

Gerunds Found on the Scripts of “Thor” Movie

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to analyze functions of the gerund found on the main character in the subtitle of “Thor” movie. Gerund is defined as the verb *-ing* functioning as a noun. This research was a kind of descriptive qualitative research viewed from the form of data. The main character of Thor movie, Thor Odinson, was the subject of this study. The instruments of this research were the researcher herself and the observation field note. All subtitle of Thor movie was the source of the data in this study. The data were the phrase (s) or sentence (s) containing the gerunds. In this research, there are some steps of data analysis namely: classification, description, and making conclusion. The researcher found three functions of gerund. Those functions were (1) gerund as subject consisting of 1 datum, (2) gerund as direct object consisting 11 data, and (3) gerund as subjective complement containing 23 data. It means that the researcher did not find a function of gerund called gerund as the object of preposition.

Keywords: Gerund, Function of Gerund, Thor Movie

INTRODUCTION

Language, as means of communication with each other, is very important item in our lives (Knight., 2006, p. 27). By language used in daily communication, people know each other because they can understand what the other around us say, so language will be a means of communication to avoid misinterpretation. People need language that is understood by both speakers and addressee. It happens when the speakers has different cultures, nations, races, and also languages. In this case, English is required in order to facilitate communication, and it is used or spoken widely.

Indonesia’s government inspires Indonesians to learn English. English is taught as the main learning subject from SMP or Junior High School until several semesters of university students (Ramelan, 1992, p. 1). This is because of the importance of English. It has essential roles in facilitating communication of Indonesia and its relationship between other countries. Nevertheless, learning English is a difficult thing as we imagine. In Indonesia, English is identified as a foreign language. It means that students need abundant efforts in learning the

parts of the language such as vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and pronunciation. The elements of English are not the same as the elements of “Bahasa Indonesia”.

According to Tarigan, (1989: p. 4-5; cited in Arjati, 2007, p. 4) the differences between two languages can cause problems to students, and those problems can be identified through Contrastive Analysis. The problems caused by differences of two languages can also be triggered by the interference of the students’ mother tongue. For example, in Bahasa Indonesia, we do not learn tenses like in English. This difference can cause problems in learning English. Thus, understanding an English grammar is essential to be mastered by the students.

English has the roles of grammar to be followed in order to avoid grammatical mistakes (Yule, 1998: 54; cited in Sulistiani, 2008, p. 15). Linguistics is scientific study of language. Linguistics is concerned on the lexical and grammatical classes of individual languages, with differences between one form of language and another.

Furthermore, grammar emphasizes on studying what forms or structures that are potential in a language. It is also concerned almost exclusively with analysis at the level of the sentence in language. In addition, a grammar is a description of the rules managing how a language's sentences are designed and developed.

Learning English grammar, it is unavoidable that students have to understand the roles and their use of grammatical functions. One of the problems faced by students in understanding English grammar is the functions of *Gerund* such as subject, object, and complement.

Based on the explanations above, it can be drawn a conclusion that the same form of *-ing* ending can confuse the students in learning English. This problem occurs when some *-ing* forms appear in one sentence together, as in the following sentence taken from English Grammar and Composition: ***watching*** the games in this room, Gwen was ***trying*** to be the winner of the contest with her loud and beautiful ***singing***. The word ‘Watching’ is a present participle that modifies Gwen as the subject, and the word ‘trying’ is categorized as a part of a verb phrase. In this case, only the word singing is used as object of preposition with, so this word is a gerund (Warriner, 1958:68; cited in Arjati, 2007, p. 5). Considering this process, the *ing* form of gerund can be functioned as a noun that is different from present participle (as adjective) and also different from other verbal ending in *-ing* (as verb).

Gerund also supports the speakers in communication and avoids misunderstanding. Moreover, one of the media can be used to learn about English grammar especially *Gerund* is

a movie consisting English subtitles. Movie is one part of humans' entertainment becoming popular trend in many countries at the present time.

The movies are shown in both the country where they are produced and the other countries in the world. Nowadays, there are many movies using English as the main language, and the movies using English usually come from America or Hollywood. Movies that are from America are shown and seen by people in this world because it is the center of movies' industry.

One of American movie is entitled "*Thor*", it is an action movie that is produced in series. It is a famous movie seen in many countries, it also has many fans or lovers. Another reason of choosing Thor Movie as an object of this study can be viewed from the researcher's assumption that there will be several gerunds found in the movie of Thor. So, when it is discussed, it will be interesting for the lovers to be implemented in learning English grammar as in the use of gerund.

The main reason for choosing this topic in this study is that there is still a limitation of discussion about analysis of gerund in English Language Study Program. Another reason is this kind of study has not been conducted yet at STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo. So, it is essential to do this research.

Based on the explanations stated in the descriptions above, the researcher wants to write a research entitled: An Analysis Gerund Found on the Main Character in the Subtitle of "*Thor*" Movie. Considering the background of the study, a research question is formulated by the researcher:

What are the functions of the gerund found on the main character in the subtitle of "*Thor*" movie?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gerund

A gerund, verb+ing, is used in the same way as nouns or pronouns. According to Allen, 1991, p. 177), a gerund is defined as the part of the verbs that ends in *-ing* which has the force of a noun as well as that of a verb. Gerund can be used as a subject, direct object, object of a preposition, and complement (Azar, 2009). For example: (1) **Cooking** is my interesting hobby => A gerund as a subject. (2) They enjoy **playing** Mobile Legend = A gerund as an object. (3) Rania is great of **playing** football = A gerund after a preposition.

Types of Gerund

Gerund as Subjects

The first function of gerund can be called as a subject. Subject of sentence can be classified as the part of clause that is the doer of actions (Azar, 2009). It means that gerund has function as the thing that is discussed in the sentence. Gerunds, like nouns and pronouns, are used as the subject of the sentence, as in the following examples:

- a. *Reading* is a good hobby.
- b. *Fishing* relaxes the soul.
- c. *Swimming* was a pleasure activity we all enjoyed.

Gerund as Direct Objects

Regarding its roles in the sentences, gerund can be functioned as an object. An object of clause is a part of clause that is affected by the actions (Azar, 2009). Gerunds are used as nouns in another way, too: they can serve as direct objects of transitive verbs as in the following examples:

- a. The doer admits *cheating*.
- b. Renata and Elaine like *swimming* very much.
- c. My close friend tries to stop *smoking*.

Gerunds as Subjective Complements

Another function of grammar is gerunds as complements. Complement is a part of clause that gives additional information about sentences (Azar, 2009). Since gerunds can be used as nouns, they can serve as subjective complements as well. It means that the gerund can be functioned as the thing that adds information about the subject.

Gerunds as Objects of Preposition

As a noun, gerund can be functioned as the objects of preposition. Any verb used as the object in prepositional phrases takes the form of a gerund. Most gerundive phrases after prepositions function as subjects, especially those in adverbial prepositional phrases.

- a. We talked about going to Bali for our vacation.
- b. Ali goes on speaking in the class.
- c. I'm interested in learning more about your work.
- d. They are found of climbing mountains.

METHOD

While conducting this study, in order to answer the research question, researcher applied descriptive qualitative. To strengthen this statement, Mason (2002:2) said if qualitative data investigates in words, sentences, or pictures instead of numeric format. The research subject of this study was the main character of Thor movie. There were some instruments used to collect the data namely: the researcher herself and the observation field note. All of the subtitle of Thor movie was the source of the data in this study. The data were phrase (s) or sentence (s) containing the gerunds.

The steps of collecting data in this study were searching the subtitles of Thor movie from the internet, reading the subtitles of Thor movie, and identifying gerunds that were found in that subtitle. Steps of data analysis were: (1) the researcher classified every word that contains the gerunds, (2) the researcher gave descriptions of the types of the gerunds found by the researcher, (3) the researcher made the conclusion by describing of the findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher, the primary instrument of the study, gained all of the data consisting of the functions of gerund found on the main character of 'Thor' movie supported by the field note as the secondary instrument describing the data examined being used. The data of this research based on the data collected from the official movie script of the 'Thor' movie. All of the findings are classified into the table below. Meanwhile, the terms are classified as GS = Gerund as Subject, GDO = Gerund as Direct Object, GSC = Gerunds as Subjective Complement, and GOP = Gerunds as Objects of Preposition.

Table.1 Classification of the functions of Gerund

Classification of Gerund					
No	Gerund found in the 'Thor' Movie	Functions of Gerund			
		GS	GDO	GSC	GOP
1	As Thor approaches, the horn shapes move, and then, from the shadows at the side, emerges LOKI <i>wearing</i> his horned headpiece.			√	
2	EELS pour over the sides of the goblet <i>slithering</i> out and across the terrified Attendant's hand.			√	
3	Loki gestures to the <i>writhing</i> eels on the ground.		√		
4	Their bodies stretch towards the maelstrom <i>changing</i> shape, as if every atom of their being is being elongated by the pull of it.			√	
5	It feels good, doesn't it? To be together again, <i>adventuring</i> on another world?			√	
6	<i>Hiding</i> as cowards always do.	√			
7	Laufey stands <i>sizing</i> up Thor, tries to piece this together.			√	
8	Laufey laughs, cold, <i>mocking</i> .			√	
9	We finally see the Frost Giants now -- <i>terrifying</i> , blue-skinned, <i>standing</i> eight feet tall.			√	
10	He sees the Brute <i>coming</i> at him.			√	
11	He throws Mjolnir with all his strength, <i>knocking</i> the Brute head over heels.			√	
12	A group of Jotuns swarm Thor from all sides, <i>keeping</i> him separate from his weapon.			√	
13	Loki raises his arms, concentrates the mists <i>dissipating</i> .		√		
14	You'd stand <i>giving</i> speeches while Asgard falls!			√	
15	When he speaks again, there's something <i>terrifying</i> beneath the calmness of his words.		√		

16	Then bring me a healing stone, you savages!		√		
17	He hurls one of them off, smashing against a wall.			√	
18	Now a couple security guards and male nurses join the fracas, all struggling to hold Thor down.			√	
19	Medical equipment goes flying , furniture overturned.			√	
20	He tries again, mustering all his strength.			√	
21	He stops walking .		√		
22	Before she can react, he starts heading towards the crater.		√		
23	No, I'm sorry. Loki... thank you for coming here.		√		
24	Standing there with the unconscious Selvig slung over his shoulder.	√			
25	She starts cleaning up the mess around her.		√		
26	Darcy hurries out of the burning pet store carrying as many animals in cages as she can.			√	
27	Get him to the healing room!		√		
28	Frigga picks up on the tension building between her sons.		√		
29	Thor raises his hammer, rising into the air, summoning lightning .			√	
30	A massive bolt strikes Mjolnir, then channels outwards, splitting up, striking each one of the Lokis.			√	
31	The real Loki who's sent flying back across the Bridge.		√		
32	Thor steps over to his fallen brother, lying dazed on his back.			√	
33	Thor looks about him desperately at the Bifrost firing towards Jotunheim, gaining in strength, at the surge of energy moving through the Bridge.			√	
34	Thor raises Mjolnir one last time			√	

	<i>drawing lightning</i> to it from all sides.				
35	A wave of destruction moves forward along the Bridge towards the Observatory <i>breaking</i> it apart as it goes.			√	

Official scripted text available on: <https://www.imsdb.com/scripts/Thor.html>

Concerning to the table 1, there are four functions of gerund as its function. They are: (1) gerund as subject, (2) gerund as direct object, (3) gerunds as subjective complement, and (4) gerunds as objects of preposition. In this study, the researcher found the classification of the functions of gerund only three functions called: (1) gerund as subject, (2) gerund as direct object and (3) gerund as subjective complement. In this study, the researcher did not find functions of gerund as object of preposition.

Focusing on the data findings, there are 35 data consisting the functions of gerund found in the main character of ‘Thor’ movie. There is 1 datum of this study containing the function of gerund as the subject. Then, there are 11 data found as the functions of gerund as direct object. Lastly, there are 23 data are classified into the function of gerund as the subjective complement.

Gerund as Subject

Based on the data examined as viewed on the table.1, the researcher found only 1 datum classified into gerund as subject.

“Hiding as cowards always do.”

The datum above shows that the word ‘hiding’ is formed from the word ‘hide’ as verb. As it is formed becoming the word ‘hiding’ which is constructed from ‘hide + ing’ form, the ‘hiding’ is classified as gerund. In line with (Allen, 1991), “gerund as a noun in a sentence or phrase can act as the subject when it is placed in the subject of the sentence”. Focusing on the statement by the main character of the ‘Thor’ movie, the ‘hiding’ is stated as the subject of the statement uttered. It means that, the ‘hiding’ is placed in the position of subject of sentence. Thus, it can be clearly said the word ‘hiding’ is classified as the gerund as subject of sentence.

Gerund as Direct Object

In this study, the researcher found the gerund categorized as direct object of the sentence or phrase. There are 11 data consisting this function. Some of the data are described as below:

“Loki gestures to the *writhing* eels on the ground.”

“Loki raises his arms, concentrates the mists *dissipating*.”

“When he speaks again, there’s something *terrifying* beneath the calmness of his words.”

“Then bring me a *healing* stone, you savage!”

Based on the data above, it can be said that the words ‘*writhing, dissipating, terrifying and healing*’ are categorized into gerund. The word ‘writhing’ is formed by ‘writhe + ing’. The word ‘writhe’ is a verb, thus, the word ‘writhe’ is classified into gerund. Meanwhile, the word ‘dissipate’ is formed by ‘dissipate + ing’ which formed from verb + ing becomes ‘dissipating’ as gerund. Then, the word ‘terrifying’ is formed by ‘terrify + ing’ becomes ‘terrifying’. Lastly, the word ‘healing’ is formed by ‘heal + ing’ becomes ‘healing’. The four words of ‘*writhing, dissipating, terrifying and healing*’ are formed by the form of ‘verb + ing’, so those words are clearly defined as gerunds.

Concerning to the functions of the gerund as it is formed in the sentences. The position of those words are constructed after the main verbs in each sentence mentioned in the data above. Gerund as object is the object that is used after the main verb of sentence (Allen, 1991). Based on the explanation described, it can be said that the data found in this study are classified into the gerund as the object of the sentences.

Gerund as Subjective Complement

There is a function of gerund that can be called ‘Gerund as Subjective Complement’. The gerunds can function as the subjective complement if they describe the subject (Allen, 1991). The researcher found out 21 data that was classified as the gerunds as subjective complements. These data were in the form of clauses or phrases described below:

“As Thor approaches, the horn shapes move, and then, from the shadows at the side, emerges LOKI *wearing* his horned headpiece”

“Their bodies stretch towards the maelstrom *changing* shape, as if every atom of their being is being elongated by the pull of it”

“EELS pour over the sides of the goblet *slithering* out and across the terrified Attendant's hand”.

Viewed from the data described above, we can state that those data contained gerunds. They are (1) ‘wearing’ formed by wear + ing, (2) ‘changing’ formed by change + ing, and (3) ‘slithering’ formed by slither + ing. Strengthening those statements, gerunds are the word formed by the base of of verb combining with the ‘ing’ (Arjati, 2007). Those data were identified as the gerund because those words were formed by combining the verb and suffix ‘ing’. Those gerunds were categorized as the subjective complement because the word ‘wearing’, ‘changing’, and ‘slithering’ have the function as the modifier of the noun. They gave the subject of the sentence descriptions.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

In conclusion, the researcher found out three functions of gerund. Those functions were (1) gerund as subject consisting of 1 datum, (2) gerund as direct object consisting 11 data, and (3) gerund as subjective complement containing 23 data. A gerund was classified as ‘the gerund as the subject’ because it had a function to perform actions or activities. Some gerunds were classified as the ‘gerund as the direct object’ because they come after the transitive verbs. Some gerunds were identified as ‘gerund as subjective complement’ because they have a function to describe the noun.

Suggestion

The researcher suggests the English teacher to teach their students about the functions of gerund that has various classifications. The English teachers have to use an interesting method in teaching gerund to motivate their students.

The students have to learn gerunds specifically in order to understand well the gerunds because gerunds can cause misunderstanding when existing in the sentences.

For the further researchers, the researcher suggests them to develop the study relating to the gerunds because this topic is rarely conducted previously. The further researchers can also conducting the analysis of gerund used in the speeches.

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