

Predicative Possession in Learning English: Syntactic Study



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ABSTRACT: The discussion on predicative possession is actually a fairly broad discussion. The aspect studied in this paper is looking at the construction of ownership verbs in the English possession predicate. Viewed from the point of view of the study this paper is grouped into language studies in terms of syntax. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. The theory in this paper refers to the theory of Quirk (1973), Halliday (1985), Cook (1989), and Jackendoff (1977). The data used in this paper are taken from The British National Corpus (<http://www.notcorp.ox.ac.uk/>). The data collected contains sentences with the predicate of ownership in English with the verb "have", "own", "possess", and "belong to". From the results of research on the predicative possession in English, it can be concluded as follows. Lingual elements that can fill the possession predicate are a) The "have" possession predicate, which consists of several patterns as follows: active pattern (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC), and (S+V+O+OC+A); b) The "own" possession predicate consists on the following patterns: active sentence patterns (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC), and (S+V+O+OC+A) and passive sentence patterns with patterns (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC) and (S+V+O+OC+A) c) The "possess" possession predicate consists on several patterns as follows: active pattern (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC) dan (S+ V+O+OC+A); d). The "belong to" possession predicate consists of the following patterns: Active sentences (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC), and (S+V+O+OC +A).

KEYWORDS: English, predicate, possession, possessing, possessor, syntactic

INTRODUCTION

Every language has a verb as well in English, in which there are various types of verbs such as transitive verbs, ditransitive verbs, mono transitive verbs, and so on (Nelson, 2019; Van Valin Jr, 2001). This research is related to a linguistic element called possessiveness or possession, which discusses possession verbs in English. In simple terms, this discussion revolves around a discussion of ownership, specifically researching and discussing several lingual units (elements) of ownership predicate in English in terms of syntax.

Generally, English possessions can be grouped into two types: attributive possession and predicative possession (Koontz-Garboden & Francez, 2010; Mazzitelli, 2015). The first construction is essentially a possessive construction formed from noun phrases such as my credit card, my book, or your motorcycle. The discussion of attributive possession is related to discussions related to noun phrases. The second type is predicative possession. This type is a possessive form with a sentence or clause structure (Heine, 1997). Stassen describes one part of this type in *the have-possessive* (Stassen, 2009).

The second type is the topic of the study in this article, namely the discussion of verbs in sentences with the predicate of possession in English (Sæbø, 2009). This requires that the research be directed to a possessive construction in the form of a sentence because predicative possession is a possessive form of a sentence that involves a verb type which means "to have", and it consists of a possessor (PR), a verb form which means own, as well as possessee (PE). In the construction of predicate possession, the possessor is the constituent that precedes the verb and is expressed as the subject of transitive have a verb. According to Heine (1997), predicative possession has a more specific meaning than attributive possession, namely 'construction of ownership in the form of a phrase'. The construction of this model is happening in English and European languages in general.

Sentence 1: Peter has a car.
PR has PE
S P/V OL

The construction of sentence (1) above consists of four constituents, namely *Peter*, that functions as the owner (possessor), as well as functions as the subject, the verb *has*, *a*, and *car* which functions as a possession (possessee), as well as functions as direct object (OL). So when described in a sentence model, the construction is to be Peter/owner + has/transitive verb belonging + a car/possession, (P + has + T).

The discussion of ownership predicates is not as simple as above, but several other problems may require a more serious discussion. Among other discussions is regarding the problem of verbs that can fill the possessive sentence itself. Thus, analytical tools are needed to find out, including the question, "what verbs can occupy the predicate of ownership other than have/has verbs?" Alternatively, 'is there another type of verb that can fill in the construction (1)?' by having the same meaning as the verb have, which means to have. This question raises the description of verbs of possession in Language and Perception (Miller &

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Johnson-Laird, 2013). It requires much discussion about choosing the types of verbs that are possible to occupy and replace the position of the verb have/has itself.

The following discussion is to put other verbs that have meaning or have/has does not have an impact on changing the construction of the sentence itself. It can be observed from the following two-sentence constructions (Stassen, 2009):

Sentence 2a: John has a motorcycle.
S/PR V/has O/PE

Becomes to sentence 2b: This motorcycle belongs to John.
S/PE V/Belong to O/PR

When observed, the construction of sentence 2a, "John" functions to occupy the position of the possessor, which is located to the left of the verb have/has. The "a motorcycle" occupies the position of possessee, which is to the right of the verb, but this is different from the construction of sentence 2b, which uses prepositional verbs. "Belong to" the position of the verb is preceded by the possessee, while the possessor occupies the right side of the verb.

The following discussion is regarding the have verb, which has its uniqueness. The have verb is a verb that can only fill sentences in active form and cannot fill in passive sentences. This verb belongs to the stative monotransitive verb (Quirk, 2014). It can be seen below:

Sentence 3: They have a nice house.
S/PR V/have O/PE

Sentence 4 * A nice house is had (by them).

Sentence 3 construction is an acceptable construction, but construction 4 is unacceptable. The verb "have" cannot occupy the passive sentence construction. It differs from other possessive/possession verbs that accept passive sentences such as the verb own. It can be seen in the following construction:

Sentence 5: He owns three homes in Florida.
S/PR V/own O/PE Adv

Sentence 6: The US business is owned by a Dutch holding company.
S/PE V/Own O/PR

Two constructs (5) and (6) are two acceptable constructs. It also encourages the writer to study several characters of possessive verbs, both those that accept active and passive sentence construction and vice versa, namely that there may be some verbs that only accept passive construction of sentences.

METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative (natural setting) with a descriptive method describing the possession predicate. The possession predicate was analyzed using the substitution technique with the descriptive method. After that, the results obtained are analyzed as naturally as possible. It is hoped that the results of the possession predicate study are obtained as naturally as possible and following the data as they are (Sudaryanto et al., 2019).

The descriptive method means data collection is collected naturally. Descriptive is intended to make a systematic, factual, accurate picture, data style, properties, and relationships of the phenomena studied. Thus, researchers will always consider the data in terms of the nature of the data itself. The researcher does not think that something is the case, but it must be explained based on scientific considerations that he uses as an analysis in his study (Fatimah Djajasudarma, 1993).

Collecting data, first identify sentences with the predicate of possession through syntactic indicators. Syntax indicators are the implications of syntactic studies in clauses/sentences. After that, explain and describe in the form of possessive sentences in English and syntactic disclosure.

The selection of data is motivated by the assumption that written language uses consistent sentences. Sentences like this contain many variations of the required data. The data for this study were sourced from a corpus of data from the British National Corpus website (<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>) (Consortium, 2007; Hawtin, 2018; Leech & Rayson, 2014; Wang, 2020), which collected data in the period October-December 2014. The researcher collected the data in the form of sentences containing the predicate. The ownership word in English concerns the verbs *have*, *own*, *possess*, and *belong to* (Aikhenvald, 2013; Mazzitelli, 2015; Widdowson, 2002).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lingual Elements to Fill in English Possession Predicate

The result data presented of this study are data about what lingual elements fill in the possession predicate in English. The results of the research analysis are shown in the form of verbs that can fill the possession predicate in English, namely, "have", "own", "possess", and "belong to". The total data is 516, consisting of sentence constructions with the "have" as possession predicate is

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131 data, the "own" as possession predicate is 147 data, the "possess" as possession predicate is 147 data, and those with the "belong to" as possession predicate as many as 110 data.

"have" as possession predicate

The findings of several sentence patterns with the possession predicate "have" are presented as follows:

Sentence 7: She has a cottage. (Data number 24, CFY 2066)
S V O

Sentence 8: She has creases at the corners of her eyes. (Data number 66, G0F 2400)
S V O A

Sentence 9: I have reason to believe. GWL 732(98)
S V O OC

Sentence 10: You have a habit of turning up in unexpected places. (Data number 129, AMD 2035)
S V O OC A

Data numbers 24, 66, 98, and 129 show the use of "have" as a predicate of possession in English; syntactically, there are four syntactic patterns of "have" in English. The first pattern found is in the form of subject, predicate, and object (SVO), as shown in data number 24, CFY 2066, in the sentence "She has a cottage." "She" acts as a subject, "has" as the predicate, and "a cottage" serves as the object. The second pattern is found in the form of subject, predicate, object, and adverbial (SVOA) as in the example data number 66, G0F 2400: "She has creases at the corners of her eyes". "She" as subject, "has" as the predicate, and "at the corner of her eyes" as adverbial.

The third and fourth patterns found in the data are subject, predicate, object, and object complement (SVOC) and subject, predicate, object, object complement, and description (SVOCA). That can be seen in data 98 GWL 732 and 129 AMD 2035. The sentence "I have reason to believe" GWL 732 has an SVOC structure. This sentence is composed of "I" as the subject, "have" as the predicate, "reason" as the object, and "to believe" as a complement to the object. SVOCA pattern is seen in data no 129 AMD 2035, "You have a habit of turning up in unexpected places", which is composed of "You" as the subject, "have" as the predicate, "a habit" as the object, "turning up" as object complement, and "in unexpected places" act as adverbial.

"own" as possession predicate

The findings of several sentence patterns with the possession predicate "own" are presented as follows:

Sentence 10: My husband and I own six dogs. (Data number 32, C8U 348)
S V O

Sentence 11: I own a half-share in him. (Data number 190, ADY 870)
S V O A

Sentence 12: Venture Capital owned company called Swan. (Data number 204, NHJ 32)
S V O OC

Sentence 13: They own a Retriever called Ben in their lodge. (Data number 243, A17 706)
S V O OC A

In data no. 132, 190, 204, and 243 A17 706, it can be seen that four-sentence patterns are using "own," which fills in the predicate of possession, which is syntactically acceptable in English. The first pattern found is subject, predicate, and object (SVO) as in sentence data no 132, C8U 348: "My husband and I own six dogs." In this sentence, "My husband and I" is the subject, "own" as the predicate, and "six dogs" as the object.

The following pattern is subject, predicate, object, and adverbial (SVOA) as shown in the sentence in data number 190, ADY 870: "I own a half-share in him". "I" as subject, "own" as a predicate, "a half-share" as an object, and "in him" as adverbial. In data number 204, NHJ 32: "Venture capital owned company called Swan". The pattern found in the pattern (SVOOC) or the pattern of the subject, predicate, object, and object complement. In this sentence, the subject is "Venture capital", the predicate is the word "owned", the object is "company", and the complement to the object is the phrase "called swan".

The last pattern for possession predicate "own" in English is the SVOOCA pattern as seen in data number 243, A17 706: "They own a retriever called Ben in their lodge". Which consists of "they" as subject, "own" as a predicate, "a retriever" as an object, "called ben" as a complement to the object and "in their lodge" as an adverbial.

Sentence 14: 30 per cent of all farms over 400 hectares were owned by Germans. (Data number 473, BN2 841)
S V O

Sentence 15: A silver-gilt sweet-meat dish made in Hamburg in 1610 was originally owned by Christian IV of Denmark

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S V O
before being given to the Tsar. (Data number 476, EBT 2844)
 A

Sentence 16: 20th Century Fox is still owned by the cinematic rights to Daredevil. (Data number 485, CTU 65)
 S V O C

Sentence 17: Most Government property is owned by the Ministry of Defence bringing back families from Germany. (Data number 503, HHV 2017)
 S V O C
 A

In contrast to sentence construction with the "have" predicate, the possession predicate of the "own" verb has a passive form. That is obtained in passive data, as seen in data numbers 473, 476, 485, and 503, namely the SVO pattern.

"possess" as possession predicate

The findings of several sentence patterns with the possession predicate "possess" are presented as follows:

Sentence 18: I barely possess it, said Grainne. (Data number 277, G10 1644)
 S V O

Sentence 19: Sea anemones possess stinging cells in their tentacles. (Data number 278, CJ3 395)
 S V O A

Sentence 20: We human possess this thing called 'conscious' choice. (Data number 309, CEF 2194)
 S V O C

Sentence 21: He possessed the mental strength required to become a champion. (Data number 339, B0L 1138)
 S V O C A

In data numbers 277, 278, 309, and 339 above, it can be seen that the use of possessive predicates in English is an active pattern that can be syntactically acceptable. The first pattern found in the data is the subject, predicate, and object (SVO) pattern as seen in data number 277, G10 1644: "I barely possess it", which is composed of "I" as subject, "barely possess" as a form of possession predicate, and "it" as an object. In the second sentence, the pattern used is subject, predicate, object, and adverbial (SVOA). It can be seen in data number 278, CJ3 395: "Sea anemones possess stinging cells in their tentacles". The sentence is composed of "sea anemones" as the subject, "possess" as a predicate that shows ownership, "stinging cell" as an object, and followed by an adverb or adverbial, "in their tentacles". The following pattern is composed of subject, predicate, object, and object complement (SVOC) at number 309, CEF 2194. Subject, predicate, object, complement, and object complement (SVOCA) pattern number 339, B0L 1138.

"belong to" as possession predicate

The findings of several sentence patterns with the possession predicate "belong to" are presented as follows:

Sentence 22: Nearly 50 Indian software producers belong to the Engineering Export Promotion Council.
 S V O
 (Data number 386, A8R 296)

Sentence 23: It belonged to an editor from the Guardian. (Data number 390, AE0 211)
 S V O A

Sentence 24: Responsibility for hardware and operating systems now belongs to vice president Bill Demmer.
 S V O OC
 (Data number 441, CSS 146)

Sentence 25: It belonged to his daughter Charlotte-Emilie whose life ended in tragedy after her husband passed away. (Data number 458, ED 9551)
 S V O C
 A

In data numbers 386, 390, 441, and 458, the use of the predicate of possession "belong to" can be seen in the four sentences. There are four acceptable syntactic patterns for the case of the possession predicate. In data 386, the use of "belong to" in the SVO

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sentence pattern in "Nearly 50 Indian software producers belong to the Engineering Export Promotion Council". In this sentence, the phrase "Nearly 50 Indian software producers" is the subject of the sentence, the verb "belong to" is the predicate that indicates ownership, and the phrase "the Engineering Export Promotion Council" is the object. In data number 390, the use of the possession predicate "belong to" is found in the SVOA sentence pattern: "It belongs to an editor from the Guardian". In that sentence, the word "it" acts as the subject and is then followed by the possession predicate "belong to" and followed by the object, namely "an editor", followed by an adverbial, namely "phrase from the Guardian."

In data number 441, "Responsibility for hardware and operating systems belongs to vice president Bill Demmer" another "belong to" possession predicate syntax pattern is found, namely the SVOOC sentence pattern. In this sentence, the phrase "Responsibility for hardware and operating systems" acts as the subject, the verb "belong to" acts as a predicate indicating ownership, then followed by the object, namely "vice president", and the complementary object, namely "Bill Demmer" which further explains the object is disclosed.

The last pattern found in the data is the SVOCA pattern in the data 458: "It belongs to his daughter Charlotte-Emilie whose life ended in tragedy after her husband passed away". The sentence is composed of "it" as a subject, "belong to" as a predicate, "His Daughter" as an object, "Charlotte-Emilie" as a complement to the object, and "whose life ended in tragedy after her husband passed away" as an adverbial. So, it is clear that the sentence pattern is SVOCA.

CONCLUSIONS

Lingual elements that can fill the possession predicate are a) The "have" possession predicate, which consists of several patterns as follows: active pattern (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC), and (S+V+O+OC+A); b) The "own" possession predicate consists on the following patterns: active sentence patterns (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC), and (S+V+O+OC+A) and passive sentence patterns with patterns (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC) and (S+V+O+OC+A) c) The "possess" possession predicate consists on several patterns as follows: active pattern (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC) dan (S+ V+O+OC+A); d). The "belong to" possession predicate consists of the following patterns: Active sentences (S+V+O), (S+V+O+A), (S+V+O+OC), and (S+V+O+OC +A).

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