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CATENATIVE RELATIONS AND PROBLEMS
CONNECTED WITH NON-FINITE FORMS OF
THE VERB IN MODERN ENGLISH

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENT RESEARCH

It is common knowledge that parts of the sentence in conventional syntax are able to answer the needs of semantic and functional potentials of a sentence. The present work is an attempt to show that the catenative relations reveal certain semantic and functional aspects.

In terms of the language/speech dichotomy, valency belongs to the sphere of language. It lies on the paradigmatic axis, since it points to the potential for combinability for different parts of speech. Valency is realized in speech by means of catenation. The present work deals with catenation not as a mere linguistic term but as a language phenomenon which reflects the ability of a finite verb to combine with a non-finite form (the infinitive, gerund or participle). Catenation belongs to the sphere of speech, it is linear and lies on the syntagmatic axis.

The non-finite forms in their turn are characterized by high combinability i.e. they have right-hand or left-hand expansion. The single verbals reveal zero valency but the non-finite form can be monovalent, bivalent or trivalent according to the right-hand or left-hand expansions.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT RESEARCH

The present work aims to clarify certain debatable problems connected with the non-finite forms of the verb (verbals) in present-day English. It is an attempt to state the type of relation between the finite form of the verb and the non-finite form following it; to show the essence of the connection between these elements; to give the semantic and grammatical classification of finite verbs combined with the verbals; to find out what the situation is, in this respect, in Georgian and some other languages; to state whether the phenomenon of catenation is a linguistic universal; to show the frequency of usage of non-finite forms in various registers of English; to point to the peculiarity of the use of non-finite forms in non-standard colloquial English and the possible structural change caused by this process in the English Language.

THE SCIENTIFIC NOVELTY OF THE RESEARCH
(THE VALUE OF THE PRESENT RESEARCH)

The present paper claims that a chain-like structure where a finite verb is followed by a non-finite one is a catenative unit and its first element is a catenative verb. Catenation is regarded as a language phenomenon due to which it becomes possible to single out certain grammatical and structural units and determine the types of compound predicate in the English Language.