

The Language Teacher's Grammar of English. Parts 1-3: The Verb

Philip Tregidgo (1926-1992)

Philip Tregidgo enrolled on the MA in Linguistics programme at Reading in 1970. By that time, at the age of 44, he had already spent nearly 20 years teaching English in Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges in Ghana; writing textbooks for the EFL market; and lecturing in various locations for the British Council. Not only was he an experienced educator and analyst of effective teaching methods, he was also the author of five textbooks (Tregidgo, 1959; 1962a; Ogunidipe & Tregidgo, 1965; 1966a; 1966b), one of which was already published in second edition (Tregidgo, 1962b). His interest in Linguistics brought him to Reading and the manuscript reproduced here, written between 1980 and 1992, when he died, is the product of the integration of the knowledge he gleaned from the academic discipline and decades of practical EFL teaching experience.

The motivation for writing *The Language Teacher's Grammar of English* was to address the question: how can knowledge of Linguistics inform Language teaching? It is clear from the 939-page manuscript, neatly typed up by his wife Vera, that Philip Tregidgo had intended to produce one of the most comprehensive Reference Grammars of English that had ever been published but, unfortunately, only the portion relating to *The Verb* is available to us, and it is this section of the *Magnum Opus* that is reproduced here.

The manuscript was made available to the LSWP editorial team in November 2016, when the author's son, Stephen Tregidgo visited the Department of English Language & Applied Linguistics. The aim of the visit, as explained in the biography of his father (see Contents page for link), was to ensure that the unpublished fruits of his father's knowledge and experience acquired over 40 years would find an appropriate home, and it is in this spirit that we welcome this submission to the LSWP. We are extremely grateful to Stephen Tregidgo for bringing this fascinating volume to our attention.

The manuscript on *The Verb* is organised in three parts with an explanatory preface:

Preface (1-11)

Part 1: The Verb: Tense and Aspect (12-283)

Part 2: The Verb: Mood and Auxiliaries (284-632)

Part 3: The Verb: Voice and Complementation (633-939)

Preface

In this eleven-page introduction, Philip Tregidgo sets out the motivations for this work and the major sources that influenced his approach to producing *The Language Teacher's Grammar of English*.

Part 1: The Verb: Tense and Aspect

This part of the manuscript extends from page 12 to 283. Topics covered include:

1. General Introduction
2. The Present Progressive
3. The Present Simple
4. The Present Perfect Simple
5. The Present Perfect Progressive
6. The Past Simple
7. The Past Progressive
8. The Past Perfect
9. Future Reference
10. The Future Perfect
11. The After-Past
12. Tense Subordination

Generally, the sections provide excellent examples of these grammatical features from the perspective of English in use with minimal technical jargon and accessible explanations. The usual topics are covered, but there is a particularly interesting section dedicated to the various uses of the Perfect Progressive and Future Progressive, forms that are often given insufficient attention in other reference grammars.

Part 2: The Verb: Mood and Auxiliaries

The second section of the manuscript extends from page 284 to 632 and the topics covered include:

1. General Introduction
2. Separate subsections on: *will, would, shall, should, may, might, may/might have, must, need, ought to, have to, is to, can could, dare, used to, do and did.*
3. The Imperative
4. The Subjective
5. The Question

This section provides a wealth of useful examples that illustrate the many-to-many relationship between modal forms and their meanings. The subsections are packed with easily accessible explanations of real-life situations that distinguish between the numerous subtleties of modal usage, which are so challenging for non-native speakers.

It is pleasing to read the detailed subsection on the various forms of the subjunctive and the different structures in which they occur in English, a topic that can be under-represented in grammars today. To illustrate the comprehensiveness of this text, the subsection on The Question includes entertaining examples of the rhetorical question in English.

Part 3: The Verb: Voice and Complementation

The second section of the manuscript extends from page 633 to 939 and the topics covered include:

1. General Introduction
2. Active and Passive (xxx-731)
3. Further Constructions including: *verb + ing*, *verb + Infinitive*, *verb + Adjective*, *Object + -ing*, *Object + Infinitive*, *For + Object + Infinitive*, *Object + Bare Infinitive*, *Verb + That Clause* and *Verb + Wh-Clause* (732-
4. Phrasal Verbs
5. Non-Finite Forms
6. Irregular Verbs

This section contains a multitude of excellent examples of the main clause structures in English, characteristically illustrated with wonderfully clear examples. The difference between the Active and Passive voice is marked by the distinction between the ‘doer’ and the ‘sufferer’ participant, which provides a vivid depiction of these Agentive and Patient semantic roles. In the same section, the notion of middle verbs is introduced by using the ‘sufferer’ role as the Subject participant, but without needing to refer to the linguistic terminology usually referred to here.

Varieties of multi-verb types are covered in this section - the concepts are clearly expressed without any need for the normal terminology that students find so challenging. A detailed analysis of adverbial particles is provided with a wealth of useful examples. This section concludes with a useful summary of non-finite forms in English.

Throughout this volume, Philip Tregidgo brings the English language to life with vibrant and often amusing examples. Anyone with an interest in the multifarious aspects of the Verb in English will find something of value and enjoyment in this Magnum Opus.

Publications by Philip Tregidgo:

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- Tregidgo, P.S. (1982). Must and may: demand and permission. *Lingua* **56**:75-92.
- Tregidgo, P.S. (1974). 'English Tense Usage: A Bull's Eye View'. *ELT Journal* **28**: 97-107.
- Tregidgo, P. S. (1979). Tense-Subordination. *English Language Teaching Journal*. **33**(3): 191-97.
- Tregidgo, P. S. (1980). Some Observations on Verb + "ing" and Verb + Infinitive. *ELT Journal* **35**(1):45-48.
- Tregidgo, P. S. (1982). 'Let' and 'let's'. *ELT Journal* **36**(3, 1): 186-188.
- Tregidgo, P. S. (1984). How far have we got with the present perfect?. *ELT Journal* **38**(4, 1): 286-289.