

# Tripods of Technical English Language

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**Abstract**—This paper demonstrates how technical English writing is based upon some of the basic structures of that of Tense, Voice and Narration.

**Keywords**—*Technical english ;Structure ;Language*

In the root of the word tripod lies the number name three. The number three is a unique number in itself and is of the utmost value at most of the places. Three are the layers of the earth –core, mantle and crust, three primary colors – red, yellow and green. Three are the colors in our Indian national flag – white, green and orange, three layers in the structure of Indian Government Local, State and Central. To make something stand on the ground one needs the support of at least three pillars, a three legged stool, a three wheeled auto-rickshaw.

The number three holds its importance even in the language of English. Three are the Persons of Pronouns– First, Second and Third. [1]Three are the types of sentences, according to one of the various ways to classify sentences - Simple, Compound and Complex. Sets of words have been classified in three groups – Phrase, Clause and Sentence[2].

All these are the tripods which help Technical English language place itself as they form the base of one or the other concept in English language. There are three more chapters of Grammar which form the basics of English language. In other words, they form a tripod upon which lies the edifice of English language. These three basic chapters are – Tense, Voice and Direct-Indirect Speech. These three chapters deal with the basic structures of English language. Most of the other chapters e.g. the chapters related to Parts of Speech Noun, Pronoun, Adjective, Verb, Adverb, Preposition and Conjunction, deal with a particular word in a sentence. They deal with a particular word not the structure of the sentence. Articles, in the same way deal with a particular word while Punctuation deals with the marks of Punctuation.

So far as it is related to technical English language the structures related to Tense, Voice and Narration prove to be a backbone of it. To prove it we can take some sentences for example.

“A standard state of temperature and pressure has been defined and is used when specifying properties of gases, particularly molar volumes. Standard conditions are needed because the volume of a gas depends not only on the quantity present but also on the temperature and pressure. The most widely adopted standard state is 0°C and 1 atm”[3].

The first sentence of the given passage, ‘A standard state of temperature and pressure(Subject) has been (Helping Verb) defined (Past Participle Verb) and is (Helping Verb) used(Past Participle Verb) when specifying properties of gases, particularly molar volumes’(Adverbial), is an example of the passive structure of the Present Perfect and passive structure of Simple Present as the structure of the given sentence is S + Helping Verb + Past Participle + Adverbial. Again the basic structure of the second sentence, ‘Standard conditions are needed’, has the structure of the Passive of the Simple Present Tense. Simple Present Tense structure has been used after it in the next sentence ‘the volume of a gas depends not only on the quantity present but also on the temperature and pressure’.

To take another example, “When a thin film is illuminated with monochromatic light from a point source and is viewed with a lens of small aperture, the light reflected from all corresponding points on the film does not reach the eye simultaneously as shown in fig. 21a. Thus only a small portion of the film will be visible. To see the whole film, the eye will have to be moved from one position to the other. Hence, with a point source the entire film cannot be viewed at a glance. If we employ an extended source, the light reflected by every point of the film reaches the eye. (as shown in fig. 21b). Hence the entire film can be viewed simultaneously by keeping the eye at one place only. Hence an extended source of light is necessary to view a film simultaneously”[4]. In the sentences of the given paragraph the structures used are that of the Passive of the Simple Present Tense, Simple Present Tense, Future structure of the verb To Be, Passive structure of the verb ‘to be’, Passive of the modal auxiliary ‘can’ and the structure of the verb TO Be.

In the above mentioned two examples the structures of Tense and Voice are the basic structures. In the same way in all the technical writings these are the basic structures.

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