Participle / Participial / Converb/ Coverb

A participle is a non-finite form of the verb that can be used either as a 'verb' or 'an adjective'.

If you re-call, you must have learned in 'Morphology' that the verbal forms i.e. [V1-V2-V3 = simple: past: past participle] needs some modification.

In traditional grammar we call V3 as 'past participle', however, this V3 can be used in any tense, and thus we have 'present, past and future participles'.

Anyway, it is just to refresh your memory, and let us come back to our actual discussion.

So, a participle is a non-finite form of the verb. A non-finite form of the verb is that form of the verb which is [-tense, -PNG(phi-features) but +aspect].

So, as per this morpho-syntactic bundle of features, there are two kinds of participle forms in English:

a. –ed perfect participle , b. –ing imperfect participle

Now, these participle forms can either be used as a Verb or they can be used as an adjective. For example:

1. The boy has/had/will have paint-ed the wall.

2. The boy is/was/will be eat-ing an apple.

However, we can also use these '-ed and -ing' for deriving an adjective from verb, and call these verbal forms as 'non-finite forms of the verb'.

3. The jump-ing monkey broke the vase.

4. The brok-en heart pains a lot.

The use of the participles in these example entails that the form of the participle is same, but the function is different.

Understanding Verbals

The non-finite form of verbs are referred as verbals in the literature.

Verbals are verb-forms that are being used as another part of speech rather than a verb.

There are three types of Verbals

Participles

Gerunds

Infinitives

Examples

The frightened cat scratched my eye.

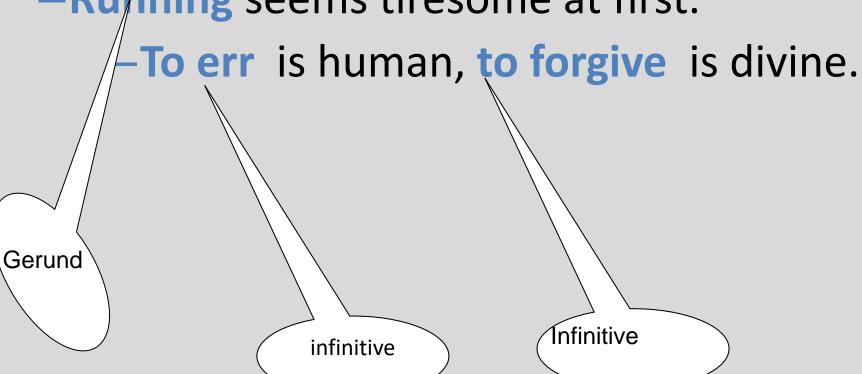Running seems tiresome at first.

To err is human. To forgive is divine.

Verbals

- Verbals are verb-forms that are being used as another part of speech rather than a verb.

- Examples

  Participle

  – The **frightened** cat scratched my eye.
  – **Running** seems tiresome at first.
  – **To err** is human, **to forgive** is divine.

  Gerund

  infinitive

  Infinitive

Participles

- A participle is one of the verbals or a form of the verb that acts as an adjective.
  - The **crying** woman left the movie theater.
  - The **frustrated** child ran away from home.

- Participles ending in an "-***ing***" are called 'imperfect participle'.

- Participles ending in an "-***ed***" are known as 'perfect participle'.

Converb

- In theoretical linguistics, a **converb** is a non-finite verb form that serves to express adverbial subordination and it is done with the help of subordinators such as 'when', 'because', 'after', 'while'.

- Converbs are differentiated from coverbs, which are verbs in complex predicates in languages and often termed as serial verb construction.

- The term *converb* was coined for Mongolian by Ramstedt [rɑməˇstez] (1903). It is used for describing non-finite verbs that can be employed either for coordination or subordination.

- Nedjalkov [nejolkɑv] & Nedjalkov (1987) first adopted the term for general typological use and it was later followed by Haspelmath & König (1995) and gave a detailed account of it.

- A converb may syntactically depend on another grammatical element. It can be used an adjunct, i.e. an adverbial element in the language.

- The 'conjunctive participle' i.e. '-kər/ -ke' in Hindi that is used with a verb, has been included as one of the examples of Converb by many researchers' (see Haspelmath 1995).

Conjunctive participle

Conjunctive Participle is the term mainly used because it is used for the conjunction of two or more clauses.

The conjunctive participle is formed in most languages by a grammaticalized participle affix that is put on the verbal element which converts that verb into a non-finite verb.

"Conjunctive Participle" is such an old phenomenon that it has been robustly used even by Sir George Abraham Grierson (1903-1928) in his Linguistic Survey of India.

Many researchers working on Hindi such as Bailey 1933; Greaves 1933; Scholberg 1940; Kellogg 1938 and Kakati 1962 (for Assamese) have used this term in their work.

In most Indian Languages, this participle changes the verb into a non-finite form to establish the complex syntactic relation between two or more clauses i.e. 'Complex Sentences'.

In Conjunctive Participial Construction the subject of a non-finite clause is deleted under the issue of identity with the subject of a higher clause.
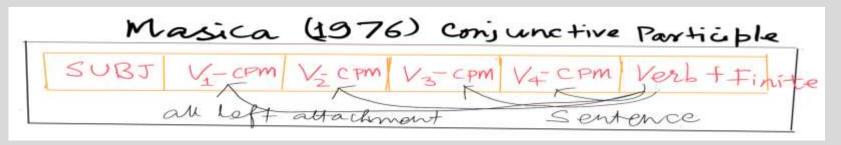
It is to be noted that the subject of non-finite adverbial clause as well as infinitival clause be deleted under the issue of identity with the subject of higher clause.

The functionalists take a position that the subject of the embedded clause can be deleted under the redundancy-rule of grammar (i.e. being identical with the subject of matrix clause.

This type of deletion under identity with the matrix clause is referred to as **Equi-NP deletion** in the early transformational generative grammar framework.

Later, a very technical explanation was given in generative grammar and explained the deletion of NP in SPEC position because of the lack of a nominative case from a tense-less INFL.

- Masica (1976) describes Conjunctive Participle as a special non-finite verbal-form which is used for conjoining two or more sentences(usually with the same subject) to the left of the finite verb in South Asian Languages.

Masica (1976) Conjunctive Participle

SUBJ	V_1-CPM	V_2 CPM	V_3-CPM	V_4-CPM	Verb + Finite

all left attachment   Sentence

- Masica (ibid) also points out that CP is clearly a case of subordination to the other clauses and to the clause that has the finite verb.

- He also says that it is close to co-ordination except that

- i) the subject of the two clauses must be the same.

- ii) the two clauses must be compatible in tense and aspect i.e. with a perfective reading of the Conjunctive Participle.

Lindholm(1975) claims that a semantic condition is followed or obeyed in Tamil CP construction but Tamil does not have to follow condition of subject-identity constraint.

He also mentions that there are numerous counter examples for the same subject condition in Tamil.

However, according to Sridhar (1976), we can delete the subject(s) on the basis of its (their) co-reference with the subject of matrix clause under the **Equi-NP deletion** rule in Kannada.

Kachru(1978,1980) points out that the CP in Hindi performs various adverbial functions such as Time, Reason and Manner etc.

Arora and Subbarao(1989) argue that as a result of prolonged contact with Telugu, the conjunctive participle in Dakkhini Hindi exhibits several new functions which are not found in Hindi.

They show that Dakkhini Hindi uses CP for contra-factual, presumptions, concessive (even if, however, moreover) and in compound verbs.

Dakkhini (IA)

kamala	bhot	dinō	se	kām	nai	kar	ke	ai
Kamala	many	days	since	work	not	do	cpm	is

'Kamala has not worked for many days.'

Dakkhini (IA)

rahīm	ye	tāim	talak	uskā	kām	khatam	kar	ke	hogā
Rahim	this	time	until	his	work	finish	do	cpm	be+fut

'Rahim must have finished his work by now.'

Abbi(1984) also argues that the CPs can modify action denoted by the subject and they give a sequential meaning of the action described by the main verb.

She also points out that the identical **subject condition** is violated in time expressions in Hindi.

We will now examine various functions of 'conjunctive participles.

The function of conjunctive participle

1. **Sequential Action (as a Conjunction)**

2. **As a time Adverb:**

3. **As a Manner Adverb:**

4. **As a Reason Adverb :**

5. **Instead of Interpretation**

6. **Scope of negation**

7. **Identity constraint**

1. Sequential Action (as a Conjunction):The Conjunctive Participle is used to indicate a temporal sequence of actions.

The action expressed by the conjunctive participle precedes the action in the matrix clauses. Examples:

Hindi	mɛ̃	bɑzɑr	jɑ- kər	kitɑb	kʰərɪd- kər	aũ-	gɑ
	I 1MS	market	go **cpm**	book	buy **cpm**	come	prst 1MS

'I will go to the market, buy a book and come back'.

Angika	hamɛ̃	bɑzɑrɑ	jɛ -kə	kiṭbɑ	kini- kə	ɑ	-bo
	I 1S	market	go **cpm**	book	buy **cpm**	come	fut 1S

'I will go to the market, buy a book and come back'.

2. As time adverb: The Conjunctive Participle also functions as a time adverb in most of the South Asian languages.

The use of conjunctive participle marker is very natural and common expression of time, specially in describing the time in fraction.

For example:

Hindi	bəčče		rɑt	-ko	bɑrəh	bəj	-kər	tis	minəṭ-pe	so-ye
	children-3MPl		night	Loc	twenlve	o'clock	cpm	thirty	minute-Loc	sleep-pst-3MPl

'Children slept at twelve thirty at night'.

Angika	buturwənʰi	gʰər	tin	bəji	-kə	bis	mint-əm	ɑ-le
	children-3Pl	house	three	o'clock	cpm	twenty	minute-loc	come-pst-3Pl

'Children came home twenty past three'.

3. As a Manner Adverb: The Conjunctive Participle also functions as a manner adverb in most of the South Asian languages.

For example:

Hindi	bəčče	dɔṛ	-kər	medɑn	-me	kʰel-ne	gəye
	children-3MPl	run	cpm	field	loc	play-inf-3MPl	go-perf-3MPl

'Children went running in the field in order to play'.

Angika	buturwənʰi	dɔṛi	-kə	ṭəṛɪyɑ	-pər	kʰelel	ge-le
	children-3MPl	run	cpm	field	loc	play-inf-3MPl	go-perf-3MPl

'Children went running in the field in order to play'.

Marathi	mədʰu-	ne	pustɑk	-e	utəsl-	un	kəpaṭ	-ɑt	tʰew- hi
	Madhu	erg	book	3Pl	pick up	cpm	cupboard	loc	put -pst-3P

'Having picked up the books, Madhu put (them) in the cupboard'.

4. As a Reason Adverb : The Conjunctive Participle works as reason adverb.

The reason of an action, feeling or emotion is expressed by the non-finite verb that takes the conjunctive participle in Hindi and many other South Asian languages.

For example:

Hindi	bəčče	mela	jɑ	kər	kʰuš	hu-ʋ-e
	children	fair	go	cpm	happy	be-pst-3MPl

'Children became happy going to the fair'.

Angika	buturwən^hi	meləwɑ	-mə	jɛ	-kə	mɪʈʰəyɑ	kʰɛ	-kə	kʰus	bʰe-le
	Childred-3Pl	fair		loc	go	cpm	sweet	eat	cpm	happy	be-pst-3Pl

'Having gone to the fair and having eaten sweets, children became happy'.

5. The instead of interpretation : The conjunctive participle in Hindi and other Indian languages is used to mark some unique opposite actions which are expressed by a non-finite and a finite verb.

It is because of this semantic contrast of the action, a function such as 'instead of interpretation' is given to CP.

This function is obtained only when a contrast between related clause is expressed.

The CP along with a negative particle imparts the instead of interpretation.

For example:

Hindi	rɑm	gʰər	nə	jɑ-	kər	melɑ	dekʰne	cəlɑ	gə- yɑ
	Ram- 3MS	home	neg	go	cpm	fair	see-inf-N- Obl	walk- 3MS	go-past 3MS

'Ram went to fair instead of going home'.

Some more examples:

Kangri	se	mɪṭṭʰɑi	nəyi	kʰɑyi	-ne	nəmkin	kʰɑ- dɑ
he 3MS	sweets	neg	eat	**cpm**	snacks	eat-Pres-imperf-3MS

'He is eating snacks instead of eating sweets'.

6. One of the functions of 'conjunctive participle' that has been reported by several research is the scope of 'negation' in CP-construction.

It seems there is an ambiguity and this ambiguity is partially a contribution of the negative particle, however, the participial marker with the verb to convert it into a non-finite is a must to facilitate the ambiguity in the meaning.

For example:

Hindi	rɑm	gʰus	le	-kər	kɑm	nəhi	kərtɑ		hɛ
	Ram-3MS	bribe	take	cpm	work	neg	do-pres-imperf-3MS		be-pres

'Ram does not take bribe to do the work'.

'Ram does not do work, even after taking the bribe'.

Reading -1: is generic and thus default.

However, reading -2: is not something that is not convincing !!

7. The 'conjunctive participle' is also sometimes used in a situation where there may be an 'identity constraint' for the events in two different clauses and yet, it is possible to connect these two events by using the CP marker. For example:

Hindi	bɑriš	ho	-kər	pʰəsəl	əččʰi	hʊ-wi
	rain-3FS	be	cpm	crop	good-F	be-pst-3FS

'The crop grew well due to the rain'.

That's all 😊