

英语动词静态和动态比较

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【摘要】英语的构句以动词为核心, 研究动词的语法意义对英语学习具有明确的指导意义。本文就英语动词易混淆的静态和动态涵义, 即表达状态和动作含义的动词的基本语法特征加以比较, 以期对它们的“词汇意义”和“进行体”之间的关系进行探讨和论述。

【关键词】动词; 静态; 动态; 体

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引言

英语的构句是以动词为核心, 研究动词的语法意义对英语学习具有明确的指导意义, 在英语学习和使用过程中, 由于对动词的词汇意义缺乏必要的分析, 不时会出现言语理解的偏差, 甚至错误。究其原因, 是由于对英语动词的静态和动态用法缺乏必要的认识。

我们不可说: The apartment is belonging to Mr. Clinton. 但是我们就可以说: The soldiers were playing baseball while their officers were watching TV.

那么, 同样是动词, 能用进行体的标准和理论依据是什么呢?

《牛津大辞典》(2004)是这样定义“动词”的: a word to indicate the occurrence of or performance of an action or the existence of a state or condition. 该定义显然包含了“动作”和“状态”两方面的含义。语法学家夸克(R. Quirk)等人, 则在《当代英语语法》(A Grammar of Contemporary English)中指出: 英语动词的动态用法和静态用法是英语语法中一个带根本性的区别。根据现代语言学的理论, 英语动词按其词汇意思, 可分为静态动词(Stative Verbs)和动态动词(Dynamic Verbs)。前者是表示一种状态的动词, 一般不用进行体; 后者是用来表示动作或运动的动词, 通常能用进行体和非进行体。

原来句中的“belong”是静态动词, 不能用进

行体, 相反, “play”和“watch”是动态动词, 可以用于进行体。所以, 研究动词的静态和动态意义, 对于构建英语句子十分必要。

1 静态动词

1.1 定义

静态动词, 《当代英语大辞典》(2004年6月)的解释为: being a verb that describes a state rather than an action or event ... are not usually used in progressive forms. 即表示现时或过去存在的某种状态, 而非动作, 也有语法学家称其为状态动词(State Verbs)。这种动词显著的特点就是它们一般不用进行体, 因此, 能否用进行体关键在其词汇意义。

1.2 分类和意义

1.2.1 “Be”和“Have”

使用最广泛的静态动词是“Be”(是)和“Have”(有), 一般情况下, 它们表示主语所处的状态或关系, 表示相对静止的状况, 因而均不能用于进行体。例如:

Tom used to be a robber, but nowadays he is a very well-known IT engineer.

She has a strong Australian accent in his English speech.

1.2.2 感官动词

与感官有关的动词(Verbs of Perception)如: see, smell, taste, feel, hear, sound, etc. 这类动词

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数量不多，但常用，用它们所表示的感觉是无意义的，而不是自觉的，是客观外界存在的物体作用于人们的感觉器官，从而使人感觉这类动词一般只能用非进行体。例如：

- The object feels abnormal.
- The story described in VOA sounds reasonable.
- This fruit smells terrible, but tastes nice.

1. 2. 3 情感动词

表达心理状态或主观情感的动词(Verbs Denoting a State of Mind or Feeling)，如：believe, doubt, expect, desire, mind, imagine, want, wish, like, love, hate 等，这类动词往往表示主语的态度或感情色彩而非动作，所以不能用进行体。例如：

- What you want is also what we hope .
- I don ' t believe that they have accomplished the task ahead of time.
- The people around her loved her deeply for her love of the poor.
- What Chinese most desired now is a forever - long peace.

1. 2. 4 关系动词

关系动词(Relational Verbs)，如：contain, measure , cost, deserve, lack, involve, matter, need, concern, possess, require, resemble, etc. 及短语动词 apply to(适用于)，belong to, differ from, consist of, depend on 等，它们只阐述一种情况而非动作，所以通常不可用进行体。例如：

- All the historic sites here required to be rebuilt.
- The right of selling the lands belongs to the state.
- What we should do next depends on the coming new director.

2 动态动词

2. 1 定义

动态动词，《当代英语大辞典》（2004年6月）解释为：being a verb that describes an action or event rather than a state，英语中的动态动词按照其词汇意义，通常用来表示某种运动状况，是表示动作的动词，可用进行体或非进行体，因而有的语法学家也称之为动作动词（Action Verbs）。决大多数英语动词都具有此种特性和用法。

动态动词从词汇意义一般分为四类，现就其含

义及用法进行比较。

2. 2 活动动词 (Activity Verbs)

这类动词所占的数量最多，如：do, work, write, help, read, play, etc. 它们既可用于非进行体来说明事物的行为或运动状况；也可用于进行体来表示各种持续动作，表示动作正在进行中。例如：

- They are working hard so as to serve the people heart and soul.
- We were playing tennis when he called me at this moment yesterday.
- The serious depression drove her step - mother mad.
- The new comer writes home by e - mail twice a week.

The manager and his secretary will be flying to New York next Saturday.

Time flies like an arrow.

We can't go out for a walk, It's raining cats and dogs.

It never snows in winter but it rains often in summer.

2. 3 过程动词(Process Verbs)

这类动词主要用来表示事物的变化，在进行体中表示事物正在发展中。常用的有：turn, grow, become, change, deteriorate, shorten, improve, slow down, etc 例如：

The canal shortens the journey greatly.

Their objections are slowing down the progress of the negotiations of WTO.

The relations of Sino - Japan have been deteriorating in the last five years.

Generally girls mature earlier than boys.

2. 4 短暂动词(Momentary Verbs)

这类动词的动作往往表示瞬间发生，并迅速结束的动作，一般来说没有持续性。它们既可用于一般现在时和一般过去时，表示目前、眼下或过去经常性的短暂动作；也可用于进行体，表示瞬间动作的重复。常用的动词有：shut, pass, jump, knock, kick, etc. 例如：

The young man goes upstairs, stops at the room and knocks at the door.

Everywhere they are knocking their heads against

stone walls.

Professor Dwight was knocking at the table in class.

The football fans on the playground are cheering their lovely team.

He took his ball - pen out and signed on the document paper.

2.5 位移动词(Transitional Verbs)

这类动词是用来表示位置的转换及变化, 在进行体中有开始的含义, 接近于位置发生变化, 这类动词也可用一般时。常用的如 land, fall, arrive, leave, die, lose, etc. 例如:

At night the airplane is landing at Honghe airport.

The ship landed at Yangshan Port last Tuesday.

He died a martyr to the revolution at the age of twenty - seven.

After we arrived, Victor was dying.

The US is losing its advantages in this business field.

As we left the hotel at the top of a mountain, a light rain was falling.

Dark clouds hung overhead, and a heavy rain fell.

3 静态动词的动态用法

通过对英语动词的“静态”和“动态”的定义、分类、意义等的探讨, 有一种现象特别需要注意, 即动词静态与动态的区分是相对而非绝对的, 尤其是部分静态动词, 它们具有的不同词汇意义, 往往决定是否能够用于进行体; 这类静态动词虽然数量不多, 但影响很大。下面就部分常见的可用于进行体的静态动词加以讨论。

3.1 “be”动词

当动词“be”表示“表现”或“行动”等词汇意义时, 便成为动态动词, 此时动词be可用进行体, 跟表示一种行为或扮演一种角色的形容词或名词连用。例如:

My dear child, you 're being merely childish. (= behaving childishly)

John is being a martyr. (= acting like a martyr)

“You 're being very clever today” would indicate that this was unusual.

I have decided that I was being selfish.

She was being terribly energetic.

The life here wasn 't being good for her.

3.2 “have”动词

当动词“have”表示“有”的词汇意义时, 一般用于静态意义, 不用进行体; 当其与不同的词构成一些常见的词语搭配时, 表示各种不同的活动, 便具有明显的动态意义, 几乎可以表达衣食住行、吃喝拉撒的各种意义, 甚至可以代替诸如“eat”、“drink”、“take”、“go for”等实义动词。如:

They were having (drinking) tea upstairs at the Japanese tea house just now.

Tell him I 'm having a discussion—a conference.

Come in. We 're having a scene.

I suppose we shall be having some sort of celebration for the bride.

What are you having (eating) for lunch?

Alice is not in. And she is having (spending) a holiday in Europe.

You can find him over there. He is now having (going for) a walk along the river.

Look at those special policewomen. They are having a good time (enjoying themselves) on the playground.

We were having a really interesting chat (chatting really interestingly) when Linch arrived.

3.3 情感动词

当诸如 believe, doubt, want, wish, love 等表达心理状态或主观情感的动词, 用来表示动作时, 其词义往往会发生改变, 则可用进行体。有时当 want, hope, wonder 等用进行体的动词形式时, 则表示委婉、礼貌的语气, 与动作没有关系。例如:

The criminal was expecting (waiting for) word from his fellows.

The present Chinese Government are thinking about (examining) the ways to solve some sharp social contradictions.

I was wanting to talk to her when she arrived.

The team are wondering how to win the game quickly.

The old were hoping that the local companies would give them practical help.

3.4 关系动词

若英语中如 contain, measure, deserve, involve,

need, concern, possess, require, resemble 等表示关系的动词用进行体表动作, 这时便由静态转变为动态动词, 其词汇意义也随之而发生变化。例如:

The two giant pandas are resembling (are becoming more and more like) each other in appearance or nature.

The host said that the Korea's mistake was costing (bring great injury to) them dearly.

The girl who got lung cancer was applying to (making a request to) the society for help.

3.5 感官动词

英语中如 see, smell, taste, feel, hear, sound 等这类动词, 如用作动态动词表主动含义时, 往往会改变其词义, 并可用进行体。例如:

He was seeing (receiving) the foreign guests from Iran when I heard the news.

They are seeing (saying goodbye to) their cousin off at the station.

The judge is hearing (attending) the case now.

Mary was bending down because she was smelling

(using her sense of smell in order to learn) these flowers just now.

The mother is tasting (using his sense of taste in order to learn) the dish to see whether he puts enough sweet in it.

We are all feeling (thinking) his failure in the CET-4.

My wife is feeling (touching in order to learn) the water to see whether it is too hot for our baby to have a bath.

结论

综上所述, 英语动词的静态与动态是一种复杂的语言现象, 它们既有严格的定义分类, 又有严格的词汇意义要求, 能否用于进行体既决定于动词的静态与动态, 更决定于在语境中的不同词汇意义, 因此, 只有相对性与绝对性的结合, 才能把握英语动词的静态与动态的涵义和运用, 从而构建符合英语语法规则的句子。

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Comparison between Stative Verbs and Dynamic Verbs in English

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Abstract: Verbs constitute the core of English sentences. It is instructive for English learners to study the grammatical meanings. This paper intends to make a comparison of the grammatical features between the stative verbs and dynamic verbs which are often confused, that is to say, the comparison of a state and an action, so that a further study of the lexical meaning and the progressive aspect between them will be carried out.

Key words: Verbs ; Stative ; Dynamic ; Aspect

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