This paper is not concerned with the internal structure of the Verb group itself, but with the structure of auxiliaries in the complex Verbal Groups. As we know, every Verbal Group (excepting the elliptical ones) contains a lexical verb as its Head. Lexical verbs are those verbs which belong to the general vocabulary of a language. The lexical Head always appears last in the Verbal Groups. The lexical Head Verb may or may not be modified by auxiliary verbs. A Verbal group consisting only of a Head verb (without auxiliaries) is called *Simple Verbal group*. A Verbal group with auxiliary verbs is called *Complex Verbal group*.

There are two types of auxiliaries:
(i) primary auxiliaries, e.g. *be*, *do* and *have*
(ii) modal auxiliaries, e.g. *can*, *may*, *must*, *shall*, *will*, and *need*.

We shall see that, in addition to being auxiliary verbs, the primary auxiliaries and the modal auxiliary *need* can all function as lexical Head verbs as well.

Since some auxiliaries can also function as lexical verbs, we must mention some of the differences between them. There are three important differences are:
(i) in *questions* an auxiliary verb can move in front of the Subject Noun Phrase. A lexical verb can not.

(ii) the *negative particle* (*not* or *n’t*) can attach to an auxiliary verb but never to a lexical verb.

*e.g.*

He can drive./ Can he drive?/ He can not drive.

He spoke./ *Spoke he?/ *He spoke not.

Notice that there are two verbs *need*, one an auxiliary, the other lexical, with a subtle difference in meaning.

*e.g.*

He doesn’t need to work. (lexical)

He needn’t work. (auxiliary)

We can notice that only when it functions as lexical verb, *need* can be followed by a long infinitive. This leads us to the third difference:
(iii) When a verb follows a lexical verb, it can be introduced by the infinitive particle *to*, but not when it follows an auxiliary verb (within the same Verbal group).

The Structure of the Auxiliary

The auxiliary contains up to four immediate constituents, each one being represented by its own auxiliary verb: modal, perfect aspect, progressive aspect and passive voice. It is possible to combine them in any way, but the order they appear
in is very strict, each of them is optional and can appear only once. We also have to bear in mind that only the first auxiliary is tensed, and the form of each auxiliary is determined by the auxiliary before it.

(i) Modal Auxiliaries
They can be represented by any modal verbs. The main difference between modal auxiliaries and primary auxiliaries and lexical verbs is that the modal auxiliaries do not have non-finite forms, namely they are always tensed.

Some modals have both a present and a past tense form:

\textit{e.g.} can/ could, may/might, will/ would, shall/ should

\begin{align*}
\text{He says he will come.} & \quad \text{(present)} \\
\text{He said he would come.} & \quad \text{(past)}
\end{align*}

\textit{Must} and \textit{need} do not have a past form However, the verb \textit{need} has a special situation. \textit{Need} has a past tense form, \textit{needed}, but this is used when the verb is a lexical one, not an auxiliary. Let us analyse the following examples:

\textit{e.g.} \textit{*He needed} hurry.  \\
\textit{He needed} to hurry.

From these examples we can notice that it is only the lexical verb, not the auxiliary verb that can appear in a past tense form.

Another characteristic of modal auxiliaries is that they do not fulfill the Subject – Predicate agreement. They do not change their form in the third person singular in present tense.

\textit{e.g.} \textit{I can} dance.  \\
\textit{He can} dance.

We mentioned that each constituent of the auxiliary determines the form of the verb that follows it in the Verbal group. “The verb following the modal auxiliary in the Verbal group appears in its basic stem form” (Burton-Roberts 1997: 132). This rule applies to all following verbs, auxiliary or lexical.

\textit{e.g.} \textit{I can} dance.  \textit{ (present modal Verbal group)}  \\
\textit{I could} dance.  \textit{ (past modal Verbal group)}

(ii) Perfect Auxiliary
The perfect auxiliary is the verb to have. Let us analyse the following Verbal groups.

\textit{e.g.} has gone \textit{ (present perfect Verbal group)}  \\
\textit{had} gone \textit{ (past perfect Verbal group)}  \\
\textit{will have gone} \textit{ (present modal perfect Verbal group)}  \\
\textit{could have done} \textit{ (past modal perfect Verbal group)}

In the first two examples the perfect auxiliary comes in front of the Verbal group, so it appears in a finite form; in the last two examples the perfect auxiliary
The Structure Of Auxiliaries Within The Complex Verbal Groups

follows the modal verb (in present and past tense), so it must be in a non-finite form. One aspect that should be taken into account is that sometimes the tensed form of a verb is not different from the stem form, e.g. the simple present tense differs from the stem only when the Subject is in the third person singular, e.g. They have left the house. Notice that, although the tense used is the present, the sentence refers to past tense, showing a lack of correlation between time and tense.

There are several ways of referring to the past than using a past tense:

a. the use of the perfect auxiliary have. As our first two examples show, the perfect auxiliary itself can be used in both present and past tense.
b. the verb that follows the perfect auxiliary have in the Verbal group always appears in its non-finite perfect participle form. This applies whether this following verb is a lexical verb or another auxiliary.

Note: Have can function both as the perfect auxiliary (modifying its Head verb) and as the Head verb itself:
e.g. I will have enough time to visit the city. (lexical verb) I have decided not to go on. (perfect auxiliary)

(iii) Progressive Auxiliary
The progressive auxiliary is the verb to be. Let us analyse the following Verbal groups:
e.g. was crying (past progressive Verbal group)
is crying (present progressive Verbal group)
would be crying (past modal progressive Verbal group)
have been crying (present perfect progressive Verbal group)

All these examples have in common is a form of the progressive auxiliary be, but they also have in common the -ing inflection of the lexical verb within the Verbal group. Just as the perfect auxiliary have determines the form of the following verb, requiring a perfect participle form, the progressive auxiliary requires a progressive participle.

Note: Like the verb to have, to be can function both as progressive auxiliary, but also as a lexical verb (Head Verb).
e.g. He is smart.
You are being rude.

In the second example, is is the present tense form of the progressive auxiliary be, and being is the progressive participle of the copula.

Before analyzing the passive auxiliary, it would be useful to review all the possible structures of a Verbal group which contain modal, perfect and progressive auxiliaries.

Present/ past Verbal group (general structure)
present/ past modal Verbal group
Mădălina CERBAN

present/past perfect Verbal group
present/past progressive Verbal group
present/past modal perfect Verbal group
present/past modal progressive Verbal group
present/past perfect progressive Verbal group
present/past modal perfect progressive Verbal group

(iv) Passive Auxiliary

All the Verbal groups we have examined so far are in Active Voice. Verbal groups which are in Passive Voice must contain the passive auxiliary to be.

- e.g. stole/was stolen (simple Active/Passive)
- is stealing/is being stolen (present progressive Active/Passive)
- has stolen/has been stolen (present perfect Active/Passive)
- must steal/must be stolen (present modal Active/Passive)

The verb to be can function both as progressive auxiliary and as passive auxiliary. However, it is easy to distinguish them: the difference lies in the form of the following verb. After the progressive auxiliary, the verb is in progressive participle, while after the passive auxiliary, the verb is in perfect (passive) participle. Notice that the passive participle and the perfect participle have the same form. In traditional grammars this participle is called past participle. The Verbal phrases which contain a passive participle are similar to the ones mentioned above:

- e.g. Present/past passive Verbal group (general structure)
  present/past modal passive Verbal group
  present/past perfect passive Verbal group
  present/past progressive passive Verbal group
  present/past modal perfect passive Verbal group
  present/past modal progressive passive Verbal group
  present/past perfect progressive passive Verbal group
  present/past modal perfect progressive passive Verbal group

Note: Passivization is the only grammatical transformation that influences the structure of the whole sentence, not only the Verbal group. The Direct or Indirect Object becomes the Subject and the Subject becomes a Prepositional phrase introduced with by functioning as an Adverbial. As a result, the Direct Object position with a monotransitive Verbal Group will not be filled when the Verbal group is passive.

- e.g. The thieves are being taken to prison by the officers in charge.

A more complex passive Verbal group is the one which contains a Direct object and a Predicative that characterizes the Direct Object.

- e.g. He hammered the metal flat.
  The metal was hammered flat.
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After passivization the Predicative does not describe the Object, but the Subject.

Have and be

In this paper we mentioned that *have* and *be* can function both as auxiliary verbs and as Head verbs. When they function as auxiliaries, they must behave like auxiliaries, moving in front of the Subject in questions and accepting the negative particles. *Do* which is required in the absence of the auxiliary is ungrammatical when the verbs *have* and *be* are used as auxiliaries.

  e.g. *Do they be going?*
  *Do they have gone?*

Note: *Have* can behave like an auxiliary even when it is functioning as Head verb.

  e.g. - functioning as Head Verb, behaving like a Head Verb:
  *Do you have enough money?*
  *I do not have enough money.*
  - functioning as a Head verb, behaving like an auxiliary
  *Have we money?*
  *We haven’t money.*

This is not possible in the case of *be* which can not function as a Head verb and behave as an auxiliary.

  e.g. *Does he be skillful?*
  *He doesn’t be skillful.*

Negative particle and auxiliary ‘do’

The auxiliary *do* is obligatory in certain questions and in negative sentences with *not*. The negative particle *not* is placed immediately after the auxiliary that carries the tense (the first auxiliary).

  e.g. *He may not come.*
  *We haven’t been studying.*

The above rule refers to the first auxiliary in the Verbal Group. The problem appears when the Verbal group in simple.

  e.g. *John left.*

In this example the tense is expressed by the lexical verb. In contrast to auxiliary verbs, lexical verbs do not accept the negative particle.

  e.g. *John left not.*

In such cases, an auxiliary verbs is necessary for carrying the tense. In order to achieve that the auxiliary verb *do* is inserted in the sentence.

  e.g. John did *not* leave.
Since the auxiliary *do* carries the tense, the lexical verb is used in its stem form. The auxiliary *do* has no meaning. Its only function is to carry the tense instead of a lexical Head verb when required.

Like the auxiliaries *have* and *be*, *do* can function as an auxiliary verb and as a lexical verb.

*Moving the auxiliary in front in questions*

Let us analyse the following examples:

e.g. *They have been reading.*
    *Has they been reading?*
    *He left.*
    *Did he leave?*

As we can notice, the auxiliary verb that carries the tense moves in front of the Subject. If there is no auxiliary we have to use the auxiliary *do* to carry the tense. The auxiliary *do* moves in front of the Subject. This movement is called ‘Subject-Auxiliary’ inversion. The Subject remains in its position, only the auxiliary moves in front of the sentence.

**REFERENCES**


**ABSTRACT**

This paper analyses the structure of auxiliaries in the complex Verbal Groups. Every complex Verbal group contains one or more auxiliaries and a lexical
verb as its Head. The auxiliary contains up to four immediate constituents, each one being represented by its own auxiliary verb: modal, perfect aspect, progressive aspect and passive voice. In this paper we demonstrate that it is possible to combine them in any way, but the order they appear in is very strict, and each of them is optional and can appear only once.

**Key words:** complex Verbal group, auxiliary, modal