The verb in contemporary English
Theory and description

Edited by

BAS AARTS
Department of English Language and Literature,
University College London

and

CHARLES F. MEYER
Department of English,
The University of Massachusetts at Boston
Contents

List of contributors

Preface

1 Introduction: theoretical and descriptive approaches to the study of the verb in English
   Bas Aarts and Charles F. Meyer

Part 1 Theoretical approaches to the study of the English verb

2 Grammatical relations in English
   Charles F. Meyer

3 Competence without Comp?
   Richard Hudson

4 On the semantics of the object
   I. M. Schlesinger

5 Secondary predicates in English
   Bas Aarts

6 The English perfect as a secondary past tense
   Rodney Huddleston

7 'How does this sentence interpret?' The semantics of English mediopassives
   Andrew Rosta

8 The expression of Root and Epistemic Possibility in English
   Jennifer Coates
CONTENTS

Part 2  Descriptive approaches to the study of the English verb

9  Find and want: a corpus-based case study in verb complementation
   Jan Aarts and Flor Aarts

10  Indeterminacy between Noun Phrases and Adjective Phrases as complements of the English verb
    Geoffrey Leech and Lu Li

11  Having a look at the expanded predicate
    John Algeo

12  ‘This scheme is badly needed’: some aspects of verb-adverb combinations
    Stig Johansson

13  That and zero complementisers in Late Modern English: exploring ARCHER from 1650–1990
    Edward Finegan and Douglas Biber

14  Changing patterns of complementation, and concomitant grammaticalisation, of the verb help in present-day British English
    Christian Mair

15  Verbs in public and private speaking
    Jan Svartvik and Olof Ekedahl

16  Some remarks on comment clauses
    Anna-Brita Stenström

Index of names

Subject index