



SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT AS A KEY ELEMENT OF EFFECTIVE ENGLISH READING AND WRITING

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Abstract: *This paper explores the pivotal role of subject–verb agreement in enhancing the efficacy of English reading and writing. It posits that grammatical accuracy is not merely a formal requirement but a fundamental factor for clarity, coherence, and successful communication. The study demonstrates that systematic exposure to correct grammatical structures in academic texts, as well as in controlled informal contexts, substantially contributes to learners' linguistic proficiency. Particular emphasis is placed on common areas of difficulty, including collective nouns, indefinite pronouns, coordinated subjects, and complex noun phrases. Moreover, the paper proposes practical and pedagogically sound strategies, such as intensive reading, targeted grammar exercises, peer and instructor feedback, and conscious self-monitoring. The analysis is particularly relevant for students aiming to achieve C1-level English proficiency, where a high degree of grammatical precision and control is imperative.*

Keywords: *Subject–verb agreement, English grammar, Reading comprehension, Writing accuracy, Academic writing, Language learning, Grammatical awareness, Informal writing, C1 English proficiency.*

Аннотация: *Данная работа исследует ключевую роль согласования подлежащего и сказуемого в повышении эффективности чтения и письма на английском языке. Грамматическая точность рассматривается не как формальное требование, а как фундаментальный фактор для обеспечения ясности, связности и успешной коммуникации. В исследовании особое*



внимание уделяется распространённым трудностям, таким как собирательные существительные, неопределённые местоимения, однородные подлежащие и сложные синтаксические конструкции. Также предлагаются практические стратегии обучения: интенсивное чтение, целенаправленные грамматические упражнения, обратная связь от преподавателей и сверстников, а также сознательный самоконтроль. Работа особенно полезна для студентов, стремящихся к овладению английским языком на уровне C1, где требуется высокий уровень грамматической точности.

Ключевые слова: *Согласование подлежащего и сказуемого, Английская грамматика, Понимание прочитанного, Точность письменной речи, Академическое письмо, Изучение языка, Грамматическая осознанность, Уровень английского языка C1.*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilida o'qish va yozish jarayonida ega va kesim moslashuvining muhim roli batafsil tahlil qilinadi. Grammatik aniqlik ravon va tushunarli muloqotni ta'minlashi, matnni to'g'ri anglash va yozma nutq sifatini oshirishda beqiyos ahamiyatga ega ekanligi ta'kidlanadi. Tadqiqotda jamlovchi otlar, noaniq olmoshlar, bog'langan egalar va murakkab ega tuzilmalari kabi murakkab jihatlar yoritilgan. Shuningdek, maqola o'quvchilarga grammatik ongni rivojlantirish uchun samarali strategiyalarni tavsiya qiladi, jumladan: intensiv o'qish, maqsadli grammatika mashqlari, o'qituvchi va tengdoshlar bilan fikr almashish, hamda ongli o'zini nazorat qilish. Ushbu tahlil C1 darajadagi ingliz tilini egallashni maqsad qilgan talabalar uchun ayniqsa dolzarbdir.*

Kalit so'zlar: *Ega va kesim moslashuvi, Ingliz tili grammatikasi, O'qib tushunish, Yozma nutq aniqligi, Akademik yozuv, Til o'rganish, Grammatik ong, Ingliz tili C1 darajasi.*

Introduction

In the process of mastering English, students often prioritize vocabulary acquisition and pronunciation skills, while grammatical precision may receive comparatively less attention. However, grammar forms the structural backbone of



effective communication, particularly in reading and writing contexts [1][6]. Among various grammatical rules, subject–verb agreement is central, as it directly influences sentence clarity and interpretability. Even minor agreement errors can distort meaning, reduce readability, and convey an impression of linguistic imprecision [2][6].

Based on personal experience and extensive literature, it is evident that systematic mastery of subject–verb agreement significantly enhances reading comprehension and writing clarity. Huddleston and Pullum [6] emphasize that understanding agreement rules is a core component of syntactic competence in English.

The Role of Subject–Verb Agreement in Reading

Accurate subject–verb agreement is instrumental in facilitating reading comprehension because it enables readers to accurately identify relationships between sentence elements [2][4]. In English, grammatical meaning is often determined by word order and agreement rather than by inflection. Consequently, when verbs correctly agree with their subjects, readers can immediately recognize who or what performs an action, even in syntactically complex sentences.

Academic and scientific texts often feature extended noun phrases, prepositional modifiers, and embedded clauses. Correct subject–verb agreement acts as a navigational cue, guiding the reader through the main clause and preventing misinterpretation [6]. For example, in sentences where the subject is accompanied by multiple descriptive elements, agreement ensures correct identification of the grammatical subject relative to adjacent nouns.

Repeated exposure to grammatically precise texts also strengthens learners' implicit understanding of English structures. As noted by Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman [2], encountering correct agreement patterns consistently allows learners to internalize rules subconsciously, reinforcing both immediate comprehension and long-term grammatical development.



The Importance of Subject–Verb Agreement in Writing

In writing, subject–verb agreement is a prominent indicator of grammatical competence and linguistic sophistication [3][5]. Correct agreement not only enhances textual clarity but also ensures that ideas are conveyed precisely and unambiguously. In contrast, agreement errors can distract readers, weaken arguments, and diminish textual credibility.

This is particularly relevant in academic writing, where evaluation often emphasizes grammatical accuracy and formal style. Essays, research papers, and reports demand meticulous grammatical control, and even minor mistakes can negatively affect assessment outcomes [4]. Harmer [3] underscores that consistent grammatical accuracy reflects organized and disciplined thinking.

Furthermore, contemporary students frequently engage in informal digital writing, where grammatical inaccuracy is often tolerated. Thornbury [5] warns that without deliberate monitoring, such informal patterns may be transferred into academic writing. Therefore, conscious practice and careful attention to subject–verb agreement are essential for maintaining an appropriate academic register.

Common Difficulties and Grammatical Awareness

One of the most challenging areas of subject–verb agreement involves collective nouns, which may take singular or plural verbs depending on whether the group is considered a single unit or as individual members [1][6]. For instance:

- *The team **is** performing well this season.* (the team as one unit)
- *The team **are** arguing among themselves.* (individual members)

Indefinite pronouns, such as *everyone*, *somebody*, *each*, and *none*, present another common challenge. Although they may refer to multiple entities semantically, they generally require singular verbs in formal English [2]:

- *Everyone **has** a responsibility to follow academic rules.*

Long and complex subject phrases, particularly when separated from verbs by modifiers or prepositional phrases, also pose difficulties. Huddleston and Pullum [6] advise careful attention to grammatical form over mere proximity. Example:



- *The list of required books is available online.*

Through explicit instruction, contrastive analysis, and repeated exposure to correct examples, learners gradually improve their grammatical awareness [3][4]. Persistent challenges, including collective nouns, coordinated subjects, and complex structures, require ongoing attention to achieve automatic accuracy—a hallmark of advanced proficiency [1][6].

Conclusion

Subject–verb agreement is a foundational component of effective English reading and writing rather than a trivial grammatical detail. It ensures accurate sentence interpretation during reading and promotes clarity, coherence, and credibility in writing. The analysis demonstrates that mastery of agreement rules is critical, especially in academic contexts featuring complex sentences and formal standards.

For learners targeting advanced proficiency, particularly at the C1 level, mastering subject–verb agreement is essential. Through intensive reading, explicit instruction, guided practice, and reflective writing, students can transform conscious grammatical knowledge into automatic, confident language use, enabling precise and effective communication in academic and professional contexts.

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