

ENGLISH COMPLEMENT IN THEOLOGICAL WRITINGS

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Abstract

This article explores the use of English complements in theological writings. Fifteen sentences were taken out of the three selected theology books. The exploration is significant for the teaching of English in semester six at YTCM. The findings show that there are ten complement types and noun phrases occupy the first rank. This implies that complement type, especially noun phrase, should be the focus in the teaching and learning activities.

Key words: complements, theological writings

INTRODUCTION

Theological writings are references used in college English teaching as in Yestoya Theology College of Malang (hereafter YTCM). The references include selected books such as New Testament Theology (NTT) by Morris (1986), Jesus of Nazareth Lord and Christ (JNLC) by Green and Turner (1994), Sex, God, & Marriage (SGM) by Arnold (2008); the three books published in every other decade are assumed to be representatives of theological writings. Several sample sentences in each selected book are taken as the data for treating English complements. Complements and their types are viewed from the points of view of English structure. Theories proposed by six syntacticians like Burton, Carnie, Culicover, Downing & Locke, Miller, and Wishon are used to treat the complement. The exploration will yield various structures of complement. What is by structure here is the way English complement is formed and the way it carries its various functions in English syntax. The result of this explorative study has some implications in the teaching of English in semester 6 for third-year students of YTCM..

COMPLEMENT IN ENGLISH

Theoretically, complements in English fall into four groups, each of which occupies a certain grammatical function; they are direct object, indirect object, subject complement, and object complement (Downing and Locke, 2002). According to Wishon and Burks (1980) to-infinitive can serve as direct object and subject complement as exemplified in the following sentences. In sentences (1) and (2) the italicized expressions constitute to-infinitive's functions as subject complement and direct object respectively.

(1) Their ambition is *to obtain good jobs*.

(2) He likes *to play the piano*.

A complement is a linguistic construct which may be of different views by different experts. According to Miller (2002, Culicover, 2005)) a complement provides the content to complete some thought, and it is called verb complement clause as it modifies a verb like in sentence (3). The italicized expression is a noun clause which constitutes the content of the report. In sentence (4) the italicized expression explains further the content of the idea while in sentence (5) to-infinitive completes the activity.

(3) A motorist has reported *that the road is blocked by snow at Soutra Hill*.

(4) We like the idea *that the city centre will be pedestrianized*.

(5) Nancy told Ben *to run the race*.

Unlike Miller and Culicover, Carnie (2008) and Burton (1997) describe a complement as a sister relationship with a head, for instance, '*the book*'. *Of poem* in sentence (6) is the content of the noun phrase *the book*. The same thing is applied to the italicized expression in sentence (7). Both *of poem* and *of groceries* constitute some sister relationship with *the book* and *the bag* respectively. In this case, a complement is a prepositional phrase, not a clause like in sentence (8).

(6) The book *of poem*

(7) The bag with a plastic handle *of groceries*.

A stream is the functional relation of complementation as it completes the information of *beside*; it is not the functional relation of modification. The functional relation of complementation is equal to sister relationship.

(8) *Beside a stream*

In more details Downing and Locke (2002) illustrate the structure of complement in table 1 below. In the table they classify complements into two groups, namely, lexical complement and clausal complement. The former functions as direct object, subject complement, object complement, and adverb or predicator complement. The latter consists of two subdivisions, namely, finite *that/wh* clause and nonfinite *ing* and *to-infinitive* clause. Either that-clause or nonfinite clause serve as direct objects.

In the structure of SPC_s S means subject, P means predicator (or verb), C_s means subject complement. *Susan is unhappy* exemplifies such a structure. *Tom made Susan angry* exemplifies the structure of SPO_dC_o where O_d means direct object and C_o means object complement. *Unhappy* and *angry* are both lexical categories.

Ask someone the way represents the structure of SPO_dC_p where C_p means predicator complement. Predicator complement is a complement that completes the (direct) object or completes the verb. *He crept into the cave* represents the structure of SPC_p where *into the cave* completes or modifies the predicator *crept*. The adverb of place or prepositional phrase of location *into the cave* indicates the direction of *crept*. It answers the question of which direction: *to which direction* or simply *where he crept*. The way and into the cave are predicator complements, and they are noun phrase and prepositional phrase respectively.

Table 1. The Structure of Complement as Lexical and Phrasal Category

Type	Complement	Example	Structure
Copular	One Complement	Susan is unhappy	SPC_s
Complex Transitive	One Object + One Complement	Tom made Susan angry	SPO_dC_o
Ditransitive	One Object + One Complement	Ask someone the way	SPO_dC_p

Unlike table 1 which describes complements as lexical and phrasal categories, table 2 shows another type of complements, namely, clausal category. Culicover (2005) agrees with Downing and Locke (2002) in the case that clausal category falls into two groups – *finite that/wh clause* and *nonfinite ing/to-inf clause*.

He believes that he's right and *He asked what I meant* represent the structure of SPO_d where the direct object takes the form of *that-clause* and *wh-clause* respectively, but the direct object belongs to noun clause. *He doesn't enjoy driving* and *He wants to study* exemplify the gerundive structure and the infinitive structure. Both function as the direct objects; *driving* is the object of *enjoy* while *to study* is the object of *wants*.

Table 2. The Structure of Complement as Clausal Category

Type	Complement	Example	Structure
Monotransitive	One (Noun) Clause (finite that-clause)	He believes that he's right	SPO _d
Monotransitive	One (Noun) Clause (finite wh-clause)	He asked what I meant	SPO _d
Monotransitive	One Clause (Gerund)	He doesn't enjoy driving	SPO _d
Monotransitive	One Clause (Infinit.)	He wants to study	SPO _d

Downing and Locke (2002) further explain that a complement functioning as object complement takes various forms as exemplified in the following sentences.

- (9) Hold your hands *steady*.
- (10) He left me *stunned*.
- (11) He left it *to dry*.
- (12) He called her *an angel*.
- (13) I prefer it *with water*.
- (14) He made the team *what it is today*.
- (15) She saw them *enter the shop*.

The italicized expressions represent types of complement. Sentences (9) to (11) contain complements as lexical categories; the complements take the forms of adjective, past participle or the third form of the verb and to-infinitive. Sentences (12) and (13) contain complements as phrasal categories, that is, *an angel* and *with water*. *An angel* is a noun phrase and *with water* is a prepositional phrase. Sentences (14) and (15) represent complements as clausal category like *what it is today* as noun clause and *enter the shop* as infinitival clause (Culicover, 2005) where the subject *they* is covered in *them*.

What is interesting in the case of complement is that English complement is of various types. As a lexical category, a complement functions as direct object, subject complement, object complement, and adverb. As a phrasal category a complement functions as noun phrase and prepositional phrase. As a clausal complement, a complement functions as direct object.

EXPLORATION METHOD OF COMPLEMENTS

This section deals with the ways of exploring the English complements used in the three selected books. They are presentation of the data and analysis of the data obtained. In the first step I presented the data taken from the fifteen sentences quoted from the three books, while marking the complements in italic. In the next step I analyzed the italicized expressions which had been inserted in table 3. The result of the exploration is illustrated in tables 4 and 5. Under each table I discussed the findings.

PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

The data were fifteen sentences quoted from three theology books. The fifteen sentences were randomly selected. For the ease of treatment several codes are used to refer to the data sources. SGM means Sex, God, and Marriage, JNLC means Jesus of Nazareth Lord and Christ, NTT means New Testament Theology.

Table 3. Data to be Analyzed

No	Sentences	Source
1	No one can disregard <i>God's purpose for his creation</i> or for himself without <i>offering deep inner need</i> .	SGM, p.
2	Immediately, evil came into God's creation and tried <i>to destroy it</i> completely.	SGM, p.21
3	In the Sermon on the Mount we can see <i>how seriously Jesus takes the daily fight for purity</i> .	SGM, p. 45
4	Jesus says <i>that we cannot serve two masters</i> .	SGM, p. 97.
5	I know <i>it is unpopular to say that abortion is murder</i> .	SGM, p. 138
6	For the person who fears <i>God</i> and loves <i>his neighbor</i> cannot be plagued by the spirit of Beliar ...	JNLC, p. 13
7	The movement started by Jesus saw <i>the Gentile mission</i> as an entirely nature venture.	JNLC, p. 41
8	The gospels tell <i>us</i> that people saw <i>John</i> as a prophet.	JNLC, p. 95
9	Our hypothesis is <i>that the actual naming of God was not necessary</i> for a capital violation of blasphemy here, ...	JNLC, p. 190
10	Interpreted in the broadest possible terms, our subject is therefore <i>at the heart of much contemporary debate about NT</i>	JNLC, p. 281
11	The thought that salvation is <i>by grace</i> runs through the NT, and this grace is <i>the grace of God</i> .	NTT, p. 35
12	We face <i>a problem</i> when we turn	

	to the Gospels.	NTT, p. 91
13	And it shows <i>us that as the Christ Jesus looked forward to a significant future</i> for his followers.	NTT, p. 125
14	The Christian attitude was <i>revolutionary</i> .	NTT, p. 201
15	John the Baptist was <i>one</i> who knew <i>the light</i> for <i>what</i> it was.	NTT, p. 281

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Based upon the data obtained (see table 3), I classified English complements into several groups (see table 4). Table 4 shows the types of complement in each source. Based on table 4, I tallied the types of complement appearing in sentences. Table 5 shows types of complements and the frequency of occurrence.

Table 4. Complement Types

No	Complement	Type	Source			
1	<i>God's purpose for his creation</i>	noun phrase	SGM, p. 7			
	<i>deep inner need</i>	noun phrase	SGM, p. 7			
	<i>the daily fight for purity.</i>	noun phrase	SGM, p. 45	<i>two masters</i>	noun phrase	
	SGM, p. 97					
	<i>his neighbor</i>	noun phrase	JNLC, p. 13	<i>the Gentile mission</i>	noun phrase	JNLC,
	p. 41					
	<i>a problem</i>	noun phrase	NTT, p. 91			
	<i>a significant future</i>	noun phrase	NTT, p. 125			
	<i>the light</i>	noun phrase	NTT, p. 281			
2	<i>it</i>	pronoun	SGM, p. 21			
3	<i>to destroy</i>	to-infinitive	SGM, p. 21			
4	<i>how seriously Jesus takes</i>	noun clause	SGM, p. 45			
	<i>the daily fight for purity.</i>					
	<i>that we cannot serve two masters.</i>	noun clause	SGM, p. 97.			
	<i>it is unpopular to say that abortion is</i>	noun clause	SGM, p. 138			
	<i>murder.</i>					
	<i>that as the Christ Jesus looked forward to</i>	noun clause	NTT, p. 125			
	<i>a significant future for his followers</i>					
5	<i>God</i>	noun	JNLC, p. 13			
6	<i>John</i>	proper name	JNLC, p. 95			
7	<i>us</i>	pronoun	JNLC, p. 95			
	<i>us</i>	pronoun	NTT, p. 125			
8	<i>that the actual naming of God was not</i>	noun clause	JNLC, p. 190			
	<i>necessary</i>					
9	<i>necessary</i>	adjective	JNLC, p. 190	<i>revolutionary</i>	adjective	
	NTT, p. 201					
10	<i>the grace of God</i>	noun phrase	NTT, p. 35			
11	<i>at the heart of much</i>					
	<i>Contemporary</i>	prepositional phrase	JNLC, p. 281			
	<i>by grace</i>	prepositional phrase	NTT, p. 35			
12	<i>one</i>	substitute word	NTT, p. 281			
13	<i>what</i>	wh-word	NTT, p. 281			

From table 4 I found that noun, noun phrase, noun clause, pronoun, proper name, and to-infinitive appear in the fifteen sentences, and they serve as direct objects. Besides, pronoun also appears as indirect object. Next, subject complements are occupied by noun phrase, noun clause, prepositional phrase, adjective, substitute word, and wh-word.

Table 5. Frequency of Occurrence

No	Complement Type	Frequency of Occurrence
1	Pronoun	3
2	Single Noun	1
3	Noun Phrase	10
4	Noun Clause	5
5	Adjective	3
6	To-Infinitive	1
7	Prepositional Phrase	2
8	Substitute Word	1
9	Wh-Word	1
10	Proper name	1
Total		28

Table 5 shows that noun phrase is mostly used as a complement type in the three books. However, this structure is of two different functions, namely, direct object and subject complement as exemplified in table 3. Sentences (1) and (11), for example, represent the use of noun phrase as direct object and subject complement. Next, noun clause is used five times, functioning as direct object and subject complement as exemplified in sentences (3) and (9) in table 3. Pronoun is used thrice and it serves as direct and indirect objects as manifested in sentences (2) and (13) in table 3. Adjectives, on the other hand, are used thrice but they serve as subjective complements like in sentences (5) and (14) in table 3.

Prepositional phrases can also be used as complements, that is, subject complements, in sentences (10) and (11) in table 3. The rest like single noun, to infinitive, substitute word, wh-word, and proper name are used only once respectively but they serve different functions, namely, as direct objects as exemplified in sentences (2), (6), and (8), and subject complement as exemplified in sentence (15) in table 3.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the result of the exploration of complement types, I come to a conclusion that noun phrase is of the utmost rank in complement type. The noun phrase in the three books serves as direct object and subject complement. No object complement appears in the fifteen sentences. Clausal categories like *that-clause* also occur in sentence like *I know it is unpopular to say that abortion is murder* (SGM, p. 138). Next, clausal category like *what-clause* as noun clause and *to-infinitive* as infinitival clause do not appear in the fifteen sentences in the selected three books.

IMPLICATION IN TEACHING

As stated in the introduction section the three theological books published in different years contain several complements and their types as figured in tables 4 and 5. These complements are analyzed in line with the six syntacticians like Burton, Carnie, Culicover, Downing & Locke, Miller, and Wishon. The result of the explorative study has some implications in the teaching and learning activities. These complements and their types in the fifteen sentences can constitute the learning material in the teaching of English in

semester 6 for students of YTCM. Teaching strategies are then selected and adopted in line with the students' English mastery level. Cooperative learning method and graphic organizers can be of great benefit.

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