



Structural and semantic types of predicates in the Latin language

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Abstract. The syntactic theory is undergoing dynamic development within linguistic scholarship, with growing scholarly interest in the syntactic structure of the Latin language. This study aimed to analyse the structural and semantic types of predicates within the semantic-syntactic structure of the sentence. The research employed a comprehensive set of methods, ranging from morphological to contextual analysis, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Information from various sources on the predicate as a distinct type of main sentence constituent – characterised by a range of specific features – has been systematised, and the parameters of its functioning have been described. The study addressed the issue of syntactic relationships between sentence constituents – namely, the predicate as the main sentence constituent and the subordinate elements that together form the sentence structure, convey its core meaning, and determine its specificity. The positional placement of the predicate within the sentence structure was analysed, along with its stylistic function, differential features, and forms of expression. It was substantiated that the predicate constitutes the semantic and grammatical core of the sentence and is structurally non-uniform. The study examined the structural and semantic types of predicates in the Latin language, clarified and systematises existing data on their classifications, and defined the place of each type within the overall typology of predicates. It identified the means by which compound verbal predicates are extended through the use of modal components and substantiates that the modal meaning conveyed in a sentence depends both on the morphological composition of the compound verbal predicate and on the choice of linking verbs. It was noted that when a verbal base forms part of a compound verbal predicate, the means of expression conveys the corresponding modal meaning of the predicate. The forms

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of realisation of both verbal and compound nominal predicates are outlined, their usage within sentences is explored, and their functions are supported with examples. The findings contribute to a broader understanding of the syntactic structure of the Latin language. The results concerning structural and semantic types of predicates may be applied in future theoretical research on the semantic-syntactic structure of the sentence

Keywords: syntax; sentence structure; predicative relationship; predicate; simple verbal predicate; compound verbal predicate; compound nominal predicate

Introduction

Latin, as the foundation of many modern European languages, continues to exert considerable influence on the formation of their grammatical structures. The relevance of studying predicates lies in its potential to enhance the understanding of the development of syntactic relations and semantic functions in the Romance languages, as well as in other languages shaped by Latin influence. The predicate is a central element of the sentence in any language, and its analysis in Latin contributes to a broader understanding of universal grammatical principles – an area of particular importance to linguists engaged in comparative-historical language studies. Latin remains widely used in scientific terminology, law, theology, and various other fields. A sound understanding of its syntactic functions, especially the role of predicates, supports accurate interpretation of texts and their adaptation to contemporary usage. Investigating predicates offers deeper insight into how syntax and semantics interact in Latin, enabling the identification of connections between sentence structure and meaning, and revealing patterns that may have influenced the development of grammatical categories in modern languages. An understanding of a language's grammatical system allows for a deeper grasp of its structure and facilitates the translation of Latin texts. The study of the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin is essential for gaining deeper insight into the Latin syntactic system, particularly the interrelation between form and meaning within

the sentence. As the central component of the predicative structure, the predicate determines the nature of syntactic relationships within the sentence and conveys key grammatical categories such as mood, tense, person, and number. The analysis of Latin predicates enables the tracing of syntactic construction development within the language system, highlights the specific combinability of verbal and nominal forms, and sheds light on the principles underlying the structural organisation of the language. Within this framework, particular attention is paid to the distinctions between simple, compound, analytical, and other types of predicates, as well as to their functioning across various genres and styles of Latin. This contributes to a broader understanding of the semantic flexibility and syntactic versatility of this classical language.

Problems of syntax remain a focus of interest for many scholars and are investigated across a wide range of languages. The syntax of the Latin language continues to attract the attention of contemporary linguists, particularly within the fields of historical linguistics, syntactic theory, and comparative linguistics. Numerous prominent international scholars have examined, or continue to explore, various aspects of Latin syntax. H. Pinkster (2021) made a significant contribution to the study of Latin semantics and pragmatics, as well as to syntax, by applying modern linguistic theories and concentrating on the sentence and its predicative core – namely, the subject and predicate. S. Aerts (2021) explored the role of grammatical

aspect within the Latin tense system, describing three levels of meaning – referential, textual, and interpersonal – and analysed “tense” and “aspect” as categories connected to the communicative intentions present in narrative tenses. T. Burkard & M. Schauer (2020) emphasised the importance of Latin syntax and semantics, provided a detailed description of the predicate and subject-predicate agreement, and examined in depth several theoretical and practical issues in syntax that have been, and in many cases remain, of scholarly concern. H. Riemsdijk (2021) examined the interaction between syntactic structures and other linguistic levels, presenting a modern approach to the study of syntax across various languages, including Latin, with an emphasis on comparative analysis. He outlined the principles of universal grammar as shared between phonology and syntax. B. Spieralska-Kasprzyk (2021) investigated syntactic and semantic coreference in Latin (prefix *co-* from Latin meaning “together” and *ferens* (*ferentis*) referring to a subject of thought with which a linguistic expression correlates), is based on the shared informative-referential content of a sentence and the structuring of linguistic units (subject, predicate, and other minor sentence constituents). These researchers, along with many others, have contributed to a renewed understanding of the Latin language. Their studies hold not only historical value but also practical significance for modern linguistics, helping to bridge classical languages with contemporary grammatical theory. Nevertheless, there remains a need to further develop the analysis of predicates within the semantic-syntactic structure of the sentence and to systematise knowledge of the types of predicates in Latin and how they are expressed.

The study of Latin syntax in contemporary Ukrainian scholarship is multifaceted, encompassing a range of approaches – from traditional philology to the application of computational linguistics. L. Shevchenko (2023) argued that in the 20th and 21st centuries, the

scope of Latin usage has begun to expand once more, accompanied by growing interest in restoring its function as a supranational means of communication. A number of Ukrainian scholars have made significant contributions to this field. In particular, the typology of predicates has been addressed within Ukrainian linguistic research, primarily by scholars of classical philology. Ukrainian researchers studying predicates in the Latin language have focused on its grammatical structures and syntactic features. Among those engaged in the study of Latin and its syntax within Ukrainian classical philology are several notable figures. B. Chernyukh (2022) explored the concept of Vulgar Latin, analysing its phonetic, morphological, and syntactic developments. I. Romaniuk (2023) examined the semantic-syntactic features of polyprefixal verbs in Late Latin and argued that the semantic properties of a verb determine its valency potential and influence the selection of actants.

The syntactic structure of the sentence and the expression of its principal components – the subject and predicate – remain central to the research of many contemporary linguists, approached from the perspectives of various languages and theoretical frameworks. N. Zdorovets (2023) paid particular attention to the functional and structural characteristics of Ukrainian, English, and Crimean Tatar, offering new insights into the interaction of different linguistic systems. Yu. Vaseiko & T. Masytska (2021) examined the features of the compound nominal predicate in the legislative variety of the official business style. T. Chuban & L.V. Kardash (2020) synthesised information on predicative constructions as a distinct type of main sentence constituent, highlighting a set of specific features. These linguists outlined the parameters of predicate functioning and emphasised that predicates are not structurally uniform and have their own morphological means of expression. V. Molotskyi (2024) attempted to clarify and systematise information on the complex compound nominal predicate,

identifying its modal components as key means of structural complication.

However, a review of recent publications reveals a lack of studies specifically focused on the predicate as the main sentence constituent in Latin. In most cases, this topic has been addressed only within broader investigations of Latin syntax, while no dedicated research has explored the typology of predicates in its own right. Consequently, the study of predicates based on Latin material is both timely and worthy of thorough scholarly attention. There remains a need to refine the formal and grammatical features of predicates, analyse how they are expressed, and justify their typology according to the means of conveying modal and temporal meanings. This study aimed, therefore, to identify and systematise the structural and semantic types of predicates in the Latin language, to describe their grammatical and semantic characteristics, and to reveal patterns of their use within the context of Classical Latin literature.

Materials and Methods

The source material for this study included the Latin-Ukrainian Dictionary (Trofymuk & Trofymuk, 2001) and the Ukrainian-Ancient Greek-Latin Dictionary (Boyko & Myronova, 2012). The factual linguistic data were drawn from a diverse range of Latin literary works, from which sentences exemplifying the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin were extracted using a method of continuous and representative sampling. The total sample size comprises over 200 units, representing works by the following authors: T. Maccius Plautus *Aulularia* (Pl.xAul.), *Miles Gloriosus* (Pl Mil.), *Amphitrio* (Pl. Am.), *Persa* (Pl. Per.), *Epidicus* (Pl. Epid.); M. Tullius Cicero *Cato* (C Cat.), *Tusculanae disputationes* (C. Tusc.), *Epistulae ad familiares* (C. Fam.), *Pro Sestio* (Sest.), *De legibus* (C. Leg.), *De Inventione* (C. Inv.), *De republica* (C. Rep.), *Divinatione* (C. Div.), *Pro Sestio* (C.Sest.), *De finibus bonorum* (C. Fin.), *Pro rege Dejotaro* (C. Dej.), *De Officiis* (C. Off.) *Philippicae* (C. Phil.), *De natura*

deorum (C. N. D.); Cornelius Tacitus *Germania* (Tac. G.), *Annales* (Tac. A.); G. Valerius Catullus (Catul.); T. Livius *Ab Urbe condita* (Liv.); C. Julius Caesar *De bello Gallico* (Caes. B. G.); Cornelius Nepos *Agaesilaus* (Nep. Ag.), *Epaminondas* (Nep. Ep.); Albius Tibullus (Tib.); Apuleius *Apologia* (Apul. Apol.); M. Claudius Marcellus (Marc. Fam.); L. Annaeus Seneca *Epistulae* (Sen. Ep.); Valerius Maximus (Val. Max.); M. Terentius Varro *Res rusticae* (Varr R. R.); P. Ovidius Naso *Metamorphoses* (Ov. Met.).

The methods used to investigate the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin were based on a comprehensive analysis of linguistic phenomena. The first stage of the research employed a selective sampling method, involving the extraction of linguistic material from the aforementioned sources. Attention was focused on selecting sentences that were representative of analysing structural and semantic types of predicates. This approach made it possible to identify how predicates function within sentences and to determine their specific features. The method of observation was used to trace the functioning of predicates in context, to collect and examine relevant examples, and to classify the structural and semantic types of predicates.

Following the selection and systematisation of the predicates, morphological analysis was conducted. This included the study of formal grammatical features, morphological realisation, syntactic roles, and semantic characteristics of predicates. The analysis centred on the means of predicate realisation through verb forms (simple verbal predicates), constructions involving linking verbs and predicative components (compound nominal predicates), and the use of modal elements (compound verbal predicates). Particular interest was given to comparing the Latin system with analogous structures in other languages, which provided a deeper understanding of the patterns governing predicate function as a key element of the sentence at both syntactic and morphological levels.

The study of the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin involved an analysis of syntactic constructions, which helped to reveal the particular ways in which formal and semantic components are combined within the sentence. As the primary bearer of predicativity, the predicate in Latin exhibits a complex system of expression, encompassing both simple forms (verbal and nominal) and compound forms (notably constructions with auxiliary verbs or copulas). The semantic classification includes aspects such as action, state, relation, or modality, while the structural analysis focuses on the syntactic means of predicate formation, including case and word order. This integrated approach made it possible to identify patterns of usage in both Classical and Late Latin, especially regarding their function in conveying the stylistic and communicative aims of a text. The semantic analysis covered a variety of formal structures, including both simple and compound predicates, and explored their semantic function in the context of expression. Particular attention was given to the ways in which predicativity is conveyed through verbal forms, combinations with nouns or adjectives, and impersonal constructions.

The study of structural and semantic types of predicates in the Latin language focused on analysing the relationship between grammatical form and semantic content. This approach enabled the identification of patterns in predicate functioning across different syntactic constructions. The structural aspect of the analysis provided a classification of predicates according to their form of expression (simple or compound), while the semantic component examined their meanings – whether denoting action, state, or relation. Particular attention was given to the transformation of predicative structures in connection with the evolution of Latin, which helped to reveal both universal linguistic patterns and features specific to Latin in the context of its historical development.

The comparative-historical method used to investigate the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin involved analysing the evolution of these constructions within the context of related Indo-European languages. This approach made it possible to trace the origins and development of predicate forms and to identify both commonalities and differences arising from historical shifts, language contact, and the internal dynamics of Latin. The application of this method also facilitated the reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European roots, clarified the functional and semantic characteristics of various predicate types, and revealed their role in the syntactic structure of the sentence. Moreover, it sheds light on their influence on subsequent stages in the development of the Romance languages.

The quantitative method used in the study of structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin involved the systematic analysis of sentences to identify and statistically account for various types of predicates. This approach included the classification of predicates according to their structural characteristics (simple or compound) and semantic features (verbal, nominal, descriptive, etc.). A corpus of texts was compiled to represent different styles and historical periods of the Latin language. Each predicate was identified, categorised according to defined parameters, and counted. The collected data were then analysed using statistical methods to uncover patterns in the usage of predicates in Latin. This allowed conclusions to be drawn regarding their evolution, functions, and frequency in different contexts.

The diachronic approach to the study of structural and semantic types of predicates focused on their development across different chronological stages – from Archaic Latin to Late Latin. This method enabled the identification of changes in the structure and semantics of predicates under the influence of internal linguistic processes such as grammaticalisation,

syntactic reorganisation, and lexical-semantic enrichment, as well as external factors including language contact and sociohistorical transformations. Such analysis helped to establish patterns in the development of predicative constructions, to distinguish between innovative and archaic elements, and to outline their impact on the formation of syntactic structures in Neo-Latin and modern Romance languages.

Results and Discussion

The study of the predicate in Latin has been a central aspect of grammatical scholarship for centuries. Significant contributions have been made by both ancient and modern scholars. Significant contributions have been made by both ancient and modern scholars. The eminent Roman philologist M. Terentius Varro (1910) provided detailed descriptions of the parts of speech, examined Latin syntax, and explored sentence constituents such as the subject and predicate. According to L. Zvonska *et al.* (2017), Varro's studies – including *De Lingua Latina*, *De Sermone Latino*, *De Similitudine Verborum*, *De Utilitate Sermonis*, *De Origine Linguae Latinae*, and *De Antiquitate Litterarum* – remain valuable sources for the study of Latin grammar. The most comprehensive grammatical treatise of Late Antiquity, *Institutiones Grammaticae*, authored by the Roman grammarian Priscian, presents an in-depth treatment of Latin syntax, including sentence components, supported by examples from classical authors. This grammar served as a foundational text for Latin language instruction throughout the Middle Ages.

Establishing syntactic connections between sentence constituents in Latin presents a complex and multifaceted challenge. This is largely due to the unique characteristics of the Latin language, particularly its inflectional structure, which can complicate the straightforward identification of relationships between sentence constituents. Latin is based on the inflectional principle, meaning that the grammatical functions and meanings of words

depend on formal changes in their endings. The syntactic relationship between the subject (*subiectum*) and the predicate (*praedicatum*) is ensured through agreement in number and person, which constitutes a fundamental principle of sentence construction and determines the grammatical correctness of the utterance. Linguist A.L. Sihler (1995) authored a comparative grammar of Greek and Latin, in which he thoroughly analysed Latin syntax and sentence structure, paying particular attention to sentence constituents, especially the predicate as a distinct type of main sentence constituent. B. Chernyukh (2017) conducted a diachronic analysis of the evolving relationship between aspectual semantics and actional types of predicates. He distinguished the kinds of action conveyed by Latin verbs, modelled the functional-semantic field of aspect, and examined the Latin verb in terms of aspectual markers – identifying features such as limitativity, phase, duration, multiplicity, and intensity. L. Zvonska *et al.* (2017) characterised the predicate (*praedicatum*) as the main sentence constituent that expresses the action, being, state, or quality of the subject. They described two structural and semantic types of predicates: the simple verbal predicate and the compound nominal predicate.

The *praedicatum*, when expressed by a verb, always agrees with the *subiectum* in number and person. The position of the *praedicatum* within the sentence is a significant aspect of Latin syntax, as it shapes the logical structure of the utterance and governs the interaction between its elements. Latin is classified as a language with relatively free word order; however, certain conventions and rules influence the placement of the predicate depending on style, context, and rhetorical purpose. In Classical Latin, the predicate most commonly appears at the end of the sentence, a placement that serves to emphasise the completeness of the thought and highlight the predicate as the central element of the statement: “*Qui sibi, quicquid tetigerint, tenent*” (Pl. Aul. 2.2.21) – “Everything they touch, they

keep for themselves”. Classical Latin word order is often described as SOV (Subject-Object-Verb). While the predicate usually occupies the final position, it may be repositioned to meet stylistic or rhetorical demands. According to observations by S. Demo (2012), linguistic models can offer a more robust framework for understanding these variations, highlighting the need for ongoing revision and refinement to ensure both the practical applicability and theoretical soundness of Latin grammar.

The positional arrangement of the predicate in Latin follows several models: 1) classical model (SOV) – the predicate appears at the end of the sentence, e.g. *Tempus vulnera sanat* – “Time heals wounds”. 2) emphatic model (VSO) – the predicate comes first to emphasise the action, e.g. *Sanat tempus vulnera* – “Heals time wounds”. 3) object-focused model (OSV) – the object precedes the subject, with the predicate remaining at the end, e.g. *Vulnera tempus sanat* – “Wounds time heals”. 4) Inversion (OVS or VOS) – used for stylistic emphasis on the action or object, e.g. *Vulnera sanat tempus* – “Wounds are healed by time”; *Sanat vulnera tempus* – “Heals wounds time”. 5) Ellipsis (VO or OV) – the subject is omitted and understood from context, e.g. *Sanat vulnera* – “Heals wounds”; *Vulnera sanat* – “Wounds heals”. According to O. Vasylevska (2013), the verb-predicate, which traditionally occupies the final position in Classical Latin, gradually shifts towards the middle or even the beginning of the sentence. This change in placement was often triggered by the use of adverbial words or constructions at the start of the sentence, or by the precedence of another main or subordinate clause.

In complex structures – particularly in poetic texts or rhetorical speeches – the word order in Latin may shift to achieve stylistic effects. Placing the predicate at the beginning of the sentence can serve to emphasise the action, while positioning it in the middle often contributes to a more balanced sentence structure. An analysis of predicate positioning in Latin

sentences reveals that its placement also depends on syntactic relationships. In subordinate clauses, the predicate frequently appears at the end, aligning with the general tendency of Latin to conclude syntactic blocks with a verb. For instance: “*Ubi abductas senserant legiones, agros incursabant*” (Liv. 2.48.5) – “When they perceived that the legions had been withdrawn, they attacked the fields”; “*Neque, dum eram vobiscum, animum meum videbatis*” (C. Cat. m. 22.79) – “Nor, while I was with you, did you see my soul”; “*Danubius plures populos adit, donec in Ponticum mare sex meatibus erumpat*” (Tac. G. 1.4) – “The Danube passes through the lands of many peoples until it flows into the Black Sea through six channels”. According to B. Comrie (1981), the study of syntactic typology, including universal features of predicates, constitutes a key aspect of syntactic analysis. Thus, predicate placement in Latin is flexible and influenced by grammatical conventions as well as the speaker’s stylistic and rhetorical intentions. This variability enables Latin to convey meaning effectively while also contributing to the artistic expressiveness of the text.

The forms of expressing the predicate (*praedicatum*) in Latin are varied, and their selection depends on the syntactic structure of the sentence and the type of utterance. The Latin predicate exhibits a wide range of forms and functions, allowing for precise expression of meaning and logical relationships within a sentence. It may be realised through a finite verb (*verbum finitum*), which changes according to person, number, tense, mood, and voice. For example: “*Num ille te nam novit?*” (Pl. Mil. 924) – “Does he know you?”, where *novit* (knows) functions as a simple predicate. In addition, the predicate may be compound, particularly when the main verb is accompanied by auxiliary elements, such as in constructions involving the infinitive: “*Loquor de doctore homine, cui vivere est cogitare*” (C. Tusc. 5.38.111) – “I speak of a learned man for whom to live is to think”. The defining features of the predicate are most

evident in its close relationship with the subject, especially in verb agreement. For instance, when the subject is plural, the predicate must also be plural: “*Soles occidere et redire possunt*” (Catul. 5.4) – “Sunny days can pass and return”.

A notable feature of the Latin language is the presence of verb forms that have no direct equivalents in many modern languages, such as the gerund and supine, both of which may form part of the predicate. The gerund often replaces the infinitive when functioning as an indirect object, while still preserving verbal government. For example: “*Fessis labore et pugnando quies data militibus*” (Liv. 21.35.5) – “To the soldiers, exhausted by toil and fighting, rest was given”; “*Totius fere Gallie legati ad Caesarem gratulatum convenerunt*” (Caes. B. G. 1.30.1) – “Envoys from nearly all of Gaul came to Caesar to congratulate him”. Modality in the predicate is conveyed through the moods of the verb: the indicative expresses reality, the subjunctive indicates possibility, desire, or conditionality, and the imperative conveys command. For example: “*Cura, ut valeas*” (C. Fam. 12.29.3) – “Take care to stay well” (imperative). Negation within the predicate structure is typically formed using the particle *ne*: “*Amemus patriam, pareamus senatui, consulamus bonis, praesentes fructus neglegamus, posteritatis gloriae serviamus*” (C. Sest. 68.143) – “Let us love our country, obey the Senate, care for the good, forgo immediate gain, and strive for the glory of posterity”.

Within sentence structure, the predicate plays a key role, defining both the grammatical and semantic meaning of the utterance. According to I. Melnyk (2019), the predicate in a sentence possesses a set of formal grammatical categorical features and variable forms of expression. Many linguists distinguish two primary realisations of the predicate – the verbal predicate and the compound nominal predicate. As noted by L. Zvonska *et al.* (2017), the simple verbal predicate is processual in nature, while the compound nominal predicate is qualificative. In the texts under analysis, the verbal

predicate is represented in two forms: the simple verbal predicate and the compound verbal predicate. Each of these forms has its own characteristics and means of usage within a sentence.

The simple verbal predicate (SVP) functions as the main sentence constituent expressing an action, state, or process. It agrees with the subject in number and person and may also reflect tense, mood, or voice. Based on the observations, the SVP typically consists of a single verb that does not require auxiliary elements to convey an action or state. For example: “*Aliis coluit, non sibi*” (Pl. Am. 17.49) – “He cared for others, not for himself”; “*Prior horum apud Massagetos in proelio cecidit*” (Nep. Ag. 21.1.2) – “The first of them fell in battle against the Massagetae”; “*Conon pecuniae quinquaginta talenta civibus suis donavit*” (Nep. Ep. 9.4.5) – “Conon gifted fifty talents to his fellow citizens”; “*Balbus Actium majestatis postulaverat*” (Tac. A. 6.47) – “Balbus accused Actius of treason”; “*Pectora tristitiae dissoluenda dedit*” (Tib. 1.7.40) – “He surrendered his heart to be freed from sorrow”; “*Haud equidem ullius civis fortunae aut conditioni invideo*” (Liv. 22.59.10) – “Indeed, I do not envy the fortune or position of any citizen”.

The most common means of expressing the simple verbal predicate (Table 1) is through the finite verb form. For instance: “*Veneti navium quod ubique fuerat in unum locum coegerant*” (Caes. B.G. 3.16.2) – “The Veneti had gathered in one place all the ships that had been scattered everywhere”. Here, *coegerant* (had gathered) is a finite verb in the active voice, past perfect tense, third person plural. Another example: “*Quam multos divini supplicii metus a scelere revocavit*” (C. Leg. 2.7.16) – “How many people the fear of divine punishment has turned away from crime”. The verb *revocavit* (turned away) functions as a simple verbal predicate, active voice, perfect tense, third person singular. A simple verbal predicate may be expressed by a single verb form in the indicative mood, for example, in the perfect indicative (past tense): “*Eriphyle auro viri vitam vendidit*” (C. Inv. 1.50.94) –

“Eriphyle sold her husband’s life for gold”. The simple verbal predicate is conveyed by a verb that agrees with the subject in gender, number, and person: “**Speremus nostrum nomen volitare latissime**” (C. Rep. 1.17.26) – “Let us hope that our name will spread far and wide”, where *speremus* (let us hope) functions as an SVP because the verb is in a simple form and lacks additional nominal components or auxiliary verbs. The phrase *volitare latissime* (to spread far and wide) is a dependent construction (an infinitival complement) and is not part of the core predicate.

In the sentence “*Nec me pudet fateri nescire*” (C. Tusc. 1.25.60) – “I am not ashamed to admit that I do not know”, the simple verbal predicate is the verb *pudet* (I am ashamed), which indicates an emotional state. The verbs *fateri* (to admit) and *nescire* (not to know) are infinitives functioning as complements or adverbial modifiers within the broader expression of thought. An SVP may also be expressed using impersonal forms that lack a clearly defined subject: *Pluit – It is raining* (*pluit* is an impersonal verb in the third person singular, present tense).

Table 1. Means of expressing the simple verbal predicate (SVP)

Element	Description	Example
Personal form	the predicate is expressed using a personal verb form	“ <i>Mella decussit foliis</i> ” (Verg. G. 1.131) – “He shook the honey from the leaves”
Verb	the predicate is expressed by a verb that agrees with the subject	“ <i>Terra sudat sanguine</i> ” (Stut. Th. 8.41.6) – “The earth sweats with blood”
Infinitive	the predicate is expressed by an infinitive	Vivere est cogitare – To live is to think
Tense	the predicate expresses an action occurring in a specific tense	“ <i>Partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae</i> ” (Caes. B. G. 1.1.1) – “Three parts, one of which the Belgae inhabit”
State	the predicate is expressed using a verb in the passive voice	“ <i>Cujus auctoritas in iis regionibus magni habebatur</i> ” (Caes. B. G. 4.21.7) – “Whose authority was highly regarded in those regions”
Mood	the predicate is expressed using a verb in the imperative mood	“ Vide, ornatus hic satine me condecet? ” (Pl. Ps.93.5) – “Look, does this attire not suit me well enough?”

Source: compiled by the author

The Simple verbal predicate may be expressed in the passive voice, where the action is directed towards the subject: “*Eodem anno Quintus Fabius Maximus moritur exactae aetatis*” (Liv. 30.26.7) – “In the same year, Quintus Fabius Maximus dies at an advanced age” (*moritur* – passive verb form in the present tense, third person singular); “*Est periculum, ne impia fraude obligemur*” (C. Div. 1.4.7) – “There is a danger that we may be bound by wicked deceit”; “*Mihi ante oculos obversatur rei publicae dignitas*” (C. Sest. 3.7) – “The dignity of the Republic appears before my eyes”. In imperative sentences, the SVP is expressed by a verb in the imperative mood: **Divide et impera** – Divide and rule. Due to its flexible inflectional system,

Latin allows for precise expression of the relationship between subject and predicate, even when word order varies.

The compound verbal predicate (CVP) exhibits several characteristic features that distinguish it from other predicate types. Its main function is to express a complex action or state using an auxiliary verb combined with a main verb in the infinitive form. According to T. Mishenina (2002), the CVP pattern “to have + infinitive” acquires four semantic meanings: obligation, compulsion, intention, intention-desire, and a formal function in the formation of the future tense. In Latin, the CVP is formed by combining a linking verb with other elements such as infinitives, participles, or verbs in

active or passive forms. This construction allows for the expression of various aspects of action, modality, and nuances of tense or condition: “*Lucius Titius et Gaius Seius Publico Maenio decem dare damnas sunt*” (Apul. Apol. 30.122) – “Let Lucius Titius and Gaius Seius be obliged to give ten measures to Publius Maenius”; “*Nudata omnibus rebus tribunicia potestas est*” (Caes. B.C. 1.7.3) – “The office of the tribunes was stripped of all powers”; “*E virtute, id est honeste, vivere*” (C. Fin. 2.11.34) – “To live according to virtue – that is, honourably”; “*Antiochus, rex Asiae, a Scipione devictus, Tauro tenus regnare jussus est*” (C. Dej. 13.36) – “Antiochus, king of Asia, defeated by Scipio, was ordered to reign only as far as the Taurus Mountains”. In many instances, the verb *esse* functions as the predicate and may indicate a state or fact of existence. When the predicate is expressed by the infinitive form of *esse*, it is often omitted: “*Sentimus calere ignem, nivem esse albam, dulce mel*” (C. Fin. 1.9.30) – “We sense that fire is hot, snow is white, and honey is sweet”. In the construction *accusativus cum infinitivo*, the predicate includes a form of *esse*, which is likewise frequently omitted: “*Nun tantum significandum putavi, ut potius amorem tibi ostenderem meum, quam ostenderem prudentiam*” (C. Fam. 10.3.4) – “Now I thought it necessary to indicate only this: that I would rather show you my affection than my wisdom”.

The CVP is realised through the use of an auxiliary verb indicating modality, desire, intention, possibility, or obligation, followed by the infinitive of the main verb. For example: “*Non possum tecum vivere sine odio*” (Marc. Fam. 5.14.3) – “I cannot live with you without hatred”; “*Volō discere, non disputare*” (C. Off. 3.23) – “I want to learn, not to argue”; “*Homo debet servare iustitiam*” (C. Leg. 2.4.10) – “A person ought to uphold justice”; “*Soleo meditari de philosophia*” (Sen. Ep. 5.17.23) – “I usually reflect on philosophy”. In the structure of a CVP, the infinitive carries the main semantic content, while the auxiliary verb specifies the

context or modality of the action. The auxiliary verb agrees with the subject in number, person, and tense, whereas the infinitive remains invariable. In the sentence “*Laudem sapientiae statuo esse maximam*” (C. Fam. 5.13.1) – “I consider praise for wisdom to be the highest (form of praise)”, the predicate is compound and expressed in two parts: *statuo* is the main verb of the sentence (transitive, active voice, indicative mood, present tense, first person singular), meaning “I consider”, and *esse maximam* (to be the greatest) is an infinitival phrase forming part of the compound predicate. The infinitive *esse* (to be) functions as a linking verb, while the adjective *maximam* (the greatest) serves as a predicative attribute.

In the analysed texts, the CVP serves as a means of conveying modal and temporal nuances of action. For instance, in the sentence “*Omni in re consensio omnium gentium lex naturae putanda est*” (C. Tusc. 1.13.30) – “The agreement of all peoples in every matter ought to be considered the law of nature”, the compound verbal predicate *putanda est* forms the core of the utterance, expressing the main action (ought to be considered). This is realised through the grammatical construction *gerundivum + esse*, which denotes necessity and is rendered in English as “ought to be considered”. The use of compound verbal predicates adds precision and semantic depth to the structure of the sentence. In the sentence “*Universae Galliae consensio fuit libertatis vindicandae*” (Caes. B. G. 7.76.2) – “It was the will of all Gaul to claim their freedom”, the CVP consists of the linking verb *fuit* (was) – the past tense form of *esse* – and the gerundive phrase *libertatis vindicandae*, which functions as a predicative complement denoting the action.

In certain constructions, the CVP may include a participle in combination with the linking verb *esse*: “*Hasdrubal Carales perventurus erat, ni Manlius eum populatione continuisset*” (Liv. 23.40.8) – “Hasdrubal would have reached Caralis, had not Manlius halted his raid”. The

compound verbal predicate *perventurus erat* consists of the auxiliary linking verb *erat* in the imperfect indicative active form, indicating the tense of the action, and the future participle *perventurus* in the nominative case, derived from the verb *pervenire* (to arrive, to reach). This construction denotes an incomplete, potential future action. In the sentence “*Omnia mortalium opera mortalitate damnata sunt*” (Sen. Ep. 91) – “All the deeds of mortals are condemned to mortality”, the CVP *damnata sunt* is formed by combining the auxiliary verb *esse* (expressing tense, number, and voice) and the past passive participle *damnata*, which conveys the state or result of an action. In the sentence “*Inimicus patriae fuisse Tiberius Gracchus a patriciis existimatus est*” (Val. Max. 4.7.1) – “Tiberius Gracchus was considered an enemy of the state by the patricians”, the CVP *existimatus est* consists of the auxiliary form of *esse* and the participle *existimatus*, expressing a completed action.

According to R. Khrystianinova (2016), the components of a CVP must satisfy two conditions: 1) both verbs (the auxiliary and the infinitive) must relate to the subject; from a semantic-syntactic perspective, the infinitive denotes an action or state of the subject, making it subject-related. 2) both verbs must belong to the same temporal frame. In the analysed texts, the CVP typically consists of two components: “*Extra familiam debuit dicere vilicum et vilicam*” (Varr. R. R. 1. 18. 3) – “Apart from the household, he was obliged to name the steward and stewardess”. In the predicate *debuit dicere*, the first component *debuit* is a modal verb in a perfect active tense, expressing obligation or necessity (he was obliged to), while the second component *dicere* is an infinitive, indicating the action to be performed (to name). “*Pompejus rem ad arma deduci studebat*” (Caes. B. C. 1. 4. 5) – “Pompey endeavoured to bring the matter to arms”. The CVP *studebat deduci* includes *studebat* as an auxiliary verb expressing desire or intention, and *deduci* (the passive infinitive of *deducere*)

as the core verb expressing the main action. “*Senatui placet Crassum provintiam Syriam obtinere*” (C. Phil. 11. 12. 30) – “The Senate favours Crassus taking control of the province of Syria”. Here, the CVP consists of the verb *placet* combined with the infinitive *obtinere*, forming a unified expression of preference or approval.

In the context of a sentence, the CVP expresses the subject’s obligation to perform an action – “was obliged to name”. In complex sentences, where the predicate of the main clause is in the perfect tense, the imperfect is used to indicate a simultaneous past action: “*Pastum animantibus large et copiose natura eum, qui cuique aptus erat, comparavit*” (C. N. D. 2. 47. 121) – “Nature provided generous and abundant pastures for animals, suited to each species”.

The compound verbal predicates are formed by combinations of auxiliary and main verbs. The primary structural patterns of the CVP (Table 2), which enable the expression of various temporal aspects – past, present, and future – include: linking verb + infinitive, used to express modal meanings such as obligation, possibility, or desire; linking verb + perfect infinitive, which conveys completed actions within a modal or temporal context; linking verb + participle, indicating a state or completed action; auxiliary verb + gerund or gerundive, used to express ongoing action or general necessity; verbs of state (*sum, fio*) or motion (*venio, eo*) with additional elements, which signal the course of action; construction with *esse* + infinitive or supine, which conveys nuances of necessity or intended purpose in the predicate. In the examined texts, the CVP is further developed through modal elements, which introduce various shades of meaning. These modal components influence the expression of possibility, necessity, permission or ability, thereby altering the overall sense of the sentence. This is achieved through the use of auxiliary verbs, modal verbs, or other constructions that reflect modality. For instance: “*Homo debet esse sapiens*” – “A person ought to be wise” (necessity);

“*Homo debet esse sapiens*” – “This man may be powerful” (possibility). Such modal verbs serve as a means of enriching the CVP, allowing it to convey modality as an integral part of the compound predicate. In the lexicographic material (Boyko & Myronova, 2012), the following verbs are recorded as expressing various modal meanings: *posse* – indicating possibility; *deberere* – indicating necessity or obligation; *velle* – indicating desire or intention; *nolle* – indicating

refusal or unwillingness. Within a compound predicate, modality may also be expressed not only through modal verbs but also through modal adverbs. The Latin-Ukrainian dictionary by M. Trofymuk & O. Trofymuk (2001) includes modal adverbs such as *fortasse* (possibly), *certe* (certainly), and *videtur* (it seems), all of which are commonly found in the analysed texts. For example: “*Fortasse hic vir sapiens est*” (Val. Max. 4. 7. 5) – “Perhaps this man is wise”.

Table 2. Main forms of expressing the CVP

Form of compound verbal predicates	Description	Example
Perfect compound predicate	Formed with the perfect tense of the verb <i>sumus</i> and the participial form <i>victi</i>	“ <i>Pugna magna victi sumus</i> ” (Liv. 22. 7. 8) – “We were defeated in a great battle”
Pluperfect compound predicate	expressed using the auxiliary verb <i>esse</i> in the pluperfect form	<i>Puellae laetae erant</i> – The girls had been happy
Future perfect (Futurum II) compound predicate	formed with <i>esse</i> in the future tense and a participle, conveying a future perfect meaning	“ <i>Si senserit te timidum pater esse, arbitrabitur commeruisse culpam</i> ” (Ter. Ph. 205) – “If the father realises you are a coward, he will consider it a fault”

Source: compiled by the author

According to A. Kuznietsova (2019), verbal forms of expression began to give way to nominal ones, with a noticeable trend toward nominalisation in both the lexical and syntactic systems of the language. In the examined texts, the compound nominal predicate (CNP) consists of a linking verb and a nominal part, which may be expressed by various parts of speech. When a noun forms part of the CNP, it expresses the identity or characteristic of the subject. When an adjective is part of the compound nominal predicates, it describes the quality or state of the subject. The linking verb in a compound nominal predicate is most frequently the verb *esse*, which varies in person, number, and tense. The typical structure of the CNP follows the pattern: *Subiectum + Verbum copulativum + Nomen praedicati*.

In the analysed material, the forms of expression of the compound nominal predicate (Table 3) vary. The nominal part of the CNP may be expressed by a noun in the nominative case – to indicate categories, qualities or

professions; by an adjective in the nominative case – to characterise the subject; by a pronoun – to clarify or emphasise the subject; or by a participle – in complex constructions describing a state or action. In most cases, the compound nominal predicate consists of two components. For example, in the sentence “*Haecin meae sunt filiae?*” (Pl. Per. 1166) – “Are these my daughters?”, the CNP consists of two parts: *sunt* – the third-person plural present tense form of the verb *esse*; and *meae filiae* – the nominal part of the predicate, comprising the noun *filiae* (daughters) in the nominative plural, serving as the subject, and the pronoun *meae* (my), which agrees with it in case, number and gender. The function of the CNP *sunt meae filiae* (they are my daughters) is to establish the identity or affiliation of the object. The predicate in the sentence structure ensures clarity and logical coherence: “*Amare, e quo nomen ductum amicitiae est*” – “To love, from which the name of friendship is derived”, where *amare* (to love) gives rise to the word *amicitia* (friendship),

and the main verb *est* functions as the main sentence constituent in the compound nominal predicate. That is, the copula *est* functions as a logical link, indicating the existence of an action or quality, while the infinitive *amare* acts as the subject, although structurally it may be viewed as a separate element of the phrase explaining the origin of the word *amicitia*.

In a compound nominal predicate, both the logical subject of the construction and the nominal part of the predicate are placed in the accusative case: “*Laudem sapientiae statuo esse maximam*” (C. Fam. 5. 13. 1) – “I consider praise for wisdom to be the greatest (form of praise)”. When the subject is a pronoun, it agrees with the nominal part of the predicate in gender and number: “*Haec mea culpa non est*” (Pl. Epid. 591) – “This is not my fault”, where the CNP consists of the copula *est* with the negative particle *non* and the nominal component *mea culpa* (my fault). In a compound nominal predicate containing a nominal part, the copula often agrees not with the subject but with the nominal element itself: “*Unum erat omnia vulnus*” (Ov. Met. 15. 529) – “All was one single wound”. In this example, the CNP is composed of the verb *erat* (was), which functions as the copula, and the nominal part *omnia vulnus*, which expresses the state or characteristic of the subject.

In addition to the copular verb *esse*, the predicate in the analysed texts is also represented by other verbs. For instance, in the sentence “*Claves portarum custodiamque murorum suae potestatis fecit*” (Liv. 34. 21. 2) – “He took control of the gate keys and the guarding of the

walls”, the CNP is formed by the verb *fecit* (he took), which serves as the main verb indicating action, and the nounpredicate *potestatis* (control), specifying what exactly was taken under his authority. According to the lexicographic data presented by H. Petrova (2010), verbs such as *nominor*, *dicor*, *vocor*, *appellor*, *habeor*, *ducor*, *judicor*, *putor*, *existimor*, *numor*, *creor*, *legor*, *eligor*, *renuntior*, *declaror*, *invenior*, and *reperior* can also take a nominal predicate in the *nominativus*.

In a compound nominal predicate, the linking verb *esse* functions as a copula combined with a predicative component in the form of a participle that expresses the subject’s state, quality, or attribute. The predicate thus contributes to the semantic clarity of the sentence: “*Inimicus patriae fuisse Tiberius Gracchus a patriciis existimatus est*” (Val. Max. 4. 7. 1) – “The patricians considered Tiberius Gracchus to have been an enemy of the fatherland”, where the CNP is expressed through the past participle *existimatus* (considered), which provides a predicative characterisation of the subject *Tiberius Gracchus*, and *esse*, used as an auxiliary verb in forming the perfect construction. In the sentence “*Hasdrubal Carales perventurus erat, ni Manlius eum populatione continuisset*” (Liv. 23. 40. 8) – “Hasdrubal would have reached Carales, had Manlius not halted his advance”, the CNP consists of the auxiliary verb *erat* (he was), which indicates the tense and modality of the action, and the nominal component *perventurus* – a future active participle (*participium futuri activi*), which refers to a prospective action of the subject.

Table 3. Main forms of expressing the compound nominal predicates (CNP)

Tense	Form of the verb <i>esse</i>	Example of a compound nominal predicate	Translation
<i>Praesens</i>	<i>sum, es, est, sumus, estis, sunt</i>	“ <i>Populus acer est, suspicax, invidus potentiae</i> ” (Nep. 13. 3. 5)	“The people are fierce, distrustful, and greedy for power”
<i>Imperfectum</i>	<i>eram, eras, erat, eramus, eratis, erant</i>	“ <i>Principio rerum gentium nationumque imperium penes reges erat</i> ” (Just. 1. 1. 1)	“From the very beginning, power among peoples and nations belonged to kings”
<i>Futurum I</i>	<i>ero, eris, erit, erimus, eritis, erunt</i>	“ <i>Qui prior strinxerit ferrum, ejus victoria erit</i> ” (Sen. Ep. 95. 56)	“Whoever draws his sword first shall have the victory”

Source: compiled by the author

The simple verbal predicate and the compound nominal predicate share several similarities and differences. Firstly, a common feature is their role in defining the predicative part of a sentence. Both the simple verbal predicate and compound nominal predicates function as the main part of the clause, expressing the action or state of the subject. In both cases, the predicate is an essential component for conveying the meaning of the proposition. Secondly, both the simple verbal predicate and the compound nominal predicate agree with the subject in number and person. The differences between them include: 1) structure of the predicate – a simple verbal predicate consists of a single verb, which may appear in any tense, person, or number; a compound nominal predicate, by contrast, includes two components: a linking verb and a noun or adjective that expresses the state or characteristic of the subject; 2) meaning of the predicate – a simple verbal predicate conveys an action performed by the subject, while a compound nominal predicate expresses the subject's state or quality, typically by means of the linking verb *esse*, which connects the subject to a complementary element; 3) role of the verb – in a simple verbal predicate, the verb is the core element denoting an action or state. In a compound nominal predicate, the verb *esse* or another copular verb plays a supporting role, linking the subject to its attribute or condition.

Thus, in terms of structure, predicates in Latin are either simple or compound, while in terms of morphological realisation, they fall into three categories: simple verbal, compound verbal, and compound nominal predicates. All three types share a common feature – they define the subject's properties or actions – but they differ in structure and meaning: the simple verbal predicate focuses on action, whereas the compound nominal predicate emphasises the subject's state or attribute.

Conclusions

The study of the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin constitutes an important

aspect of linguistic analysis, as the predicate is one of the core components of a sentence's syntactic structure. Latin, as a classical Indo-European language, possesses a rich system of predicate forms, reflecting a wide range of meanings, functional roles, and structural characteristics. The predicate serves as a key means of expressing various grammatical and semantic nuances, including modality, tense, and aspectual features of an action, contributing to the depth and flexibility of Latin syntax. In the analysed texts, two principal forms of predicate expression are prevalent: the verbal predicate and the compound nominal predicate. Each of these forms has distinct features and patterns of usage within the sentence. The verbal predicate is formed using verbs that fulfil the function of the predicate and expresses the action or state of the subject. It is realised in two ways: as a simple verbal predicate – a verb in a specific tense (present, past, or future), in either the active or passive voice – and as a compound verbal predicate, which includes an auxiliary verb and the infinitive of the main verb. The compound verbal predicate is used to convey modality, intention, desire, or possibility, and may be further elaborated through the use of modal elements. These include modal verbs, infinitives with auxiliaries, modal adverbs, participles, and the subjunctive mood, all of which enable the expression of a wide range of modal nuances, such as possibility, necessity, desire, or probability.

The compound nominal predicate consists of a nominal part (a noun or an adjective) and an auxiliary copular verb, and it describes a property or characteristic of the subject. The position of the predicate in a sentence determines the logical structure of the statement and the interaction between its elements. In Classical Latin, the predicate is most frequently placed at the end of the sentence, which serves to emphasise the completeness of the thought and to highlight it as the key component of the utterance. In a sentence, the predicate may be represented either by a verb (particularly in a personal form)

or by various constructions that do not necessarily include a verb. Examining the different types of predicates in Latin has made it possible not only to gain a deeper understanding of the language's syntactic structure, but also to analyse features of Latin conceptual thought – especially its influence on the expression of modality, tense, and other grammatical categories. This study does not claim to provide an exhaustive account of the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin. Nevertheless, it remains a relevant and important contribution not only to classical philology, but also to general linguistics, the history of languages, and interdisciplinary research. It therefore warrants further detailed investigation in future academic studies, particularly in the context of comparative

analysis of the structural and semantic types of predicates in Latin, English, and Ukrainian.

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Структурно-семантичні типи присудків у латинській мові

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Анотація. У мовознавчій науці синтаксична теорія динамічно розвивається і помітно зростає інтерес науковців до питання дослідження синтаксичної будови латинської мови. Метою дослідження було проаналізувати структурно-семантичні типи присудків у семантико-синтаксичній структурі речення. У дослідженні застосовано комплексні методи дослідження – від морфологічного до контекстуального, поєднання якісного і кількісного аналізу. Систематизовано інформацію з різних джерел про присудок як окремий різновид головного члена речення, що має ряд специфічних ознак та описано параметри його функціонування. З'ясовано проблему синтаксичного зв'язку між членами речення – присудка як головного члена речення і другорядних членів речення, які разом формують структуру речення, виражають його основний зміст і визначають його специфіку. Проаналізовано позиційне розміщення присудка в реченнєвій структурі, з'ясовано його стилістичне навантаження, диференційні ознаки та форми вираження. Обґрунтовано, що присудок є семантико-граматичним ядром речення і за своєю структурою не однотипний. Розглянуто структурно-семантичні типи присудків у латинській мові, уточнено і систематизовано відомості про структурно-семантичні типи присудків, з'ясовано місце кожного різновиду в загальній типології присудків. Виявлено засоби ускладнення складеного дієслівного присудка модальними компонентами та обґрунтовано, що модальне значення, яке вносять засоби вираження до речення, залежить від морфологічного наповнення складеного дієслівного присудка, а також вибору дієслівних зв'язок. Зауважено, що при дієслівній основі складеного дієслівного присудка засоби вираження передають модальне значення відповідного предиката. Окреслено форми реалізації дієслівного присудка і складеного іменного присудка, виявлено особливості використання їх у реченнях та підтверджено прикладами. Проведене дослідження розширює уявлення про синтаксичну будову латинської мови. Результати дослідження структурно-семантичних типів присудків можуть бути використані у наступних наукових теоретичних розвідках щодо семантико-синтаксичної структури речення

Ключові слова: синтаксис; структура речення; предикативний зв'язок; присудок; простий дієслівний присудок; складений дієслівний присудок; складений іменний присудок