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Тема научно–исследовательской работы
ЗНАЧИМОСТЬ ГЛАГОЛА “SHALL” В
АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Content:

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Introduction..... | 3 |
| 2. A theoretical part..... | 4 |
| 2.1 Historical Evolution..... | 4 |
| 2.2 Different Meanings in Different Contexts | 4 |
| 2.2 History..... | 5 |
| 2.3 The difference between "shall" and "will"..... | 6 |
| 3. Practical part..... | 6 |
| 4. Conclusion..... | 7 |
| 5 References | 8 |

Introduction

Have you ever thought about the importance and significance of the use of certain words in our language and speech.

There are certain words that when we use to indicate something very important something very significant.

The word “shall” is just one of those words.

This research paper aims to explore the significance of the verb "shall" in linguistic context. Provide a brief overview of the verb "shall" and highlight the universality of it. The study will delve into the historical evolution of the word, its various meanings and applications it holds. By examining linguistic nuances, this paper seeks to clarify the multifaceted nature of "shall".

“Shall”, a seemingly simple word, holds a significant place in the English language. Its usage, though often misunderstood or overlooked, adds precision and authority to our sentences. We will explore the proper way of using shall in a sentence, unraveling its nuances and shedding light on its rightful place in our linguistic research .

So, how should we use shall in a sentence? The answer lies in its function as a modal verb. “Shall” is used to express future actions or events with a sense of obligation, intention, or certainty. It is often employed in formal or legal contexts, where precision and clarity are paramount. For instance, it is frequently found in contracts, business arrangements and regulations to outline rights, responsibilities, and conditions. In such cases, “shall” shows a sense of compulsion action.

Moreover, shall is also used to indicate future actions or events, particularly when discussing plans, predictions, or promises.

In this sense, it expresses a sense of certainty or inevitability.

For example, “*I shall visit the conference next week*” implies a firm commitment to attend.

The object of studying is the significance of the verb "shall" in linguistic context.

The subject of studying is highlight the universality of the verb "shall".

The originality of the investigation is the possibility to clarify the multifaceted nature of "shall".

The hypothesis is there is a tendency to use the verb "shall" in future actions or events with a sense of obligation, intention, or certainty but there are other ways of usage “shall”.

The methodology of the investigation includes such methods:

- theoretical ones: analysis, synthesis, generalization, classification and systematization;
- practical ones: observation, questionnaires and computer graphics.

The practical value of this work is that it can be useful, interesting, and at the same time, let students pay attention to different ways of using “shall”. It also promotes the deep understanding of linguistics.

A theoretical part

Historical Evolution

The historical evolution of shall can be traced back to Old English, where it originated as a combination of the verbs “willan” (to will) and “sceal” (to be obliged).

Over time, these two verbs merged to form the word “shall,” which is acquired its distinct meaning and usage.

In Middle English, shall began to take on its modal verb characteristics, indicating obligation of future action. During this period, its usage became more standardized, and it gained application in legal and documents.

In modern English, the usage of shall has evolved further, with some variations between British and American English.

British English tends to use shall more frequently, particularly in formal contexts, while American English often replaces shall with will in most situations.

Different Meanings In Different Contexts

The meaning of shall can depends on the context in which it is used. Here are a few examples of how shall can be interpreted differently:

Legal Context: In legal documents, shall is commonly used to indicate a requirement or obligation. For instance, “The resident shall pay the rent on time” signifies a mandatory action.

Future Actions: When discussing future plans or intentions, shall implies a sense of determination or certainty. For example, “*We shall meet tomorrow to discuss the project*”.

Offers and Suggestions: In certain contexts, shall can be used to make offers or suggestions politely. For instance, “*Shall I help you with your bags?*” implies a willingness to assist.

It is important to consider the specific context and intended meaning when using shall, as its usage can vary across different scenarios and regions.

Also we should remember the grammatical rules, which are very crucial in correct usage of "shall".

Grammatical Rules Surrounding Shall:

1. Simple Future Tense: In its simplest form, "shall" is used to indicate future actions or events that are mandatory or intended. Want to note that there is a common delusion, that verb "shall" should be used with the first-person pronouns "I" and "we". This is wrong and usage of this verb does not depend on its pronouns. For example:

I shall attend the meeting tomorrow.

They shall start this journey together.

2. Suggestions, Offers, or Promises: "Shall" is also employed to express suggestions, offers, or promises, particularly in formal or legal contexts. For instance:

Shall we proceed with the plan?

He shall receive the recognition he deserves.

3. Legal and Official Documents: In legal and official documents, "shall" is often used to indicate obligations, requirements, or conditions. It imparts a sense of duty or necessity. For example:

All employees shall adhere to the company's code of conduct.

The applicant shall provide the necessary documentation.

To make it clearer and more accessible, I am going to make a comparison of "shall" and "will".

Literal translation of "will" means "ИЗВОЛИТЬ". So when someone says "*I will come*" in essence says "я изволю прийти". The verb "will" means something YOU want to do "*I will come, because I want to do it, I have free will*". At the same time, "shall" also means "will", but not its own will. It is more like "I shall come, I don't want to, but I have no choice, I have to do it because that's how the circumstances turned out".

For instance: The famous line by Gandalf from The lord of the rings - "*You shall not pass*". Why Gandalf did use shall in this line? Because Barlog WANTED to cross the bridge, but Gandalf didn't intend to allow it, he was protecting his company. In simpler language, Gandalf did not care about Barlogs will.

History

The next segment I want to focus your attention on is the history of the verb "shall". German languages or a family of related languages primarily found in Central and

Northern Europe. The family includes languages such as German, Icelandic, English and etc.. We classify these languages as a single family because they all share similar features phonologically, morphologically and syntactically.

Now we can say, that originally, the verb shall derives from Old English "sceal". Its cognates in other Germanic languages include Old Norse "skal", German "soll", and Dutch "zal"; All of these verbs function as auxiliaries, representing either simple futurity, or obligation.

Early Germanic did not inherit any Proto-Indo-European forms to express the future tense, and so the Germanic languages have innovated by using auxiliary verbs to express the future (this is evidenced in Gothic and in the earliest recorded Germanic expressions). In English, "shall" and "will" are the auxiliaries that came to be used for this purpose. (Another one used as such in Old English was mun, which is related to Scots maun, Modern English must and Dutch moet).

The difference between "shall" and "will"

"Shall" and "will" are actually completely different and unrelated.

"Shall" ultimately derives from a verb meaning "to owe, to be obligated", while "will" comes for a verb meaning "to choose, to wish".

Over time, they both evolved into future tense auxiliary verbs (future tense forms often evolve from other verbs meaning to want, to intend, to be obligated, to become, to have, and so on), eventually reaching a state where "shall" was the 1st-person simple future auxiliary (while indicating a future obligation in 2nd- and 3rd-person) while "will" was the simple future auxiliary for 2nd- and 3rd-person (while indicating a future intention in the first person).

With the transition into Modern English, rather than suppletting*, the two words continued to exist independently but became mostly synonymous in general usage, to the point that these days, the main distinction is that "will" can also be used to indicate habitual actions, while "shall" cannot.

Practical part

I decided to make a survey as my practical part, because it will clearly show people's opinion about this auxiliary verb. I conducted this test among the Russian-speaking and English-speaking audience and in complete, my survey was passed by more than 50 people. That is my results:

1 . Which of these verbs do you prefer to use in everyday speech?

91,3 – Will

8,7 – Shall

2 . How difficult do you think is verb shall for people who learn english?

52,2 – medium

30,4 – not difficult at all

17,4 – difficult

3 . How often do you notice that someone uses verb shall improperly?

73,9 – rarely

26,1 – often

Is there a need in verb shall in 2023 at all?

Yes – 52,2

No – 47,8

Conclusion

As we conclude our exploration of the proper usage of “shall” in a sentence, it becomes evident that mastering this seemingly simple word holds great significance. The correct application of “shall” not only ensures clarity and precision in communication but also reflects a command over formal language conventions. By adhering to the established rules surrounding “shall,” individuals can enhance their writing and speaking skills.

It is essential for learners to recognize the potential impact of using “shall” correctly. Whether in legal documents, contracts, or formal settings, the accurate deployment of this word can make a substantial difference in conveying intentions and obligations. By employing “shall” appropriately, individuals can avoid ambiguity and misunderstandings, fostering effective communication and upholding the integrity of their statements.

However, understanding the rules and guidelines is only the first step towards mastery. Practice is the key to internalizing the correct usage of “shall” and incorporating it

seamlessly into one's language repertoire. By actively incorporating "shall" into their everyday speech and writing, readers can develop a natural fluency with this word, ensuring its proper application becomes second nature.

This study was aimed to analyze the semantic roles of the verb "shall" in legal discourse, touching upon its functions in the general language. As a result of the study it was found that:

- 1) "shall" is very rarely used by native speakers of English, and many teaching books have no reference to the verb. "will" is used to refer to the future with all persons;
- 2) in General English, "shall" is used to express willingness, obligation, make offers or suggestions, express persistence, imply a command, promise or threat;
- 3) in contrast to its use in General English, "shall" is frequently used in legal discourse;
- 4) in legal English, "shall" performs a number of semantic roles. It is used to create a right, a duty, a precondition, a requirement, a prohibition; it can perform declarative or stylistic functions, or be used in its temporal meaning;
- 5) the semantic diversity of the verb "shall" causes ambiguity, lack of precision, fuzziness of legislative provisions for legal specialists, translators and lay persons;
- 6) the English language has a number of alternatives to the verb "shall" which have more precise and less ambiguous meanings –must, may, should, may not, must not etc.
- 7) in legal drafting theory and practice, there exist three approaches concerning the verb "shall": restricting the meanings of "shall" to one sense; avoiding "shall" in legal writing; keeping all existing meanings of "shall" in legal texts.

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