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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INFINITIVE AND INFINITIVAL CONSTRUCTIONS

*The article is devoted to the highlighting of the grammatical, syntactical, lexical and morphological features of the infinitive and the infinitival constructions in order to determine the main problems concerning with its correct usage both in the oral and written speech. The presenting of the main material of the article is based on the fundamental works of the well-known grammarians such as V. L. Kaushanskaya, N. A. Kobrina, M. Y. Blokh, V. Evans, etc. The results of the careful analysis and the conducting research show that the infinitive possesses the nominal and verbal features. In the utterance the Objective Infinitive Constructions, the Subjective Infinitive Constructions and the For-to-infinitive constructions preserve analytical structure of the English language and particularly is used after the verbs denoting perception, mental activity, emotions, wish or intention, declaring, inducement, requiring a prepositional object and after certain word-groups.*

**Key words:** *the Infinitive, the nominal features, the verbal features, the Objective Infinitive Constructions, the Subjective Infinitive Constructions, the For-to-infinitive constructions.*

**Formulation of the problem:** As is known in Modern English the infinitive and the infinitival constructions are of frequent everyday usage but such constructions impose difficulties for the non-native speakers both in written and in colloquial speech. Even though there are a substantial amount of scholars' scientific papers and textbooks on the characteristics of the infinitive, they still haven't been proposed a comprehensive outline of its syntactic constructions.

Therefore **the aim of the article** is to define the usage and functioning of the infinitive syntactic constructions by means of analyzing their characteristics.

To achieve this aim it is necessary to perform the following **tasks:** outline general characteristics of the infinitive, examine the use of infinitive in complex object, complex subject and for-to-infinitive constructions.

**Presentation of the material.** According to academic definition, the infinitive is a non-finite form of the verb which is characterized by a double nature, nominal and verbal, expresses a process in general, that isn't restricted by mood, number, tense, etc. Speaking about the forms of the Infinitive, it can be of two types: with particle "to" (the full infinitive) and without particle "to" (the bare infinitive). An interesting fact is that in Old English the particle "to" functioned as the preposition in combination with the infinitive in the dative case to indicate purpose. But in

Modern English the particle "to" became an inseparable constituent of the infinitive and was closely connected with it. If we are to give the emphasis to the verb, we can insert the adverb or particle between the infinitive and particle "to". In that case the used infinitive is called the split infinitive, e.g: *I need your presence here, to rapidly resolve this conflict.*

It is also worth to mentioning that the particle "to" can be omitted in the several cases: when we have an auxiliary verb, after modal verbs (except *ought to, have to, be to*), after modal expression (*had better, would rather, would sooner etc.*), after the verbs of perception (*see, watch, observe, notice, hear, etc.*), though these verbs take a to-infinitive in the passive [1, p. 30].

The nominal features are demonstrated through the syntactic functions of the Infinitive in the sentence. It is used as the subject, predicative and object. Semantically and morphologically the Infinitive much more resembles the verb than the noun, because it possesses the verb categories of voice, aspect and temporal correlation.

The Infinitive also has the verbal combinability:

- a. it takes an object in the same way as the corresponding finite verbs do;
- b. it takes a predicative if it happens to be a link verb;
- c. it is modified by adverbials in the same way as finite verbs; [5, p.101].

With reference to these characteristics we can distinguish eight categorial paradigms of the infinitive : the indefinite passive, the continuous passive, the perfect passive, the perfect continuous passive; the indefinite active, the continuous active, the perfect active, the perfect continuous active [ 3, p. 145].

In terms of the Infinitival syntactical construction, they are traditionally divided into the Objective Infinitive Constructions, the Subjective Infinitive Constructions and the For-to-infinitive constructions.

The objective with the Infinitive is a construction in which the infinitive is in predicate relation to a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the objective case [6, p. 195]. In order to make translation of the Objective-with-the-Infinitive Construction into Ukraine more understandable it is better to apply subordinate clause, e.g : *She is an awful student and I have never seen her do the home tasks.* - *Вона – жахливий студент, я ніколи не бачила, щоб вона виконувала домашнє завдання.*

According to N. A. Kobrina [ 5, p. 149], the usage of the objective with the infinitive constructions is possible in the following cases:

- after verbs of perception, such as *to see, to feel, to hear, to observe, to notice, to watch, etc.* In that case the particle 'to' is omitted, for example: *I saw her buy a dress;*

With these very verbs only the Indefinite Infinitive Active form is used. The passive voice of the main word is expressed with the help of the Participle II, for example: *He felt the window slightly opened;*

- After verbs of mental activity, such as *to think, to believe, to find, to suppose, etc.* In that instance the verb "to be" is traditionally used and combination of such a construction with the verbs of mental activity is inherent to a literary style, for example: *He believed him to be ready with the report;*

- After verbs of emotions, such as *to love, to hate, to dislike, etc.*, the particle "to" is preserved in the whole constructions, for example: *I hated him to broken the rules during the spring festival;*

- After verbs of wish and intention, such as *to desire, to wish, to want, etc.* In this case particle "to" is not omitted, for example: *I don't want her to stare at me like this;*

- After verbs of declaring, such as *to declare, to report, to pronounce, etc.*, for example: *The Foreign Minister declared the economy to rise enormously after the crisis;*

- After verbs of inducement, such as *to get, to order, to tell, to ask, etc.* With these verbs infinitive with the particle "to" is used, but depending on the context the verbs "to have" (змушувати), "to make" (змусити) and "to get" (досягати) the bare infinitive is used, for example: *My mother can't get me to finish cleaning; My father made me respect all members of our family;*

- After verbs requiring a prepositional object, such as *to wait for, to look for, to rely on, etc.*, for example: *Our parents wait for us to become happy and successful persons.*

The Subjective Infinitive Constructions is a construction in which the infinitive is in predicate relation to a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the nominative case [4, p. 199]. In this construction one parts form the main subject of the sentence, other parts are related to the compound verbal predicate, for example: *Kate is heart to become a chef in the Turkish restaurant.*

The peculiarities of the usage are comprised in the availability of the Passive Voice. According to V. L. Kaushanskaya [ 4, p. 199], after the following verbs in the Passive Voice the subjective construction is used:

- with verbs denoting sense perception, such as *to see, to hear, etc.*, for example: *He was seen to smirk through fear;*

If the sentence contains a main verb in process, the Participle I Indefinite Active is used, for example: *He was felt to becoming more arrogant and, for sure, he lost his individuality in this rotten society;*

- With verbs denoting mental activity, such as *to think, to know, to expect, to suppose, to believe, etc.*, for example: *She was expected to have the gift of the gab;*

- With the verb "to make", for example: *I was made to pen a decent missive;*

- With verbs of declaring, such as *to say, to pronounce, to report, etc.*, for example: *The Chair Man suddenly started overhaul between employees, which is said to relate to incomprehensible state forms;*

- With the word-groups, such as *to be sure, to be certain, to be likely, etc.*, for example : *I am sure to meet my future husband in Spain;*

After the verbs in Passive Voice the Complex Subject is more characteristic of a literary than a colloquial style, except when it is used with the verbs *to suppose, to expect, to make* [ 6, p. 314].

In the for-to-infinitive construction the infinitive (usually an infinitive phrase) is in predicative relation to a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the objective case introduced by

the preposition for [5, p. 122]. For example: *All I desire for my brother to succeed in his future career.*

As already shown elsewhere, the prepositions are used when the speaker wishes to explicate the 'subject' of the infinitive clause. If the subject is not explicated, the sentence expresses a generic situation [2, p.114]. For example:

*She is an excellent woman to communicate with.*  
*She is an excellent woman for me to communicate with.*

Syntactically, the construction is polyfunctional. It may function as:

- complex subject (e.g. *For you to make an conclusion will be not very complicated*);
- complex object (e.g. *The shop was built for the citizens to make convenient purchases*);
- a complex predicative (e.g. *The rules are for Russian citizens to travel with the visa*);
- complex adverbial (a complex adjunct) (e.g. *She was too tall for everyone to be noticeable*);

This construction has some restrictions that lie down in the number of subjects. If the sentence has one doer of the action that performs different actions, than the infinitive in the for-to-infinitive construction isn't used. It is rather used when the finite verb and infinitive are not the same.

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## ЗАГАЛЬНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ІНФІНІТИВА ТА ІНФІНІТИВНИХ КОНСТРУКЦІЙ

Стаття присвячена висвітленню граматичних, синтаксичних, лексичних та морфологічних особливостей інфінітива та інфінітивних конструкцій з метою визначення основних проблем, пов'язаних з їх правильним використанням як в усному, так і в письмовому мовленні. Виклад основного матеріалу статті ґрунтується на фундаментальних працях таких відомих науковців як В. Л. Каушанська, Н. А. Кобрин, М. Ю. Блох, В. Еванс та ін. Результати ретельного аналізу та проведеного дослідження показують, що інфінітиву притаманні субстантивні та дієслівні характеристики. В усному та письмовому висловлюванні об'єктивні інфінітивні конструкції, суб'єктивні інфінітивні конструкції та інфінітивні конструкції з прийменником "for" зберігають аналітичну структуру англійської мови та в основному використовуються після дієслів, що позначають сприйняття, психічну активність, емоції, бажання чи намір, констатування факту, спонукання, після тих, що вимагають обставину і після певних виразів.

**Ключові слова:** інфінітив, субстантивні характеристики, дієслівні характеристики, об'єктивні інфінітивні конструкції, суб'єктивні інфінітивні конструкції, інфінітивні конструкції з прийменником "for".

**Conclusions.** To sum up, the infinitive possesses the nominal and verbal features. The nominal features of the infinitive are manifested in its syntactic functions: the infinitive can be used as the subject, predicate and object of the sentence. The verbal features of the infinitive are viewed through its morphological and syntactical properties: the infinitive possesses the verb combinability and has the verb categories of voice, perfect and aspect.

The objective with the infinitive construction is widely used in Modern English in the literal and colloquial speech. The particle "to" can be used and can be omitted in such constructions, it depends on the meaning and collocation of the verbs after which the objective with the infinitive construction is used.

The subjective infinitive construction contains a subject and compound verbal predicate. Only certain verbs in the Passive Voice can be used entirely within this construction.

The infinitive in for-to-infinitive construction has similar functions in the sentence with the infinitive. It is used when the speaker wants to make his/her speech more sophisticated or makes emphasis on the certain events or the doer of the action.

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### **ОБЩИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ИНФИНИТИВА И ИНФИНИТИВНЫХ КОНСТРУКЦИЙ**

Статья посвящена определению грамматических, синтаксических, лексических и морфологических особенностей инфинитива и инфинитивных конструкций с целью определения основных проблем, связанных с их правильным использованием как в устной, так и в письменной речи. Изложение основного материала статьи основывается на фундаментальных трудах таких известных ученых как В. Л. Каушанской, Н. А. Кобриной, М. Ю. Блоха, В. Эванс и др. Результаты тщательного анализа и проведенного исследования показывают, что инфинитиву присущи субстантивные и глагольные характеристики. В устном и письменном высказывании объективные инфинитивные конструкции, субъективные инфинитивные конструкции и инфинитивные конструкции с предлогом "for" сохраняют аналитическую структуру английского языка и в основном используются после глаголов, обозначающих восприятие, психическую активность, эмоции, желания или намерение, констатирование факта, побуждения, после тех, что требуют обстоятельство и после определенных выражений.

**Ключевые слова:** инфинитив, субстантивные характеристики, глагольные характеристики, объективные инфинитивные конструкции, субъективные инфинитивные конструкции, инфинитивные конструкции с предлогом "for".