Gerundium v anglické větě – teoretický popis syntaktické role ve větné struktuře

BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

Zuzana Klímová

Anglický jazyk se zaměřením na vzdělávání

UNIVERSITY OF WEST BOHEMIA IN PILSEN
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

THE GERUND IN AN ENGLISH SENTENCE - THEORETICAL DESCRIPTION OF ITS SYNTACTIC ROLE IN A SENTENCE STRUCTURE

BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

Zuzana Klímová

Plzeň 2020

Prohlašuji, že jsem diplomovou práci vypracovala samostatně s použitím uvedené literatury a zdrojů informací.

V Plzni, 17. června 2020

....
vlastnoruční podpis

ZDE SE NACHÁZÍ ORIGINÁL ZADÁNÍ KVALIFIKAČNÍ PRÁCE.

ABSTRACT

Klímová, Zuzana. University of West Bohemia. June, 2020. The gerund in an English sentence – theoretical description of its syntactic role in a sentence structure

Supervisor: Jarmila Petrlíková

This bachelor thesis describes the use of a gerund within a sentence structure and looks at all the possible syntactic roles. First, the theoretical part deals with the ing-form of a verb as such and it explains why it can be considered a deverbal noun, participle and gerund. Some grammarians claim there is hardly any difference between a gerund and a participle and they use the umbrella term of ing-form. Other grammarians state the opposite by giving clear-cut borders between these two non-finite catergories of a verb.

It also looks at the theoretical syntactic roles a gerund can be in. It explains the secondary predication realised by the gerund with its overt and covert subjects. It mentions all the forms of the gerund and clarify the difference between their usage.

The thesis does not contain only the theory but also involves an extensive analysis of four works of fiction of contemporary authors. The result of the analysis shows the most frequent use of a gerund within a sentence structure. It looks at the complementation of the gerund. The practical part also analysis the secondary predication formed by a gerund and its overt and covert subjects. The analysis contains graphs and tables with exact numbers of the occurence of gerundial constructions. The analysis shows the frequency of occurence of particular syntactic roles of the gerund.

Keywords: a gerund, a gerundial construction, a participal, an optional and obligatory clause elements, gerund complementation, an ing-form, an overt subject, a covert subject,

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

When an English student learns the language, he or she will inevitably come across the popular topic of verbs that are followed by an infinitive or a gerund. I am aware that it was the first time I had heard such a term when I was taught such grammar. That time I had little knowledge of what a gerund was as it had no generally used equivalently in Czech. It stuck in my mind and when I was selecting a topic of my bachelor thesis, I was absolutely certain that I should deal with the eponymous gerund.

Since then, I have embraced the English grammar that I find fascinating and I am positive the gerund has more to offer than just the complement of one particular group of verbs.

My Theoretical part presents the theory behind the gerund. It explores all the uses of ing-forms with the result of three distinct categories of a deverbal noun, participle and gerund. It offers the approach of the prominent grammarians. Their explanations are summarized, compared and concluded with the result that they are not in agreement as far as a gerund is concerned. Some grammarians prefer to use the term ing-forms for gerunds and participles together saying the distinction between a gerund and a participle is too narrow and in the end rather worthless. On the other hand, other grammarians claim the opposite and distinguish between the two categories clearly. The theory aslo differentiates the gerund from a deverbal noun, present participle and looks at the gerund versus participle adjectives. The next part of the Theoretical part describes all syntactic roles within a sentence structure a gerund can take on. Moreover, the work sheds light on the secondary predication within a sentence that can be realised by a gerund. If there is a predication, there must be a subject. In the case of a gerund we either express it openly and then we call it an overt subject or the subject is identical with the subject of the main predicton and then we do not express the subject at all but we understand the subject refers to us all. The theory looks at the ways the subject of the secondary predication is realised. Lastly it deals with the forms of a gerund by analyzing the tense and aspect of the verb.

The chapter The method of the research shows which literature has been chosen and what exactly has been analysed. In the Results of the analyses I have described the

use of a gerund in English modern literature. Four books of contemporary authors have been analysed with the result of 356 instances of a gerundial construction. Each syntactic use of a gerund is analysed in detail and illustrated with examples from the fictions. All excerpts are enlisted in the appendix.

In my practical part, I strive to discover which syntactic use of a gerund is the most represented; in other words, which clause element has the most representations in the gerund. The thesis also concentrates on secondary predication expressed by a gerund. I aim to detect the gerunds´ overt and covert subjects and their realisations. I also strive to detect the perfective gerunds and explain why the authors decided to use it in their works of fiction.

1 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 ING-FORM – GERUND, PARTICIPLE, ADJECTIVE, VERBAL NOUN

1.1.1 VERB OR NOUN?

When presenting a piece of work on the gerund, one must start analyzing the form from a wider perspective. The suffix –ing is a word-formation lexical bound morpheme that by adding it to a verb can create three distinct classes of verbs. As Dušková (1994) illustrates it on the example of this sentence. **His drawing fascinated me.** First of all, it can definitely be regarded as a deverbal noun. She highlights the fact the deverbal noun points to the result of the activity. We can imagine the framed object on the wall under this meaning. By adding the suffix –ing we arrive at the noun that bears all nominal features such as the ability to form a plural, to be premodified by an adjective; it is preceded by a determiner either an article or pronoun and its genitive complementation is realised by the construction with of. On the other hand, it cannot form past and passive constructions (p. 569).

Secondly, the ing-form of the verb can express the activity itself, however, it still retains the nominal features. There is only one limitation in this sense – the deverbal noun can be formed only from dynamic verbs not stative. Finally, the process of the activity can by expressed by a gerund that differs from the above-mentioned nouns. The most striking difference is the verbal features that a gerund has compared to the noun. It maintains the valency of the verb – it distinguishes transitive and intransitive verbs; it can form present and perfective tense; it can also be active or passive and it can be postmodified by an adverbial (p. 570).

The most interesting feature that a gerund bears is the ability to form secondary predications. Dušková claims these secondary predications have no parallel in Czech (p. 569). When looking at the sentence we can see the secondary predication. The gerund in Dušková´s example serves as the subject of the clause. Moreover, the secondary predication shows the overt subject of the verb. We know that it was him who was drawing and the whole process of his activity of drawing was rather fascinating. We could go even further and paraphrase the gerund with a subordinate nominal content clause. Either we start with the subordinate clause by saying: How he was drawing fascinated me.

It would sound more natural if we shifted the subject to the end and started with the anticipatory it. Thus the subordinate clause would end up in the extraposed subject position. It fascinated me how he was drawing.

Biber at al. (1999) admits that many verb forms may have roles characteristic of nouns and adjectives. They accept that ing-form of a verb can be easily confused with the base form of many nouns ending in ing. They suggest a two-way test to determine whether the ing-form is a noun or a verb. First, the verb is followed with a complement such as an object such as in **scoring the first goa**l. The other test is the fact the verb is complemented with an adverbial such as **becoming misty overnight** (p. 67) They aslo specify the noun with the suffix ing by claiming the noun must fill the typical nominal slot of the head of a noun phrase – it is preceded by determiners of adjectives; it is followed by an of-phrase or relative clause such as in **the banning of some chemicals**, **some enthusiastic bidding from Bloomfields**. Similarly to Dušková, they point out the ing-noun reveals itself most when it forms a plural (p. 67). Biber et al. present the biggest problem when distinguishing the ing-forms whether it is a noun or a verb. It happens when a so-called a naked ing-form occurs. **I find that writing is like drinking.** In this sentence, two clause elements – subject and subject complement – are realised by a naked ing-form. There are no clear sighs of the words being either a verb or a noun. Biber at al. conclude by saying that the verb should be regarded as the default classification here (p. 67).

Quirk et al. (1985) stress out that when ing-form appears it either refers to a fact or action (p. 1064). They admit the naked ing-form without any premodifications or complementations is syntactically ambiguous similarly to Biber et al. They analyze the sentence: **They liked our singing.** When we mean the mode of the action; what kind of singing it was; we classify the word singing as a deverbal noun. However, if we complement the word singing – They liked our singing folk songs, it doesn´t refer to the kind of singing but to the actvitiy itself and then it is regarded as a verb (p. 1065). Quirk et. al also stress that this is an aspectual difference between verbal nouns that tend to denote activity that is in process and abstract deverbal nouns, which denote completed activity (p. 1292). While verbal nouns can be considered gerunds from the perspective of this work, deverbal nouns are simply nouns resembling gerunds.

1.1.2 GERUND OR PARTICIPLE?

Dušková (1994) claims the gerund is identical with the participle in form. Both forms add suffix –ing. Participle has two more forms in contrast to a gerund. Along with present and past forms that can be either active or passive, participles can aslo distinguish aspect and thus a participle can be perfect progressive and there is a sole catergory that is past participle that the gerund lacks (p. 270). While a participle resembles an adjective, a gerund is compared to a noun (p. 268). Participles function as attributes (syntactic adjectives) and transgressives. The transgressive can show all forms of a participle while a syntactic adjective can either be present forms or a past participle (p. 272). Dušková stresses another clear-cut border between gerunds and participles. When an ing-form functions as an adverbial, the gerund is preceded by a prepositon, while a participle follows a conjunction (p. 269). **On hearing the news she left for work.** (gerund) **While listening to the news, she drove home.** (participle) Eastwood (1995) confirms this rule by saying: „We can use a conjunction + participle or a preposition + gerund (p. 328).

Close (1975) explains the difference in ing-forms simply similarly to Dušková by saying that if the ing-form is used in conjunction with the verb to be to express progressive aspect, the form is traditionally called a participle. It is also used in commonly used constructions like Let´s go swimming and if the ing-form functions as a noun phrase then it is called a gerund (p. 78). He demonstrates the difference on the following two clauses. **Standing here all day, I see some very strange people.** and **Standing here all day makes me very tired.** While the first „standing" is called a participle, the latter example of standing evidently demonstates a gerund (p. 79).

„The ing-form of a verb sometimes functions as a gerund and sometimes as a present participle" (Alexander, 1988, p. 299). Alexander (1988) believes that the functions of gerunds behaving like a noun and participles behaving like an adjective sometimes overlap and it is difficult to make formal distinctions. In such cases the term ing-form is used to cover gerund and participle constructions and the term „participle" is used to refer to part of verbs. Gerund functions in general statements as an uncountable noun with no article. It can be replaced by it. **Cleaning is fun. I love it.**

Sometimes the ing-form functions as a countable noun which can be replaced by it in singular or they in plural. **She often gave readings of her work. They were very popular.**

As Alexander puts it, the gerund can be used after determiners like a, the, this, a lot of and some or after possessives and adjectives. In contrast to those nominal characteristics, the gerund aslo has some of the characteristics of a verb. It can be followed by an adverb or adverbial phrase; it can take an object and it can have a perfect form and even a passive: **I am sorry for having broken your car. I can´t remember having been given a present on my birthday**(p.313). Participles are associated with verbs when they refer to actions in progress – in progressive tenses. Participle phrases also commonly stand for clauses (p. 313). **Cleaning my flat in the morning, I found ten crowns under the sofa.**

In contrast to Alexander, Close and Dušková; Parrot (2010) claims ing-forms form one sole grammatical class. When he explains the use of the ing-form , he combines gerunds and participles by enlisting its use by saying „the ing-form adds information to what is expressed in certain verbs and verb+object combinations when we want to use a verb after preposition; as subjects and complements; to list activities; to add information to what is expressed in a clause; in continuous tenses" (p. 174). However, later he admits that gerunds and participles differ but not in form but function. Wherever the ing-form is part of the verb or functions as a verb, it is a present participle and wherever the ing-form can by replaced in the sentence by a noun, it is a gerund(p. 176).

When Biber et al. (1999) describe the wide range of uses of the ing-clauses, they call them ing-complement clauses. They can be used with aspectual verbs in the main clause (begin, start, stop), but they can be used to express speech acts, cognitive states, perceptions, emotions and various other states (p. 740). Quirk et al. do not use the term gerund at all. Instead, when talking about nonfinite verb forms, they distinguish three categories: infinitives, -ing participles and –ed participles. When looking for the topic of a gerund in terms of syntax, Quirk et al. call gerundial constructions nominal –ing clauses. „Nominal –ing clauses are sometimes called „gerundive" or „gerundival clauses. Their verb is commonly called a „gerund" (1985, p. 1064).

To finish the discussion whether the ing-form is a participle or gerund, we can admire the clarity of Quirk´s exemplification of the gradiance of a verb paint from being a pure countable noun in 1 to the pure participle form in a finite verb phrase in 14.

some paintings of Brown´s - deverbal concrete countable noun

Brown´s paintings of his daughter – deverbal concrete countable noun

The painting of Brown is as skilful as that of Gainsborough – deverbal abstract uncountable noun

Brown´s deft painting of his daughter is a delight to watch. – deverbal abstract uncountable noun

Brown´s deftly painting his daughter is a delight to watch. – the use of adverb and his daughter in object position makes the word painting a typical example of a gerund

I dislike Brown´s painting his daughter. – the use of a genitive and also the position of his daughter in an object position makes painting aslo a gerund

I dislike Brown painting his daughter.

I watched Brown painting his daughter.

Brown deftly painting his daughter is a delight to watch.

Painting his daughter, Brown noticed that his hand was shaking.

Brown painting his daughter that day, I decided to go for a walk.

The man painting the girl is Brown.

The silently painting man is Brown.

Brown is painting his daughter.

Examples 7 – 14 all contain present participles.

At this point, the authors agree there is no point in distinguishing a gerund and participle altogether. They find it more straightforward to class all the –ing items as participles. „By avoiding the binary distinction of gerund and participle, we seek to represent more satisfactorily the complexity of the different participial expressions as we move along the gradient to the most verbal end at 14" (Quirk et al. et al, 1999, p.1292).

Leech and Svartvik (1991) do not use the term gerund at all. Instead, they use ing-form. They describe non-finite clauses as clauses whose verb element is a non-finite verb phrase. A non-finite verb phrase consists of non-finite elements such as an –ing participle, an –ed participle or an infinitive. Most non-finite clauses do not have a subject. (p.193). They distinguish –ing clauses as those without a subject; we call them participle

clauses: **I used to lie awake at night, <u>worrying about my kids´ future.</u>** And –ing clauses with a subject: **His remark <u>having been represented as an insult</u>, he was later forced to resign from the committee.** These non-finite clauses have no operator and most of them have no conjunction. Thus in comparison with finite subclauses they are more economical and avoid repetition. Probably for this reason, these –ing clauses and –ed clauses are particularly favoured in formal and written styles of English. Leech and Svarvik also claim that all three types of non-finite clauses (-ing, -ed and to-infinitive) can function as postmodifiers similar to relative clauses. **The girl <u>sitting opposite me</u>** – the girl who is/was sitting opposite me. **People <u>working as teachers</u> need more yoga classes than any other people**. – people who work as… The participle clause dos not have tense – so it can be interpreted, according to context, as past or present. But the –ing participle clause need not carry the meaning of the progressive aspect. *All students <u>wanting to travel should</u>* *<u>contact me</u> – All students who want to*… who are wanting is not possible in this sense. To sum up, Leech and Svartvik do not operate with the expression gerund at all. When they speak of non-finite verb phrases, they only mention participles with –ing and –ed suffixes and an infinitive. They use the expression participle clauses when a participle clause is employed, however, they do not distinguish a gerund at all (pp. 230 – 231).

1.1.3 GERUND OR PARTICIPLE ADJECTIVE?

Dušková (1994) maintains that ing-forms can also appear in the premodification position. Both gerunds and participles can premodify a noun phrase. In such cases the difference lies both in the meaning of the ing-form and also the difference is given by placing a stress. While participles express the activity of the noun, the gerunds express the purpose of the noun (p. 269). **Dining table** and **dining guests** can serve a good example. While the first ing-form – dining – classifies the table; tells us what the table is used for, the other example of the same word expressed the activity of the noun. We can ask what the people are doing – they are dining, and thus we can determine the word as a participle adjective. As far as the stress is concerned, the first noun phrase bears stress only on the first word and thus creating one item and the other word is not stressed at all, the other noun phrase is stressed equally on both words (p. 269).

Similarly to Dušková, Biber et. al (1999) claim once the premodifying –ing adjective explains what the head noun is for, then the –ing adjective can be considered a verbal noun. Another test can be applied by using coordination. Dancing and Art classes suggest dancing is a verbal noun as Art is a noun itself. On the other hand, the dancing and loud children suggest dancing is an adjective as loud belongs to the word class of adjectives. (1999, p.68) Identically to Dušková, Close (1975) indicates that the ing-form can also occur before a noun. If the adjective describes the noun, the nuclear stress falls on the noun (1.). If the –ing adjective is the label for a subclass of the noun, the nuclear stress in on the ing-form (2.). (1)<u>living</u> people, <u>changing</u> circumstances (2)<u>writing</u> paper, <u>changing</u> room. The –ing participles in the above examples are not full adjectives – we cannot use very or too and nor can we form comparatives or superlatives. There are nevertheless numerous examples of full adjectives formed from present participles such as interesting, amusing etc. (p.78 – 79).

Parrot (2010) does not dwell on the difference between gerund and participle adjectives at all. He simply admits that ing-form before a noun does not necesserily have to be a verb at all. He illustrates this by stating the following examples: an interesting experience and a distressing encounter, where the adjectives are not gerunds but participle adjectives (p. 176). Alexander (1988) points out the difference between participles and gerunds as far as adjectives are concerned. If we wish to say what the thing is generally used for, we use a gerund – I love my running shoes. However, if we point out the activity of the thing, we use a participle – I hate the sight of running water. His explanation is identical to Biber et. al and Dušková. Talking of adjectives, Biber et. al (1999) makes further insight into the possible meanings of the following sentence. **I am working.** If we want to determine whether working is a participle adjective or rather a present participle in the complex finite verb phrase, there is a test to be used. If the verb can be completed then it is a present participle. If it is not possible and ing-form can by preceded by a degree adverb such as very or so, it is apparently an adjective. However, if neither of these techniques is possible to carry out, the ing-form can be difficult to classify. Another way of distinguishing the word class can be the changing of the progressive verb into a non-progressive form. I am working. will change into I work. and clearly we have arrived to the decision that the word working is a present participle of a

verb. On the other hand, in a sentence I am caring., one more test can be used. By adding the negative prefix –un, I can form a negative adjective. I am uncaring., which makes sense and thus I have arrived at the decision that caring is a participal adjective (p. 69).

1.2 THE SYNTACTIC ROLES OF GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Dušková (1994) holds the view that gerundial constructions expressing verbal action or state do appear in the role of subjects with verbs that allow sentential subject (p. 571). Verbs expressing mental and emotional state plus copular verbs are the most common to be in the predication with a gerund. Gerundial subject in preverbal position is more frequent than infinitive as the infinitive is normally extraposed and morever is used predominantly in identifying and qualifying predications. There is one more difference between a gerund and infinitive in the role of the subject. While infinitive refers to activity in general without the neccessity to be realised, the gerund is typical to express realised activity (p. 571). „The gerund is more usual as subject, but the to-infinitive is more usual after it (Eastwood, 1994, p. 161).

Dušková mentions one typical use of a gerund in the role of a subject – after the existential phrase there is (p. 572). She also observes the gerund in the nominal copular predication might be confusing, expecially when the gerund is interchangeable with a participle adjective or a participle form of a verb, such as in **It´s trying to be honest**. where the ing-form is an adjective, however, in a different sense such as **When I say I´m not sure it´s trying to be honest**. the ing-form is a verb wihin a complex finite verb phrase. Dušková points out that the gerund can also follow a preposition a be a part of verbonominal predication such as It is like knowing nothing (p. 573).

Alexander and Close also claim the gerund can constitute the subject. Both Leech and Svartvik and Quirk et. al stress out that nominal ing-clauses can be put in the role of a subject. Eastwood (1994) stresses the use of a gerund with the empty subject of it and there confirming Dušková´s words. As well as the role of a subject, the gerund can take other clause constituents roles. As Close (1975) puts it, the gerund can be the subject, subject complement, object, object of a preposition or of prepositional verb (p. 80). Alexander (1988) is of the same opinion and adds some more patterns where the gerund can appear (325). However, from a syntactic point of view, his explanations are rather

lengthy – instead of listing all possible uses of the gerund after certain prepositions, he can simply claim that the gerund is also used in the adverbial role such as in the following examples **If you want ot get on, there´s nothing like being hard-working. What´s that? It´s a tool for making holes in metal (p. 325).** While the first sentence could be put in the category of an adverbial of comparison, the other could also be classified as an adverbial this time adverbial of purpose.

Leech and Svatvik (1991) and Quirk et al. (1986) present identical syntactic roles of a gerund. In their words they do not operate with a gerund, however, as mentioned earlier, they deal with nominal ing-clauses. Both group of autors state the gerund can not only be a subject, but also a direct object, subject complement, complement of a preposition, adjectival complement and last but not least the appositive   (pp. 230 – 231; pp. 1062-1063). Appositive/apposition is the clause element where two or more noun phrase occur next to each other and refer to the same person or thing (Leech and Svarvik, 1991, p. 184). As it was said earlier, the gerund can play the role of a noun phrase. Quirk et al. (1986) exemplify the apposition by the following sentence **His current research, investigating attitudes to racial stereotypes, takes up most of his time (p. 1063). He was absorbed in his hobby, collecting stamps (p. 231).** Biber et al. also lists a long list of syntactic roles the ing-clauses can have. His selection is identical to the one of Quirk and Leech , however, he adds the category of a part of a noun phrase such as in **I thing he smashed two cars coming down the road** (p. 199). As Biber et al. combine gerunds and participles in one group that they call ing-clauses, it is obvious that this category clearly includes participle as in the example sentence. In my practical part, I will focus on the syntactic roles of the excerpted gerundial constructions. For my purposes, I selected the following categories that a gerund can occupy: subject, subject complement, adjectival complement both with and without a preposition, postmodification realised by a prepositional phrase, object of monotransitive verbs, prepositional verbs, prepositional verbs that are ditransitive and last but not least a wide category of adverbials.

1.3   THE SUBJECT OF THE SECONDARY PREDICATION

When looking at the gerund, we realise the verb has kept its verbal features such as tense and voice; the valency and also the possibility to be complemented with an adverbial. We call the gerundial structure a secondary predication as it appears in various

syntactic roles but it still is a subordinate clause within the major superodninate predication. And as it can be considered a secondary predication, we might as well look for the subject of the secondary predication.

Biber et al. (1999) operate with the term of ing-complement clauses. They offer two post-predicate position of a secondary subject. In the first group the implied subject of the ing-clause is identical to the subject of the main clause and the formula will be verb + ing-clause such as in **I remember reading this book.** The other group has a structure of a verb + NP + ing-clause. Biber et al. (1999) claim the subject is in the possessive or genitive form. When a possessive form is used, the NP functions only as subject of the ing-cluase, and the entire ing-cluase functions as direct object of the main clause verb such as in **I won´t report on your wearing a non-reg shirt here (p. 740).**

Close (1975) agrees with Biber et al. on the grounds that the subject of the secondary predication is in the possessive form of a pronoun or noun when referring to a person. He stresses out that the possessive case is not used with impersonal nouns or their pronouns. He suggests the following example. **I will never forget George´s imitiating the headmaster.** In this sentence the subject of the secondary predication is clearly George. We could interpret the sentence and say that I will never forget George´s imitation of the headmaster. On the other hand, if we leave out the genitive, we get a sentence as this. I will never forget George imitating the headmaster. In this example imitating is clearly a participle in the form of the object complement. The secondary predication lacks the operator and the sentence shows a sentential condensation achieved by a participle clause (p. 80).

Alexander (1991) supports this assumption by claiming that when the objective case is used, it is no longer a gerund but rather a participle such as the following example. **I caught him stealing** (p. 316). <u>Moreover, Alexander claims that the accusative case is generally preferred to the possessive, though not all native spearkers approve of its use (p. 316).</u>

A different approach is offered by Leech and Svartvik (1991) in terms of the subject of the secondary predication. They propose that in case of a secondary subject there is an option to use either genitive or objective/common case all depending on the degree of

formality. While genitive is used in a formal environment, the objective/common case is used in an informal style (p. 231).

Identically, Parrot (2010) places the importance on the degree of formality when deciding whether to use objective case or possessive case. Similarly to Leech and Svartvik he claims that in less formal contexts the objective case is preferred while more formal context requires a possessive case of the subject in the secondary predication (p. 175). Quirk et al. (1986) share the opinion of Parrot´s and Leeech and Svartvik´s on using possessive subjects in formal contexts while common case and objective case is more suitable for informal contexts (p. 1063).

Eastwood (1994) again believes possessive case is more formal and sounds rather unusual in everyday speech (p. 160). It is only Dušková (1994) who does not hold the similar view with other grammarians. She claims the subjects of the secondary predication are either identical with the subject of the main predication such as **I love swimming** or a general agent might be implied such as in **Sailing on the lake is great fun.** (p. 571). There is another possibility of expressing the subject of the secondary predication. The gerund´s subject might be the object agent that is expressed withing the sentence such as **The wet weather discouraged many people from going to the sports meeting** (p. 573). If there is an overt subject of the secondary predication expressed, it is usually in the form of possessive case. **His leaving no address was most inconvenient** (p. 572).

Not using a possessive case is according to Dušková rafter incorrect as it refers to the verb that behaves like a gerund as it determines the form of the verb, however, to the non-possessive case it behaves like a dependent clause element and thus we arrive at a participle clause. She calls the structure as a fused participle (pp 571,572). Still, Dušková allows inanimate subjects and plural nouns to be in common case (p. 574).

1.4   TENSE AND VOICE OF THE GERUND

The gerund can distinguish tense - present and past forms; and it can distinguish voice - active and passive forms. „The fact that a gerund is somehow a noun means it is rather limited in terms of tense relations, and active and passive voice (Dušková, 1994, p. 269). She claims the present form of a gerund that follows a particular verb usually

represents the past form. It can be judged from the semantics of the head verb. **I remember seeing her. He admits saying that.** These are examples of verbs which suggest the past meaning of the objects realised by a gerund. There is no need using perfective form of the gerund. However, when it is not clear from the head verb whether the gerundial activity preceded the verb or it happened parallelly, it is necessary to employ the perfective form of the gerund. **I do not regret following your advice** (p. 269). It can be interpreted as I do not regret the fact I had followed your advice.; and I do not regret the fact I follow your advice (now). To avoid such ambiguity, it si preferrable to use the perfective form of the gerund to make sure the perfect aspect is conveyed. **I do not regret having followed your advice (p. 269).** This sentence is perfectly unambiguous and can be interpreted by saying that I do not regret the fact that I followed your advice in the past. In some cases, the gerund can express subsequent actions such as in verb suggest, advise, recommend. **I suggest going out.** It can be interpreted as I suggest that we go out. First I suggest and then we go out (p. 269). One more verb deserves mentioning. The verb need when used with inanimate sujbects has a passive meaning despite using an active gerund. **The keybord needs cleaning.** It can be interpreted as The keybord needs to be cleaned (p. 270). Eastwood (1994) holds the same view by claiming we employ the perfect gerund for something before the time of the main clause (p. 160). However, he suggests we do not need to use the perfect voice if it is clear from the context that the time was earlier such as in **Sarah remembered visiting the place before** (p. 160).

1.5 THE SUMMARY OF THE THEORETICAL PART

To summarize all prominent grammarians, one must admit they do not agree on everything. While Parrot, Close and Alexander clearly use the term gerund and point out the distinction between gerunds and participles; Leech, Biber et al. prefer the umbrella term ing-form. From a syntactic point of view, they replace the term gerund with an expression nominal ing-clauses and ascribe them with typical syntactic functions of a gerund, which is a subject, subject complement, object, prepositional object and adverbial. Moreover, they add one extra functions – the appositive. They all agree on the non-finiteness of the ing-form of a verb. It is the inflectional form derived from an English verb. The ing-form is nonfinite, but still it retains some verbal qualities – verbal voice (active, passive), tense (present, past), the possibility to express a verbal predication,

possible modification by an adverb). On the other hand, the grammarians do not agree on the following: whether to use the term „gerund" to refer to this ing-form; whether to actually distinguish between ing-form (gerund) and the ing-form called „present participle" which has rather different qualities and functions differently in syntax; if there is a good reason to differentiate between the two ing-forms (participles and gerunds) as they are very similar.

In conclusion, although there are some cases where it is hard to distinguish whether the ing-form is a present participle or rather a gerund, these two non-finite verb forms differ in functions and formal qualities to the extent that they can be distinct categories.

Another issue that all grammarians comment on is the subject of the gerund. Quirk et al. admits that the subject of a gerundial construction or in their words a nominal ing-clause is realised by a genitive form. However, it makes the whole sentence sound more formal in contrast to the use of common case that sets up informal background.

He is in agreement with Eastwood who also stresses out that the subject of a gerundial construction is realised by a possessive case, although it sounds formal. Alexander makes a clear-cut border between the use of a possessive case and objective case in terms of a subject of a secondary predication. While the possessive is used with gerunds, the objective case is used with participles only.

In terms of syntax, I strive to find examples of all syntactic possibilities of a gerund. Gerund can be the obligatory clause element such as the subject, direct and prepositional object and obligatory subject complement. Besides these functions, gerund can serve as an adverbial very well. (Petrlíková, 2006, p.5)

Two research questions arise. **I am keen to learn, to which extent the modern authors use the gerund and which is the most common syntactic use in a sentence.**

In modern English literature is it common to use a subject of a secondary predication formed by a gerund in a genitive form which happens to be rather formal or the accusative (objective) form or nominal form that makes it sound less formal. **As I selected four modern fiction works, I suppose the objective and the nominal form of a subject will prevail.**

2 PRACTICAL PART

SYNTACTIC ROLES OF A GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION WITHIN A SENTENCE

2.1 THE METHODS OF THE RESEARCH

Based on the knowledge obtained in Theoretical Background part of this work four books have been analysed in order to find sufficient nubmer of individual excerpts containing gerundial constructions for futhrer analysis in terms of their syntactic role within a sentence and overt and covert subjects in the secondary predication. The books were the following: Machines like me (Ewan, I, 2019), The Sense of an Ending (Barnes, J, 2011), Something to Declare (Barnes,J, 2002), Shylock Is My Name (Jacobson, H, 2016). The number of excerpts for furhter analysis was 380. .

I have used several examples to illustrate my findings, the rest is listed in the appendix and referred to it in the respective sections. The appendix contains all the examples, which are organised according to the authors and respective syntactic functions of the gerund. These excerpts were further analysed to provide answers to research questions given in the Introduction chapter at the beginning of this work. I analysed each excerpt as to what syntactic role they complete, what their subject is and I inquired about the complementation of the gerunds based on the valency of the verb.

The originality of the excerpts is guarantedd by given exact page reference, so that the reader can follow this research.

<u>Syntactic-Semantic Characteristics of the Structure Containing the Gerund in Particular Syntactic Function</u>

This section elaborates on the gerund whether it is the obligatory or optional sentence element.

The analysis uses different aspect into account based on the distinct characteristics of individual clause elements.

<u>The Internal Structure of the Gerundial Construction</u>

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

I inquired whether there is an overt subject and how it is realised or whether there is a covert subject and how it can be interpreted.

The form of the Gerund

I looked at the instances and decided if the gerund is active or passive; present or perfective.

<u>Complementation or modification of the Gerund</u>

I paid special attention to gerunds without any complementation. During the research I had to answer the question whether it is a real gerund expressing a dynamic process or a deverbal noun which expresses a stative fact. Another principle that I employed is using analogy – the gerund can occur with another gerund in a coordinative construction. Last principle that is possible to employ is the existence and potential use of a real noun deverbal or converted next to the ing-form .

2.2   THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF SUBJECT

2.2.1   GENERAL REMARKS

I have found 51 examples of a gerund in the function of the subject.

(IM-S/9)   **Arguing with the person you love** is its own peculiar torment.

(JBSB-S/1)   **And writing to one another** seemed to have recalibrated the dynamics of our relationship.

(JBSD-S/3)   But **cycling** is also different in one key respect.

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.

2.2.2   SYNTACTIC SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

The subject as a obligatory clause element appears in two distinct predications. The majority of instances – 32 can be detected in copular predications, while 19 examples appear with a full verb. (see Graph 1)
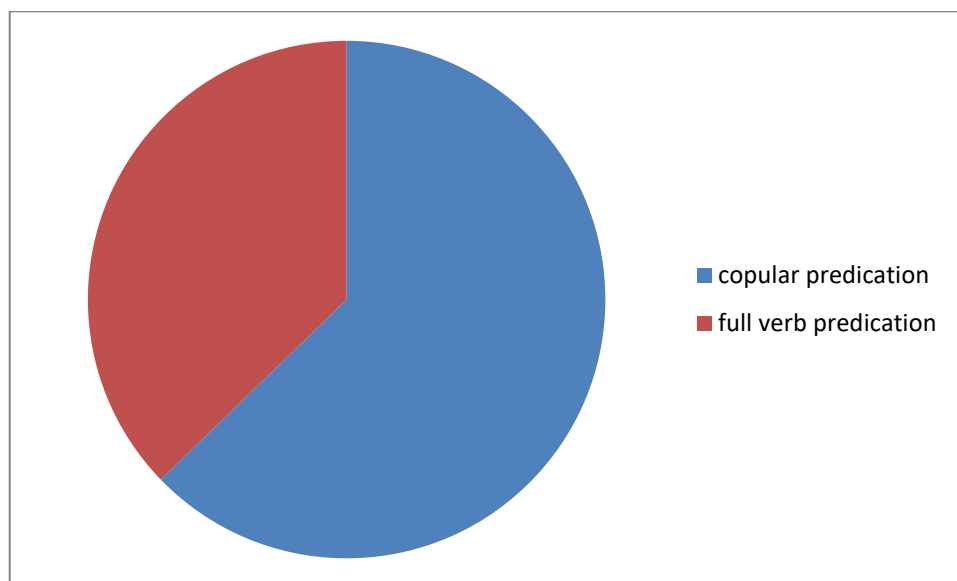
Graph 1

Gerundial subject in copular predications

(IM-S/12)   **Telling it** was a liberation for Miranda too.

(HJ-S/9)   **Being Jewish** isn´t just about praying.

The majority 17 out of 32 of copular predications is qualifying , which means the copular predication expresses the quality of the subject; it tells us more about its qualities.

(IM-S/4)   **Building a radio** is nothing special.

(HJ-S/14)¨   **Killing** D´Anton is too personal.

The second most represented predication turns out to be identifying, which identifies the subject and in this sole predication we can exchange the subject with its complement.

(IM-S/13)   Perhaps it really was the case that **falling in love with Miranda** was
                    what kept Adam stable.

We can actually say: What kept Adam stable was falling in love with Miranda.; without a change in the meaning and thus justifying the identifying predication.

Both classifying predication and existential predication is represented by one example respectively.

(IM-S/16)   Reading this material was a way of not contemplating the event
itself.

(HC-S/3)   So there is no **looking forward**?

Gerundial subject in verbal predications

There are 19 instances of a gerundial subject that appears with a full verb.

However, none of the verb is dynamic, all verbs express stative meaning.

 (HJ-S/8)   **Throwing** stuff around means they´re giving you a chance to stop
                    them.

2.2.3 THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

In all the instances I was able to collect there are only two overt subjects expressed by a possesive pronoun.

(IM-S/8)   Beatiful, pale-skinned, smooth, in bridal white, gazing on me again
                    with affectionate concern now that **<u>her</u> teasing was** done.

It was her who teased the man in the story.

(HC-S/7)   And **his not reading** is aslo to your advantage.

In this case, the gerund´s subject is again created by a possessive adjective. This gerundial construction is also interesting as it is a negative gerund formed by a negator not. It is a local negation that negates only the subject as such without the effect on the verbal predication.

The form of the Gerund

The active and the passive gerund

The total majority of gerunds are formed by an active form of a verb.. There are only 5 examples of the verb to be in a gerundial construction. None of it is used passively, however, they are all used with adjectives expressing the state of bearing the quality.

(IM-S/17)   When I asked you what **being** in love meant.

(HJ-S/1)   Unable to see how **being** able to identify the three biggest lies of the twentieth century would yield her the ideal partner.

(HJ-S/5)   **Being** able to look hurt was a gift that had always served him well.

(HJ-S/9)   Being Jewish isn´t just about praying.

(HJ-S/13)   Being a Jew was everything to him, except when it wasn´t.

All the examples are in present form, which makes it impossible to analyse perfective gerunds.

2.2.4 COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

Only 6 instances of a gerund in the subject position are no further modified or complemented. When looking at the examples they all show the dynamic processes involved and thus justifying the usage of a gerund.

(IM-S/5)   **Winning**, it was said, was less important than pleasure in the intricacies of the content.

(IM-S/15)   I had never thought that **vomitting** could be a moral act.

 (JBSD-S/3)   But **cycling** is also different in one key respect.

(JBSD-S/7)   **Writing** consist of complaining that there ar emore than the agreed number of lines per page on your proofs.

(HJ-S/12)   Yes, htey fought the minute they found themselves together, but **fighting** was na expression of love, wasn´t it?

Other gerundial subjects are mostly complemented with an object when the gerund is a transitive verb. The other complementation is formed by various adverbials.

(IM-S/4)   **Wasting my mother´s inheritance on a gimmick** was only one part of my problem.

Waste is a transitive verb that requires a direct object. This gerundial construction includes both the obligatory element (object) and the optional element (adjunct of manner) on a gimmick. If we were to retell the sentence by using a nominal content clause, the compound sentence would be:

It was only one part of my problem that I (had) wasted my mother´s inheritance on a gimmick. We could also consider employing the continuous form of the word waste as it is not clear from the gerund whether it was a habitual act or sole act happening just once.

2.2.5 CONCLUSION

Based on the results of my analysis, two thirds of the gerundial constructions apppearing in the subject position form a copular predication. The rest of the gerunds come with full verbs, however mainly with stative verbs.

Surprisingly, all the gerundial subjects appear in the initial position; there is no anticipatory it and extraposed subject. It is worth contemplating whether it is a distinct style of the authors or whehter the gerundial subject bears less importance and thus is not replaced at the right side of the sentence where the most important information usually appears. All the gerunds are in term of voice active; all derived from active verbs. In terms of aspect they are all present.

The gerunds are completed with the obligatory clause elements and thus forming a secondary predication. Most of the verbs are monotransitive requiring a direct object. However, it is not unusual to see gerund completed by optional clause elements mostly by adjuncts.

2.3 THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF SUBJECT COMPLEMENT

2.3.1 GENERAL REMARKS

In my examined books there are altogether 10 instances of a gerundial construction in the function of a subject complement.

(IM-Cs/1)   Next step was **downloading** his updates.

(JBSE-Cs/3)   Is this about **closing** the circle?

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.

2.3.2 SYNTACTIC- SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

Subject complement completes the idea of the subject and thus generally appears in copular predications. In the works analysed there is only the copula to be in present and past tense.

(HJ-Cs/5)   It was like **hearing** a man of God speak profanities.

Semantically, the gerundial subject complement is either qualifying predication or identifying predication.

Qualifying predicationas are (IM-Cs/1), (IM-Cs/2), (HJ-Cs/2), (IM-Cs/3), (JBSD-Cs/1), ,

Identifying predications are (HJ-Cs/1), (JBSD-Cs/2), (JBSE-Cs/1), (JBSE-Cs/2)

 (JBSE-Cs/3),

In 4 instances of the subject complement clauses I detected the structure like. It semantically means that the subject is compared to the thing or state expressed by the subject complement. The subject is usually the anaphoric it that refers to a preceding action or state.

(IM-Cs/4)   We decided that it was like **winning** daily at roulette.

(JBSD-Cs/1)   Eating for me is like **cleaning** my teeth.

2.3.3 THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

In terms of the subject of the gerund, most given instances have a covert subject, which means the subject of the secondary predication is not expressed. However, at a closer inspections there are 3 examples of a subject that can be detected in the sentence itself or the preceding context.

There is one instance of a subject complement which has a overt subject realised by a possessive adjective.

(HJ-Cs/4)   But it is <u>my</u> **doing**.

The form of the Gerund

All 10 examples of a subject complement have a present gerund in the active voice.

2.3.4 COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

None of the instances is a simple verb without any complementation. 7 instances are in fact monotransitive verbs requiring a direct object and the rest of the gerunds are either completed with an adjunct or premodified with a possessive adjective.

(JBSE-Cs/3)   Why do you think divorce is about **apportioning** <u>blame</u>?

(JBSD-Cs/2)   Research isn´t just **finding** <u>something good you can use</u>.

2.3.5 CONCLUSION

The character of subject complement, which completes the idea of a subject, does not allow any other predication than a copular one as it is clearly demonstrated in the instances of subject complement. The sentences containing gerundial subject complement are all simple sentences.

In terms of the subject of the gerundial structure there is only one overt subject expressed by a possessive adjective. The subject complement in the excerpts forms either qualifying or identifying predication. Almost half of the examples contain the preposition like that is used to express resemblance.

2.4 THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF ADJECTIVAL COMPLEMENT

2.4.1 GENERAL REMARKS

The books show 41 instances of adjectival complement.

(IM-Ca/5)   She was not interested **in watching the ships leave.**

(JBSE-Ca/5)   Do you mean you are not sure **about having one with me**?

(JBSD-Ca/4)   They were responsible **for confusing literature with prayer.**

(HJ-Ca/4)   Because it is always worth **distinguishing.**

However, only 27 adjectives are used, with 6 of them appearing more than once.

incapable of (5), used to (4), worth (3), accused of (3), interested in (2), responsible for (2)

All adjectives are followed by a prepositional phrase except for one sole instance, which is the adjective worth. (see Graph 2)

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.
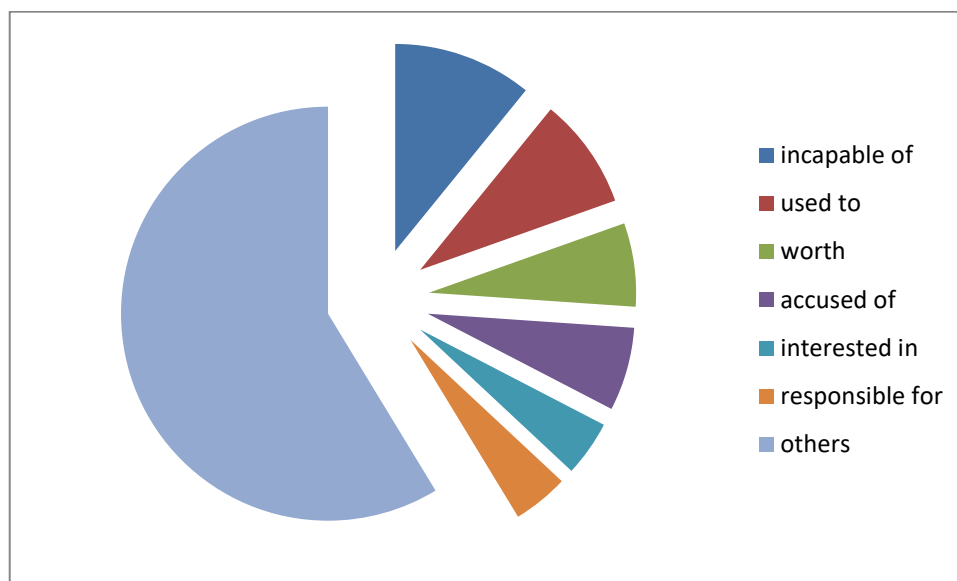
Graph 2

2.4.2 SYNTACTIC- SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

The adjectival complementation can be either obligatory or optional depending on the semantic-syntactic qualites of hte adjectives.

We distinguish three categories of adjectives:

1. central adjectives that can be both in attributive and predicative function and whose complementation is optional

2. adjectives that are polysemantic, which means they have several meanign and are restricted to predicative functions only in one sense

3. predicative adjectives that cannot be used as pre-modification in a noun-phrase.

The predicative adjectives take obligatory complementation corresponding to the valency of semantically related verbs. There are two broad meanings of cause/purpose and means/agentive which form the prepositional complementation of adjectives.

Obligatory and optional complements

1. Central adjectives – there are 9 adjectives that can appear freely both in attributive and predicative function. Their complementation is then optional.

   careful of, interested in, unanimous in, hopeless at, good at, wrong with, sure about, right in, controversial about.

2. Attributive and predicative adjectives – there are 15 adjectives which in one of their senses are restricted to predicative function only and then the complementation is obligatory.

   intent on, resposible for, capable of, proud of, slow in, convinced about, wholehearted in, fed up with, accused of, prone to, accustomed to, suspected of, fond of, suitable for.

3. There are three adjectives that are solely used in the predicative functions. Consequently, their complementation is obligatory

   used to, worth, akin to, incapable of .

Adjectives that are followed by a gerund are usually a subject complement, postmodifier or a verbless supplementive clause.

In my analysis I was able to detect the majority of adjectival complements within a subject complement totalling at 30 instances. In the postmodifying function there are 10 instances. Unfortunately, I was not able to discover a single instance of an adjectival complement in a verbless supplementive clause.

Subject complement:

(IM-Cadj/1)   I was clear-headed, incapable of **deceivin**g myself.

(IM-Cadj/8)   She was hopeless at **spelling**.

Postmodifier:

(JBSE-Cadj/3)   There is nothing wrong with **being** a genius who can fascinate the young.

(JBSD-Cadj/3)   It was a joke, the wearily ironic response of a writer fed up with **being pesterd** for th ereal identity of his most famous creation.

2.4.3   THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

Out of all 41 instances of adjectival complements, only one gerund has its own subject.

(HJ-Cadj/13)   Although he was used to <u>**her**</u> **being away** – at the academy in the day and the Devil knew where else at night – Strulovitch had begun to miss Beatrice.

4 instances have a general agent.

(JBSE-Cadj/3)   There is nothing wrong with **being a genius** who can fascinate the young.

(HJ-Cadj/4)   Because it is always worth **distinguishing.**

The rest, 35 adjectival complements, has a coreferential subject with the noun phrase of

pronoun functioning as the subject of the superordinate clause.

 (JBSD-Cadj/6)   Sartre could also be accused of **not having learnt** one lesson taught by the object of the study.

(HJ-Cadj/7)   Unless we are in Judea and Samaria, where we´re accused of **being Nazi.**

The form of the Gerund

The active and passive gerund in adjectival complementation.

Almost all the gerunds are in active voice out of which only 4 are derived from the copula be.

(JBSE-Cadj/3)   There is nothing wrong with **being a genius** who can fascinate the young.

However, there is one instance with a passive gerund.

(JBSD-Cadj/3)   It was a joke, the wearily ironic response of a writer fed up with **being pesterd** for the real identiy of his most fammous creation.

Three instances bear a passive meaning when the adjective worth is employed.

(JBSD-Cadj/3)   It is worth **comparing** the case of Daumier, who had been offered the Légion d´honneur earlier that year, and refused it discreetly.

(HJ-Cadj/4)   Because it is always worth **distinguishing**.

(HJ-Cadj/14)   And as a consequence of that, he cannost judge what´s worth **going** to war for.

The perfective gerund

All instances of gerundial adjectival complement show present gerunds. However, there is one instance of perfective gerund.

(JBSD-Cadj/6)   Sartre could also be accused of **not having learnt** one lesson taught by the object of his study.

This perfective form refers to an event happening before a point in the past. It could

be interpreted as: Sartre could also be accused of the fact that he had not learnt one

lesson taught by the object of his study.

2.4.4 COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

None of the instances is a simple verb without any complementation. All gerunds show complementation based on the valency of the verb in the ing-form .

Monotransitive verbs are completed with direct objects.

(IM-Cadj/12)   He would be incapable **of executing a cynical plan.**

29

(JBSD-Cadj/1)   She is more wholehearted **in admiring the Graeco-Roman remains of Provense.**

Ditransitive verbs are completed with both direct and indirect object.

(JBSD-Cadj/8)   Over the previous few years Sand has become increasingly prone **to giving Flaubert increasing basic advice.**

Other gerunds are completed with facultative members such as adverbials.

(IM-Cadj/4)   You should be careful **of trusting her completely**.

(Im-Cadj/9)   I was responsible for **bringing this ambulant laptop into our lives.**

2.4.5 CONCLUSION

The analysis showed that there are 41 instances of adjectival complement realised by a gerundial construction. 6 of the adjectives are represented more times, with the adjective incapable of and used to being represented as many as four times. It turns out there are 9 central adjectives, 14 adjectives that can be in their meanings either predicative or attributive and 4 solely predicative adjectives.

In terms of the use of the adjectival complement, the majority (30) of gerunds functions in the place of subject complement while 10 gerunds function as postmodifiers.

The subject of the gerundial constructions is mostly corefential with the subject of the subordinate predication. There are 4 general agents subjects. In one instance the gerund has its own subject realised by a possessive adjective.

The form of the gerund is predominantly active with one passive instance and similarly, the gerunds are almost all present with one exception of a perfective gerund.

The analysis found out the secondary predications of gerund are completed according to the valecny of the verb in gerundial construction. There are both obligatory clause elements and optional ones with adjuncts prevailing.

2.5 THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF POSTMODIFICATION

2.5.1 GENERAL REMARKS

The analysed books show the highest number of gerunds in the function of postmodification totalling at 63. I also looked for verbs with a prepositional complementation, however, they appear in an individual chapter. There is also a group of ditransitive verbs requiring two objects which appear again in a separate chapter.

The other examples of the gerundial constructions different from those listed below are listed in the appendix.

2.5.2 SYNTACTIC- SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

Gerundial constructions can be divided into 3 categories.

Appositive postmodification

Appositives have the same syntactic function as the noun in the clause structure; they express the same extralinguistic reference but they differ in the form. A noun on one side and the non-finite verb on the other. There are non-restrictive appositions without which the clause keeps the entire meaning and restrictive appositions that cannot be omitted as the noun is then impossible to be identified.

In my analysis, I did not discover any of the appositives.

Complementation

Many gerundial constructions modify nouns coverted from verbs or deverbal nouns. The gerundial constructions complete the meaning of the head based on the valency of the verb or adjective from with it is derived or converted. Such typical converted nouns are **hope, love, excuse, thought, recollection, probability**. They need to be completed in the meaning, that is why we call the gerundial constructions complementations.

(IM-Post/15)   She told me later that at that moment she was confronting the implications **of having a criminal record.**

(JBSE-Post/12)   My objection **to cutting it down** was based on principle.

(JBSD-Post/5)   He is discovering the fallacy **of trying to construct a single happiness for two melancholies.**

(HJ-Post/3)   On her twenty-frist birthday she attended a swinger´s party in Alderley Edge, having taken the sensible precaution **of ascertaining first that her mother would not be there.**

Non-appositive postmodification

However, the majority of postmodifying gerundial constructions appear with abstract and inanimate nouns expressing various semantic relations – such as **purpose, motive, reason, subject, topic** appearing with prepositions in, to, four, and various genitive meanings conveyed by the preposition of.

(IM-Post/2)   It was a way **of binding me to my purchase and providing legal protection for the manufacturer.**

(JBSE-Post/5)   I settled into a contented routine **of working, spending my free time with Veronica.**

2.5.3 THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

Among 64 instance of postmodification carried out by a gerundial construction, there stand out only 2 examples of a gerund having its own overt subject; both realised by a possessive adjective.

(HJ-post/12)   The fact **of <u>his</u> never smiling** was the irrefagable proof of that.

(HJ-post/23)   At the moment **of <u>his</u> telling me**, no, Shylock said.

The form of the Gerund

The active and passive gerund in postmodification.

The absolute majority of instances are formed by an active present gerund. However, there are 3 instances of the verb to be. 2 represent a verbonominal predication and one representing a full verbal predication.

(MI-post/1)   Se gave the impression of **being at ease with the possibilities.**

(JBSE-post/9)   …the many ways of **being** herself.

(MI-post/3)   A new kind of **being** at my dining table.

3 instances are made of a passive present gerund.

(MI-post/13)   Austere, lonely, too perfect, in need **of being roughed up**.

 (HJ-post/15)   Are you speaking now from your own experience **of being liked**?

The perfective gerund

None of the 64 instances contain a perfective form of a gerund. Perfective gerund is used when there is a need to highlight that one activity preceded another one. In the analysis possibly the head noun of the phrase was paralel to the activity expressed by the gerund.

2.5.4 SYNTACTICAL USE OF THE POSTMODIFICATION

When looking at the use of postmodification realised by a gerundial constructions, I discovered the following representation. The gerund postmodifies the following clause elements in the following frequencies. The clause elements are ranked from the highest occurence to the lowest. (see Graph 3)
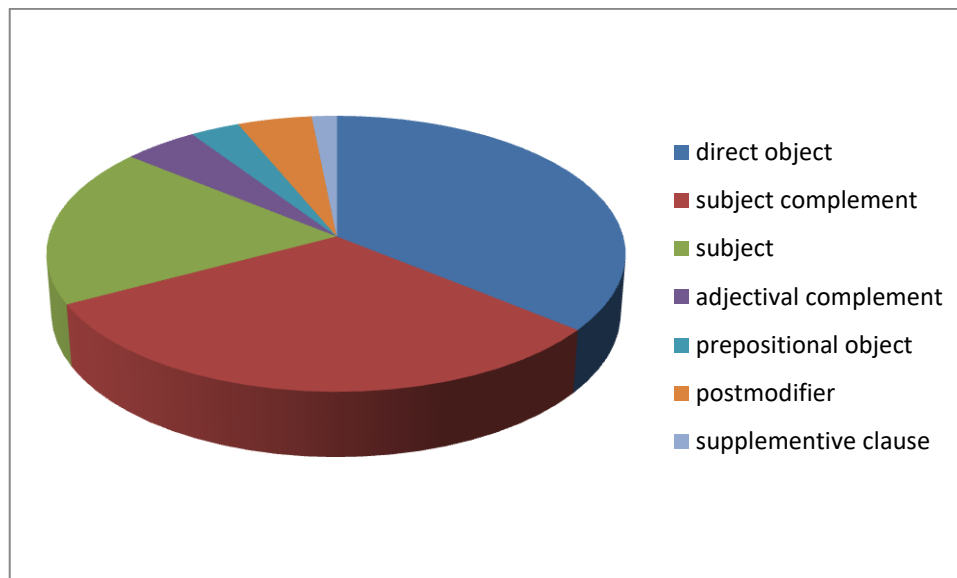
Graph 3

Direct object – 18

(MI-post/1)   She gave the impression **of being at ease with the possibilities.**

Subject Complement – 15

(JBSE-post/10)   I suppose it´s one way **of not losign the plot when we get to our age.**

Subject – 12

(JBSD-post/8)   So perhaps our sense **of witnessing some gigantic Franco-Prussion war of ideas** is both deeply true and slightly fallacious.

Adjectival Complement – 3

(HJ-post/20)   I am as aware as you of the blashemy **of claiming such entitlement.**

Prepositional Object – 2

(HJ-post/19)   He fell into the habit **of talking to here about what bothered him.**

Postmodifier + appositive – 3

(HJ-post/8)   And Shylock – a man vexed in the matter **of giving and receiving hospitality himself had patted his shoulder.**

Supplementive clause – 1

(HJ-post/3)   On her twenty-first birthday she attended a swinger´s party in Alderley Edge, having taken the sensible precaution **of ascertaining firt that her mother would not be there.**

2.5.5 CONCLUSION

Judging by the numbers of gerundial constructions in all the functions, one can see the importance of a gerund in the postmodification. Gerunds in postmodification most commonly follow general abstract nouns and thus form one of the following construction. Appositive, postmodification, complementation, non-appositive postmodification.

In terms of the internal structure only 2 instances show an overt sujbect. The rest contains a covert subject either detectable within a sentence or a general agent.

The form of gerund in the analysed postmodifications is generally active with only 3 instances of a passive gerund. There is no perfective gerund in the function of a postmodification.

Syntactically, the most represented clause element being postmodified by a gerund is direct object with 18 instances. The second is the subject complement with 15 examples and the third place occupies the subject with 12. Other clause elements range from 1 – 3 instances.

2.6 THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF OBJECT OF MONOTRANSITIVE VERBS

2.6.1 GENERAL REMARKS

I have found 73 examples of a gerund in the function of the object of monotransitive verbs, which makes it the most represented clause element realised by a gerundial construction. Besides monotransitive verbs, the analyses looks at the complementation of verbs with a preposition either as a phrasal verb or a prepositional verb in the next chapter. Ditransitive verbs requiring two objects are also analysed in an individual chapter.

(IM-Od/9)   She suggested **hiding the charging cables.**

(HJ-Od/13)   Stop **doing what she wants you to do.**

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.

2.6.2 SYNTACTIC SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

The object of a monotransitive verb is an obligatory clause element. It can appear in the superordinate predication of the clause or it can be the object of a secondary predication. In my research, I discovered that 65 out of 73 instances are part of the main predication while the rest – 8 - belongs to a secondary predication within the clause.

Gerundial object in the superordinate predications

(IM-Od/10)   We started **walkign round the park again.**

(JBSB-Od/12)   Most of us haven´t minded **growing old.**

(JBSD-Od/7)   James suggested **making a detour to Box Hill to visit the aged George Meredith.**

(HJ-Od/4)   Plurabelle remembered **seeing photographs of Sout American tribesmen in colour supplements.**

Gerundial subject in secondary predications

(HJ-Od/1)   What about the one where the doctor tell Moishe Greenberg to stop **masturbating?**

In this instance the gerund is a part of direct object realised by an infinitive completed with a gerund.

(HJ-Od/15)   Maybe it wasn´t only to avoid **upsetting her poor vegetating mother that she didn´t just up and go.**

In this example the gerund is part of an adverbial in copular predication.

(HJ-Od/11)   Yes, I live to regret **having done so.**

Here, the gerund completes the verb in the infinitive of purpose.

2.6.3 THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

All direct objects realised by a gerund have a overt subject expressed within the sentence.

Some sentences use the formal subject of it, which refers to preceding information.

(JBSD-Od/13)   It means **tramping the countryside** until you find the right cliff for Bouvard and Pécuchet to be terriffied by (he enlists Maupassant´s help on his quest), and the correct plateau stupide on which to site theri villa.

Here the anaphoric it refers to research that is mentioned in the preceding sentence,

which is also in the excerpts.

(JBSD-Od/11)   Research means **jotting down possibly useful names.**

There is one more semantically interesting case of an overt subject.

(IM-Od/9)   She suggested **hiding the charging cables.**

The semantics of the verb suggest imply that she made a command to everyone resulting in company that was then supposed to hide the charging cables.

The form of the Gerund

The active and the passive gerund

The total majority of gerunds are formed by an active form of a verb. There are only 8 examples of the passive gerundial construction; all realised by a passive present gerund. The passive constructions follow verbs of cognition – mind (1) , remember (3), appreciate (1), enjoy (1) plus the verb stop (2).

There is one more example. Although it seems active, the meaning is passive. Such construction is used with inanimate nouns when something is neccessary to be done.

(IM-Od/4)   His machine-learning capacities needed **stretching.**

The perfective gerund

Only one instance out of 73 excerpts contain a perfective form of a gerund.

 (HJ-Od/11)   Yes, I live to regret **having done so.**

The use of a perfective gerund highlights the fact that something happened before another event in the past. It highlights the fact that the past is considered.

2.6.4 COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

The majority of gerundial constructions are further developed/modified either with an object in verbs requiring one, adverbials or other postmodifications.

9 instances are formed by „bare"gerund.

Theoretically, they can be perceived either as gerunds or deverbal nouns. However, from a semantic point of view, they are all conceived as dynamic processes, thus it can be concluded they are all gerunds.

(IM-Od/8)   I started **talking.**

(JBSB-Od/10)   Then they fixed it and it stopped **wobbling.**

 (HJ -Od/6)   Is it for me to decide for him whether joking beats **spitting**?

2.6.5 CONCLUSION

Direct object is a obligatory clause element that complements a monotransitive verb. Object as such can be realised by a noun phrase, a pronoun, an infinitive and thanks to the nominal characteristics of a gerund by a gerundial construction.

In the analysis direct object is most represented among other uses of gerundial constructions. In terms of a sentence structure, the direct object realised by a gerundial construction appeared in 65 sentences in the main clause. 8 direct objects appeared in secondary predications within a sentence.

None of the gerundial constructions have their own subject, however, the subject of the gerunds is corefential with the subject of the main clause in main predications. Passive gerunds are rather rare in the analyses totalling at 8 out of 65 instances. The present gerund absolutely prevails with only one instance of a perfective gerund.

The valency of the verb aslo points to the complementation of the gerundial construction. The gerunds forming direct objects stand either alone and in that case the verb will be intransitive, while transitive verbs are completed with an obligatory objects or adverbials.

2.7 THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF PREPOSITIONAL OBJECT

2.7.1 GENERAL REMARKS

I have found 40 examples of a gerund in the function of the object of monotransitive verbs requiring prepositional object. I did not distinguish phrasal verbs and verbs with a prepositional object in the analysis. In this class I discovered only one instance of a phrasal verb namely put off so I included in this section.

The major difference between a phrasal verb and a prepositional verb lies in the possibility of putting the direct object between the head verb and the particle in phrasal verbs and the necessity of putting the direct object after the preposition in prepositional verbs. However, there is one more class of verbs that are so called phrasal-prepositional verbs that are competed both with a preposition and a particle. In the analysis there is also just one instance of such a verb, namely get round to.

(IM-Oprep/3)   It was entirely in my power to insist **on keeping him here.**

(JBSE-Oprep/4)   My parents thought **of getting in touch when it happened.**

(JBSD-Oprep/3   …which is why you have never succeeded **in loving anyone or**

helping anyone.

(HJ-Oprep/2)   Plurabelle herself excelled **at mediating between stressed partners.**

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.

2.7.2 SYNTACTIC SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

Out of the 40 instances there was a hight frequency of the following verbs;

insist on, think of, think about, succeed in – those were represented 3 times each. Set about, succeed in, get round to, carry on, dream of, go on and consent to appeared all twice in the analysed texts.

Similarly to the direct object, the object of a prepositional verb is an obligatory clause element. It can appear in the superordinate predication of the clause or it can be the object of a secondary predication.

In my research, I discovered that 36 out of 40 instances are part of the main predication while the rest – 4 - belongs to a secondary predication within the clause either as a subject complement, adverbial or appositive. (see Graph 4)
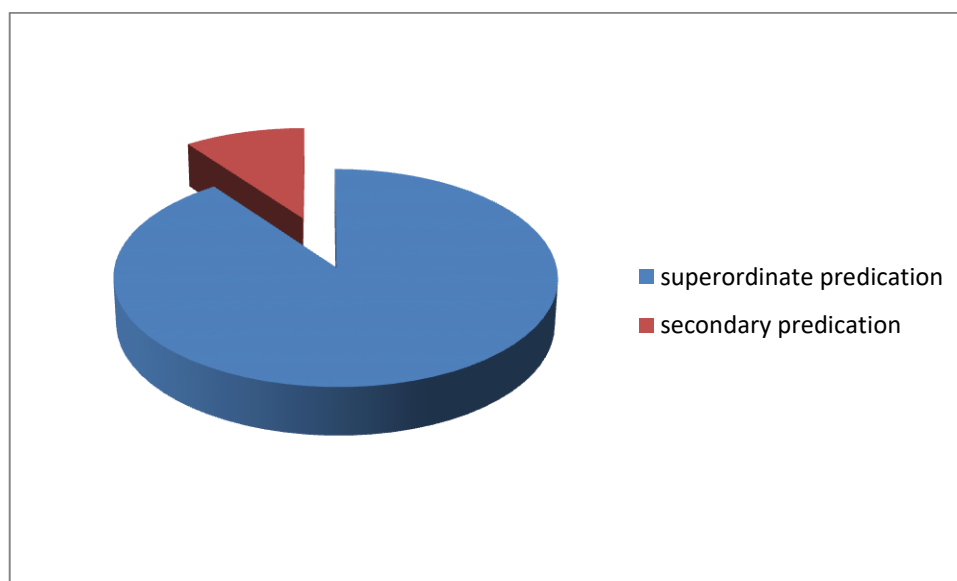
Graph 4

Gerundial object in the superordinate predications

(IM-Oprep/10)   He insisted **on taking the heavy canvas bag from me.**

(JBSB-Oprep/7)   She carried **on reading.**

(JBSD-Oprep/7)   Writing consists **of complaining that there are more than the agreed number of lines per page on your proofs.**

(HJ-Oprep/8)   And you needn´t worry **about disturbing me.**

Gerundial subject in secondary predications

 Part of the subject complement

 (HJ-Oprep/4)   That was the price a daughter paid for **having a father who ran the Strulovitch Foundation.**

Appositive

(JBSE-Oprep/6)   Or you can just let it go – forget **about remembering** – and then sometimes you find that the mislaid fact surfaces on ahour or a day later.

Adverbial

(IM-Oprep/5)   Some lean fitness in early old age that seemed derived less from healthy living htan from a hunger to keep **on creating.**

2.7.3   THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

In the majority of cases, the subject of the gerundial construction is identical with the subject of the clause whose verbal predication is completed with a gerund.

However, there are three interesting usages that deserve mentioning.

One instance uses a general agent – it that has somehow a passive meaning.

(IM-Oprep/2)   When it came **to hitting people**, I didn´t know where to begin.

It could be paraphrased as: When it was talked about hitting people,… However, the gerundial construction could also be shifted in the initial position: When hitting people

came about. This structure, however, does not comply with the functional sentence

perspective – the rheme of the sentence has to come to the final position so this shift is

achieved by a general agent.

There are aslo two instances of a gerund construction that has its own subject that differs

from the main subject of the matrix clause.

(HJ-Oprep/13)   I will have to consent **to <u>your</u> mutilating him**.

(HJ-Oprep/16)   The threat of it might result **in <u>his</u> returning me Grantan**.

The form of the Gerund

In this section of prepositional verbs with gerundial constructions all gerunds bear the

active form. None of them is in the passive form.

None of the forms are perfective – all are in present form.

2.7.4   COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

The majority of gerunds after the prepositional verbs are completed based on the

valency of the verb. It means monotransitive verbs have a direct object, monotransitive

prepositional verbs have a prepositional object as well and ditransitive verbs are followed

by a direct and indirect object. Some gerunds are further modified by an optional

adverbial.

(IM-Oprep/3)   It was entirely in my power to insist **on keeping him here**. (V plus

obligatory object plus optional adverbial)

(JBSE-Oprep/3)   You can probably guess that I´m putting **off telling you the next bit.**
(V plus obligatory indirect and direct object)

(JBSD-Oprep/3)   Edith Wharton – like Ford, like Conrad, like Kipling – took to

                        motoring with a passion. (V plus obligatory object plus optional

                        adverbial)

4 instances show a gerund without any complementation. When decididng if the

gerunds could be classified as deverbal nouns, again the dynamism of the verbs must be

taken into consideration and consequently stated that all of the instances show a

dynamic processes thus the classification of a gerund is adequate.

(IM-Oprep/5)	Same lean fitnwss in early old age that seemed derived less from healthy living than from a hunger to keep on **creating**.
(JBSE-Oprep/6)	Or you can just let it go – forget about **remembering** – and then sometimes you find that the mislaid fact surfaces an hour or a day later.
(JBSE-Oprep/7)	She carried **on reading.**
(HJ-Oprep/13)	D´Anton texted again to ask what Beatrice thought **about returning.**

2.7.5 CONCLUSION

Prepositional verbs require a complementation which can be achieved by various means most commonly noun phrases. The character of the gerund that bears nominal features makes it a perfect complementation of such verbs. In the analysis 42 instances were collected of prepositional verbs including one phrasal verb and one phrasal prepositional verb. Most of the gerundial objects form the obligatory object of the clause with only 4 instances completing another clause elements; such as adverbial, subject complement and appositive.

The subject of the gerundial construcition is generally identical with the subject of the clause. However, there are 2 instances where the gerund has its own subject realised by a possessive adjective. This class of gerunds forming a prepositional objects does not show variety of forms of a gerund. One form dominates and it is the present active one.

Most gerunds are further completed based on the valency of the verb. However, there are 4 instances of „bare" gerund showing the dynamic character and thus justifying the classification of a gerund.

2.8 THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF PREPOSITIONAL OBJECT IN DITRANSITIVE COMPLEMENTATION

2.8.1 GENERAL REMARKS

The category of prepositional object in ditransitive complementation is the least category represented in the analysis with 14 instances. Prepositional verbs that require two objects make two categories. Verbs that are followed by a direct object and prepositional object and verbs that are followed by indirect object and again prepositional object.

The difference between a direct object and indirect object is as follows.

Indirect object – is conceived as a recipient of the verb; when used with a direct object it directly followed the verb and is followed by a direct object or it can be positioned at the end of the sentence, however, it must be used with a preposition most commonly the preposition to. In the class of prepositional objects in ditransitive complements it can be difficult to identify one as it cannot be placed at the end of the sentence. The preposition always follows the first subject. Direct object – is conceived as an affected participant of the verband is directly involved in the activity.

(IM-O,Oprep/1)   I had accused her **of not caring about the dead, and she was angry.**

(JBSE- O,Oprep/1)   Adrian apologised to the police **for inconveniencing them**, and
                    thanked the coroner **for making his last words public.**

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.

2.8.2 Syntactic- Semantic Characteristics of the Structure Containing the Gerund in Particular Syntactic Function:

As mentioned earlier the works contain 14 instances of prepositional object in ditransitive complementation, however, there are only 11 verbs as one verb in particular is used 5 times. Semantically, the verbs that are complemented with two objects belong to the following catergories.

Effort

prevent sb from doing sth

deter sb from doing sth

make a point of doing sth

get sth for doing sth

Offence, punishement, apology

have a hand in doing sth

mock sb for doing sth

accuse sb of doing sth 5

suspect sb of doing sth

punish sb for doing sth

communitation

thank sb for doing sth

forgive sb for doing sth

Two of the verbs can be classified as idiomatic verbs as their direct object is fixed in one phrase and the whole unit is completed with the prepositional phrase.

(IM-O,Oprep/3)   There was a square of sunlight on the carpet and he <u>made a point</u> **<u>of standing in it.</u>**

(IM-O,Oprep/5)   I now know that she <u>had a hand</u> **<u>in shaping my personality.</u>**

2.8.3   THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

All 14 instances of the gerundial constructions are without their own subject.However, most commonly the subject of the gerund is the object preceding the prepositional object.If we look at the most represented verb accuse sb of doing sth,we can justify this statement.

(IM-O,Oprep/1)   I had accused <u>her</u> **of not caring about the dead, and she was angry.**

her – direct object of the verb accuse

I accused her because she didn´t care about the dead.

(HJ-O,Oprep/5)   Kay accused <u>him</u> **of bringing ancient theological disputation into the house.**

him – direct object of the verb accuse

Kay accused him as he brought ancient theological disputation into the house.

The form of the Gerund

In this section all   prepositional verbs with gerundial constructions bear the present form except for one which is in perfective form. None of them is in the passive form, all are active.

(JBSE-O,Oprep/1)   We accuse the medical director of **having aimed too high**, too quickly, and of **having bewildered hsi unhappy pupil by allowing him to see his exasperation.**

The use of perfective gerund highlights the fact that the accusation is made now but refers to the past – it refers to something that had already happened before a moment in the past. This sentence is also interesting from another point of view – there are two prepositional objects which are in coordinated relation forming a multiple object. Such phenomenon of a multiple object in ditransitive verbs is detected in one more sentence, although the gerund is present.

(IM-O,Oprep/2)   She hadn´t forgiven Adam **for betraying her court secrets** or **for calling in the social workers without her consent.**

2.8.4 COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

Two gerunds in the function of the complementation of ditransitive prepositional verb are not develeped. It is the gerund of a phrasal verb coming forward that is basically an intranisitve verb. It is not a deverbal noun as it clearly shows the dynamic process.

(IM-O,Oprep/4)   A lawyer friend told us later that the DPP would have to decide wheter pursuing the case would deter genuine rape victims from **coming forward.**

Another example of „bare" gerund is the ing-form of exaggerate that also expresses the dynamic process.

(HJ-O,Oprep/3)   He hadn´t especially wanted children and suspected other men of **exaggerating** when they said their hearts burst at the sight of their first child, but his own hear did exactly that.

All the other gerundial constructions within the ditranisitive verb phrases are further postmodified. In most cases the gerund takes on an obligatory object in 9 instances, an optional adverb in 3 instances and 1 prepositional object.

2.8.5 CONCLUSION

The gerunds as prepositional object in ditransitive complementation form the smallest group of gerunds of all the analysed categories of clause elements. Ditransitive

verbs are followed either with a direct or indirect object followed by the second object after a preposition. 11 verbs of this pattern were detected in four analysed books.

Semantically the verbs belong to the category of effort; offence, punishment and apology and communication. All the gerunds are subjectless. Althought the subject is covert, it can be identified in the preceding part of the sentence most commonly it is the direct or indirect object of the verb they modify. The majority of gerunds have the identical form of being present and active. There is one example of perfective gerund that aims to highlight the activity that happened before the activity of the main predication.

In 15 instances of gerunds only 2 constructions are not further modified. The rest of the gerunds is further modified with a direct object, prepositional object or adverbial.

2.9   THE GERUND IN THE FUNCTION OF ADVERBIAL

2.9.1   GENERAL REMARKS

The gerund in the function of an adverbial forms the second most represented group in my analysis. There are 63 instances of a gerund in the function of an adverbial.

(IM-Adv/5)	**By living openly from 1969 with his lover**, Tom Reah helped give weight to a gathering social revolution.

(JBSE-Adv/6)	Now he had offended us **by making a name for himself with an early death.**

 (HJ-Adv/4)	Could she have been jealous of Gratan for **enjoying a protection she had come to see as hers alone**?

The other examples of the gerundial constructions are listed in the appendix.

Adverbials differ from other clause elements in several ways. First, it is their variety of semantic roles. Secondly, the adverbial can be placed in more positions.Thirdly, they can have various grammatical functions such as adjunt, disjunct etc. Lastly, they can be moved according to the functional sentence perspective.

2.9.2 SYNTACTIC- SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE GERUND IN PARTICULAR SYNTACTIC FUNCTION:

The gerund in the function of an adverbial most commonly follows a preposition. Th

preposition then tells us about the semantic category that is given.

time: after, before, in, on

(JBSE-Adv/7)   What he was doing was auditioning them all **before deciding which to go out with.**

means, manner, agency: by

(IM-Adv/8)   He got rid of me without a fight **by making an impossible offer.**

accompanying circumstances: without

(HJ-Adv/17)   He shook his head, still **without opening his eyes.**

purpose, cause: for, about

(JBSD-Adv/2)   Pére de Goësbriand, from an aristocratic Breton family, who was much teased **for having been shot in the left buttock during the war**, overheard me arguein one day with Pére Marais.

contrast: instead of

(IM-Adv/12)   Then I could have been alive to her needs **instead of calculating my own as well.**

localisation: in

(HJ-Adv/7)   There is less neurosis **in observing** htan there is **in lapsing**.

extend: beyond

(IM-Adv/20)   We went **beyond devising symbolic representations of all likely circumstances and inputting thousands of rules.**

source: from

(JBSD-Adv/13)   …and my hands are shaking **from tying up packets.** (p. 174)

comparison: as

(HJ-Adv/15)   You shouldn´t look on it **as betraying friend.**

The analysis shows that adverbials appear in the following semantic categories (see Graph 5) :
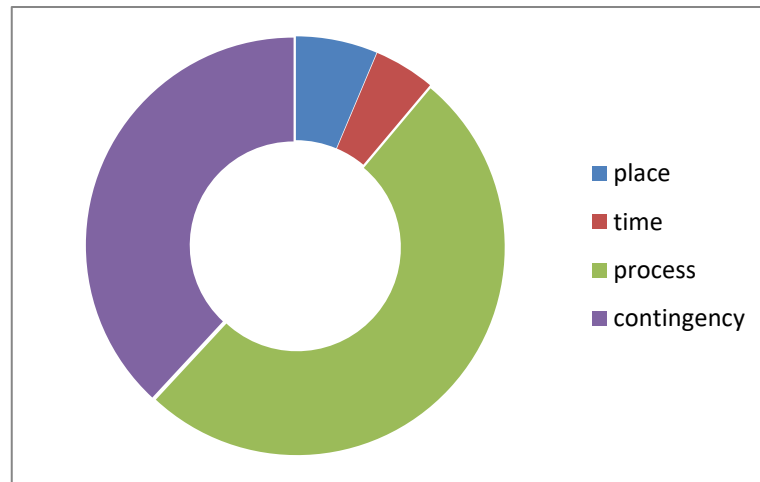
Graph 5

Place 4 instances

(JBSD-Adv/6)   I had expected it to go quickly, but **in trying to také in everything I had seen virtually nothing.**

Time 3 instances

(JBSE-Adv/7)   Not about how she might hae felt **on first reding the letter.**

Process 32 instances

Accompanying circumstances (8)

(IM-Adv/6)   I was facing my screen **without seeing it.**

(HJ-Adv/15)   He shook his head, still **without opening his eyes.**

Manner (10)

(IM-AdvP5)   **By living openly from 1969 with his lover**, Tom Reah helped give weight to a gathering social revolution.

(HJ-Adv/3)   He intended no disrespect to her **by suspecting the motives of those who wooed her.**

Means (8)

(IM-Adv/15)   I finished **by saying that this was Miranda´s view.**

Agency (6)

(HJ-Adv/10)   Nothing was to be achieved **by delaying**, except the saving of his soul.

Contingency (22)

Purpose (2)

(IM-Adv/16)   She had seen a solicitor **about going before a judge to get an exclusion order.**

Cause (12)

(HJ-Adv/4)   Could she have been jealous of Gratan **for enjoying a protection she ahd come to see as hers alone?**

(HJ-Adv/12)   Strulovitch is pleased with himself **for not answering his own question with the words „Rough trade?"**

Contrast (5)

(IM-Adv/10)   Then I could have been alive to her needs **instead of calculating my own as well.**

Comparison, extent and source (1 each)

(JBSE-Adv/2)   In those days, we imagined ourselves **as being kept in some kind of holding pen, waiting to be released.**

(IM/Adv/18)   We went **beyond devising symbolic representations of all likely circumstances and inputting thousands of rules.**

(JBSD-Adv/13)   …and my hands are shaking **from tying up packets**.

The analysis shows only adjuncts – none of the instances is in the funcion of a subjunct

a phrase that modifies both the subject and the predicate.

In terms of the position, the majority of adverbials are placed at the end of the sentence.

From the functional sentence perspective they form the rheme of the sentence bearing

the most important informataion.

However, there are 7 instances of the adverbial places either in the initial position or middle position. They do not bear the most important piece of information and that is why their position differs.

(IM-Adv/5)   **By living openly from 1969 with his lover,** Tom Reah halped give weight to a gathering social revolution.

2.9.3   THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the Gerundial Construction

All the adverbials are subjectless with the corefential subject of the main predication.

However, there are 2 instances where the gerundial construction has its own subject. It is in both cases realised by a possesive adjective.

(IM-Adv/11)   She must have powered him up **without <u>my</u> noticing.**

(JBSD-Adv/7)   I am touched **by your sending me the works of your son**, whom I greatly loved and whose talent I appreciated more than anyone.

The form of the Gerund

Most gerunds in the position of adverbials are in their active and present form.

There is 1 instance of the copular verb to be in a gerund which is completed with a verbonominal complement.

(IM-Adv/20)   The state disowns you for **being vulnerable to blackmail.**

There is 1 instance of a present gerund in its passive form.

(JBSE-Adv/3)   In those days, we imagined ourselves as **being kept in some kind of holding pen, waiting to be released.**

In terms of a perfective gerund, 1 instance was found.

(JBSE-Adv/2)   Pere de Goësbriand was much teased **for having been shot in the left buttock during the war.**

Overall, the dominating majority forms present active gerunds.

2.9.4   COMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE GERUND

The majority of gerunds are further modified based on the valency of the gerund verbs. Monotransitive verbs and verbs with a preposition také on a direct object and thus making a complete predication. Some instances are modified by an optional clause element such as an adverbial.

(IM-Adv/3)   A young father´s throat was cut **for failing in his duites to an ancient feud.**

(JBSE-Adv/16)   After his death she made up for the resented extravagance of „The Consumer" **by raising money from his manuscripts**.

There are 9 instances of a gerund that is not modified anyhow. All instances are

intransitive verbs that form the syntactic pattern of S-V (subject and verb)

They all express a dynamic process, which justifies the classification as a gerund.

2.9.5 CONCLUSION

After a direct object in monotransitive complementation and postmodification, the gerund in the function of a gerund is the most represented category in the analysis with 63 instances. All the gerunds have the form of a prepositional phrase while the preposition conveys the semantic role of the adverbial.

The most frequent adverbial is the one expressing process with 32 instances. The adverbial of manner is the most represented within this category. The second major adverbial is the one of contingency with the subcategory of cause.

Adverbials are generally placed at the final position in the sentence. However, they can be found both in the initial and middle position according the importance of the information conveyed. If the information sets the scene but does not bring the most important information, the adverbial shifts to the left.

As far as the subject of the gerund is concerned there are only 2 instances of an overt subject within the gerundial construction. Both subjects are realised by a relevant possessive adjective. The rest of constructions have a covert subject identical with the subject of the main predication. Most gerunds are in the present form and active voice with only 1 instance of perfective gerund and 1 instance of passive voice.

The gerundial constructions within the adverbials are most commonly complemented with the verb´s obligatory complementations such as direct object and prepositional objects.

7 gerunds are made of intransitive verbs without the necessity of complementation.

3   CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

This piece of works deals with the use of the gerund in English. The theoretical part strutinizes the most prominent grammar books with the aim to find out the individual approach to the term gerund as such.

Surprisingly, there are more authors of the selected grammar books that do not use the term gerund at all. Instead, they call it an ing-form and put it in the same category with participles. However, when the authors mention syntactic roles, they resolve to using another term - nominal ing-clauses. They enlist the syntactic roles of nominal ing-clauses that are identical with gerundial constructions and their syntactic roles. In the end, all the authors agree that a gerund or a nominal ing-clause can apear in a sentence under the following roles: subject, subject complement, adjectival complement, postmodification, the compementation of monotransitivive verbs, prepositional verbs and ditransitive verbs that require two objects. Biber et al. (1999) is the only author that does not use the term gerund or ing-clause at all, instead he introduces the term ing-complement clauses that somehow embrace the whole subject of gerundial constructions. For the sake of the thesis, I follow the approach of distinguishing gerunds and participles.

Gerund is a verb form that expresses a dynamic process of a verb. It can be used as such or it can be postmodified with an object or adverbial. In the theoretical part I also focused on the subject of a gerundial construction. I discovered that once the authors mention the subject they highlight the use of a possessive case claiming it makes the sentence sound more formal. If the speaker decides to turn down the formality, they can use the common case. However, if that is done, we are no longer talking of a gerund but a participle.

The practical part aims to analyze all the gerundial constructions found in 4 books of contemporary fiction. The analyzis collected 356 instances of a gerundial construction in all the possible syntactic roles that a gerund can take on within a sentence structure. The table shows the frequency of the individual syntactic roles the gerund represents in the four books of fiction.

The division of gerundial constructions in syntactic roles

Gerund in the Role of:	Machines Like Me	The Sense of an Ending	Something to Declare	Shylock is My Name	Total
Subject	21	6	8	16	**51**
Subject Complement	3	3	2	2	**10**
Adjectival Complement	12	6	9	14	**41**
Postmodification	15	16	10	23	**64**
Direct Object	14	17	15	27	**73**
Prepositional Object	11	8	6	15	**40**
Object of Ditransitive Verbs	4	2	1	7	**14**
Adverbial	20	7	18	18	**63**
Total	**100**	**65**	**69**	**122**	**356**

Table 1

The ratio of authors using gerundial constructions in syntactic roles
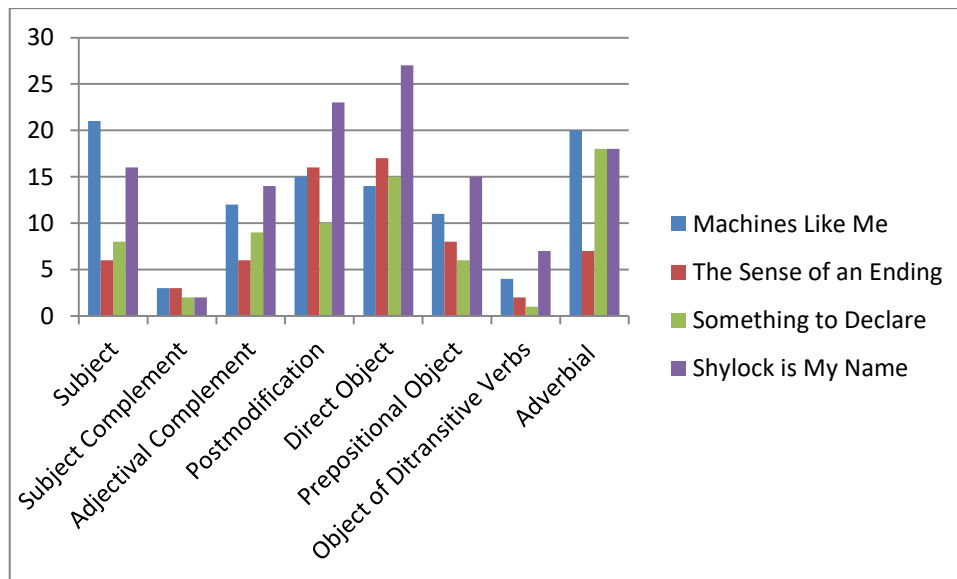
Graph 6

Apparently, the direct subject realised by a gerund is the dominating clause element of all - with 73 instances totalling at 21 % of all excerpts. It is followed by the postmodification that is realised by the of-structure with 64 instances, 18 % and the third most frequent clause element realised by a gerund is the adverbial with 63 instances, which makes it 18 % out of the total number of the gerundial constructions.

I managed to find gerundial constructions for each syntactic role that was described in the Theoretical part.

The division of gerundial constructions by authors in per cents

| Gerund in the Role of:	Machines Like Me (%)	The Sense of an Ending(%)	Something to Declare(%)	Shylock is My Name(%)
Subject	41	12	16	31
Subject Complement	30	30	20	20
Adjectival Complement	29	15	22	34
Postmodification	23	25	16	36
Direct Object	19	23	21	37
Prepositional Object	28	20	15	38
Object of Ditransitive Verbs	29	14	7	50
Adverbial	32	11	29	29

Table 2

One cannot make conclusions about the individual style of the authors whether they use more or fewer gerundial constructions, as it is too a small sample of data. However, one can conclude the authors all make use of the gerundial constructions in all possible syntactic roles, which answers my research question in Theoretical Background. Before the actual research I asked to which extent the authors of contemporary fiction use the gerundial constructions. By looking at the Table 2 that is converted Table 1 in percentage, I dare to say that all three authors do use the gerunds and exploit it at all their syntactic roles. Ian McEwan uses the gerund in the role of subject more than the others with 40 % of all uses of the gerund in the subject. He equals to Julian Barnes in the use of a gerund in the subject complement with 30 % each. The adjectival complement is most favoured by Howard Jacobson who uses the total of 34 % of all instances. He also wins with the highest percentage of postmodification, direct object, prepositional object and object of ditransitive verbs. McEwan tops the chart with 32 % of usage of a gerund in the role of an adverbial.

Another questions I asked concerned the subject of the secondary predications realised by the gerundial constructions. The results are rather similar for all syntactic roles of a gerund. It is rather rare of the construction to have an overt subject with 1 – 2 instances in each role. (see Graph 7). From the semantics of the gerundial constructions it is not difficult to identify either the coreferential subject of the superordinate predication or one can resort to the identification of a general agent. However, I was wrong when I

anticipated the overt subjects of the secondary predications to be an objective form of pronouns or only common case of nouns. All the instances of an overt subject in the gerundial constructions are realised by the possessive adjectives. Thus my premise was not correct. The reason might be in concord with Alexander (1999) who believes that the use of accusative in the place of an overt subject of a secondary predication with a gerund is not approved by all native speakers. (p. 316) The questions remains whether the respectable authors of contemporary novels disapprove of the accusative or whether they simply use the genitive form to sound formal when telling the story of their heros.

The ratio of covert and overt subjects by authors
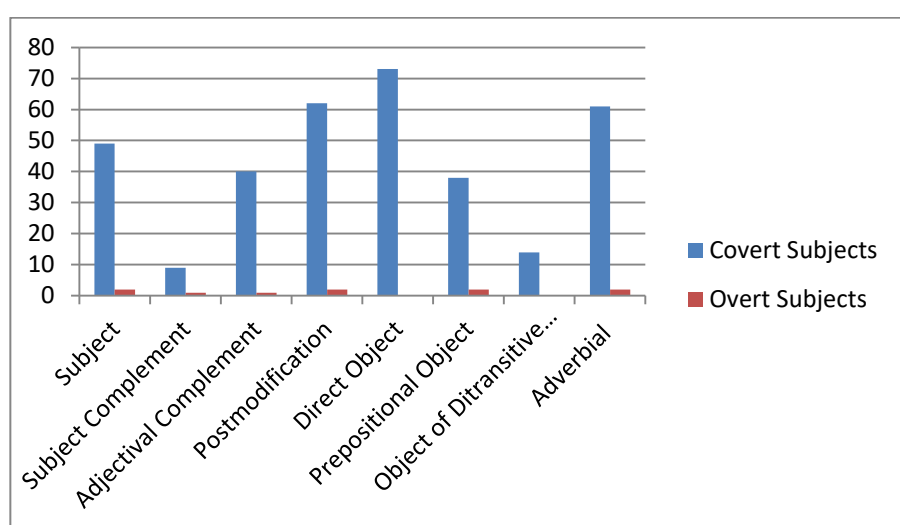
Graph 7

This bachelor thesis demonstrates the syntactic uses of a gerundial construction and presents the overt subjects of the secondary predications realised by the gerunds. The further research might point to the reasons why the English use the common case or accusative in the place of overt subjects of gerundial constructions. It might also be worth the research to analyze the books in terms of participle clauses and demonstrate the differences in their syntactic usage with respect to the gerundial constructions. One last note must be made. I excluded the use of the gerund in the place of premodification as the books only contained very few examples of it. My further research might collect all the gerunds in the premodification and compare them to participles in the place of premodification.

References

ALEXANDER, L. G. *Longman English grammar*. London: Longman, 1991. ISBN 0582558921.

BARNES, Julian. *The sense of an ending*. London: Jonathan Cape, 2011. ISBN 978-0-224-09415-3.

BARNES, Julian.*Something to Declare*. London: Picador, 2002. ISBN 0 330 489267.

BIBER ET AL., Douglas. *Longman grammar of spoken and written English*. Harlow: Longman, 1999. ISBN 978-0-582-23725-4.

CLOSE, R. A. *A reference grammar for students of English*. London: Longman, 1975. ISBN 0582522773.

DUŠKOVÁ, Libuše et al. *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny*. 2. vyd. Praha: Academia, 1994. ISBN 80-200-0486-6.

EASTWOOD, John. *Oxford guide to English grammar*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1994. ISBN 01-943-1351-4.

JACOBSON, HOWARD. *Shylock is My Name*.London: Vintage, 2016. ISBN 9780099593287.

LEECH, Geoffrey N. a Jan SVARTVIK. *A communicative grammar of English*. London: Longman, 1991. ISBN 0582552389.

MCEWAN, Ian. *Machines like me: and people like you*. London: Vintage, 2019. ISBN 978-1-529-11125-5.

PARROTT, Martin. *Grammar for English language teachers: [with exercises and a key]*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-71204-0.

PETRLÍKOVÁ, Jarmila. *The status of the gerund in the system of modern English syntax with respect to its condensing function*. Plzeň: Západočeská univerzita, 2006. ISBN 80-7043-513-5.

QUIRK, Randolph, CRYSTAL, David, GREENBAUM, Sidney a LEECH, Geoffrey N.. *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*. London: Longman, 1986. ISBN 0582517346.

APPENDIX

Excerpts

McEWAN, Ian - Machines Like Me
Subject
1. **Random programming** as well as life expreience would grant to all complete latitude in sexual preference. (p.2)
2. **Describing them** would be embarrassing, perilous. (p.10)
3. **Wasting my mother´s inheritance on a gimmick** was only one part of my problem. (p. 11)
4. **Building a radio** is nothing special. (p. 14)
5. **Winning**, it was said, was less important than pleasure in the intricacies of the contest. (p. 39)
6. …until **sleeping alone** begins to asume its own quiet sadness. (p. 61)
7. **Seeming to see** could be a blind trick of imitaiton. (p. 77)
8. ..that **her teaing** was done. (p. 93)
9. **Arguing with the person you love** is its own peculiar torment. (p. 93)
10. Reciprocally, **extending forgiveness** will require a feat of selfless concentration. (p. 94)
11. You think **making a woman come** is an achievement. (p. 96)
12. **Telling it** was a liberation for Miranda too. (p. 164)
13. Perhaps it really was the case that **falling in love with Miranda** was what kept Adam stable. (p. 188)
14. **Travelling in luxury with Miranda through southern Europe** would have suited me. (p. 194)
15. I had never thought that **vomitting** could be a moral act. (p. 251)
16. **Reading this material** was a way of not contemplating the event itself. (p. 267)
17. When I asked you what **being in love** meant, (p. 275)
18. **Preventing the course of justice** is a serious offence. (p. 276)
19. …whether **pursuing the case** would deter genuine rape victims from coming forward. (p. 282)
20. **Making progress up St Martin´s Lane** was just as hard. (p. 297)
21. I decided that **answering** every other questin would be a sufficiently random kind of merging. (p. 33)

Subject Complement

1. Next step was **downloading his updates**. (p. 21)
2. There is nothing like **cooking to bring one bakc into the world´s better side.** (p. 28)
3. We decided that it was like **winning daily at roulette**. (p. 186)

Adjectival Complememnt
1. I was clear-headed, incapable of **deceiving myself.** (p.22)
2. but I was intent on **seeming calm** (p. 24)
3. By the early eighties we were long used to **talking to machines, in our cars and homes, to call centres and health clinics.**
4. …you should be careful of **trusting her completely.** (p. 30)
5. She was not interested in **watching the ships leave**. (p. 55)
6. The jury was unanimous in **favouring Mirranda´s story over his.** (p. 126)
7. I´d been interested at first in **learning what Adam could create**. (p. 146)
8. She was hopeless at **spelling**. (p. 155)
9. I was responsible for **bringing this ambulant laptop into our lives**. (p. 273)
10. You are not capable of **understanding.** (p. 277)
11. He admitted he had grown used to **getting things wrong**. (p. 281)

12. He would be incapable of **executing a cynical plan**. (p. 290)

Postmodification
   1. she gave the impression of **being at ease with the possibilities (p.5)**
   2. It was a way of **binding me to my pruchase and providing legal protection for the manufacturer. (p.8)**
   3. A new kind of **being at my dining table**. (p.21)
   4. Miranda´s delay in **starting work on thim was in part due to technophobia**. (p. 43)
   5. ..a good job of **cleaning the window** (p. 46)
   6. The only solution to **suffering would be the complete extinction of humankind**. (p. 67)
   7. There was much pleasure in **following a line of thought without oppositon.** (p. 80)
   8. Merely a manner of **speaking**, (p. 100)
   9. ..it had the trick of **seeming beyond explanation**, of **creating and sustaingin an illusminated part of the one thing in the world**…(p. 129)
   10. And I was on the edge of **doing just that**, of **saying more about my broken scaphoid.(p.135)**
   11. There´s no point **arguing. (p. 191)**
   12. Austere, lonely, too perfect, in need of **being roughed up.** (p. 197)
   13. I had a sense of **being borne helplessly away by the events on a downstream flood.** (p. 231)
   14. Reading this material was a way of **not contemplating the event itself**. (p. 267)
   15. She told me later that at that moment she was confronting the implications of **having a criminal record**. (p. 286)

Direct object in monotransitive complementation
   1. The future kept **arriving**.(p.6)
   2. …or start **making decisions about his personality**. (p. 19)
   3. …and enjoyed tormenting him with stupid questions. (p. 38)
   4. His machine-learing capacities needed **streching**. (p. 66)
   5. I didn´t mind being told again about love. (p. 73)
   6. ..but I can´t help **loving her**. (p. 118)
   7. I started **talking.** (p. 129)
   8. She suggested **hiding the charging cables**. (p. 138)
   9. We started **walking round the park again**. (p. 157)
   10. She kept **telling me I understood nothing.** (p. 157)
   11. I started **speaking to her mother.** (p. 158)
   12. I remember **being disapointed by hers**. (p. 159)
   13. Demis and I couldn´t stop **laughing**. (p. 178)
   14. He sounded more comfortable once he started **laying out his argument**. (p.207)

Prepositional object in monotransitive complementation
   1. I decided against **closing his eyes**. (p.20)
   2. When it came to **hitting people**, (p. 49)
   3. It was entirely in my power to insist on **keeping him here**. (p. 56)
   4. But no, she wasn´t thinking of **converting from atheism**. (p. 72)
   5. Same lean fitnwss in early old age that seemed derived less from healthy living than from a hunger to keep on **creating**. (p. 140)
   6. He insisted on **telling me his latest thoughts, his theories, his aphorism, his latest reading**. (p. 143)
   7. She thought of **breaking into a run**. (p. 156)
   8. And then they set about **learning the lessons of despair**…(p. 181)
   9. She knew about **growing up ain a large town house**. (p. 197)

10. He insisted on **taking the heavy canvas bag from me**. (p. 218)
11. We tried, and sometimes half succeeded, in **fending off the deed.** (p. 283)

Prepositional object in ditransitive complementation
1. I had accused her of not caring about hte dead, and she was angry. (p. 77)
2. She hadn´t forgiven Adama for **betraying her court secrects** or for **calling in the social workers without her consent**. (p. 116)
3. There was a square of sunlight on the carpet and he made a point of standing in it. (p. 141)
4. …whether pursuing the case would deter genuine rape victims from **coming forward**. (p. 282)

Adverbial
1. Prehaps, **without knowing it,** I had been in love iwht ther for months. (p. 5)
2. At thirty-two, I was surviving **by playing the stock and currency markets online**. (p. 12)
3. A young father´s throat was cut **for failing in his duties to an ancient feud**. (p. 16)
4. I despised myself **for doing it.** (p. 37)
5. **By living openly from 1969 with his lover**, Tom Reah helpd give weight to a gathering social revolution. (p. 40)
6. I was facing my screen **without seeing it**. (p. 44)
7. He had got rid of me without a fight **by making an impossible offer**. (p. 51)
8. …that would learn **by roaming over thousands, millions,of moral dilemmas**. (p. 86)
9. A matter of seconds, usually **after shaving**. (p. 96)
10. Then I could have been alive to her needs **instead of calculating my own as well**. (p. 97)
11. She must have powered him up **without my noticing**. (p. 99)
12. …and we fumbled around together in a small space **without touching**. (p. 103)
13. I decided to settle my feeling **by avoiding Adam downstairs and going straight out for a stroll on the Common.** (p. 122)
14. **By telling it to the court**, (p. 127)
15. I finished **by saying that this was Miranda´s view.** (p. 130)
16. She had seen a solicitor **about going before a judge to get an exclusion order**. (p.147)
17. I could hardly sleep **for thinking and planning**. (p. 161)
18. We went **beyond devising symbolic representations of all likely circumstances and inputting thousands of rules**. (p. 177)
19. I got into trouble with the law **for having a homosexual relationship**. (p. 299)
20. …the state disowns you **for being vulnerable to blackmail**. (p. 300)

Barnes, Julian - The Sense of an Ending
Subject
1. And **writing to one another** seemed to have recalibrated the dynamics of our relationship. (p. 19)
2. Buit **just saying this** made me wonder if I was enjoying the day any longer. (p.34)
3. **Not replying** was the only way to keep my temper. (p. 52)
4. Because **rereading the letter of mine** came as a profound and intimate shock. (p. 107)
5. We may know that **flying** is statistically safer than walking to the corner shop. (p. 107)
6. And **believing you have such an instinct** is almost as good as actually having it. (p. 131)

Subject Complement
1. What he was doing was **auditioning them all before decideng which to go out with.** (p. 21)
2. Why do you think divorce is **about apportioning blame**? (p. 74)
3. Is this **about closing the circle?** (p. 113)

Adjectival Complememnt

1. Daily intimacy made me proud of **knowing about make-up, clothes policy, the feminine razor, and the mystery and consequences of a woman´s period.** (p.25)
2. I realised I wasn´t much good at **discussing this sort of stuff.** (p.34)
3. There is nothing wrong with **being a genius who can fascinate the young.** (p. 61)
4. Margaret was a little puzzled that I´d been so slow off the mark – **not in losing my virginity, but in having a serious relationship.** (p. 69)
5. Do you mean you are not sure about **having one with me**? (p. 74)
6. I wasn´t convinced by her prim line about **not reading other people´s diaries.** (p. 94)

Postmodification including apposition

1. Isn´t the whole business **of ascribing responsibility a kind of cop-out?** (p. 12)
2. Why had non of us even had the experience **of failing to get a girlfriend?** (p.14)
3. What´s the point **of having a situation worthy of fiction** if the protagonist didn´t behave as he would have done in a book? (p. 16)
4. I´d better explain what the cocept **of ´going out´with someone meant back then**. (p. 21)
5. I settled into a contented routine **of working, spending my free time iwht Veronica.** (p. 25)
6. …which had the desired effect **of making me plan not to see Adrian.** (p. 41)
7. And now the prospect **of seeing Colin and Alex by themselves became less appealing.** (p.45)
8. Your reasons **for killing yourself** were also assumed to be mad. (p. 49)
9. …the many ways **of being herself** (p. 74)
10. I suppose it´s one way **of not losing the plot when we get to our age.** (p. 77)
11. I found a way **of thinking about Brother Jack** which brought no discomfort. (p. 80)
12. My objection **to cutting it down** was based on principle. (p. 83)
13. Veronica´ s first reaction **to seeing me again** had been to point out that I´d lost my hair. (p. 100)
14. I was in the middle **of describing my grandchildren** when she looked up. (p. 116)
15. There is no way **of accessing anything else**. (p. 120)
16. I had absolutely no sense **of wasting my time**. (p. 134)

Direct object in monotransitive complementation

1. We enjoyed **saying „That´s philosophically self-evident**. (p. 10)
2. I remember **feeling sad through drink at a party in my first term**. (p. 20)
3. I didn´t try **telling her I felt sad because I didn´t.** (p. 20)
4. …which had stopped **concreting over nature at the very last minute** (p. 26)
5. Veronica and I continued **going out together**, all through our second year. (p. 33)
6. Susie grew up and people started **calling her Susan.** (p. 55)
7. I remember **laughing with relief that the same old adolescent boredom goes on form generation to generation**. (p. 62)
8. I began **looking back over how my life had unfolded**. (p. 64)
9. Veronica, as I´d anticipated, didn´t enjoy **being treated like an insurance company**. (p. 84)
10. Then they fixed it and it stopped **wobbling**. (p. 90)
11. I remember **thinking at the time that I was signing off on her – or, more exactly, signing myself off**. (p. 102)
12. Most of us the rest of us haven´t midned **growing old**. (p. 104)
13. I briefly considered **tracking down Alex and Colin**. (p. 108)
14. I imagined **asking for their memories and their coroboration**. (p. 108)
15. I didn´t mind **sleeping in my single bed, alone except for my memories**. (p. 117)
16. They began **following her to the car.** (p. 127)
17. So stop **even trying**. (p. 144)

Prepositional object in monotransitive complementation
1. ..a teacher whose systém of control depended on **maintaining suficient but not excessive boredom.** (p. 4)
2. My technique consisted in not having a technique. (p. 20)
3. You can probably guess that I´m putting off **telling you the next bit**. (p. 41)
4. My parents thought of **getting in touch when it happened**. (p. 46)
5. It´s possible that when I finally got round to **telling Margaret about Veronica**, (p. 75)
6. Or you can just let it go – forget about **remembering** – and then sometimes you find that the mislaid fact surfaces an hour or a day later. (p. 111)
7. She carried on **reading.** (p. 115)
8. Oh yes, and I could concentrate again on **getting back my stuff.** (p. 132)

Prepositional object in ditransitive complementation
1. Adrian apologised to the police for inconveniencing them, and thanked the coroner for **making his last words public.** (p. 50)
2. And the British commentariat duly mocked the architects and engineers for **not knowing what they were doing.** (p. 90)

Adverbial
1. Adrian allowed himself to be absorbed into our group **without acknowledging that it was something he sought.** (p. 7)
2. In those days, we imagined ourselves **as being kept in some kidn of holding pen, waiting to be released into our lives.** (p. 9)
3. Old Joe Hunt asked us to debate the origins of the First World Was: specifically, the responsibility of Archduke Franz Ferdinand´s assassin **for starting the whole thing off**. (p. 10)
4. Now he had offended us **by making a name for himself with an early death**. (p.13)
5. What he was doing was auditioning them all **before decideng which to go out with**. (p. 21)
6. They would be perfectly aware of what was going on in your trousers **without ever mentioning it.** (p.22)
7. Not about how she might have felt **on first reading the letter.** (p. 98)

Barnes, Julian - Something to Declare
Subject
1. **Eating** for me is like cleaning my teeth. (p. 52)
2. If **driving down the Ventoux de Bédoin** leaves you craoking for a whisky,…(p. 85)
3. But **cycling** is also different in one key respect. (p. 91)
4. Flaubert, who sought objectivity in art, who declared in 1879 that „**giving the public details about oneself** is a bourgeois temptation that I have always resisted.“ (p. 113)
5. **Loving a writer** often results in a ferocity of defence not evidend in more serious areas of life, like politics or marriage. (p. 155)
6. **Rescuing Louise** seems to necessitate demeaning others (Hippolyte, Mme Flaubert, and Flaubert´s buddy network, as Gray terms it). (p. 188)
7. **Writing** consists of complaining that ther are more than the agreed nuber of lines per page on your proofs. (p. 197)
8. **No longer being able to love Paris** is a sign of decadence; no longer being able to do without it is a sign of stupidity. (p. 264)

Subject Complement
1. Eating for me is **like cleaning my teeth**. (p. 52)
2. Reasearch isn´t **just finding somehting good you can use**. (p. 261)

Adjectival Complememnt
1. She is more wholehearted **in admiring the Graeco-Roman remains of Provense**. (p. 75)
2. It is worth **comparing the case of Daumier**, who had been offered the Légion d´honneur earlier that year, and refused it discreetly. (p. 122)
3. It was a joke, the wearily ironic response of a writer fed up **with being pestered for the real identity of his most famous creation.** (p. 151)
4. They were responsible **for confusing literature with prayer**. (p. 159)
5. Gustav was, it is true, slower **at learnign to read than his sister**, but the memoir continues with an incident wihci might well be held to confirm precocious intelligence. (p. 168)
6. Sartre could aslo be accused of **not having learnt one lesson taught by the object of his study.** (p. 169)
7. She was certainly incapable **of matching the stoicism of her glamorized alter ego, the Marquise Stéphanie de Rostan.** (p. 185)
8. Over the previous few years Sand has become increasingly prone **to giving Flaubert increasing basic advice.** (p. 228)
9. George Sand was surely right **in suspecting that his irritation was increasingly „necessary to his organization".** (p. 239)

Postmodification
1. He was in the middle **of confessing a pupil**. (p. 21)
2. For instance, she constantly urged the necessity and virtue **of using the correct equipment and proper serving dishes.** (p. 53)
3. One such memory was a recipe **for stuffing and roasting a whole sheep**. (p. 52)
4. There is no reason **for going up in** except that the Tour planners order you to go up it. (p. 81)
5. He is discovering the fallacy **of trying to construct a single happiness form two melancholies.** (p. 134)
6. Of course I become obscure if the reader makes the mistake **of thinking he´s opening a newspaper.** (p. 138)
7. Rarely can the process of attaining sanctity have been made to soud so jog-a-jogly routine; presumably Mr Lottman thinks that the process **of befriending a leper** normally involves lying naked on top of him, chest to pustulated chest, mouth to mouth, warming him up with your body. (p. 150)
8. So perhaps our sense **of witnessing some gigantic Franco-Prussian** was of ideas is both deeply true and slightly fallacious. (p. 231)
9. Writers don´t keep notebooks with a view **to making things easy for their subsequent editors.** (p. 258)
10. All this for the sole purpose of **spitting out on my contemporaries the disgust they inspire in me.** (p. 265)

Direct object in monotransitive complementation
1. …which in effect meant **devising various strategies to keep them quiet** and avoid the glowering irruption into the classroom. (p. 19)
2. You may also start **noticing aspects of that otherness which you dislike.** (p. 13)
3. …or at least stopped **being interesting**. (p. 19)¨
4. I remember **being grilled about London night-clubs**. (p. 20)
5. In response, she started **jotting down what was as much a series of aromatic memories**. (p. 52)

6. She had stopped **writing the kind of books which had made her one**. (p. 54)
7. James suggested **making a detour to Box Hill to visit the aged George Meredith**. (p. 76)
8. Alongside Pantani, he kept **telling him**…(p. 95)
9. Philip Larkin used to say that he gave up fiction for poetry because he stopped **being interested in other people**. (p. 114)
10. Fancy **having to confess that mankind**, by living one on top of the other, has reached such a pass! (p. 142)
11. Research means **jotting down possibly useful names**. (p. 261)
12. It means **tramping the countrysid**e until you find the right cliff for Bouvard and Pécuchet to be terriffed by (he enlists Maupassant´s help on his quest), and the correct plateau stupide on which to site their villa. (p. 261)
13. It means **reading enormous quantities fo books** and even – if we interpert correctly a couple of brief notes – relying on the loathed craft of photography. (p. 261)
14. As long as they didn´t try **getting them form La Rosette**. (p. 280)
15. Imagine **having that on your emotional record**. (p. 300)

Prepositional object in monotransitive complementation
1. Every artist must dream **of reaching the point at which opinions are meaningless**…(p. 43)
2. …which is why you have never succeeded **in loving anyone or helping anyone** (p. 45)
3. Edith Wharton – like Ford, like Conrad, like Kipling – took **to motoring with a passion.** (p. 65)
4. She carries on working and fighting. (p. 187)
5. Writing consists of complaining that ther are more than the agreed nuber of lines per page on your proofs. (p. 197)
6. Flaubert seems to have tried hard and often succeeded in liking Sand´s work. (p. 220)

Prepositional object in ditransitive complementation
1. We accuse the medical director of **having aimed too high, too quickly, and of having bewildered his unhappy pupil by allowing him to see his exasperation**. (p. 164)

Adverbial
1. The historian, especially of the Cobbian kind, is a sort of novelist, but one who **instead of inventing plot and character** is obliged to disocver them; who instead of setting characters in motion against one another with some foreknowledge of their natures and destinies tries to guess at what often incoherent characters were up. (p. 11)
2. …who was much teased **for having been shot in the left buttock during the war**. (p. 21)
3. …had recently got into trouble with the authorities **for taking the words of a pop song as text for his sermon.** (p. 23)
4. One finally consoled and fulfilled **by learning to speak the lagnuage of film.** (p. 41)
5. **Instead of helping suppress pain and giving you the illusion that you were stronger than you actually were**,…(p. 86)
6. …but **in trying to také in everything** I had seen virtually nothing. (p. 93)
7. „I am touched **by your sending me the works of your son**, whom I greatly loved and whose talent I appreciated more than anyone. (p. 119¨
8. He cannot go stag-hunting in the hills outside Frankfurt **without reporting that his exploits aroused the envy of all Germany**. (p. 121)
9. You´re right, we´ll avoid the courts, all the art will lie **in making him judge himself unworthy of living.** (p. 144)
10. Fancy having to confess that mankind, **by living one on top of the other, has reached such a pass!** (p. 142)

11. The most unexpected result of this relationship is that the old man, **by giving himself up to the knife**, deprived his elder son of even the possibility of deliverance through the classic murder of the father. (p. 163)

12. Caroline, the stiff, correct, high-bourgeois protector, la dame si bien, who **in publishing her uncle´s correspondence** cut out any passages she deemed intimate or indecent, suppressed uncomplimentary opinions, changed his punctuation and tidied up his phrasing. (p. 173)

13. …and my hands are shaking **from tying up packets.** (p. 174)

14. She similarly raised money soon after Béranger´s **by publishing his letters to her**. (p. 186)

15. There is the problem of boredom, which he assaults **by eating, drinking and smoking a lot.** (p. 240)

16. After his death she made up for the resented extravagance of „The Consumer" **by raising money from his manuscripts.** (p. 256)

17. If Goncourt found satisfaction **in picking up a tasty word**, Flaubert found it, by contrast, „when I have wirtten a page wich avoids assonance and repetition." (p. 262)

18. A few days before I met Chabrol, a woman from La Rosette decided to drown herself **by jumping off the bridge**. (p. 271)

Jacobson, Howard - Shylock Is My Name
Subject

1. Unable to see how **being able to identify the three biggest lies of the twentieth century** would yield her the ideal partner, she put her father´s test in the bin and devised trials more like to yield the sort of man she thought she wanted. (p. 21)

2. **Spending so much of his time with Leah** meant htere was no reson to mourn. (p. 32)

3. So there is **no looking forward**? (p. 56)

4. Is it for me to decide for him whether **joking** beats spitting? (p. 63)

5. **Being able to look hurt** was a gift that had always served him well. (p. 75)

6. Rather coyly, it struck Strulovitch, as though **hearing what she described as studying** was a novel experience for her. (p. 101)

7. **And his not reading** is also to your advantage. (p. 111)

8. **Throwing stuff around** means they´re giving you a chance to stop them.(p. 134)

9. **Being Jewish** isn´t just about praying. (p. 140)

10. **Bringing people together** was his speciality. (p. 160)

11. What would **squirrelling the pair out of the country** do to D´Anton´s own plan of wrong-footing Strulovitch by promising to support his application for a gallery in return for the Solomon Joseph Solomn?

12. Yes, they fought the minute they found themselves together, but **fighting** was an expression of love, wasn´t it? (p. 229)

13. **Being a Jew** was everything to him, except whtn it wasn´t. (p. 228)

14. **Killing D´Anton** is too personal. (p. 231)

15. But how would **cirumcising D´Anton** serve your purpose? (p. 233)

16. **Living here** was like living in a snow globe, Shylock thought. (p. 247)

Subject Complement

1. But it is **my doing**. (p. 107)

2. It was **like hearing a man of God speak profanities**. (p. 157)

Adjectival Complememnt

1. – a suspension of all feeling, akin **to waiting for news you hope will never come** – when his wife suffered a stroke on their daughter´s fourteenth birthday, losing the the better part of language and memory. (p. 7)

2. I am not accustomed, he said under his breath, **to minding my ps and qs**. I am used **to abusing in the spirit I´m abused**. (p. 58)
3. But then they were used **to keeping company with an inordinate Jew**. (p. 67)
4. Because it is always worth **distinguishing**. (p. 91)
5. That is called **being an old man**. (p. 104)
6. There is nothing controversial **about protecting your daughter**. (p. 135)
7. Unless we´re in Judea and Samaria, where we´re accused **of being Nazis**. (p. 174)
8. A man suspected **of beign free with his knife** commands more respect than I did. (p. 178)
9. I´ve been thinking, he was saying, how our refined morality has left us incapable **of enjoying that spontaneity of action other men enjoy**. (p. 193)
10. Strulovitch is fond **of telling me**, when he remembers. (p. 194)
11. It is a mmater of immense satistaction to Sturlovitch that D´Anton has to find himself a chair; though none looks suitable **for sitting in**. (p. 231)
12. What happens to my reputation if I´am accused **of running a bawdy house for paedophiles?** (p. 215)
13. Although he was used **to her being away** – at the academy in the day and the Devil knew where else at night – Strulovitch had begun to miss Beatrice. (p. 228)
14. And as a consequence of that, he cannot judge what´s worth **going to war for**. (p. 247)

Postmodification including apposition

1. We can´t get enough **of dying, he thinks, shuffling between the unheralded headstones.** (p. 2)
2. In which case there´s no point **going looking**. (p. 8)
3. On her twenty-frist birthday she attended a swinger´s party in Alderley Edge, having taken the sensible precaution **of ascertaining first that her mother would not be there.** (p. 21)
4. Eventually, she told a reporter form Cheshire Life, she would put her own ornamental virginity on the menu but as yet had not devised a method **of distinguishing the right buyer form the wrong.** (p. 23)
5. To the idea **of bartering ther virgintiy on screen she brought the same complex of scruple and consent, with both finally winning out.** (p. 23)
6. Over coffee, after the first session, she discussed this idea **of not looking for a reason for their sadness** with and older, elegan man whom she´d noticed a the meeting. (p. 25)
7. Worry is a way **of keeping an image close and safe**, and from the moment of his wife´s stroke – no, further back than that – he had worried about his daughter constantly. (p. 37)
8. And Shylock – a man vexed in the matter **of giving and receiving hospitality himself** – had patted his shoulder. (p. 49)
9. Strulovitch took the liberty **of tapping Shylock´s knee**. (p. 58)
10. But there were strong arguments **for keeping Mottram St Andrew**. (p. 59)
11. Who´s to say I won´t make a better job **of speaking to yours?** (p. 65)
12. The fact of **his never smiling** was the irrefragable proof of that. (p. 68)
13. Not on religious grounds, but because a Jew isn´t interested in the idea **of making noise**. (p. 80)
14. She was not daughter to her father´s manners, she said, but Lorenzo, the rascal who pilfered her, alond with those who conspired in the miappropriation, could not stop commneting on her difference from the man she was ashamed to call father, her gentler disposition, her greater chance **of making it to heaven**, the fairness of her looks. (p. 84)
15. Are you speaking now from your own experience **of being liked?** (p. 93)
16. Shylock appeared on the point **of saying somethin**g, but before their conversation could proceed further, Beatrice herself appeared, a little the worse for wear, in an indigo Stela McCartney robe which Strulovitch had bought her for her last birthday, and a towel around her head. (p. 99)

17. What if he sees Beatrice as a way **of making amends**? (p. 110)
18. He´ll think that´a fancy way **of asking him to take a penalty.** (p. 110)
19. He fell into the habit **of talking to her about what bothered him**, quietly, without any excitement, much as Shylock talked to Leah, keeping all hint of Judaeolunacy out of his vocie, censoring the news. (p. 143)
20. I am as aware as you of the blasphemy **of claiming such entitlement**. (p. 182)
21. Let´s include that, then, in what I might have been on the point **of summonign up**, the blasphemy **of taking life**, had it come to that, in God´s naem, except that it didn´t comew to that. (p. 182)
22. Two minutes **of not getting all he wants** and he´ll be off looking for another wife. (p. 197)
23. At the the moment **of his telling me**, no, Shylock said. (p. 248)

Direct object in monotransitive complementation
1. What about the one where the doctor tells Moishe Greenberg to stop **masturbating**? (p. 12)
2. Then it is time you stopped **playing with it**. (p. 12)
3. On the other hand his father liked **amusing him with anecdotes and rued jokes**. (p. 13)
4. Plurabelle remembered **seeing photographs of South American tribesmen in colour supplements**. (p. 27)
5. To avoid **falling into the hands of the state** was reason in itself for making money. (p. 36)
6. Is it for me to decide for him whether joking beats **spitting?** (p. 63)
7. Stop **doing what she wants you to do**. (p. 73)
8. Stop **trying to figure it out**. (p. 73)
9. Unable to bear **seeing his friend continuing at a loss**, D´Anton reached out for him a nd put a protective hand, like na upturned cup, over his. (p. 75)
10. She was not daughter to her father´s manners, she said, but Lorenzo, the rascal who pilfered her, alond with those who conspired in the miappropriation, could not stop **commneting on her difference from the man she was ashamed to call father, her gentler disposition, her greater chance of making it to heaven, the fairness of her looks.** (p. 84)
11. Yes, and I live to regret **having done so**. (p. 93)
12. Even as they were speaking he remembered **being struck by the appearance of a student he had encountered at the Golden Triangle Academy.** (p. 95)
13. Can you imagine **having a man who advertises underwar for a son-in-law?** (p. 109)
14. It was only when Strulovitch proposed **making a gift of part of his art collection to the people of Cheshire in return for nothing more than some sympathetic easing of plaing restrictions in relation to a once fine but now neglected Jacobean house just ouside Knutsford**. (p. 113)
15. Maybe it wasn´t only to avoid **upsetting her poor vegetating mother** that se didn´t just up and go.
16. Jews appreciated **being liked**, but not collected, Beatrice had explained when he´d first tried wooing her with the line that she was not the first Jew he´d loved. (p.128)
17. Might you consider **parting with it**? (p. 133)
18. I was to understand and be grateful, that the supplicant was me – in which circumstances how could I resist **answering him in his own fashion, embodying his every fear**. (p. 149)
19. Just keep **driving**, Beatrice had said, he´s got no sense of balance, he´ll fall off in the end. (p. 168)
20. He stopped **reading** until he began to read to her again at her graveside. (p. 194)
21. I can´t help **noticing that you appear dishevelled and perturbed**. (p. 199)
22. Try **sneaking a whole look**. (p. 201)
23. I don´t mean **bluffing about her age,** Plury said impatiently. I mean **bluffing about what he´s going to do.** (p. 213)
24. She keeps **talking to me in some foreign language**. (p. 217)

25. Try **standing on a beach and ordering the tide to go back** – that´s what it´s like persuading a Jew to change his mind. (p. 219)
26. Nobody knows me in this town, he kept **complaining**. ¨(p. 245)
27. I´ve stopped **giving Nazi salutes** , he said. (p. 245

Prepositional object in monotransitive complementation
1. But she never got round **to putting into practice**. (p. 22)
2. Plurabelle herself excelled at **medating between stressed partners**. (p. 22)
3. We go on **rememberign friends hwo have been také from us**. (p. 43)
4. That was the price a daughter paid for **having a father who ran the Strulovitch Foundation**. (p. 61)
5. Although D´Anton would never have dreamed **of coming between Plurabelel and Barney**, he liked it when his friend, still bedwarmed, sot ot speak, still with the perfumes of Plurabelle on him, appealed to him for help. (p. 73)
6. And he continued to stare out of the taxi window as Barnaby, sparing no small literary or domestic detail, set **about telling him.** (p. 76)
7. That at least you knew your enemy. And would go **on knowing him until the end of time**. (p. 90)
8. And you needn´t worry **about disturbing me**. (p. 100)
9. Was she thinking **about asking Shylock to accompayn ther to college**. (p. 102)
10. He had thought **about digging one up for his occasion** but decided against, whatever its formality. (p. 122)
11. I will have to consent **to your mutilating him**. (p. 145)
12. Already he was talking **wildly about learning Italian and signing on for Venezia reserves**. (p. 207)
13. D´Anton texted again to ask what Beatrice thought **about returning.** (p. 217)
14. The threat of it might result **in his returning me Grantan**. (p. 233)
15. I doubt very much taht D´Anton would consent **to undergoing that before an audience**. (p. 250)

Prepositional object in ditransitive complementation
1. Is this what you get **for being a good son? (**p. 8)
2. To prevent Leah **from freezing over** he read Petratch to her, and Boccaccio. (p. 31)
3. He hadn´t expecially wanted chidlren and suspected other men **of exaggerating** when they said their hearts burst at the sight of their first child, but his own heart did exactly that. (p. 37)
4. And then I punish her **for feeling what I feel**. (p. 50)
5. Kay accused him **of bringing ancient theological disputation into the house**. (p. 54)
6. You know they used to believe we bled like women, then they accused us **of castrating Christian children. (p. 69)**
7. You don´t accuse your father **of having sexual fantasies about you**. (p. 79)

Adverbial
1. Signs of juch such a struggle are etched on the face of the first of the mourners, a man of middle age and uncertain bearing, who sometimes walks with his head held arrogantly high, and at others stoops **as though hoping not to be seen.** (p. 1)
2. How is it that Leah should be buried among the dead of Gatley is a question only a fool would risk Shylock´s displeasure **by asking**. (p. 5)
3. He intended no disrespect to her **by suspecting the motives of those who wooed her.** (p. 33)
4. Could she have been jealous of Gratan **for enjoying a protection she had come to see as hers alone**? (p. 42)
5. Whatever she thinks of the gift, she will love you **for being definite in your selection of it.** (p. 74)
6. There is less neurosis **in observing** than there is **in lapsing**. (p. 92)
7. Don´ t we create the thing we fear **by hyperbolising it**? (p. 104)

8. If I hadn´t been frightened her off Jewish boys **by telling her she had to find one, s**he might have met a nice quiet embroiderer of skullcups. (p. 108)
9. Not just disgusted with me but with her mother **for allowoing me to keep them**. (p. 148)
10. Nothing was to be acieved **by delaying**, except the saving of his soul. (p. 154)
11. Is a bell pull **not for pulling?** (p. 210)
12. Strulovitch is pleased with himself **for not answering his own question with the words „Rough trade**?"
13. You shouldn´t look on it **as betraying a friend**. (p. 212)
14. Gratan responded **by saying that a friendship could only be tested so far.** (p. 217)
15. He shook his head, still **without opening his eyes**. (p. 225)
16. Could he have kept her **by beautifying her surroundings**?(p. 243)
17. Of the two examples here, she much preferred Shylock, a preference she emphasised **by taking him by the arm and walking him into the marque**, scattering him like gold dust among her friends. (p. 260)
18. To the modern mind there is a dignity **in being tricked**. (p. 275)

Summary in Czech

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá rolí gerundia ve větné skladbě. Je rozdělena do dvou čátí. V teoretické části jsou analyzované nejvýznamnější anglické mluvnice. Pozornost je soustředěna jednak na terminologii autorů a také jejich popisu použití gerundia ve větné skladbě. Je zajímavé, že mezi autory nepanuje shoda; někteří autoři dávaji gerundium do stejné kategorie s příčestím a nerozlišují rozdíly mezi oběma tvary. Namísto gerundií se objevuje název jmenné ingové věty, které však ze syntaktického hlediska plní identické role jako gerundium. Autoři se shodují, že gerundia nebo jmenné ingové věty mohou plnit roli podmětu, doplňku předmětu, doplňku přídavného jména, mohou být v roli přívlastku neshodného; jsou přímým předmětem transitivních sloves i předmětěm předložkových sloves; plní roli předmětu u sloves vyžadující dva předměty a nakonec plní roli příslovečného určení. Praktická část analyzuje čtyři díla současných britských autorů, kde získá 356 příkladů použití gerundia ve větné skladbě. Gerundia jsou poté rozebrána dle jednotlivých syntaktických funkcí. Při rozboru je pozornost věnována vyjádřenému a nevyjádřenému podmětu gerundiálních konstrukcí, kde je zjištěna velmi malá četnost vyjádřených podmětů. Existují možnosti, jak ve výzkumu pokračovat. Jednou z variant je rozbor příčestí ve zmiňovaných knihách a jejich popis ve větné skladbě. Výsledek by jasně vymezil rozdíly mezi gerudiem a příčestím. Další možností je sledovat vyjádřené podměty vedlejších predikací s ohledem na formálnost či neformálnost děl.