



# JURNAL JILP

## (Langue and Parole)

Vol. 1 No. 2 ISSN : 2579-5449 E-ISSN : 2581-1819 (media online)

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH GERUND AS SUBJECT, DIRECT OBJECT, SUBJECT COMPLEMENT, AND OBJECT OF PREPOSITION

Rafli<sup>1</sup>, Arozato Lase<sup>2</sup>

Fakultas Sastra Universitas Ekasakti  
brav0.me4120@gmail.com

### Abstract

*The problem in this journal is gerund, verbal ending -ing and serves as a noun. Gerund differs from grammar construction in English because it is able to convert a verb into a noun by adding -ing at the end of the verb. At the same time, there is also a continuous tense form that adds -ing at the end of the verb. For students who start learning English will be confused with the form -ing that can be a noun and also a verb in the same sentence.*

*The method used is the method of distribution, the method of data analysis into object analysis is part of the language itself. Objects in the distribution method are always part or element of the language being observed. In analyzing the data, the authors use qualitative methods. Qualitative research is a type of social science research that collects and works with non-numerical data and which seeks to interpret the meaning of the data being analyzed. In this study, researchers used descriptive design with the aim to analyze gerund as subject, direct object, complement of subject, and object of preposition at Tempo magazine in 2015.*

*The author finds gerund formulation as follows: Gerund as Subject (Main + Main Verb + Complement), gerund as Direct Object (Subject + Main Verb + Gerund), gerund as Subject Complement (Subject + to be + Gerund), and gerund as Object of Preposition (Subject + Primary Keyword + Preposition + Gerund). The study found that Tempo magazine used gerund in magazines with higher gerund percentages as the preposition object. There are 8 gerunds as the subject, 5 gerund as a direct object, 6 gerund as complementary subject, and 23 gerund as the preposition object.*

**Keywords:** Gerund, Suffix, -Ing, Grammar

© 2018 Jurnal JILP

## I INTRODUCTION

In language learning, one of the language rules that has important role in communication is gerund. According to Wliting (1983:32), gerund has a force of a noun if the gerund has a substantive feature such as having an article in front of it and having a plural noun. When a gerund has a force of noun, it has substantive meaning. Substantive is a word that can function as a gerund, an infinitive, and a noun. The gerund has a force a verb if the gerund has a verbal feature such as having its own object and having change in the perfect and the passive. When a gerund

becomes a hybrid because it has a noun form but it has a verbal meaning.

In this study, the writer focuses on the -ing form as gerund. According to Swan (1995:27), gerund is a verbal that ends in -ing and functions as a noun. It is one of the oddest constructions in the English language, because it nominalises morpheme, turning a verb into a noun by adding -ing form to the end of the verb. At the same time, there is also continuous tense that adds -ing form to the end of the verb. For those who begins learn English can easily become confused

by this -ing form that can become noun and also verb at the same sentence, such as: smoking addiction has been killing millions of population over the last decade. As the continuous tense, the rule is clear, the verb with -ing form is placed after the subject.

The analysis is focused on gerunds of subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of

preposition. The objects of research are gerunds found in Tempo Magazine in the year 2015, this magazine provides the writer with lots of gerunds to be analyzed. The writer will compare gerunds usage as subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition from the magazine into the percentage data, explanation, and function of this grammar form.

## II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Gerund is a word derived from a verb base which functions as or like a noun. George (1990:268) says that gerund is the -ing form of the verb used as a noun, gerund has the same form as the present participle. However, it functions differently in the sentence, it is always can function in any noun position.

Harper (2006:234) mentions that a gerund is a kind of verbal noun. It behaves as a verb within a clause (so that, for example, it may be modified by an adverb or have an object), but the clause as a whole (sometimes consisting only of one word, the gerund) acts as a noun within the larger sentence. Generally, gerund can occupy some positions in a sentence that a noun ordinarily would, which are: subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition.

### 2.1.1 Gerund as Subject

According to Harper (2006:234), the subject of a gerund usually denotes a live being, but sometimes it designates a lifeless thing or an abstract idea. In the majority of gerund phrases, especially those functions as objects of verbs or preposition, the "subject" is either understood or is found in another part of the sentence.

### 2.1.2 Gerund as Direct Object

Harper (2006:234) also mentions that certain verbs in English are followed by verbals, either gerunds or infinitives, which are considered as the objects of these verbs. Most of these verbs denote mental activity or indirect speech and therefore require subjects that refer to human beings. Other have little semantic content outside of indicating aspect, the beginning, duration, end or repetition of an action; these verbs may or may not be used with subjects denoting persons. There is less agreement that a verbal following one of these aspects, denoting verbs is its objects; actually, there is some justification for considering a verb that expresses aspect as a quays, auxiliary rather than as a verb that takes an object.

### 2.1.3 Gerund as Subject Complement

Harper (2006:234) says that the form of an object in a gerund phrase may depend on what precedes the gerund. If the subject introduces the gerund, the object of the gerund is containing an of phrase.

### 2.1.4 Gerund as Object of Preposition

Finally, Harper (2006:234) states that any verbs used as the object in a prepositional phrase takes the form of a gerund. Most gerund phrases after prepositions are subjectless, especially those in adverbial prepositional phrases.

## 2.2 Review of the Related Findings

A number of studies has been conducted to find out the importance of gerund. Damayanti (2009) has conducted a research about "*An error Analysis on the Use of Gerunds and Infinitives: A Case Study on the Second Year Students Faculty of Letters, Gunadarma University*". In her research, she says that even though Gerunds and infinitives have been offered to the students at semester four, it is still difficult for them to really understand the language. Consequently, in fact they still make many errors. This literature finds out the percentages of errors made by the second year students in understanding gerund and infinitive and discuss how those errors occur. The population of the study is the second year students of Faculty of Letters, Gunadarma University. The result of the analysis shows that the students have understood fairly on the study of gerunds and infinitives. Most of the students still find difficulties in understanding which verbs preceding gerund. Since the ability of the students in understanding gerund and infinitive is still below the requirement of a good grammar, the learning process of this material should be improved.

Next, Duffley (2003) has conducted a research about: "*The Gerund and the to-Infinitive as Subject*". In his research, he analyzes the corpus-based study in order to show that the distinction between the gerund and the infinitive cannot be accounted for in terms of the previously proposed oppositions between particularity and generality or between reification and hypothesis/potentiality. The corpus used does reveal certain distributional tendencies that distinguish the two forms, but they are also found to occur as subjects of the very same predicates. The explanation proposed to account for both distribution and the capacity of both forms to be used with the same predicate is based on a definition of their basic meanings as the condition determining their use in discourse. The distinction in meaning between these two constructions is shown to be more complex than that of a simple binary opposition, as the to-infinitive is a

composite made up of the meanings of its two component parts, the bare infinitive and the preposition to, while the -ingis part of the verb's morphology.

Finally, Rahmawati (2016) has conducted a research about: "An Analysis of Gerund and To Infinitive in The Articles of The Jakarta Post". In her research, she analyzes the kinds of gerund and to-infinitive in the sports articles of the Jakarta Post. The problems that should be answered in this research is

### III METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

Distributional method is a method of analysis data that the object of analysis is the part of language itself, as opposed with referential method that relates the object to the outside of language element. The object in distributional method is always the part or the element from the observed language, such as word (negation, preposition, adverb), syntactic function (subject, object, predicate), clause, word syllable, punctuation, and another (Sudaryanto, 1993: 15-16). It is the method of linguistic research in which the classification of linguistic units and the study of their features are carried out on the basis of the distribution of the units in question in the spoken chain, that is language units in question itself.

In analyzing the data, the information from data collection is processed and presented in form of thesis. In the application, the writer uses qualitative method. Qualitative research is designed to reveal a target audience's range of behavior and the perceptions that drive it with reference to specific topics or issues. It uses in-depth studies of small groups of people to guide and support the construction of hypotheses. The results of qualitative research are descriptive. Qualitative research is about exploring issues, understanding phenomena, and answering questions by analyzing and making sense of unstructured data.

Qualitative analysis is the process of systematically searching and arranging the interview transcripts, field notes, and other materials that are accumulated to increase the understanding of them and to enable the researcher to present what have discovered to others. The data which have been collected are analyzed as follows:

1. The use of Gerund.
2. Classified the Gerund.
3. Draw the conclusions.

In collecting the data, the writer uses library research. This research is oriented in the library in order to find the related data that is Tempo Magazine in the year 2015, however it is not restricted in finding other written material from internet or even from the video. According to Pradopo (2001:23), library

the kinds of gerund and to infinitive that most frequently found in the articles of the Jakarta Post. The subject of the research are the articles of the Jakarta Post, while the object of the research is the kinds gerund and to infinitive that are used in the articles of the Jakarta Post.

research refers to the observation that is executed in the library, which the writer gains the data and information about his object through the books and other audiovisual equipment that related and relevant to the topic.

The research process itself involves identifying and locating relevant information, analyzing what you found, and then developing and expressing your ideas. These are the same skills you will need on the job when you write a report or proposal.

Secondary sources are studies by other researchers. They describe, analyze, and/or evaluate information found in primary sources. By repackaging information, secondary sources make information more accessible. A few examples of secondary sources are books, journal and magazine articles, encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, periodical indexes, and reviews, etc.

Primary sources are original works. These sources represent original thinking, report on discoveries, or share new information. Usually these represent the first formal appearance of original research. Primary sources include statistical data, manuscripts, surveys, speeches, biographies/autobiographies, diaries, oral histories, interviews, works of art and literature, research reports, government documents, computer programs, original documents (birth certificates, trial transcripts...) etc.

As the result, The data in this research is taken from 9 articles of Tempo magazine in Gerund with variable of subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition. This magazine is published on April 20-26, year 2015 with the headline of The Spirit of Bandung: Asia-Africa Conference 1995-2015.

In this study, the researcher applies descriptive design with the aim to analyze gerund as subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition in Tempo magazine year 2015. Hammond and Wellington (2012:39) say that descriptive research describes the situation or thing that exists at the same time of the study, it means that

descriptive research does not tend to find a new theory rather than to verify and describe the Percentage and Application of Gerund in Tempo Magazine.

In its essence, descriptive studies are used to describe various aspects of the phenomenon. In its popular format, descriptive research is used to describe characteristics and/or behaviour of sample population.

a. Data

The data is limited in -ing suffix as Gerund with variable of subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition found in 9 articles of Tempo magazine.

b. Data Source

The source of data are taken from the Tempo magazine published on April 20-26, year 2015 with headline of The Spirit of Bandung: Asia-Africa Conference 1999-2015.

## IV DISCUSSION

In this section, the writer presents the result of research. The data were taken from 9 articles in the Tempo Magazine. Tempo is one of the weekly magazine published in Indonesia. The magazine was launched in 1971 and the first issue of Tempo Magazine appeared on March 6th.

The writer makes a list about gerund and infinitives that found on 9 articles in the Tempo Magazine. In describing data completely, the writer tried to tabulate the data. As result, the writer found some kinds of gerund and infinitives, they are:

### Gerund as Subject

In this gerund, it is placed as the subject of sentence followed by the main verb. The formula can be seen in the following: Subject + Main Verb + Complement.

### Gerund as Direct Object

In this gerund, it is placed at the object after the main verb, this gerund replaced the object of sentence. The formula can be seen in the following: Subject + Main Verb + Gerund.

### Gerund as Subject Complement

In this gerund, it is placed as the complement after to be, it is not classified as continuous tense verb because the meaning of word is not a verb, but an activity of noun. The formula can be seen in the following: Subject + To be + Gerund.

### Gerund as Object of Preposition

In this gerund, it is placed as the object of sentence after the preposition. The formula can be seen in the following: Subject + Main Verb + Preposition + Gerund.

### Discussion

After analyzing the data, the researcher found that the four types of gerund, which are subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition. There are 8 gerund as subject, 5 gerund as direct object, 6gerund as subject complement, and 23 gerund as object of preposition. From this data, it can be seen that Tempo mostly use gerund as the object of preposition in their magazine compared to the other type of gerund.

## V CONCLUSION

Due to the research problems, the researcher found that Tempo uses gerund in the magazine with the higher percentage of gerund as the object of preposition. There are total 42 samples in the data analysis, the detail can be seen in the following gerund analysis: 19% in the gerund as subject (8 samples), 11,9% in the gerund as direct object (5 samples), 14,2% in thegerund as subject complement (6 samples), and 54,7% in the gerund as object of preposition (23 samples).

After drawing a conclusion within the data analysis, the researcher finds some points that

hopefully should be covered by the next researchers. The writer suggests that the students must be understood about gerunds and also the function of gerunds very well.For English students especially the beginners, it is important to be able in making sentences by understanding the usage of gerund first. Then, the writer also wishes this thesis can be useful to enrich knowledge about the usage and the function of gerund in English sentences and the students can get much information about gerunds from this writing and also apply it in English language.

### Bibliography

- Aarts, B. 2006. *Syntactic Gradience: The Nature of Grammatical Indeterminacy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Arseneau, Maryse. 2006. The Infinitive and the Gerund-Participle as Complements of Verbs of Risk. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* 57(1): 31–50.
- Baker, Mark. 2003. *Lexical categories: Verbs, Nouns, and Adjectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Biber, Douglas, Stig Johansson, Geoffrey Leech, Susan Conrad and Edward Finnegan, 1999, *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*, Harlowe, Perason Education Limited.
- Byung, Soo Park . 2011. Gerundive Complements in English: A Constraint-Based Analysis. *Studies in Modern Grammar* 63, 47-71.
- Conti, Gregory. 2011. Defining a Rule for the Use of Infinitive and Gerund Complements. *English Language Teaching*. Vol. 4, No. 3.
- Damayanti2009. *An error Analysis on the Use of Gerunds and Infinitives: A Case Study on the Second Year Students Faculty of Letters, Gunadarma University*. Jakarta: Universitas Gunadarma
- Duffley, Patrick J. 2003. The Gerund and the to-Infinitive as Subject. *Journal of English Linguistics* 31(4): 324-352.
- Ethridge, Don E. 2004. *Research Methodology*. London: Blackwell
- George, C. E. 1990. *A Comprehensive English Grammar for Foreign Students*. London: Longmans.
- Gerot and Wignell. 2011. *The Oxford English Grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Greenbaum, Sidney. 1992. *An Introduction to English Grammar*. London: Longman.
- Hammond, Michael and Jerry J. Wellington. 2012. *Research Methods: The Key Concepts*. London: Routledge.
- Harper, Richard. *Gerunds and Multiple Default Inheritance*. 2000. Retrieved on November 2006 from the website: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.108.5184&rep=rep1&type=pdf>.
- Huddleston, Rodney and Geoffrey Pullum. 2002. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nasr, R.T. 1995. *The Essentials of Linguistics Science*. London: Longman.
- Ojea, López. 2011. Propositional Gerunds in English and Spanish. *Journal of English Studies*, 31 (2), 413-430.
- Pradopo, Rachmat Djoko, et.al. 2001. *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: PT. Hanindita Graha Widia.
- Quirk, Randolph, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik. 1985. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman.
- Rahmawati. 2016. *An Analysis of Gerund and To Infinitive in The Articles of The Jakarta Post*. Jakarta: Universitas Gunadarma
- Sudaryanto. 1993. *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa: Pengantar Penelitian Wahana Kebudayaan secara Linguistis*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Swan, Michael. 1995. *Practical English Usage*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Taher, Inam Ismael. 2015. The Problematic Forms of Nominalization in English: Gerund, Verbal Noun, and Deverbal. *English Linguistics Research* Vol 4, No 1.
- Tempo English. April 20-26, year 2015. The Spirit of Bandung: Asia-Africa Conference 1995-2015.
- Wliting, E. J. 1983. *English Grammar and Composition*. New York: McGraw- Hill, Inc.