scope of consideration and we can only make assumptions about the status of the means, analyzing them on the example of the texts of English and American literature,

therefore confirming or denying the status. This may allow us to understand what is happening in the 'future' of the English verb's grammar system.

It is important to mention that categorical forms of the future tense begin to form much later than the forms of the present and past tenses. In this regard, in addition to attributing the status of a grammatical form or construction to the means, we will inevitably encounter some transitional cases that will outline the prospects for the further development of the grammatical system of the English language.

We can make assumptions about the status of the means expressing the future on the basis of their compliance or non-compliance considering either the criteria of the analytical form, such as:

- 1) the auxiliary verb in the composition of a means;
- 2) the ability of the auxiliary verb to make combinations with all the units;
- 3) the transmission of a grammatical meaning by the auxiliary verb, while the lexical meaning is conveyed by the second part of the form;
- 4) grammatical meaning of time, type, mood expressed by two parts of the form or the criteria of a grammatical construction, such as
 - 1) transition from a non-grammatical construction to a grammatical one;
 - 2) regular expression of grammatical meaning by a combination;
 - 3) removal of lexical restrictions.

In this article we are going to consider the grammatical status of *shall / will + be + Ving* in the modern English language. According to the traditional formal approach, Future Continuous is usually analyzed in analogy with Present Continuous and Past Continuous in terms of duration of an action. In order to determine how appropriate this approach is, it is necessary to consider the Continuous meaning and analyze whether *shall / will + be + Ving* meaning completely meets the Continuous criteria.

Weichmann G. takes the position that the Continuous forms convey actions that are limited by length of time, or actions with an emotional connotation [5, p. 51]. We may also conclude that although the form can definitely express duration of an

action, it does not always express a time-limited action. On the other hand, *shall / will + be + Ving* can be characterized by removal of any modal shades

(including emotional coloring) and therefore it can express neutral future, that is «future interpretation only» («only the meaning of the future, without modal shades») [2: 49]. The Continuous form expresses a process confined to a specific time, and not an action as a whole, therefore, Continuous cannot express an action that is performed constantly, under any conditions, or lasting indefinitely. In addition, the verb in the form Continuous cannot be used to express a series of sequential actions. As for Future Continuous, the form can express constant actions, the meaning of duration, and if there is, plays a secondary role [1, p. 180].

Another characteristic of Continuous forms is that there are limits to the continuous form. Weichmann notes that according to their use and disuse in the Continuous form, verbs are divided into: those that are not registered in this form (contain, consist, possess, prefer, suppose, as well as modal verbs); verbs used a) without restrictions b) with restrictions [5, p. 51–54]. In a continuous form with restrictions we use such verbs which have more common meanings, for example *measure, weigh, smell, taste*. The given verbs are used in their transitional meanings but not in intransitive meanings such as «*to have any size*» or «*to have any taste*». The verb *think* is not used as '*to believe*', '*to consider*', the verb *feel* is not used as «*to believe, count, anticipate*. Another verbs are *have, see, hear*. In this characteristic, the restrictions are also used in Future Continuous: «*You'll be hearing* (in the meaning of «getting news») *from your lawyer shortly*» [5, p. 53]. The use or non-use of verbs may depend on adjacent words. For example, the verb *know* is used in the Continuous form if it is preceded by a modal verb. This characteristic also applies to Future Continuous: «*She does not know all she should be knowing about this affair; and how may you be knowing?*» [5, p. 53]. The verb *to be* in Continuous can be used, and it acts as a bundle with predicatives expressed by adjectives and nouns. In this case, the semantic meaning of Continuous is *Indefinite + this moment only*. According to this characteristic, Future Continuous does not coincide with Present Continuous and Past Continuous, since the form *will be + being* is used

extremely rarely and only in the Passive Voice: «*Jones will be being allowed to go out soon at this rate*» [6, p. 206].

Another linguistic factor to add, predicates are used in Continuous not only to convey the meaning of the inconstant expression of any sign, but they also convey additional semantic meanings, such as the attitude of the author of speech to the behavior of the subject. As for Future Continuous, this position is incorrect, since its frequent meaning is to convey the future of a neutral, without additional semantic shades.

As we can conclude from above-mentioned reasoning, the connection of Future Continuous with Present and Past Continuous can often be formal and therefore the future form cannot be considered as the third analogical member of the tenses of this group. If in Present Continuous, Past Continuous the main meaning is the procedurality of the action, its duration, then one of the main meanings of Future Continuous is the expression of the future without any modality.

Let us analyze the question of whether *shall / will + be + Ving* is an analytical form or just a phrase. We can note the following:

1) in the combination *shall / will + be + Ving* the verbs *shall / will* act not as modal, but as auxiliary ones, as it is mentioned, in particular, by R. Quirk, calling *shall / will + be + Ving* «auxiliary verb construction» [2, p. 49];

2) the grammatical meaning of the future finds its regular expression;

3) judging by the combination's construction, the grammatical meaning is conveyed by the verbs *shall / will*, while the lexical meaning is conveyed by the semantic verb *Ving*;

4) there are restrictions on the use of verbs in the form of Future Continuous, however, such restrictions are characteristic not only of Future Continuous, but of continuous forms in general, and they do not interfere with the grammatical status of Continuous.

There are a few examples of Future Continuous specific meanings in the modern English language, i.e. neutral future, devoid of modal shades, first of all, desire and will.

Example 1.

«*Well*», he began wheedlingly, «*we'll be forgetting all that. And do you think a fine pretty lady like Miss Pittypat would be having any brandy in the house*» [3, p. 111].

Will be forgetting expresses the action of the future tense in relation to the present situation. The combination is a «neutral future» action, since it does not have modal shades of desire and will; the specific meaning of duration is also absent. The time of the future action is undefined.

Example 2.

«*Mike, Margo's husband's name is Nigel. He'll be expecting you to address him as Nigel...*» [4, p. 345].

«Mike, Margot's husband's name is Nigel. He would like you to call him Nigel.

Will be expecting describes the future action in relation to the present: in the present tense information is given about the name of the hero, and the subsequent action, that is, when the hero specifies how he should be called logically refers to the sphere of Future Indefinite. Despite the fact that the verb *expect* is used in a continuous form, we do not find the meaning of process in the example.

Example 3.

«*I will be seeing you Sunday at dinner, he said and went out, closing the door noiselessly behind him*» [3, p. 110].

Will be + seeing expresses future action in relation to the present situation. This future does not include a logical or emotional assessment, is devoid of modal shades of desire or will, and expresses only the planned action. The verb *see* (in this sentence it definitely means «*to meet*») is used in a continuous form, however, the future action does not include duration and process.

We can come to the conclusion that the grammatical status of Future Continuous has a lot of indicators of being a grammatical construction, such as auxiliary character of the verbs shall/will, regular expression of future actions, grammatical meaning conveyed by the verbs shall / will, with the lexical meaning

conveyed by the semantic verb Ving. However, Future Continuous differs from Past Continuous and Present Continuous when we talk about their logical and lexical meaning, as the main function of Future Continuous is to denote neutral future actions, while the main functions of Past and Present Continuous is to express duration and continuity of actions in the past and in the present correspondingly.

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