

## Reference No:

## Revision History:

Name	Change Date	Version	Description of Changes
Shanza Nayyer	28 <sup>th</sup> July, 04	0.1	Created
Zunaira Malik	20 <sup>th</sup> May, 05	0.2	Addition of mono and di-trans VPs

## Rule ID: EGR201

**Rule Syntax:** Following is the constituent description of the rule.

VP-> VPact\_main (VPoblig) (VPadjunct)

VP-> VPpass (VPobligpass)(VPadjunct)

VP-> [VPpred\_main1|VPpred\_main2] [(VP\_mtrans) | (VP\_dtrans)] VPpredlink (VPadjunct)

**Rule Functional Description:** Following are the functional specifications of the rules.

1) VP -> VPact\_main: ^ = !, ^\_MORPH\_FORM = {PRES,PAST,BARE,PROG,PERF}; (VPoblig: ^ = !; ) (VPadjunct: ^ = !; ).

2) VP-> VPpass: ^ = !; (VPobligpass: ^ = !; )(VPadjunct: ^ = !; ).

3) VP -> [VPpred\_main1: ^ = !;|VPpred\_main2: ^ = !;] [(VP\_mtrans: ^ = !; ) | (VP\_dtrans: ^ = !; )]

VPpredlink: ^ = !; (VPadjunct: ^ = !; ).

## Frequency: -

**Description:** This production gives the detail of the VP production having a copula construction and with all possible phrases contained in it.

*c-structure:* VP can have an active Verb Phrase (VPact) followed by a variety of Prepositional Phrases. Note that VPact can be intransitive or transitive having NPs contained in it. VP can have a passive Verb Phrase (VPpass) followed by a variety of prepositional phrases.

When main verb of the form 'be' is used in a VP, it has a different analysis as compared to other main verbs because this verb shows linking of subject with another argument, which is giving information about the subject itself. VP consists of main verb which is followed by ADJP (adjectival phrase), NPmain or PPnmain and then it is followed by VPadjunct.

*f-structure:* Depending on the sub-categorization frame of VP, PP can become OBL (oblique), XCOMP (complement) or ADJUNCT of the mother node. In case of PPxcompmain, the subject of the mother node will become the subject of XCOMP of the mother node. In case of passive Verb Phrase (VPpass) PPs can be followed by the VP. The di-transitive verb in passive construction changes its sub-categorization frame to (SUBJ, OBJ, OBL). Hence the first PP should have a PFORM value as 'to', as given in production 3.

The linking verb *be* can have APJP, NP or PP as its argument. All these arguments become PREDELINK in f-structure. \_VERB\_FORM (verb form) of verb in VPpred\_main is always 'be'. VPpred\_main contains sequence of auxiliaries followed by main verb having the form of 'be'. It is to be noted that PREDLINK analysis is always in the ACTIVE form of sentence and maximum one modal and two auxiliaries can precede the main verb. The CASE in NPmain is constrained to be ACC (accusative) and the NUM to be the same as that of SUBJ to avoid entries like \**They are a good boy*

## Examples:

*Active Form:*

1) She went to school. (PP as OBL)

2) He relied on this book. (PP with lack of semantic force and acting as OBJ of verb)

- 3) The driver wants to give Ahmad a book. (XCOMP)
- 4) The driver might have been trying to fix the problem. (XCOMP)
- 5) She slept in the morning. (PP as ADJUNCT)

*Passive Form:*

- 1) She was examined by the doctor. (PP as ADJUNCT)
- 2) The book is being given to him by me. (multiple PPs with first PP as an OBL and next PP as an ADJUNCT)

*Be:*

- 1) I am good. (ADJP as PREDLINK)
- 2) I am a good girl. (NP as PREDLINK)
- 3) Cat is on the table. (PP as PREDLINK)
- 4) It is nice to meet you. (ADJP as PREDLINK, infinitive clause as adjectival complementation)
- 5) It is pleasant in the morning. (ADJP as PREDLINK, PP as ADJUNCT)
- 6) She painted the door green. (Object complementation)

**Rule Status:** Active

**Reference:**

[1] Miriam Butt, Tracy Holloway King, "A Grammar Writer's Cookbook"

[2] Correspondence with Miriam Butt, Universität Konstanz, Germany.

**Related Rules:** EGR200, EGR202, EGR203, EGR204, EGR207, EGR211, EGR212

**Related POS:** -

**Replaces:** EGR126

**Reason:** addition of di and mono-trans and VPadjunct and More constraints added

**Replaced by:** - EGR019

**Analysis:** Following is the in-depth analysis of the rule:

*Analysis:*

In the European languages, motion verbs such as "go" and "come" are generally taken to be intransitive, and then one would go for the ADJUNCT analysis in sentences like *He went to eat*. However, the verb 'find' as in *He finds a book to read* is a different matter. If one tried the XCOMP analysis here, one would immediately ask oneself what the SUBJ of the embedded XCOMP might be: according to Bresnan's theory of control, it should be the "book", however this is not the case. If one thinks about what this sentence is doing it seems that "to read" is in fact modifying the book. So, the "to read" should probably be analyzed as an ADJUNCT. [2]

In passive constructions, the demoted agent is often assumed to be an OBL with a restricted form, e.g., with the preposition *by* in English. This analysis has the advantage that it captures the fact that the OBL plays a special role with respect to the verb, i.e., that it is the logical subject. However, this analysis also has the disadvantage that the OBL is not obligatory since the demoted subject need not to be overtly expressed. This means that every passive occurring with an argument of the appropriate form will have two analyses, one in which the argument is the OBL and the one in which it is an adjunct. In our grammars passives do not sub-categorize for an OBL, meaning that the demoted agent is always an adjunct; the semantics can then determine whether a member of the adjunct set is the agent of the verb. [1, p. 58]

Predicative construction involves a linking or *copular* verb which has a subject and another argument, as in the example below:

*Example:* i) The beacon is on the roof.

ii) The tractor is red.

The post-verbal argument can be of a number of categories, e.g., NP, PP, AP etc. Due to the semantic relationship between the subject and the phrase after linking verb, these verbs are

given special sub-categorization frames. Traditionally, this has been done by having the post-verbal phrase 'be' an XCOMP whose subject is controlled by the linking verb's subject. However, a new analysis, termed the PREDLINK analysis, is used. Under both approaches, linking verbs may have their own c-structure category and their own VP rule which allows the post-verbal NP, AP, and PP to be assigned the appropriate grammatical function. [1, p. 69]

**Result:** The above analysis has been finalized for the rule. Intransitive verbs do not sub-categorize infinitival clause such as *to read* and hence becomes an ADJUNCT in f-structure. If verb sub-categorizes infinitival clause, it becomes XCOMP in f-structure.

### **Future Work:**

- 1) Sentences like *He went for enjoying the concert*, is yet to be analyzed.
- 2) The sentence like *the chicken is cooked* will create ambiguity. It will be parsed having *is* as the main verb and *cooked* as an ADJP and will also be parsed through the production having *cooked* as the main verb. This kind of ambiguity will be catered in the later stage using some statistical method.