

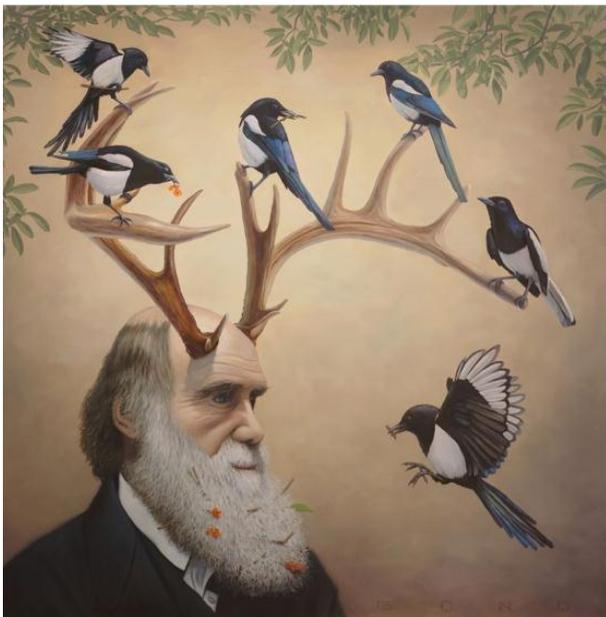
# opción

Revista de Antropología, Ciencias de la Comunicación y de la Información, Filosofía,  
Lingüística y Semiótica, Problemas del Desarrollo, la Ciencia y la Tecnología

Año 35, 2019, Especial N°

# 22

Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales  
ISSN 1012-1537/ ISSNc: 2477-9385  
Depósito Legal pp 198402ZU45



Universidad del Zulia  
Facultad Experimental de Ciencias  
Departamento de Ciencias Humanas  
Maracaibo - Venezuela



# **Development Of The English Grammar Tradition Of The New English Period (On The Example Of Non-Finite Forms)**

**<sup>1</sup>Alina Yu. Sokolova**

**<sup>1</sup>Doctoral Candidate, Candidate Of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor Of The Department Of Foreign And Latin Languages, Tver State Medical University, E-Mail: Alinasokolova.tver@Yandex.ru**

## **Abstract:**

**As you know, the New English period is characterized by the development of scientific interest in the language, the need to describe the language, the development of the language norm. In this regard, a large number of grammars appear. This article presents the results of the analysis of the interpretation of non-finite forms of the English verb in the grammar books of the New English period.**

**Key words. English, grammar book, early grammars, prescriptive grammars, descriptive grammars, non-finite forms of the English verb.**

## **DESARROLLO DE LA TRADICIÓN GRAMÁTICA INGLESA DEL NUEVO PERÍODO INGLÉS (EN EL EJEMPLO DE FORMAS NO FINITAS)**

Resumen. Como saben, el período del Nuevo Inglés se caracteriza por el desarrollo del interés científico en el idioma, la necesidad de describir el idioma, el desarrollo de la norma del idioma. En este sentido, aparece una gran cantidad de gramáticas. Este artículo presenta los resultados del análisis de la interpretación de formas no finitas del verbo en inglés en los libros de gramática del período del Nuevo Inglés.

Palabras clave Inglés, libro de gramática, gramáticas tempranas, gramáticas prescriptivas, gramáticas descriptivas, formas no finitas del verbo en inglés.

### Introduction.

It is well known that when studying the development of a particular linguistic phenomenon, the most effective approach is the appeal to texts created during the study period. It is the contextual analysis that can give accurate research results [1]. However, in most cases, examples of the linguistic units use are interpreted by the researcher subjectively, taking into account the already established perception, which is imprinted by the linguistic personality of the researcher himself, in whose consciousness there are already defined functions, forms and meanings of linguistic units in the modern language researcher.

An appeal to grammatical treatises created directly by the authors of the studied period is, in our opinion, the most productive way of research, since these essays set forth the points of view on the language in its static state, but, nevertheless, on the language of “living”, modern for authors of treatises.

In the early New England period, as noted by A.I. Smirnitsky, in connection with the formation of the nation, national culture development a more conscious attitude to the native national language forms, the language begins to undergo conscious processing [2. P.146]. The New English period is characterized by the development of a scientific interest in the language, the need to describe the language, and the development of a language norm. It is this period that is considered the time of the appearance and flowering of grammars of the English language [3; 4; 5].

There is no generally accepted classification and periodization of English grammar tradition. We can only talk about two directions in the development of grammatical thought, emerging in the XVI - XVII centuries. Representatives of one direction believed that language should proceed from the principle of “reason”, and grammar rules should be formulated based on logic. Others only recorded the prevailing use, tried to legitimize it and, when establishing the rules, proceeded from the principle of “custom”.

The classification of grammar works on such a basis is difficult. Moreover, as indicated by V.N. Yartseva, “sometimes the grammatical recommendations of representatives of different directions coincided” [6. P. 188]. In addition, grammarians of both directions often constructed English grammar on the model of Latin, although they themselves stated that the scheme of Latin grammar did not correspond to an adequate description of the structure of the English language. Those authors who in good faith sought to avoid Latin influence only vaguely followed the Latin pattern.

Another classification of grammar treaties, which is consistent with the objectives of this study, is offered by L.L. Jofik. It divides grammars according to their objectives and at the same time chronological principles into two periods: pre-scientific grammars (XVI – XIX centuries) and new scientific grammars (XX century) [7. P. 5]. Pre-scientific grammars are divided into two groups that chronologically follow one after another: pre-normative grammars (XVI – 1st half of the XVIII centuries) and normative (prescriptive) grammars (2nd half of the XVIII - XIX centuries). As one knows, until the end of the XVI century, there were practically no English grammars [8]. In 1586, W. Bullokar published one of the first English grammars. In the XVII century, about 30 grammatical treaties appeared, among which the work of J. Wallis, who refused to use Latin grammar schemes, stands out [9]. At the end of the XVII - beginning of the XVIII centuries, the so-called prescriptive grammars appeared, the vivid representatives of which were the works of R. Laut and L. Murray. Following prescriptive grammars, descriptive grammars appear. The appearance of such works in England is associated with the name of G. Sweet.

This article analyzes the phenomenon under study - the non-finite paradigm of the verb - in the following grammatical treaties:

1) early grammars: Alexander Gill’s *Logonomia Anglica* (1619); John Wallis *Grammatica Lingua Anglicanae* (1653). These works are written

in Latin, the authors use a large number of Latin terms and examples from the Latin language in the text.

2) prescriptive grammars: Robert Lowth *A Short Introduction to English Grammar* (1762); Lindley Murray *English Grammar adapted to the different classes of Learners* (1795). In these works, the description of the English grammar is reduced to the sum of the rules and certain standards of use, which, according to the authors themselves, are based on the principle of logic and reason.

3) scientific (descriptive) grammars: Henry Sweet *A New English Grammar. Logical and Historical* (1892-1898); Otto Jespersen *Essentials of English Grammar* (1933). Grammar of Henry Sweet, according to L.L. Iofik, is the border separating pre-scientific and scientific grammar. And the works of O. Jespersen are an example of classical scientific grammar of the XX century.

### Results and Discussion.

In one of the most famous early grammars - in the work of John Wallis (*John Wallis Grammatica Lingua Anglicanae*) - a description of non-finite forms is not of particular interest: the author simply lists them, providing Latin terms and explanations with rare examples in English [10. P. 33-35]. The author identifies the infinitive - *verbo infinite* and two participles - *Participium Activum / Passivum*. The infinitive is used with the *to* particle, which can be omitted (after auxiliary verbs - *do, will, shall, may, can, etc.*). The indefinite form (infinitive) can be used as a verb, adjective or noun and corresponds to the Latin infinitive (indefinite) mood. Active participle ends in *-ing* (*burning*), sometimes used as a verbal noun (*in burning of this*) or *gerund* (*in burning this*). Passive participle can be used both independently and for the formation of verb forms.

The author states in the introduction that English is significantly different from Latin, and the phenomena of the English language should be considered without comparison with analogues in the Latin language. However, in the text of the book itself we see a clear influence of the Latin language. So, for example, when interpreting the forms of the verb, the author explains their meaning through the forms of the Latin verb: *amo* - I love, *amabam* - I loved, *amavi* - I have loved, etc. Moreover, the explanation of forms is not given, as well as the interpretation of their functions.

The grammar of A. Gill, as indicated by N.N. Germanova [12. P. 54] by the details and systematic consideration exceeded the work of predeces-

sors and contemporaries. Researchers of the English grammatical tradition [13; 14] consider the work of A. Gill as an important milestone in history of English.

From the point of view of describing non-finite forms, A. Gill's grammar seems to be very peculiar. In our opinion, the main goal of the author is to find analogues of the vast paradigm of non-finite forms of the Latin verb in the English language. A. Gill identifies 4 moods in the English verb, one of which is an infinitive one. There are several infinitive forms in this mood characterized by the presence of the marker *tu (to)*: Present - to be; Future - to be hereafter; Perfect - to have been; as well as Present participle - being [15. P. 58]. All forms have a passive voice. The present infinitive is the basis and root of all other verbal finite forms, from which, by omitting the *tu (to)* particle, the presens indicativi form is formed. The infinitive denotes an action without indicating the person and tense. With the help of infinitive forms, all non-finite forms of the Latin verb are translated. The infinitive can follow a verb or noun or adjective, after which the infinitive always stands with the particle *tu (to)*. After the verb, the infinitive can be used both with its marker and without it. After the personal form of the verb "to be", the infinitive has the meaning of necessity.

A. Gill does not separate out the category of participles. In the diphthong chapter, the past participle (*participius preteritis*) is mentioned [15. P. 18], but further in the text there is no information about it. The present participle form related to the infinitive mood is used with the preposition "a" after the verbs of movement, acting as the Latin supine: *Dei went a hunting = venatum ibant*; as well as with or without the conjunction *az (as)*, forming an analogue of the relative clause with the relative pronoun "who" or "which": *If hi wil du anithing at yur komaund, as being hiz master.*

Participle II, in the modern sense of the term, is referred to by A. Gill a verb adjective, with the help of which verb tenses are formed. Verbal adjectives can be active and passive.

In the XVIII century, the number of grammatical compositions increased significantly [16]. The second half of the 18th century is characterized by the flowering of prescriptive grammars. They provide a more detailed analysis of non-finite forms. The grammar of R. Lowth is considered by many researchers to be the most striking embodiment of the traditions of prescriptivism [10]. The grammar of L. Murray, which has become the most popular in the practice of teaching English in the UK, is oriented,

according to the author himself, to the grammar of R. Lowth [17].

R. Lowth and L. Murray separate the cases of using the infinitive without “to” and the infinitive with “to”. The first does not function independently, being an element of conditional (in R. Lowth) or potential (in L. Murray) mood. The second relates by both authors to the so-called infinitive (indefinite) mood, an marker of which is a particle (according to R. Lowth - preposition) “to”, which is omitted after some verbs.

The infinitive with the particle “to” (the form of indefinite mood) is endowed with the characteristics of the verb and noun. It can perform the function of a subject, it can be used after nouns, adjectives and participles, as well as independently, in the form of introductory constructions independent of the rest of the sentence. In this case, the infinitive is equivalent to a construction with the conjunction “that” or a verb in a potential (subjunctive) mood [18. p. 80; 13. p. 163].

Simple forms of indefinite mood (to write, to be written, to be writing) express an action occurring simultaneously or following an action expressed by the finite form of the verb. Perfect forms (to have written, to have been written) denote the previous action.

Neither R. Lowth nor L. Murray singles out the participle as a separate part of speech, referring it to the form of a verb. The authors endow the participles with the properties of the verb and the adjective. L. Murray, following R. Lowth, identifies three participles. R. Lowth calls them present, perfect, past - having, had, having had, correspondingly. L. Murray uses the terms the Present or Active, the Perfect or Passive, and the Compound Perfect: loving, loved, having loved; explaining, however, that the names of the participles often do not correspond to their meanings and functions [19. p. 68]. Participles can be used both independently and in the formation of verb forms in combination with auxiliary verbs. The participles have the same compatibility as the verbs from which they are formed.

L. Murray, like R. Lowth, does not separate the forms in -ing, denoting them by the single term “Participle”. The authors only confirm that sometimes these participles can perform substantive functions. In this case, the article (a / the) can appear before the participle, and the preposition “of” after it, but not always. R. Lowth also uses the term “gerund” to describe the functions of -ing forms with a preposition [18. p. 81]. The author does not make a sharp distinction between the characteristics of the participle and gerund, considering them, as well as their substantive use, as functional variants of the participle.

The grammar of H. Sweet, in our opinion, is not very structured and often not consistent. H. Sweet devotes a whole chapter of the book to non-finite forms, which he calls verbals [20. p. 112-118]. Non-finite forms lack the categories of person, number and mood, but retain the ability to express the voice and the tense of an action. The author separates the independent use of non-finite forms (independent verbals or simply verbals) from their functioning as part of verb forms (periphrase-verbals or predicates).

This separation, although stated by the author for all non-finite forms, in the text is characteristic only for participles. Since, for example, the infinitive (which according to H. Sweet is a form without “to” particle, contrasted with supine), attributed to independent non-finite forms, is further referred to only in connection with the formation of periphrastic (analytical) forms of various moods.

Naming non-finite forms H. Sweet makes extensive use of Latin terminology.

H. Sweet identifies the infinitive and supine (without to - with to). The infinitive, as the author notes, is sometimes called an indefinite mood. Supine (the analytical form of the infinitive) can also be passive and perfect (to have seen, to be sold). Particle “to” is called by H. Sweet either a particle, or a preposition, or an adverb [20. p. 88].

The supine and infinitive are not separated by H. Sweet functionally. Although the examples cited by the author suggest the opposite. We see that the infinitive is used only for the formation of analytical (periphrastic - according to H. Sweet) forms of the verb. The functions of the supine are not considered at all by the author. The only exception is its participation in the formation of the “compulsive mood”.

To other non-finite forms H. Sweet assigns gerund and two participles. Gerund, according to the author, is a nominative non-finite form that coincides in form with the present participle and does not participate in the formation of analytical forms of the verb. Gerund should be distinguished not only from the participle, but also from the verbal noun in -ing.

The participles (present active participle and preterit passive participle), as the author notes, do not fully functionally correspond to their names.

The inconsistency of H. Sweet’s grammar manifests itself in the work from the very beginning.

H. Sweet offers a very unusual classification of parts of speech. He divides all words into 2 groups - declinable, that is, capable of inflection, and indeclinable, that is, incapable of inflection.

Among the declinable parts of speech he distinguishes

- nouns (noun-words): noun, noun-pronoun, noun-numeral, infinitive, gerund;

- adjectives (adjective-words): adjective, adjective-pronoun, adjective-numeral, participles.

- verbs (verb): finite verb, verbals (infinitive, gerund, participles).

As can be seen from the classification, non-finite forms belong simultaneously to several parts of speech.

As for the participles, their attribution to adjectives can be traced in further explanations. However, gerund and the infinitive, according to H. Sweet, possessing nominal characteristics, in no way in the further interpretation of the author refer to substances. In addition, the supine is completely absent from the classification. Further in the section on non-finite forms, we find a very contradictory explanation, according to which non-finite forms (independent verbals) are genuine substantives and adjectives and there is no mentioning about their verbal character.

The most regular and structured presentation of the grammar of the English language is presented in the work of O. Jespersen [21]. The grammar of the English language is presented in the framework of Otto Jespersen's own theory of parts of speech, where the functions of parts of speech are divided into primary, secondary and tertiary.

To non-finite forms that are not related to verbal moods, the author assigns the infinitive, the second participle and -ing form, which can be used as the first participle or gerund.

The author identifies two forms of infinitive: Bare infinitive and to-infinitive [22. p. 269]. The infinitive can take three forms: present ((to) take), perfect ((to) have taken) and expanded ((to) be taking).

The infinitive without "to"- "bare infinitive" is used mainly only after auxiliary verbs, as well as in some cases where there is a close connection between the infinitive and the preceding part of the sentence. This statement of the author seems quite logical, in contrast to the further explanation, according to which the infinitive without the particle "to" is used only after the most common verbs of the language in oral speech under the influence of a historically established tradition [22. p. 292].

An infinitive with "to" does not intersect functionally with a bare infinitive and can be referred to as an infinitive phrase, where the to-particle acts as an auxiliary element. It can function in primary, secondary and even tertiary functions - as a subject, part of a compound predicate, ob-

ject. As a complement, the infinitive may refer to adjectives or nouns; can act as an attributive modifier (adjunct) to nouns, numerals, adjectives. As an adverbial modifier, the infinitive acts in a tertiary function.

The constructions like the “complex object” are described by O. Jespersen as the infinitive nexus, which consists of the primary word and the infinitive. The Nexus can complement the verb (a verb with a preposition), an adjective, a noun.

Another nexus, including non-finite forms, is the gerundial nexus or nexus-substantive. It can function as a subject, a part of a predicate, or an object. The gerund can form a plural, a genitive; used with adjuncts of the noun (articles, adjectives, pronouns). The gerund, like the verb, has a perfect and passive form. The gerund should be distinguished from Participle I, which can be used under syntactically similar conditions.

The participle I is used as an adjective, can have an object and define (supplement) a verb action without indicating a specific time. Participle II most often acts as an adjunct: a paid bill.

The grammar of O. Jespersen is very descriptive. Despite the rather extensive theoretical base, the author only describes and subdivides the functions and forms of non-finite forms, leaving the explanations themselves outside the pages. Practically no attention is paid to the differences between the two forms of the infinitive; gerund and the first participle; participial constructions are totally overlooked.

### Conclusions.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that all grammar treaties are of great interest to researchers. Naturally, following the development of the grammatical tradition itself, the concept of non-finite forms of the verb also evolves. Indeed, some points of view are developed by the authors under the influence of Latin patterns, some views focused specifically on phenomena unique to the English language. In general, it is necessary to note a number of controversial points associated with the study of non-finite forms, among which:

1. The discrepancy on the number and status of non-finite forms of the verb (highlighting them as separate parts of speech or assigning them to verb forms).
2. Lack of a stable terminological base. J. Wallis and A. Gill use Latin terms and names: Verbo infinite, Participium Activum, Participium Passivum and Infinitivi (Presens, perfectum, futurum), Participiu presens, adjectiva verbalia activa (passiva) and verbale activum (passivum),

respectively. R. Lowth - Infinitive, Participles (present, perfect, past); L. Murray - the Present or Active, the Perfect or Passive, and the Compound Perfect. H. Sweet identifies 5 non-finite forms - infinitive, supine, gerund, present active participle and preterit passive participle; O. Jespersen - 4: Bare infinitive and to-infinitive, Gerund, First and Second Participles.

3. The discrepancy between the names of the participial forms and their functions, noted by almost all authors.

The most interesting and useful from the point of view of modern non-finite forms interpretation, in our opinion, are the following provisions:

1. The allocation in the early and prescriptive grammars, as well as in the work of H. Sweet. of two separate infinitives (and not two forms of the infinitive) that perform completely different functions.
2. The unification of -ing forms in the works of J. Wallis, A. Gill and in prescriptive grammars.
3. Focus shift on the predictive nature of the to-infinitive (by O. Jespersen), its ability to denote an action and establish a predicative relationship with the subject of the action.

## References

1. Sokolova A. Yu. Osnovnye principy funkcional'no-stilisticheskogo diahronicheskogo issledovaniya [Basic principles of functional-stylistic diachronic research] // *Baltic Humanitarian Journal*. 2018. Vol. 7. No. 4 (25). - Tolyatti: Printing house "Polar", 2018. - 388 p. P.117-120.
2. Smirnitsky A.I. Lectures on the history of the English language (middle and new period).— M.: Dobrosvet, 2000. - 237 p.
3. Tieken-Boon van Ostade I. Perspectives on Standardization: From Codification to Prescriptivism/ *English Historical Linguistics: Approaches and Perspectives* // ed. by L. Brinton. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. P. 276–302.  
DOI: 10.1017/9781316286562
4. Aarts B., Chalker S., Weiner E. *Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 201. – 565 p.
5. Brinton L. J., Bergs A. *The History of English*.— Berlin / New York, NY: Mouton de Gruyter, 2017. –975 p.
6. Yartseva V.N. Razvitiye nacional'nogo literaturnogo anglijskogo yazyka [The development of national literary English]. - M.: Nauka, 1969. - 286 p.
7. Iofik L.L., Chakhoyan L.P., Pospelova A.G. *A reader on the theoretical grammar of the English language*. - L.: Education, 1981. - 224 p.

8. Thomas M. Conceptualizations of grammar in the history of English grammaticology / *The Oxford Handbook of English Grammar* // ed. by Bas Aarts, Jill Bowie, Gergana Popova. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. P. 3-20.
9. *A Brief History of English Usage* // *Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*. – Springfield (Mass.): Merriam-Webster Inc. Publishers, 2007. P.7a-12a.
10. Tieken-Boon van Ostade I. *The bishop's grammar: Robert Lowth and the rise of prescriptivism*. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. – 352 p.
11. Wallis John *Grammatica linguæ anglicanæ*. – Londini: Dodslei et Moseri, 1975. – 281p.
12. Germanova N.N. *Istoriya normirovaniya anglijskogo yazyka*. [History of the rationing of the English language]. - Moscow: LENAND, 2014. –368c.
13. Dons Ute *Descriptive Adequacy of Early Modern English Grammars*. – Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 1971. – 320 p.
14. Vorlate E. *The development of English Grammatical Theory, 1586-1737*. – Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1975. – 478 p.
15. Gill Alexander *Logonomia Anglica*.– Londini: Excudit Iohannes Beale, 1621. – 152 p.
16. Locher M. A. *The rise of prescriptive grammars in the 18th century* // *Standards and Norms in the English Language* / ed. by M. A. Locher, J. Strässler. – Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2008. P. 127–147. DOI: 10.1515/9783110206982.1.127
17. *Kerney's Abridgment of Murray's English Grammar (Classic Reprint)*. – London: Forgotten Books, 2018. – 150 p.
18. Lowth Robert *A Short Introduction to English Grammar*. – Basil: Tourneusen, 1794. –135 p.
19. Murray Lindley *English Grammar adapted to the different classes of Learners*. – Lnd, N.Y., Bombay, 1896. –310 p.
20. Sweet H. *A New English Grammar. Part 1*. – Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1892. – 499 p.
21. Aarts B. Otto Jespersen 1860–1943. *Babel. The Language Magazine*, 14, 2016. P. 29–31.
22. Jespersen Otto *Essentials of English Grammar*. – London: Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2006. –340 p.





**UNIVERSIDAD  
DEL ZULIA**

---

# **opción**

Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

Año 35, Especial No. 22 (2019)

Esta revista fue editada en formato digital por el personal de la Oficina de Publicaciones Científicas de la Facultad Experimental de Ciencias, Universidad del Zulia.

Maracaibo - Venezuela

**[www.luz.edu.ve](http://www.luz.edu.ve)**

**[www.serbi.luz.edu.ve](http://www.serbi.luz.edu.ve)**

**[produccioncientifica.luz.edu.ve](http://produccioncientifica.luz.edu.ve)**