



ISSN: 1817-6798 (Print)

Journal of Tikrit University for Humanities

available online at: <http://www.jtuh.tu.edu.iq>

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Keywords:

appearance
inversion
negation

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 4 July, 2021
Accepted 17 Aug 2021
Available online 25 Jan 2022

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Uses of Periphrastic Do in English
A B S T R A C T

This study aims at clarifying the definitions, structures ,conditions and uses of Periphrastic Do (PD) in English. PD is an auxiliary , it is an alternative device for using inflection process. It is semantically not intrinsic but syntactically obligatory. It is used to satisfy the needs of the sentence structures.

It can be used in verbal negation, negative preposed constituents, inverted questions, anphoric PD and tag questions.

In these structures , only the use of PD is correct and necessary . It is a syntactic device that performs a special function. During the years, PD underwent a change and development from zero to obligatory use in specific contexts.

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.25130/jtuh.29.1.2.2022.25>

استخدامات الفعل المساعد (Do) كوسيلة نحوية بدل من استخدامات التصاريح في اللغة الإنكليزية
م.سعاد عبدالرحمن الطيف/ المديرية العامة للتربية في صلاح الدين/ قسم تربية تكريت
الخلاصة:

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى تقديم توضيح لتعاريف وتركيبية وشروط واستعمالات الفعل المساعد البديل عن التصاريح في اللغة الإنكليزية . إن هذا الفعل المساعد ليس له معنى, إلا إنه نحويا واجب الاستعمال. انه يستخدم كونه يلائم تركيبية الجمل التي تحتاجه.

فهو يستخدم في نفي الفعل وعناصر الجر المنفية والاسئلة المقلوبة واستخدامه كأداة نحوية بديلة للتعويض عن ما تم ذكره مسبقا بدل من تكراره وكذلك يستخدم في الاسئلة الذيلية . ووفقا للتراكيب

المذكورة يكون استخدامه فيها ضروريا وصحيا. اذ يعد وسيلة تؤدي وظيفة نحوية معينة

وقد شاهدت هذه الظاهرة تحول وتطور عبر السنين , حيث كانت دون أهمية واصبح استخدامها اجباريا في سياقات معينة من الجمل, لأنها تقوم بوظيفة محددة.

Introduction

This study deals with the periphrastic do because English language is unique in having it . It can be defined as an auxiliary followed by a lexical verb. It doesn't take non-finite auxiliary as its VP complement.

The current study presents PD in three divisions: The first displays definitions according to the authors.

The second clarifies the special uses of Periphrastic Do . It specifies its certain constructions and environments.

The third shows the conclusions of the whole study.

1-Definitions of Periphrastic Do(PD):

Jr (1983:3) states that PD is an auxiliary followed by infinitive. It cannot be marked as a higher verb construction. The use of PD neither adds nor omits information. In special sentences, the structure of the sentence excludes the use of different auxiliaries such as: modal verbs, verb to be, and have except the periphrastic do can occur.

Ibid (1983:12) claims that in standard English , the use of PD syntactically occupies the part of predicate as a contrary the emphatic do.

Crystal (2008: 358) defines the periphrasis as a term used discrete words as alternative for the inflections processes to express the same grammatical relation. It is used in grammatical descriptions.

Kon Jo (2004: 3) points out that PD lacks any fundamental meaning. It is distinctive which can be recognized from other auxiliaries. It doesn't take non-finite auxiliary as its VP complement . Thus, it does not occur with the construction of Be or Have :

1- * The passengers **didn't** have arrived.

Wischer (2008:141) and Jager (2013:1) state that the auxiliary do in the structure of (PD)is semantically dummy or empty constituent, but syntactically obligatory.

Culicover (2008:33) suggests that the English language is unique in having PD . The feature of English is the spread of PD from certain lexically restricted

environments to specific syntactic environments and its extreme generalization to all environments with identified auxiliary verb construction.

Periphrastic Do is the way of use a substitutional device such as functional words or auxiliaries instead of inflection process.

www. Merriam – Webster.com, 10th April, 2021.

Alagbe (2009: 58) states that PD is one of the English divisions of primary auxiliary verbs. There is a difference between the morphology of lexical verbs and auxiliary verbs. The auxiliary verbs include either more or less forms than the lexical verbs. They precede the lexical element in the structure of English sentence, occur with other verbs to form verbal groups or verbal phrases . PD can be used to replace an inflected form of the verb:

2-It **does** work, for it works.

The inflected form of the verb 'works' replaces the periphrastic auxiliary do.

2- The uses of Periphrastic Do :

1- Verbal Negation

Jr (1983: 12), Zilm (1996:202) and Wischer (2008:141) note that main verb negation demands the use of PD before the lexical verb. Its extent is limited to the main verb, which is assigning its verbal categories of person /number and tense. The appearance of PD is usually with transitive verbs than intransitive.

3-Ali **didn't** buy a splendid car.

In standard English, the use of PD is usually with lexical verb not normal with (be). For this discussion , there is an exception .PD may be used with (be) in specific contexts, for example.

4-Why **don't** they be less sibylline?

The verb (be) appears with PD because it has similarity to the verbs (act or become). The imperative force may allow the forbidden points to occur, for example. If the sentence, has direct imperative ,PD is acceptable with be:

5-**Do** be a gasoline even when they're antagonistic !

6-**Don't** be so dutiful to those huaraches!

Jr (1983:13-16) notes that in British English, there is a noticeable use of PD with "have" in specific states:

7-Jack doesn't have cheese with his breakfast.

Modal verbs cannot be negated with PD:

8- *Anna **doesn't** can turn round.

Since the imperative sentence cannot begin with modals ,so there is no interaction there either:

9*Can be obfuscating when he comes!

10***Don't** can clabber milk.

The modal verb 'need' can be negated by itself , while in other sentences , it is negated by PD. This difference is due to various classifications of modals from one dialect to another.

11-He needn't confuse.

12-He **doesn't** need to confuse .

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:37) state that need is non- modal in (11) sentence because(to) is preceded the infinitive.

Jr (1983:16-17) points out that negation may cause problems when it overlaps with other processes, for example, the negation transportation.

13-He thinks Lina isn't clever.

14- He **doesn't** think she is clever.

The use of PD is required in many structures ,but it is not easy to assign whether emphatic or PD is used except if the sentence is heard, given stress signs or is in contrastive position. The following sentence demands the use of PD:

15-He **doesn't** like banana juice.

According to this explanation, there is a transportation for the constituent of negation from dependent clause to independent clause. The basic gist of this process is the requirement of the lexical verb to PD. Never ,nowhere or nothing are alternative negative forms which cancel the occurrence of PD.

Jr (1983:99) states that in non- matrix clauses, verbal negation is not mutated. In the same kind of these clauses, if there are introductory negative elements like (neither or rarely) the order of auxiliary inversion must be re-ordered.

16-Rarely **do** I visit these remote places.

17-Linda sighs that she rarely visits these remote places.

2- Negative Preposed Constituents:

Jr (1983:16) & Leech and Svartik (1994:328) state that in standard English and in certain contexts , negation is preposed .When this occurs PD is used even if it had not been present in the unpreposed text:

18-Sami never completes on time .

19-Never **does** he completes on time.

In sentence (19) this procedure doesn't limit to preposings of (never, nor, neither or nowhere).

20- In the tropics , the trees wobble and sing.

21-Only in the tropics **do** the trees wobble and sing.

The negative elements create inversion, where the auxiliary verb places before the subject. Certain inversions cannot have PD and can only occur if the subject is not pronominal:

22-Away ran Roger.

23-Away he ran.

24-*Away ran he.

25-* Away will he run.

26-*Away **does** he run.

3- Inverted Questions:

Jr (1983: 18) and Quirk et al (1985: 134) state that in standard English , there are two types of questions which are: yes/ no questions and Wh-construction types: PD must appear with lexical verbs:

27-**Does** Williams play here?

28-Where **does** Stan stagnate?

Tallerman (2009: 91) , Radford& Greenbaum(1973: 391) and KonJo (2004:4) claim that in English , only root clauses have subject auxiliary / inversion and tag questions. The subject of a root clause undergoes the process of inversion with a finite auxiliary:

29-**Serena didn't** like pizza.

30-**Didn't** Serena like pizza?

Serena is the subject and didn't is the finite auxiliary.

Radford (2004-170-171) states that yes-no questions with auxiliary inversion like whether question:

31-When he asked 'Did you vote for Larry Loudmouth?

32-When he asked whether we voted for Larry Loudmouth, I said 'yes' and you said no.

In reported speech, yes-no question can be introduced by whether.

33-Are you feeling better? They asked.

34-They asked whether I was feeling better.

'Whether question' is used when someone does not know which of the two possibilities is true. [www. Macmillan dictionary.com](http://www.Macmillan dictionary.com).

Jr (1983: 19-20) states that if the form of lexical verb is negated ,till a subject question will include PD.

35-Who **doesn't** hail the president?

Negatives are seldom neutral; negative questions implicate more than a positive question.

36-**Does** Roger acquire that fjord weekly?

37-**Doesn't** Roger acquire that fjord weekly?

There are complicated interactions between negative and interrogation.

Inverted structures cannot be embedded:

38- What **do** you select?

39- She surprises what you select?

40-*She surprises what **do** you select?

The expressions (whether or if) must be used, when a yes- no question is including.

41-**Does** Rutherford grow there?

42-She asks if he grows there?

43-*She asks if **does** he grow there?

If the direct questions contain the construction (how come) PD cannot be used:

44-How come he imitate you?

45-*How come did he imitate you?

4-Anaphoric PD:

Jr (1983:20-24) points out that the goal of using anaphoric PD in the coordinated sentences is to avoid the recurrence of verb phrase. It need not reduplicate the format of VP that it refers:

46-**Does** Maria skate?

47-She **did**.

Anaphoric PD has no object in its sentence. Rather it refers to a VP that looks to be omitted.

48-Andy walks like a narwhale and Murray does too.

PD can only appear in simple present or past. So, other aspects or modalities can be used to anaphoric forms.

49-She was training.

50-She will some day.

Anaphoric PD is an auxiliary and it is noticeable for the attempt of substitution do to another auxiliary under question.

51-Bob does so because he is a not well boy.

52-*Bob will so because he's a not well boy.

53-So **does** Bob.

54-So will Bob.

55-Paul **does** too.

56-Paul can too.

Anaphoric PD undergoes to pro-form and ellipsis processes:

57-Rod eats .

58-Heino **does** too.

This sentence is a pro-form because there is no a remarkable omitted form.

59- **Does** Heino eat chips too?

This is the complete form of the sentence and the following sentence shows the elliptic construction:

60-Does Heino?

It can be noted that the usage of so and ordinary word order (SV) be when so is used in a statement which includes an anaphoric subject:

61-Firty lived here.

62-So he **did**.

When there is a new subject has entered ,the process of so plus inversion occurs:

63-John studies there.

64-So **does** Lucy.

It is remarkable that anaphoric PD can be with if or when:

65-If he **doesn't**, then what?

66-If he **does** , then what?

Do is used as a recompense for a whole verb phrase (e.g. She doesn't know where they are , but we do).

(Quirk et al, 1985: 133)

5- Tag Question:

Jr (1983:25) , Culicover (2008:3) and Crystal (2008:476) claim that only English language has the form of tag –question. So , this type of question is unique because PD is used in this form broadly and distinctively. The traditional form of TQ is statement:

67-The lady from Japan swishes as she walks.

68-My friend **doesn't** offend my swine.

The pronominal subject can be joined with the same statement in interrogative form of contrary polarity.

69- **Doesn't** she swish as she walks?

70-**Does** he offend my swine?

From which all to the right of the subject is omitted and integrated with the original statement.

71-The lady from Japan swishes as she walks , **doesn't** she?

72-My friend **doesn't** offend my swine, does she?

This process integrates with negative transportation to make enjoyable conclusions:

73-I think they didn't know the truth for years, did they?

74-I **don't** think they knew the truth for years , did they?

The intonation of the question is employed as an echo question.

75-And in this flat , Maria de poitiers lived!

76-**Did** she!

77- She lived there , **did** she!

TQ is an odd property in English, and it reminds that PD is not simple as one may think. Though PD is syntactically unpredictable , it can occupy a part of structures that are still not annotated in current linguistic theories.

In (TQ) , the use of auxiliary is considered as a pattern of independent emersion of the auxiliary in English. TQ cannot be the output of ellipsis , rather it is an application of the minimum demand for sentences' containing nominative subjects. (Jr :1983:90).

Jager (2013:1) claims that the occurrence of PD is obligatory according to the following classifications:

1- PD is obligatory if the verb or verb phrase is a subordinate element in a large construction.

2-The properties of the lexical verb need the construction of PD, that is considered a subclass of verbs.

3- In languages with static or prevailing word order priphrasis is used to preserve a close approximation of the orderly word order in functionally marked clause types, i.e to keep the relative order of the verb and object without change.

4- Lexical or morphological elements forbid the connection of orderly verb morphology and so elicit verbal periphrasis. These elements belong to a closed class and their function range is like the orderly verb morphology.

Jager (2007:2) , Kroch and Santorini (2015:2) and Wischer (2008:141) state that the use of periphrastic do has shown change and development from zero to obligatory use in specific context through a volitional stage. 16th. and 17th. century is the date of increasing the use of PD. Its use became obligatory because it is strictly regulated. Its need led to the emergence of PD to fulfill a special function.

Claudi (1994:223) claims that the optional using of PD construction became obligatory over the time in definite state of grammatical contexts.

Nurmi (1999:143) concludes that the purpose of using do differs according to the genre ,such as poetry, fiction or play.

Ellegard (1953: 182) states that PD connects with an adverb in affirmative sentence. The construction be (do+ adv+ main verb)

78-She **did** often write stories.

5-CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that periphrastic do is an auxiliary not a higher verb. It is a substitutional particle of the of inflection process. It is semantically empty ,so it neither adds nor cancels information . Its use is in special structure where the sentence excludes the other auxiliaries except PD. It occupies a part of a predicate.

It is obligatory if the verb or VP is a subordinate in a large construction, or if the features of the main verb require the PD construction. The word order determines the appearance of periphrasis. PD may appear because the lexical or morphological elements forbid joining of regular morphology.

Its use is in some negative sentences : PD can be used as a suitable element for making negation and precedes the lexical verb. Its extent is limited to the lexical verb, that assigns its verbal categories of person , number and tense. The introductory negative elements such as (rarely or neither) can re-order the auxiliary inversion.

PD cannot appear with (be) except in special conditions: If the verb (be) is similar to the verbs (act or become), or if the sentence has direct imperative ,PD is acceptable with **be**.

In standard English, when negation is preposed , PD is used even it is not present in the unpreposed version.

Only root clauses have subject auxiliary inversion and tag questions. The subject of the root clause submits to the process of inversion with a finite auxiliary. PD inversion can appear if the subject is pronominal.

Anaphoric PD is an auxiliary used to avoid repetition and as a replacement for the full VP that seems to be deleted. It has no object in its sentence.

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