

UNRELATED ACTIVE PARTICIPLES IN POLISH AND ENGLISH: A TRANSFORMATIONAL CONTRASTIVE STUDY

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1.0 The present paper is a part of the author's doctoral dissertation devoted to active participles in Polish and English. The purpose of this paper is to contrast unrelated active participles in both languages. Contrasting is to be understood in this context as pointing out both the similarities and differences between the two languages.

The view of language in this analysis is rule oriented. The grammar of Polish and English is understood to consist of a set of rules which are ordered so that the progression is from the general to the specific. The semantically oriented base is related to sentences which in turn are the source of participial constructions. That is, our model of contrast has a levelled structure which goes from the deepest level through various intermediate levels to the surface level with strictly defined rules related to these levels. Differences between the two languages in question are already found in intermediate levels and increase as the surface level is approached. These differences, where possible, are explained by means of different rules that apply in Polish and English at various levels.

The deep structure is assumed to be common to Polish and English. In both languages participles are derived from sentences.

1.1 Regarding function, unrelated active participles belong to adverbial participle modifiers and denote the same relations in Polish and English, i.e.,

- (a) Polish Present Adverbial Participles and English Present Adverbial Participles denote an action simultaneous with the action of the finite verb,
- (b) Polish Past Adverbial Participles and English Perfect Participles denote an action prior to the action of the finite verb.

Regarding form, we distinguish in Polish (a) Present Adverbial Participles formed from the present tense stem of imperfective verbs with the present participial suffix *-ąc*, and (b) Past Adverbial Participles formed from the past tense stem of perfective verbs with the past participial suffix *-wszy/wszy*. The appropriate English adverbial participles are formed by adding the suffix *-ing* to the basic form of the verb. In the case of perfect participles the suffix *-ing* is added to *have* and followed by the past participial form of the appropriate verb.

1.2 Active participles functioning adverbially are divided into two main groups according to their relation to the subject: related and unrelated participles.

Unrelated participles do not modify any particular part of a sentence but rather a sentence as a whole. Furthermore, unrelated participles are always nonrestrictive while related participles may appear as both restrictive and nonrestrictive modifiers.

As far as their function is concerned, unrelated participles are further subdivided into three types: sentence adverbials, prepositions-conjunctions, and absolute participles.

The three types of unrelated participles share certain features, i.e., they are derived from nonrestrictive constituent sentences where NP constituent \neq NP matrix. This feature makes them a distinct category from all the other active participles, as they all are derived from constituent sentences where NP constituent = NP matrix. Furthermore, sentence adverbials and prepositions-conjunctions are further related regarding their derivation and partly their function. Participles of these types pose a kind of condition over the whole matrix sentence. This condition appears in the deep structure in the form of a conditional clause of the type: If I may + VP (Zabrocki 1973).

2.0. There are various approaches to the nature and derivation of participles functioning as sentence adverbials. House (1965: 292) calls them independent participles because they do not modify any particular word in the sentence. Hornby (1961) describes them as unattached and not logically related to the subject of the verb. Greenbaum (1969) classifies sentence adverbials semantically and distinguishes: attitudinal adverbs concerned with the content of the communication (see also Schreiber 1969, modal and evaluative adverbs), and stylistic adverbs, to which our sentence adverbials belong, describing the manner in which the content of a sentence has been communicated. Chomsky (1965: 72) gives a phrase structure rule which contains an adverb functioning as a sentence modifier, but he neither names it a sentence adverbial nor discusses it.

$$S \rightarrow \text{Adverbial} \sim \text{NP} \sim \text{Aux} \sim \text{VP}$$

(Naturally, John will leave.)

According to Chomsky's rule Adverbial is directly dominated by S. Chomsky's rule may be expanded as follows:

$$\text{Adverbial} \rightarrow \text{Sentence Adverbial}$$

In the case of a simple adverb it may replace Sentence Adverbial thus yielding:

$$\text{Sentence Adverbial} \rightarrow \text{Adverb}$$

In the case of a participial modifier functioning as a sentence adverbial a further expansion of the proposed rule would be required, namely:

$$\text{Sentence Adverbial} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Adverb} \\ (\text{Adverb}) \text{ Participle} \end{array} \right\}$$

Because the class of participles functioning as sentence adverbials is not large and relatively closed one of the possibilities of accounting for their presence is to list them in the lexicon. Another possibility which would follow from the statement that all participles are derived from full clauses would be to postulate a similar structure underlying participial phrases of that type. If the latter alternative is selected, sentence participial adverbials may be derived from structures such as:

$$S \rightarrow S'S''$$

Polish:

$$S'' = \text{jeżeli } NP_2 \text{ } \acute{m}óc \text{ } T \text{ } V \text{ (adv)}$$

$$NP_2 = \text{ja}$$

English:

$$S'' = \text{if } NP_2 \text{ } \text{may } T \text{ } BE \text{ } V_{ing} \text{ (adv)}$$

$$NP_2 = I$$

Examples:

P: On ma rację, jeżeli mogę mówić ogólnie.

E: He is right if I may be speaking generally.

The appropriate transformations delete NP_2 , Aux and tense in Polish and, in addition to these, BE in English. In Polish the participial transformation generates the appropriate participial form of the verb. The generated participle appears as follows:

P: On ma rację, mówiąc ogólnie.

E: He is right, speaking generally.

If the adverb modifying a participle receives strong stress in the spoken language, it may follow the participle; otherwise it is pre-positioned and the whole adverbial phrase as a sentence modifier is usually shifted to the front of the whole construction.

In discussing the origin of sentence adverbials we follow Müller (1970) who draws a clear line between optional adverbial modifiers present in the base and those introduced transformationally. The latter include all participial modifiers functioning adverbially.

Participles functioning as sentence adverbials in Polish and English are closely related. Among the corresponding forms in both languages only these belonging to the equivalent group are found, though not always in the same form (on the definition of equivalents and counterparts cf. Grala 1972: 3). Among the equivalents of different form we find infinitives and idiomatic expressions, such as: *to tell the truth, not to mention, by the way*, etc. The most common participles in this function are:

POLISH		ENGLISH
biorąc pod uwagę	=	taking into consideration
wziąwszy pod uwagę		considering...
ogólnie mówiąc		
ogólnie biorąc	=	generally speaking
ściśle mówiąc		
ściśle biorąc		
praktycznie (rzecz) biorąc	=	strictly speaking
formalnie biorąc	=	formally speaking
sądząc po...	=	judging by...
mówiąc o...	=	talking of...

Participles of this kind may also be used as related participles, e.g.:

1. Tomek mówiąc prawdę wykazał dużo odwagi.
2. Wziąwszy to pod uwagę, Agnieszka nie pojechała do Warszawy.
3. The teacher, taking his behaviour into consideration, refused to let him in.
- 3.0 The second type of unrelated participles functions as prepositions and conjunctions. Poutsma (1926: 723) says: 'When a participle is followed by an object, it often partakes of the nature of a preposition, either by itself, or in connection with an adverbial adjunct'. It follows then that active participles functioning adverbially may always appear as related participles, of which a small number may also be used as prepositions (conjunctions): e.g.
4. Wyjąwszy dziecko z kołyski podszła do pielęgniarki (related participle).
- 4a. Możemy przyjąć ich postulaty, wyjąwszy żądania podwyżki płac (preposition).
5. Touching his little hands she felt a sudden wave of warmth (related participle).

5a. The new laws touching marriage are excellent (preposition).

Unrelated participles, i.e., those functioning as prepositions and conjunctions are known in both Polish and English although the same participles are not always used in the two languages in this way. The most common are:

POLISH		ENGLISH
pomijając } wyjąwszy }	=	excepting
odnosząc do	=	relating to
zakładając że } przyjmując że }	=	{granting providing supposing
przyjawszy że }		

English seems to have more participles in this function for which we find Polish non-participial, adverbial equivalents, e.g.:

according to	=	zgodnie z, według, zależnie od
owing to	=	dzięki, wskutek, z powodu
concerning that	}	= wobec, co do, co się tyczy, w sprawie, odnośnie
touching		
regarding		

4.0 Absolute participles are alien to present-day Polish although they did exist in Old Polish. Absolute participles are derived similarly to nonrestrictive related participles (Grala 1972: 55). Schwartz (1968: 764) points out the fact that the non-restrictive and absolute participles are structurally identical. They differ only in that the absolutes have their own subjects, i.e. $NP_{\text{constituent}} = NP_{\text{matrix}}$, which are not deleted in the surface structure. Two types of absolute participles are distinguished:

1. the Nominative Absolute Participles
2. the Prepositional Absolute Participles

The second type differs from the first in that it is accompanied by the preposition *with*. It mainly denotes attendant circumstance, while the Nominative Absolute Participle may denote various adverbial relations, attendant circumstance, cause, time and condition being the most frequent. The following examples illustrate the use of absolute participles in various adverbial relations:

6. He turned and went, we, as before, following him.
7. We were walking on again, with Peter remaining behind.
8. Circumstances permitting, we shall start together.

Absolute participial constructions are avoided in English as high literary

style, and that is why this group is relatively rare. In Polish they are rendered by clauses, mostly equivalent adverbial clauses and counterpart paratactic (usually adversative) clauses. If the corresponding clauses denote time, equivalents may interchange with counterparts without affecting the meaning. The following examples illustrate the clause constructions corresponding to absolute participles:

9. Off we started, he remaining behind.
 9a. Wyruszyliśmy, { a on pozostał w tyle.
 { podczas gdy on pozostał w tyle.
 10. His fat delicate hands rested on the glass, the fingers moving like small, restless sausages. (JS)
 10a. Jego pulchne, delikatne ręce spoczywały na szkle,
 { a palce poruszały się jak małe niespokojne kiełbaski.
 { podczas gdy jego palce poruszały się jak małe niespokojne kiełbaski.
 11. They were chattering gaily, with Hugo watching them intensely.
 11a. Rozprawiali wesoło, { a Hugo obserwował ich uważnie.
 { podczas gdy Hugo obserwował ich uważnie.
 12. Dora sat in a kind of throne, her orange hair flaming. (JS)
 12a. Dora siedziała na czymś w rodzaju tronu, a jej pomarańczowe włosy płonęły.
 13. 'What', said Nosy, with his eyes popping. (JC)
 13a. — Co takiego? — pytał Nosal, a oczy wylazły mu na wierzch.

Apart from clauses we also find participles among the corresponding forms. They are mainly adverbial (A), but there are occasionally even adjectival participles (B). For example:

- (A) 14. 'You must make yourself at home here', she said, her gaze following the moth. (GG)
 14a. — Proszę czuć się u nas jak w domu. — mówiła, nie odrywając wzroku od émy.
 15. He jerked his head, his nostrils widening at the firing. (EH).
 Targnął łbem, rozduymając chrapy na odgłos strzału.
 (B) 16. Augustin was leaning against the tree, the automatic rifle jutting over the top of his load. (EH)
 16a. Augustin stał oparty o drzewo, z lufą ręcznego karabinu maszynowego sterczącą nad workami.
 17. They looked much alike and were both short, heavily built, dark haired, their hair growing low on their foreheads, dark-eyed, and brown. (EH)
 17a. Bardzo do siebie podobni, niscy, krępi i smagli, mieli ciemne oczy i ciemne włosy zarastające nisko na czoło.

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- EH Ernest Hemingway
 GG Graham Greene
 JC Joyce Carry
 JS John Steinbeck

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