

Advanced English : L1 Handbook

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CHAPTER 3

Difference between Declarative and Expressive Forms of Language – When Statement becomes Expression

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3.1 Objectives

This chapter aims to help the students in understanding the structural and functional natures of the two categories of human language – the declarative and the expressive. The structural and functional natures of the subcategories of these two categories will also be discussed for their proper understanding. This understanding is to be complemented by the knowledge of orthodox or functional grammar that the students have already learnt during their secondary and higher secondary school days. This chapter and the exercises appended to it would enable an undergraduate general course student in (i) identifying the form of language through its structural and functional nature and in (ii) transforming one form into another.

3.2 Declarative Forms of Language

Declarative forms of language primarily consist of declarative sentences. A declarative sentence is the one that states, narrates or asserts (whether in support or in denial) something. For this reason declarative sentences are also called statements, narrative sentences or assertive sentences. The punctuation mark at the end of a declarative sentence is always a full stop (.).

Syntactically, in the English language, a declarative sentence maintains the most orthodox subject-verb-object syntax pattern. For example, in the sentence 'Birds have wings', 'birds' is subject, 'have' is verb, and 'wings' is object. A declarative sentence rarely alters this subject-verb-object syntax pattern. Declarative sentences can structurally be simple, compound or complex sentence. For example, 'Birds have wings' – simple sentence;

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