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A Study on Morphological Pattern of E-English

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Abstract:

This paper tries to find out various morphological patterns used by the students in their electronic communication. Some patterns are completely unique and some are the extensions of already existing in the traditional communication. To the advent of internet, the variation of English is inevitable. This paper categorises the variations and finds out the reasons for it.

Keywords: E- English- morphology- communication- e-mail- grammar

1. Introduction

Grammar of a language gives guidelines to its users on what is acceptable and what is not. As a part of living language, it keeps changing due to various reasons. The change in grammar brought about by the native speakers is different from that of the non-native speakers of the language. The syntax of Indian languages is different from that of English. Almost all the speakers use a language other than English at their homes and minds than English. In the present study of grammatical features of e-English, significant deviations from the regular language are found. David Crystal says that “At one level it is extremely easy to define the linguistic variety of the e-mail as verity of language; at another level, it is surprisingly difficult” (94). Ellipsis, which is the omission of a part of the sentence structure, is quite common with spoken language, is found in informal situations too. In e-English too ellipsis of different elements is observed. Apart from ellipsis and overuse of interjections, cases of substitution where a part of the sentence is substituted with other elements, are also found.

2. Research Methodology & Subjects

In order to collect primary data, students were asked to send emails to the researcher as much as possible. The e-mail id of the researcher has been circulated among the students with the permission of the course teachers. Students were allowed to write anything on e-mail in order to motivate email wrings, by which the researcher analysed various morphological pattern of e-English. Besides, the researcher observed data from students’ internet chatting and Whatsaap messages. Informants of the study are first students Sethupathy Government Arts College and Syed Ammal Arts & Science College, Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu. The duration of the study is three months. The total numbers of informants are two hundred including male and female. The researcher has identified enormous deviations occurred in the e-mail writings of students. The deviations in grammatical features and lexical feature are dealt with in detail in this paper.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Omission

The elements omitted from different kinds of sentences are illustrated below

3.1.1. Subject of a Declarative Sentence

1. a. Am not finding meaning in this continuous job shifting.....
b. I am not finding meaning in this continuous job shifting.
2. a. Smiles a lot.
b. He smiles a lot.

The first person singular subject ‘I’ is omitted in (1 a.), while third person masculine singular ‘He’ is omitted in (2 a.)

3.1.2. Be verbs from Progressive Tense form of Declarative Sentence.

3. a. all my calculations going wrong
b. all my calculations are going wrong.
4. a. u calling me coloured
b. You are calling me coloured.

The BE verb 'are' is omitted before the verb form 'going' in (3a.) and before 'calling' in (4a.)

3.1.3. The Operative Verbs do Form an Interrogative Sentence

5. a. u mean advantages or perils of SMS or email language to English u mean?
b. Do you mean advantages or perils of SMS or email language to English?
6. a. I know what about them?
b. what do I know about them?

The operator DO is omitted before the subject 'you' in (5.a.) and before the subject I in (6.a) with a change of place of 'wh' interrogative.

3.1.4. Subject + Be Verb

7. a. there?
b. Are you there?
8. a. At M's.
b. I am at Mamatha's
9. a. damm talkative n an easy go typ 2!!
b. she is damn talkative and an easy go type too!

The BE verb 'are' and subject 'you' are omitted in yes/no interrogative in (7 a.) the subject 'I' and BE verb 'am' are omitted in the declarative sentence with prepositional phrase as predicate in (8 a.) the subject 'she' and BE verb 'is' are omitted in the declarative sentence with adjectival phrase as predicate in (9a.)

➤ Pronoun + Be Verb

10. a. great
b. That is great!
11. a. Nice that H had come home....
b. It is nice that Hemanth had come home.

The pronoun 'that' and BE verb 'is' are omitted in (10 a.) the pronoun 'it' and BE verb 'is' are omitted in (11 a.)

➤ Existential 'There' + Be verb in a Declarative Negative sentence.

12. a. No facilities.
b. There is no facility.
13. a. Nothing to laugh.
b. There is nothing to laugh

The existential 'there' in the subject position with BE verb 'are' which is a part of the adjectival negative predicate, are omitted in (12 a.) in the same way 'there' and BE verb 'is' are omitted in (13 a.)

➤ Be verb + Subject + Preposition in Yes/ No Interrogative

14. a. orkut??
b. Is it in Orkut?
15. a. mass communication??
b. Is it for mass communication?

The BE verb 'is', the subject 'it' and the preposition 'in' are omitted in yes/no interrogative in (14 a.) The BE verb 'is', the subject 'it' and the preposition 'for' are omitted in yes/no interrogative in (15 a.)

➤ Be Verb + Subject and Preposition with Noun of the Predicate in Yes/No Interrogative

16. a. still?!
b. Are you still in office?

The BE verb 'are', the subject 'you', the preposition 'in' and the noun 'office' of the predicate are omitted in yes/no interrogative in (16 a.)

➤ Subject + Have Verb in present perfect sentence in a Declarative sentence.

17. a. been there for all my probs.
b. He has been there for all my problems.

The subject 'he' with the HAVE verb 'has' which is a part of perfect tense are omitted in (17 a.)

- Have verb + Subject in present perfect Yes/No interrogative sentence
 18. a. never done anything wild?
 - b. have you never done anything wild?
 Have verb 'have' and the subject 'you' are omitted in (18 a.)

- Subject + Predicate in a Declarative Sentence
 19. a. usually @ watv tm u wil b online
 - b. We can talk usually at whatever time you will be online
 20. a. work....
 - b. I am doing work

The subject 'we' with the predicate 'can talk' is omitted in the declarative sentence in (19 a.) The subject 'I' with predicate 'am doing' are omitted in the declarative sentence in (20a.)

- Subject, Predicate and Preposition in Yes/ No Interrogative
 21. a. tht b&w photo?
 - b. Are you talking about that black and white photo?
 The subject 'you', predicate 'are talking' and the preposition 'about' are omitted in yes/no interrogative in (21 a.)

- The 'Wh' Interrogative Sentence
 22. a. so...?
 - b. So, what is going on?

The 'wh'-interrogative sentence 'what is going on' is omitted and it is indicated by the use of three dots after the sentence connector 'so' in (22 a.)

- Auxiliary Inversion Rule of Interrogative Sentences
 23. a. it is stupid plan?
 - b. Is it stupid plan?
 24. a. u din gets any Oder time to go there?
 - b. Didn't you get any other time to go there?

The auxiliary inversion rule itself is omitted in (23 a.) and (24a.), the questioning being signalled by the question mark.

- Imperative Verb
 25. a. But less sugar.
 - b. But uses less sugar.

The imperative verb 'use' is omitted in (25 a.)

- Imperative Verb + Preposition
 26. a. Every 1 my regards.
 - b. Convey my regards to everyone.

The imperative verb 'convey' and the preposition 'to' are omitted in (26a.) after the indirect object 'everyone'.

Substitution

There are a few instances where two or more elements in a sentence are replaced by one different word to convey the same meaning.

- First Person Singular Nominative form and be Verb with First Person Objective Pronoun.
 27. a. me fine....
 - b. I am fine.
 'I' and the BE verb 'am' are replaced by 'me' in (27 a.)

- Sentence is replaced with -ing form of a verb derived From a proper noun from within the sentence.
 28. a. Orkutting?
 - b. Are you browsing through the website of Orkut?

The proper noun Orkut is converted into a verb by adding '-ING' and the entire sentences is replaced by it in (28a.)

- The operator 'Did' and Verb in Present with the verb in Past
 29. a. Left for mys?
 - b. Did you leave for Mysore?

The operator 'did' with present form of the verb 'leave' is substituted by the past form of the verb 'left' besides omitting the second person subject 'you' in (29a.)

- Be Verb 'are' with 'is'
- 30. a. Howz you?
- b. How are you?

Instead of the BE verb 'are' which goes with the second person subject in present BE of the third person singular is used in its phonetic form/z/in (30a). This is not a mere slip but is found at many places in e-English.

- Use of Interjections

An interjection is an exclamatory emotive word usually loosely attached to the sentence or used independently. Since it is a sudden unplanned expression of feelings, it is found more in spoken form or informal speech situations. While writing, the communicator gets time to think, so the use of interjection is found less. But in e-English it is found frequently which gives an important hint about its link between spoken and written form.

- Greetings

'Hi', an informal greeting is found in the data, while 'Hello', a formal one has been used. It is also observed that these expressions of greetings have found varied versions like 'hiiii', 'hellooooooo', 'Hey' or even 'Hoy'. An expression like 'hi sir' shows the blend of formal situation and informal language. Such usages are not restricted to be used only between friends of same age. Though these are greetings, the same 'hellooo' or 'HELLO' used to draw the attention of the person on the other side, if an immediate reply is not received by a communicator. All capital letters have begun to mean shouting and anger. It has also been observed that when the expression is strong more letters are used within the same words...hiiiiiii or waaaaaooooow, by which the intensity is expressed to some extent. Interesting the greeting 'Hey' has appeared only in chats. This seems to be the result of synchronous communication. A regional greeting like 'Vanakkam' is also found.

31. B: hi sir.....r u busy??

14:54 A: little busy.....

32. Hiiiiiii usually @ watv tm u will b online dear frnd

33. Hello Sir,

I am fine.... thnx...hw are you? hw did the book release go on... do u hv any pics?

34. Hello sir ji...

Hw u doin????

Luking goodin this pic

35. Heeeelllllllllllllllllllloooooooosir.....

OOOPPPPPsss!!!!GOOD EVENING.....

36. B: hey Ram!

B: there?

A: Hey....

A: Wassup?

B: blogswara is up now.

37. 37.9:56 A: hoy...

How are you?

B: hi

M fine

38. Vanakkam sir!!!!Kya hal hai!!!! nice snap u ve added!!!!

The usage of 'Hi' with 'sir' is seen in (31), while a different version of 'hi' is seen in (32). The formal greeting 'Hello' is used in (33), while different versions of the same are found in (34). And (35) further, different words of intimate greeting 'hey' and 'hoy' are found in (36) and (37). The regional greeting is found in (38) which is incidentally a good example of code mixing. Two languages, Tamil and English, are used in a single short message here.

4. Acceptance and Agreement

The usual and formal 'yes' to indicate that something is right or to accept something has been used, while 'ya', which is the German equivalent, 'Ja', pronounced as/ja:/, is used as frequently. This expression has been common in informal speech these days and thus it has entered the 'written speech' too. 'Yup' is also used which again is an informal expression. 'OK/Okay' is another expression which means all right or yes has also been one of the frequently used expressions. Very rarely both the letters are in capital letters. It has another version 'okie' and still shorter form 'k'. If one understands something late there can be an expression of realization like 'k k.....' there are 38 such expressions altogether.

39. I love to a good will ambassador for the UNICEF since I am very fond of children..... yes, there is a lot to tell.....

40. Yes, but he shodnt feel guilty in his lif. I want him 2 be hapy tats al.

41. Ya dear m superb n ya dear now am happy re n thnk uuuuuuu

42. A: Creative

B:yeah.

43. A: ya...I am listening to that...

B: okay!

44. Ok sir. I arrange system once you tell get laptop or not

45. So me and Pandi will make a dash to mys reach there fast spend some good time with ya and head back! Okie??????

46. B: hi sir.... r u busy??

14:54 A: little busy....

B: Okie....

47. K. thanks yaar. k bye good night

48. Ya he is finding give me Ur mail id

.k I will call u dear.....

Formal 'yes' is found used in (39) and (40), while (41) shows the popular informal form 'ya' and in (42) another version of 'ya' is found. 'Okay' is found in (43) and its varied forms are found in (44), (45) and (46). Use of still shorter form of 'ok', 'k' is found in (47) and (48).

49. Ha ha...No yaar...I may come to town for some Computer work. Not sure.

50. B: whats that

A: means very happy.... on cloud 9

B: ha ha ha

U know me very well

51. hmhhhmm dis s really a tough part.... I m here 2 get connected 2 all my old frienz nd de present ones....

52. Hmhhhmm...nithyab/w her name and mine there's just a letter's difference

53. Oh!!yea.... I am studying.... thrz soo much portions n tests every week...!

54. A: Saranya occasionally sends something

B: oh...I heard from Raj that she was in Madurai right?

The expression of laughter is found in 49 and 50. 'hmhhhmm' in (51) and (52) show the thinking time. Interestingly both are before writing a testimonial for some friend who is away, which would need the visualization of that particular individual. 'Hmhhh' is used at that time. The sudden expression 'oh' is found used in (53) and (54).

5. Conclusion

Under morphological category various grammatical categories have be dealt with in detail by analyzing the data obtained from the students. It is understood that the students mostly omit certain grammatical components which have no significant impact over the change of meaning. This is the unique process of e-English which always aims for simplification.

6. References

- i. Crystal, David. *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge UP, 2006.Print.