

BRITISH VIEW

MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL



www.britishview.co.uk

Anthropologie, Applied Linguistics, Applied Physics, Architecture, Artificial Intelligence, Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Botany, Chemistry, Communication studies, Computer Sciences, Computing technology, Cultural studies, Design, Earth Sciences, Ecology, Education, Electronics, Energy, Engineering Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Ethics, Ethnicity and Racism Studies, Fisheries, Forestry, Gender Studies, Geography, Health Sciences, History, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Labour studies, Languages and Linguistics, Law, Library Studies, Life sciences, Literature, Logic, Marine Sciences, Materials Engineering, Mathematics, Media Studies, Medical Sciences, Museum Studies, Music, Nanotechnology, Nuclear Physics, Optics, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Publishing and editing, Religious Studies, Social Work, Sociology, Space Sciences, Statistics, Transportation, Visual and Performing Arts, Zoology and all other subject areas.

Editorial board

Dr. Marcella Mori Agrochemical Research Centre, Sciensano, Brussels, Belgium.

Dr. Sara Villari Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia, Palermo, Italy.

Dr. Loukia V. Ekateriniadou Hellenic Agricultural Organization, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Dr. Makhkamova Feruza Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute Uzbekistan

Prof. Dr. Xhelil Koleci Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania.

Prof Dr. Dirk Werling The Royal Veterinary College, London, UK.

Dr. Otabek Yusupov Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Dr. Alimova Durdona Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute

Dr. Jamol D. Ergashev Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute

Dr. Avezov Muhiddin Ikromovich Urgench branch of Tashkent Medical Academy

Dr. Jumanioyov Khurmatbek Palvannazirovich Urgench state university

Dr. Karimova Aziza Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

Dr. Rikhsikhodjaeva Gulchekhra Tashkent State Transport University

Dr. David Blane General Practice & Primary Care, University of Glasgow, UK

Dr Raquel Gómez Bravo Research Group Self-Regulation and Health, Institute for Health and Behaviour, Department of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Dr. Euan Lawson Faculty of Health and Medicine, University of Lancaster, UK

Dr. Krsna Mahbubani General practice, Brondesbury Medical Centre/ University College London, UK

Dr. Patrick Redmond School of Population Health & Environmental Science, King's College London, UK

Dr. Lecturer Liz Sturgiss Department of General Practice, Monash University, Australia

Dr Sathish Thirunavukkarasu Department of Global Health, Population Health Research Institute, McMaster University, Canada

Dr. Sarah White Department of Biomedical Sciences, Macquarie University, New Zealand

Dr. Michael Gordon Whitfield NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance, Imperial College London, UK

Dr. Tursunov Khatam Andijan State Medical Institute Uzbekistan

Manuscripts typed on our article template can be submitted through our website here. Alternatively, authors can send papers as an email attachment to editor@britishview.co.uk

Editor Multidisciplinary Journals

Website: <http://britishview.co.uk>

Email: editor@britishview.co.uk

Etymology of the term "period" and its historical development as a complex syntactic construction

Senior lecturer, PhD Khamrayeva Zebiniso Khaydarovna

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

destiny-xzx@mail.ru

Abstract: The concept of "period" as a complex syntactic construction has deep historical and linguistic roots. Originally derived from the Greek "periodos," meaning a complete circuit or cycle, the term evolved within classical rhetoric to denote a structurally complete sentence composed of balanced clauses. This paper explores the etymology of "period" as a syntactic construction, its historical development through classical, medieval, and modern linguistic traditions, and its structural characteristics in English. Additionally, this study compares the "period" with the "prosaic stanza," another form of extended syntactic construction, highlighting their functional similarities and differences in shaping textual cohesion and rhetorical effectiveness.

Keywords: Periodic sentence, syntactic construction, rhetoric, classical rhetoric, periodicity, complex sentence structure, prosaic stanza, linguistic evolution, discourse analysis, syntactic cohesion.

Introduction

The study of complex syntactic constructions provides insight into how languages develop sophisticated means of organizing thought. One such construction is the "period," a rhetorical and syntactic unit characterized by extended, carefully balanced clauses that culminate in a structured, complete thought. This paper seeks to analyze the etymology of "period" in its linguistic sense, tracing its historical evolution from Greek and Latin rhetoric to its modern interpretations. Furthermore, the comparison with the prosaic stanza aims to illuminate the role of extended syntactic structures in textual composition.

The concept of the period has played a crucial role in rhetorical traditions, literary prose, and formal linguistic structures. By analyzing historical texts and rhetorical theories, we can uncover the transformation of the period from a classical rhetorical device to a modern syntactic structure that enhances textual coherence and persuasive discourse. This study will also address key elements that define a periodic sentence, including syntactic parallelism, rhetorical balance, and delayed closure.

Methods

This study employs a qualitative approach to linguistic and rhetorical analysis. The research methodology consists of:

Etymological Analysis which refers to investigating the origins of the term "period" through historical linguistic sources.

Historical Text Analysis which refers to examining classical, medieval, and modern texts that employ periodic sentence structures.

Comparative Syntax Analysis which refers to contrasting the periodic sentence with the prosaic stanza to determine their structural and rhetorical functions.

Discourse Analysis which refers to Evaluating the role of periodic sentences in shaping argumentation, persuasion, and textual coherence.

Primary sources include Greek and Latin rhetorical texts (Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian), medieval Latin scholarly works, Renaissance rhetorical manuals, and modern linguistic analyses. The study also references contemporary linguistic research to assess the ongoing relevance of the period in discourse.

Results

Etymology and Historical Development of the Period

The term "period" originates from the Greek "periodos" (περίοδος), meaning "circuit," "way around," or "completion" (Harper, 2020). In Greek rhetorical tradition, a "periodos" referred to a complete unit of discourse that presented a full and self-contained argument. This concept was refined by Aristotle and later by Cicero and Quintilian in Latin rhetoric, where the "periodus" was described as a sentence structured to achieve maximum rhetorical impact through balance and symmetry (Kennedy, 1994).

During the Middle Ages, classical rhetorical models persisted in Latin scholarship, influencing medieval syntactic structures, particularly in ecclesiastical and legal writing. The Renaissance saw a revival of Ciceronian and Quintilian rhetoric, which further reinforced the importance of periodic sentence structures in eloquent writing (Murphy, 1987). In modern linguistic studies, the period is analyzed in terms of its syntactic complexity, coherence, and role in literary and formal discourse.

In Greek the concept of periodicity in language originated in ancient Greece, where rhetoric was a fundamental part of education. The period was used to structure speeches for maximum persuasive effect. Aristotle, in his *Rhetoric*, defined the period as a sentence that had a clear beginning and end, contributing to clarity and impact.

In Latin rhetoric, Cicero and Quintilian developed the idea further, emphasizing the importance of syntactic balance. The periodic sentence became a hallmark of effective oratory and was widely used in political speeches, legal arguments, and philosophical texts.

The medieval period saw the adaptation of classical rhetorical models in religious and scholarly writings. Latin scholars continued to use periodic structures to convey complex theological and philosophical arguments.

With the resurgence of classical learning, the period regained prominence in literary and rhetorical works during renaissance revival. Writers like Erasmus and Milton employed periodic structures to enhance the depth and sophistication of their prose. In contemporary linguistics, the period is studied as a syntactic phenomenon that contributes to textual cohesion. Scholars analyze its role in sentence structure, discourse organization, and stylistic variation.

Structural Characteristics of the Period

A period is characterized by its intricate arrangement of dependent and independent clauses, ensuring that meaning is only fully realized at the end of the construction. Unlike simple or compound sentences, a periodic sentence postpones its main clause, building anticipation and emphasizing rhetorical power.

Key Features of the Periodic Sentence

The structure of a periodic sentence often includes parallel clauses that mirror each other syntactically and semantically. This balance enhances the rhythmic and aesthetic qualities of the sentence, making it more engaging and memorable for the reader. By maintaining symmetry in the arrangement of ideas, the periodic sentence ensures coherence and logical flow.

A defining characteristic of the period is its ability to withhold the main idea until the end of the sentence. This technique generates suspense, keeps the reader engaged, and reinforces the final message with greater impact. Delayed closure is particularly effective in persuasive writing, where the gradual buildup of ideas leads to a powerful conclusion.

The periodic structure allows for strategic organization of information, thereby enhancing clarity and persuasiveness. By arranging elements in a specific order, the writer can highlight key arguments, guide the reader's interpretation, and create a more compelling textual experience. This feature makes the periodic sentence a valuable tool in rhetorical discourse, political speeches, and literary compositions.

Example of a Periodic Sentence

"Despite the storm raging outside, the streets flooding rapidly, and the howling wind shaking the very foundations of the house, she remained steadfast in her decision to stay."

This example illustrates how a periodic structure delays the main clause for dramatic and rhetorical effect. The organization of elements in the sentence reflects a deliberate syntactic strategy, reinforcing meaning and emphasis.

Discussion

Comparison Between the Period and the Prosaic Stanza

The prosaic stanza, like the period, is an extended syntactic structure that promotes textual unity and coherence. However, while the period functions at the sentence level, the prosaic stanza extends across multiple sentences, maintaining thematic and structural cohesion across a paragraph or passage.

One major difference between the period and the prosaic stanza is their **scope**. The period is a single syntactic unit that operates within the boundaries of one sentence, whereas the prosaic stanza extends beyond a single sentence to form a cohesive, structured paragraph or passage. This distinction allows the prosaic stanza to sustain a more extended discourse while the period remains self-contained.

Another key difference is **function**. The period primarily serves to enhance rhetorical persuasion by structuring information in a way that maximizes impact. In contrast, the prosaic stanza is designed to maintain textual continuity, ensuring that ideas flow logically across multiple sentences. While both structures aim to engage the reader, their purposes diverge based on their respective uses in discourse.

Finally, their **structure** differs significantly. The period relies heavily on syntactic balance, often employing parallelism and delayed closure to achieve an aesthetically and rhetorically effective sentence. Meanwhile, the prosaic stanza depends more on thematic coherence, connecting multiple sentences through logical transitions rather than strict syntactic symmetry. This structural variance highlights the unique role each form plays in organizing and presenting complex ideas.

Implications for Modern Linguistics

The study of periodic structures continues to be relevant in modern discourse, particularly in political speeches, literary writing, and formal argumentation. Understanding these structures aids in developing advanced writing techniques that enhance clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness.

Conclusion

The concept of "period" as a complex syntactic construction has evolved from its Greek origins to its significant role in classical and modern discourse. Its careful balance of clauses, rhetorical function, and structured delivery distinguish it as a fundamental component of sophisticated writing. The comparison with the prosaic stanza further illustrates how extended syntactic constructions contribute to textual clarity and stylistic elegance.

The significance of periodic sentences extends beyond rhetorical flourish; they shape the logical structure of argumentation, enhance memorability in speech and

writing, and contribute to the rhythmic qualities of prose. As modern linguistics continues to explore sentence complexity, the study of periodic constructions remains relevant for understanding how syntax influences meaning. Future research may examine their role in digital communication, academic writing, and artificial intelligence-generated texts, further emphasizing their enduring impact on linguistic theory and practice.

References

1. Curzan, A., & Adams, M. (2012). *How English Works: A Linguistic Introduction*. Pearson.
2. Harper, D. (2020). *Online Etymology Dictionary*. Retrieved from <https://www.etymonline.com>
3. Kennedy, G. A. (1994). *A New History of Classical Rhetoric*. Princeton University Press.
4. Murphy, J. J. (1987). *Rhetoric in the Middle Ages: A History of Rhetorical Theory from Saint Augustine to the Renaissance*. University of California Press.