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The Employment of verb auxiliaries in English and French

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Abstract

The auxiliary verb is necessary in aiding the verb in performing its action in a sentence. The tense and the type of the subject are clarified by the helping verb or auxiliary. It is indispensable in the sense that it is very important and plays an integral role in the meaning and structure of the sentence. This paper attempts to compare the meaning and usage of the auxiliary in both languages English and French. The study mainly focuses on the French auxiliary its meaning and its application. The case study follows different examples of auxiliaries in sentences of both English and French.

Keywords: sentence structure, verbs, auxiliary, verb, compound verbs.

أستخدامات الفعل المساعد في اللغة الانكليزية والفرنسية

يساهم الفعل المساعد في دعم الفعل في الجملة من ناحية التطبيق والمعنى. حيث يمكن معرفة نوع الفاعل وزمنه من خلال الفعل المساعد في الجملة. لا يمكن الاستغناء عن الفعل المساعد لانه يلعب دورا مهما في الجملة من ناحية البناء والمعنى. يدرس هذا البحث مقارنة لاستخدامات ومعنى الفعل المساعد في اللغتين الانكليزية والفرنسية. تهتم هذه الدراسة بعمل دراسة تطبيقية من خلال امثلة لجمل بالفتين الفرنسية والانكليزية

المفردات : بناء الجملة, الافعال, فعل مساعد, فعل مركب

1. Introduction

French and English have different pronunciations, grammatical rules, and even cultural aspects. Therefore, Daniel Lyman Boix (1994) "Grammar is learning to observe, think, reason, pose problems and build hypotheses to solve them: it is the formation of the basic intellectual tools that make it possible to analyze and understand the world in which, like a window., Language provides access."

Why is the research about grammar important in language studies? From what has been mentioned previously, grammar is a means that aid us comprehend words and their forms in sentences. Grammar helps us comprehend ourselves. Without studying the rules, it would be hard or even impossible for us to solve some basic problems in our daily life. For example, grammar helps us comprehend the meaning and importance of punctuation. It helps us how and when to apply different punctuation marks. Let's look at the following examples:

1. A woman, without her man, is a savage.
2. A woman, without her, man is a savage.

With the aid of punctuation, the sentence style is easier to understand for the reader and thus the grammar rules help the reader to understand the rules, characteristics and rules in the language of



studies (Greenbaum & Quirk 1973). Moreover, it is through the rules that we learn in writing skills in order to agree to the needs of a specific audience. For example, Teste F (2020) takes the language learner via various press publications in order to enhance learners' competencies and writing skills in journalism. Additionally, Potter (2018) collects work directing theater artists. Writing combines exercises to assist learners in theater and film performances. Likewise, Vermurie (2019) provides grammatical scripts for professional aims. Made to fit the language needs of adult beginners, the work draws drills from all works of life and introduces the learner to the rules and regulations that guide sentence formation and general daily speech for professional aims. Focusing on the grammar of oral communication is something very significant. This work provides verbal exercises to build confidence that enhance the learner's verbal communication skills.

Through discusses the rules and regulations that guide sentence style in French grammar, and in different study, Umukoro G (2018) emphasizes the significance of language in the improving of tourism. The study discusses the French grammar in strengthening relationships during tourism activities. Now let us study one of the grammatical building blocks of "verbs" that are our focus in this article.

Studying verbs without mentioning the conjugations in French grammar is similar to nurturing a child without teaching. Every child experiences a kind of training as they mature. This helps raise the child from early period to adulthood. Chomsky et al (2014) explains that the central attention in studying language is to include reproductive grammar, which is also seen in this paper as a related part in comprehending sentence structures in French grammar. Therefore, on the other hand, the verb is understood as a child. The French verb is precisely subject to a rearrangement from the infinitive to procedure the wanted verb in the sentence.

The expression "tense" derives from the same French word "temps" which refers to "time". The time represents the time when the action of that precise verb happened and as such, the speaker does not require giving any added information to specify when the verb action happened. The Oxford Advanced Dictionary of Current English (1963) describes the "verb form" "in tense" which displays time: these tenses are also categorized according to the way in which they are designed. This research targets to mark the unique qualities of French verbs over English verbs with a focus on applying verbs that aid building complex tenses.

The verbs "*avoir*" and "*être*" of the group three of verbs in French are the sole auxiliary verbs employed in the building of compound tenses. Grévisse (1990) outlines the auxiliary verb as follows: "Auxiliary verbs are verbs, stripped of their own connotation, and used to form compound tenses." He continues: "The auxiliary verbs par excellence *avoir* and *être*". However, this does not mean that the mentioned verbs only exist as auxiliary verbs, but also participate in their own ability as main verbs in a sentence.

2. A Comparative Study of French and English Auxiliary Verbs

1. Human beings are mortal

L'être humain est mortel

2. My dad has a car

Mon père a une voiture

The translator must be cautious when using auxiliary verbs in translating texts in order not to depart from the actual meaning of the given message.



3. Dozens of Compound tenses in French and English

English

- You have eaten - the present perfect tense.
- I was eating - in the past progressive.
- I will eat - the future
- I will have eaten - the future perfect
- I would eat - conditional
- You would have eaten – the conditional in the past.

Français

- Tu as mangé - le passé composé
- Vous aviez mangé -le plus-que-parfait
- J'aurai mangé - le futur antérieur
- Vous aurez mangé - conditionnel passé

The second and third sentences in English, after translating into French, are not compound verbs since they do not need the auxiliary verb. From the examples above, we have marked mutual differences in the building of verb tenses in French and English grammar. While the compound tenses used in English grammar comprise of one or more auxiliary verbs as well as the main verb, the French have marked themselves by employing only two auxiliary verbs "avoir" and "être" and the past participle used in the main verb.

When the verb tense uses an auxiliary verb as well as a main verb, it is termed as a compound verb. The study will elaborate on some compound verbs in French and the way they are linked to form compound tenses.

4. Past Tense: as in the French and English Languages

In the English language, numerous forms of the verb denote to an action that happened in the past. for example:

- I Was Walking - Past Progressive
- I used to walk - using the auxiliary verb "use to"
- You walked - you definitely passed
- I have walked - the present perfect tense
- I walked - I surpassed perfection. Past Simple
- I'm still a prisoner –Present Simple
- I Was Walking –Past Progressive

In French, several verb tenses show a verb that happened in the past: Recent past, conditional past, etc. all of which has its different endings and directions that convey to us when and how to use them. For the aim of this paper, we will be interested in the past and perfect tenses in both French and English.

5. Perfect Tense

The perfect tense in French has two components: the auxiliary as well as the past participle. Most of the auxiliary verbs use “avoir” nowadays, while other verbs known as movement verbs in French use “être.” In other words, the verbs accompanying “être” are compound tenses. “The auxiliary in the present tense is of two groups: the verbs of movement or that denote movement from a previous position to another. Such verbs are used when you intend to show that a person or



thing has changed its place or moved from one place to another. Verbs of movement or movement; “go,” “reach,” “arrive,” “enter,” “ascend,” “pass,” “return,” “exit,” “fall,” “come,” “born,” die. There are some exceptions to the rule for some verbs of movement, which use “avoir”, like “walk”, “dance”, “jump”. Thus, we cannot say “*Je suis couru trop vite*”. Note that some verbs of movement or movement must necessarily be combined with *avoir* when they have a direct object complement: reinsert, descend, mount, pass, go back, exit. For instance:

- The students went out.

Les étudiants sont sortis.

The verb *sortir* does not have a direct object complement in the sentence above. However, in the sentence below:

The professor took out his pen

Le professeur a sorti son stylo.

- *Sortir* in this case has a direct object. So it uses *avoir* as auxiliary verb.

Agreement rules: French and English

- She has spoken

- Elle a parlé

- She went

- Elle est allée

Analysis: Thus, the above sentences will be analyzed as follows:

The first structure

Depending on the auxiliary verb required, the following rules of agreement are essential. If the auxiliary verb is “être,” the past participle agrees with the subject in French. But this is not the case in the English language.

Note: In the French language, even if there is one male out of 20 females, “the person” and “the people” take the masculine form in order to form an agreement with direct things.

The past participle of the verb with “avoir” corresponds to the direct object if it comes before the verbs in the sentence in French. This is not the case in the English language. In English grammar, the main verb in the English language remains the same regardless of the nature of the subject or object as the case may be. However, in French, this rule does not apply if the object comes after the verb, in this case, the past participle does not change for example. La lettre que j’ai écrite. J’ai écrit une lettre.

6. The Imperfect Verb Tense

The tense of the next verb, we will look at is the imperfect verb tense. In the French language, this is a simple tense formed by adding certain endings to the stem of the verb. This does not exist in the English language.

Although the conjugation of “auxiliary” appears to be regular and easy to memorize, it can be confusing to students of English who are learning French to know when to use the missing language. Let’s consider the following possibilities:

If the English verb form includes the English auxiliary used for, the French verb is placed in ‘auxiliary’.

Second structure

NB: The verb ‘Run’ can be replaced by using it for running a program.



When I was young, I used to run to school every morning.

If the English verb tense is in the progressive past tense, then the French is placed in the *imparfait* form, for example I was running yesterday; je courais hier.

We have to take a look at another distinguishing feature of how the auxiliary verb is applied in French grammar to form its required tense. With the exception of having the auxiliary "used to" or "past progressive" in the English sentence, an English translator facing a sentence such as "Okun went out with Aret" will need to understand the context in which the sentence is being used before he is actually sure that past writing or "*imparfait*" is used. When translating.

The third structure

Question 1: What did Okon do yesterday ?

Okun went out with Aret

The second question: Did Okon go out with Aret ?

Answer: Okon went out with Aret

The same form of the verb "went out" was used in the above two answers. Although the verb has the same meaning, it is used in different contexts. In the first context, we say that Okon only went out with Aret once (yesterday), while in the second context we say that Okon was hanging out with Aret (when he was in college).

7. Compound Past

Okon was dating Aret.

Deficiency in the first sentence, the use of past tense indicates that Okon went out once with Aret while in the second sentence, the use of "auxiliary" means that Okon used to hang out with Aret or go out with her more than once. Also, note that "*imparfait*" and "*passé composé*" are often used to compare the duration of one action with the duration of another action in the same sentence, although "*imparfait*" is used for a longer period of the two actions. And so when you ask the question: "What happened?" The verb is required in forming the past. While the questions were "What was going on?" Will require verb in "minus", for example:

- I was eating when he left

Note: Both actions happen at the same time, but the act of eating was still going on when the departure occurred.

I was eating when he came out.

8. Imperfect Past Tense

Past perfect tense (more than perfect)

It is worth reminding us here again that verb tenses indicate when the action occurred. Thus when there are two verbs, for example, in a sentence at the same time, this indicates that the actions occurred during the same period. In order to ensure that it occurred in different periods.

The boy was running because it was raining.

The students were running because it was raining

Imperfect Auxiliary

The students were running because of the rain

Auxiliary plus-que-parfait.

Analysis: In the first sentence, we have the same verb tense and the verbs occur at the same time.



The verbs in "Imperfect" appear to have occurred simultaneously in the past. However, in the second sentence, we have different verb tenses and different verbs occurring at different times. Things have been done and occurred in more than 'perfect' before having been done and occurred in "Auxiliary". Moreover, in the English language, one cannot always determine when to use the past perfect as a result. In many cases, the use of the English language allows the simple past to be used to describe an action preceding another if it is clear which action came first. for example:

The police wanted to know who had seen the thief.

Past Simple

The police wanted to know who had seen this girl

Simple and perfect past

However, the two sentences above mean the same thing and are true in the English language. By the way, in French, after the tenses sequence, only the second sentence will be correct. So:

Auxiliary *inplus-que-parfait*

The verb in the sentence in "*plus-que-parfait*" emphasizes that the action is completed before the verb "desire to know". Notably, the sequence of tenses in French is more stringent than in English.

9. Future Tense

The next aspect of verbs that we will discuss is the future tense, known as (Le Futur) in French. Future tense as the name suggests indicates that the verb will take place at some point in the future. In the English language, while the future tense is formed using the auxiliary 'will' or 'must' in addition to the dictionary form of the main verb, the future is simply denoted by the simple form of French.

Fourth Structure

I will finish tomorrow morning

Je finirai demain matin

Okon and Mary will finish their homework tomorrow.

Okon et Mary finiront leurs devoirs demain

In the sentences above, English uses an auxiliary verb to form a future tense, and the French does not need an auxiliary verb to show that the action will happen in the future; The future form in the English language is a regular verb - Love, Finish, Sell.

Source

To 'love' and 'sell' Irregular verbs - to come and to happen.

Source

From the above structure, it is observed that in the French language regular verbs use the infinitive as the stem to form the future while irregular verbs have irregular stems, which must be studied and memorized. In general, regardless of the stem, whether regular or irregular, the letter "R" is always heard before the future ending.

There is another aspect of French that distinguishes it from English in this case, for example, whereas English uses the present tense after phrases like; As soon as, when, who introduces an action that will take place in the future, French uses the future tense.

The Fifth Structure

Once it's over, I'll call.

Present tense



Once it's over, I'll call.

the future

He will come when he is ready.

Present tense

She will come when She is ready

In general, from the sentences mentioned above and others used in this study, it appears that French is strict in its use of tenses and as such, language learners pay much attention to these differences.

10. Conditionality

Another defining feature of the French that the article considers "conditionality". Although the word "conditional" is not found in the English language, it is an important "mood" in the French language. Therefore, it will be necessary to discuss 'moods' at this point. According to the University's English Grammar (1980) "mood in English is expressed to a very small extent by the subject, as in the following sentences."

So be it!

And to a large extent the past tense forms as in:

If you teach me, I'll learn quickly

Above all, by means of auxiliary means; Such as:

Oddly enough, he should have left early

Verb forms are divided into moods, which in turn are divided into one or more tenses as we have already discussed. Thus, the word "temperament" is a different type of "status," meaning the method. Different moods indicate the speaker's attitude towards what he is saying. For example, different moods are used when making a statement, giving an order, etc. As mentioned earlier, verbs can be divided into different moods. Let's take a quick look at the moods in French and English. Verbs in the English language can be in one of three moods.

The semantic mood which is seen as the most common mood, it is used to illustrate the action of the verb, i.e. to indicate facts for example:

Mr. White reads the newspapers

Present tense

Mr. White was there

The past

Mr. White will come on Friday

The future

Imperative mood - This expresses verbs in the form of an imperative, for example:

Mr. White, read the book now!

Mr. White, come back now!

Note: However, this is not divided into tenses

Subjunctive mood - used to express an attitude or feelings towards a verb, for example:

The government requires workers to pay taxes.

Note: This mood is not divided into tenses.

On the contrary, the French language defines four moods; Indicative Imperative is also used to make commands, for example come here.



Subjunctive: This in French contains two tenses : Present and past are used more frequently than English.

Conditional mood. This expresses the verb of the action as a possibility or an impossibility.

There are two types of tenses. Present conditional and past conditional.

If my mom had any money, we'd travel to America.

If my mother had money, we would travel to America.

However, there is an English verb form similar to the French subjunct that can help us understand "le conditionnel" in French, and therefore, for the purpose of this paper, we will call this form "conditional". "The conditional" has the present and past tense, but we will look only at the past tense in this paper.

In English, "past conditional" consists of the auxiliary who will have + the past participle of a man's verb. Let's look at the following examples:

1. He would eat if he paid the money

2. John would have traveled if he was in good health.

In French, the precondition known as "le Conditionnel passe" is formed with "presence" or "object" in the present conditional + the past participle of the main verb:

The sixth structure

He would have eaten if he had money.

Past condition

Analytics

Sentences in French and English are theoretical and contradict reality. The subordinate sentence that begins with (si). The outcome phrase, that is the main sentence. Thus: if-clause = past perfect / result clause = precondition. Examples:

And therefore; I would have come, I would have been happy. More than past perfect conditional.

If he had come, I would be happy

Past perfect conditional

11. Conclusion

In short, this paper focused on past and compound tenses in the French language. It took time to elucidate the way the past as well as the compound tenses are designed in the French language. It also explained some of the differences that an English language student learning French is likely to encounter in language study.

Although the grammar of the French language may seem simple, some features of the language are problematic to comprehend and use with, for English language students who are learning French. From our outcomes, it is recommended that for a better accepting of how verbs work in the French language, the learner should first study carefully the diverse forms of the verb to recognize when and how to use them. Generally, this part needs more research. As leading-edge illumination, the paper opens the way for more of its followers.

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