

叙事话语中的参与者和动名词  
**PARTICIPLES AND GERUND FUNCTIONING  
IN THE NARRATIVE DISCOURSE**

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抽象。 本文论述了叙事话语中英语某些语法形式(即动名词和分词)的功能特点。 动词的这些非限定形式的特征正在根据它们在句子中执行的功能进行分析。 使用不同形式的动名词和分词的频率是在分析示例的统计方法的帮助下定义的。 该分析是在Ray Bradbury的书“蒲公英酒”的基础上进行的。

关键词: 动词的参与, 非限定形式, 叙事话语, 统计方法

**Abstract.** *The present article deals with the peculiarities of functioning of the certain grammar forms of the English language, namely, the gerund and participles, in the narrative discourse. The features of these non-finite forms of the verb are being analyzed depending on the function they perform in the sentence. The frequency of using different forms of the gerund and participles is defined with the help of the statistic method of analyzing the examples. The analysis is performed on the basis of the book “Dandelion wine” by Ray Bradbury.*

**Key words:** *Participle, non-finite forms of the verb, narrative discourse, statistic method*

### **Introduction**

During his lifetime Ray Bradbury wrote more than eight hundred various literary works, including several novels and hundreds of stories, plays, articles, and poems. He is traditionally considered the classical author of science-fiction, though considerable part of his works is drawn towards genres of fantasy, parable, or fairy-tale. “American science-fiction is one of the spiritual tops of the mankind,

and philosophically-oriented Ray Bradbury, ..., - is the expresser of the best in it" [5]. First published in 1957, "Dandelion wine" by Ray Bradbury remains one of the most touching stories of the writer, bearing the pronounced emotional experience and reflecting some autobiographical memories. The present paper analyses the role of the gerund and participles in creating the explicit atmosphere of the narrative discourse of the book.

According to D. Bolinger, "to perform the most important and frequent illocutive objectives in the language there are special grammar markers – morphological-syntactical and intonation ones" [2]. In the field of grammar, there is the "transfer of the concepts of the indicator (marker). Syntactic indicators are an improvement of the categories of traditional grammar - noun, adjective, adverb, etc." [4]. Our research is aimed at studying the peculiarities of functioning of the English gerund and participles as representatives of the categories of traditional grammar.

### Method

Methodology of descriptive research is based on structural and functional approach, and general philology. In analyzing the peculiarities of the English non-finite forms of the verb, using methods of traditional grammar, we set as our goal the functional analysis of the certain grammar structures.

### Discussion

Following the rules of general linguistics, this article focuses on the use of the gerund, participles and participial constructions as attributive adjunct, adverbial modifier, Complex object, and analyzes the frequency of their occurrence in the sentence.

### Results

The present paper provides the examples illustrating the differences in the use of the certain grammar forms. The present participle and the gerund, being formed from the verb by adding "-ing", can be easily mixed, but their functions in the sentences help to distinguish between these two non-finite forms of the verb.

It is known that the English participle is most often used as attributive adjunct [3]. Consider the following example:

(1) The male voices invaded the old house timbers; if you closed your eyes and put your head down against the floor boards you could hear the men's voices **rumbling** like a distant, political earthquake, constant, **unceasing, rising or falling** a pitch [1].

In Example 1, the English present participles active **unceasing, rising or falling**, are in the postposition to the noun **earthquake**, and they fulfill the attributive adjunct function. One more case of using the participle in this sentence is the Objective participial construction that performs the function of the complex object in the English sentence *you could hear the men's voices **rumbling***. The use of the

parallel construction produces the effect of continuous action, creating the necessary atmosphere of the ordinary spring evening that remained in the memory of the susceptible child.

Let us analyze one more example of using the English present participle active in the attributive function:

(2) *Opening* the screen door, he found Mom still *ironing* [1].

Example 2 demonstrates the use of both non-finite forms of the verb: the gerund at the beginning of the sentence (*Opening* the screen door) in the function of the adverbial modifier and the present participle active in the Objective participial construction (*found Mom still ironing*). The given example highlights the simple routine action that was ordinary in the life of the boy.

In the following example (3), the syntactic indicators of the past participle (the third form of the irregular verb or the ending *-ed* of the regular verb and the usual position in the sentence after the determined word) find a different position in the sentence, preceding the defined noun (a *corked* ketchup bottle). The present participle active also precedes the defined noun (the *crackling* dry clothes). Both participles are used in the attributive adjunct function describing the household chores and bringing into the discourse the details that popped out of the boy's memory; those were details that tied up small episodes of everyday life with the feeling of safety:

(3) Mother was ironing and sprinkling water from a *corked* ketchup bottle over the *crackling* dry clothes behind Tom [1].

Let us consider the example of the participial construction with the conjunction *with*:

(4) And now that Douglas knew, he really knew he was alive, and moved turning through the world to touch and see it all, it was only right and proper that some of his new knowledge, some of this special vintage day would be *sealed* away for opening on a January day *with* snow *falling* fast and the sun *unseen* for weeks or months and perhaps some of the miracle by then *forgotten* and in need of renewal [1].

In example 4, participles in the attributive adjunct function to the noun *day* are used as an independent participial construction with the conjunction *with*. The English present participle active *falling* (Participle I) creates the peaceful atmosphere of the quiet winter day, whereas the English past participles *unseen*, *forgotten* (Participle II) correspond to the situation of the long-gone past that is remembered no more. This is the case when the English conjunction *with* acts as one of the syntactical indicators of the participle (the conjunction *with* and the attributive adjunct function in the postposition to the defined noun) used in the sentences.

(5) Oh, the luxury of *lying* in the fern night and the grass night and the night of susurrant, slumbrous voices *weaving* the dark together [1].

In this example, (5), the gerund *lying* is used in the prepositional phrase in the

function of the object, and the present participle *weaving* has the attributive function in the postposition to the noun *voices*, both of these non-finite forms of the verb substituting the predicates that are absent in this elliptical sentence, creating the narrative of dreamy childhood memories.

In the function of adverbial modifier, the present participle active often stands at the beginning of the sentence, setting the scene:

(6) Then, *rising* from the cellar like a June goddess, Grandma would come, something *hidden* but obvious under her *knitted* shawl [1].

In example 6 the present participle active *rising* is used in the function of the adverbial modifier of the verb in the second part (would come), though it is the third part of the sentence that contains the imprint of the mysterious image of Grandma in the child's memory, and that is a case of using an independent participial construction in a postpositive position: something *hidden* but obvious under her *knitted* shawl.

Participle II is often used in the objective participial construction and replaces the subordinate clause, which simplifies the construction of the sentence [3].

(7) Since this was going to be a summer of *unguessed* wonders, he wanted it all *salvaged and labeled* so that any time he wished, he might tiptoe down in this dank twilight and reach up his fingertips [1].

In example 7 there are three participles used in different functions (*unguessed*, *salvaged and labeled*); the first is the attributive adjunct in the preposition to the noun *wonders*, and the next two are the objective participial construction used in the function of Complex Object (he wanted it all *salvaged and labeled*). This sentence creates the image of an inquisitive child having a delicate perception of the surrounding world.

The following sentence demonstrates the use of the same grammar form in various functions:

(8) The courthouse clock struck nine and it was getting late and it was really night on this small street in a small town in a big state on a large continent on a planet earth *hurtling* down the pit of space toward nowhere or somewhere and Tom *feeling* every mile of the long drop [1].

In Example 8 there are two present participles active: '*hurtling and feeling*', consequently, one could suppose the preservation of the concurrency of constructions. However, the participle *hurtling* is used in the function of the attribute in the postposition to the noun: "*a planet earth hurtling down*" whereas *feeling* performs the function of the adverbial modifier in the absolute participial construction "*and Tom feeling every mile of the long drop*". The use of parallel prepositional phrases "*on this small street in a small town in a big state on a large continent on a planet earth*" which precedes the participles produces the effect of simultaneous, synchronous actions and as if draws the reader to follow the boy falling into the

funnel together with the planet “*down the pit of space*”.

Let us consider one more example, demonstrating the variety of the functions of the English participles:

(9) He gave the money, received the chill, icy pack, and ***rubbing*** it across his brow and cheek, ***laughing***, thumped barefootedly homeward [1].

In Example 9 the English participles ***rubbing***, ***laughing*** are used in the function of the adverbial modifier. In the case of the succession of past actions we see the use of homogeneous parts of the sentence, namely, predicates: *gave, received, and thumped homeward*, with the help of which the translator preserves the concurrency of construction. The present participles ***rubbing***, ***laughing*** add the elements of the childish behavior to the narration and animate it.

### **Conclusion**

The statistic method of analyzing the examples allows defining the frequency of using the English non-finite forms of the verb in various functions and demonstrates that gerund and participles in the function of the adverbial modifier are used in about 70% of the cases. Sentences with the participles in the attributive function are found in 30% of the analyzed examples.

Thus, the given study confirmed the use of the English participles in the attributive and adverbial functions in the narrative discourse of the modern literature. The peculiarity of the present study, combining theory and practice, splendidly illustrates the statement of D.Bolinger that “the value of tradition is determined by the centuries-old processes of careful selection, sifting, selection and culling occurring on a huge test site, where practical use is a decisive factor for survival and where experiments are conducted by many hands, the latter being the one that determines the achievement of scientific truth” [2]. And that is splendidly true for the so widely-known sci-fi author Ray Bradbury, who managed to create such a moving story recollecting the vanished past through the pictures so vividly drawn in the mind of the reader.