Complementation of Light Verb Constructions in World Englishes: A Corpus-based Study

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Abstract. Light verb constructions (LVCs) have been studied not only in native Englishes, but also in a number of non-native varieties. The present research focuses on the constructions with the light verbs have, get, give, make, and do combined with the deverbal noun laugh. The study aims at giving a descriptive analysis of the structures in question in twenty English varieties on the basis of corpus data. All the data for analysis are collected from the GloWbE corpus. Constructions have/get/give a laugh are investigated in terms of frequency and complementation patterns.

Keywords: light verb constructions, deverbal noun, corpus based analysis, English varieties, frequency analysis, complementation patterns.

Introduction

Light verb constructions (LVCs) (e.g., have a walk, get a bath, give a kiss) are usually described as constructions that consist of a verbal and nominal component where the meaning of the construction is derived from the noun whereas the meaning of the verb is bleached (Kearns, 2002, 1; Tu, Roth, 2011; Vincze, 2012, 238). However, despite its weakened meaning, the light verb contributes to the semantics of the construction in a few ways. It not only adds some aspectuality and puts constraints on which light verbs can occur with which complements, but also determines the assignment of thematic roles and can change the semantic valency of the construction (Wierzbicka, 1982, 791; Butt,

Light verb constructions have received considerable interest in different languages, including English. LVCs in English have been investigated not only in relation to semantics (Wierzbicka, 1982; Brugman, 2001; Plante, 2014) and syntax (Kearns, 2002; Butt, 2010; Dixon, 2005), but also a number of corpus-based researches on LVCs have been performed to study peculiarities of native and non-native varieties. Some of these investigations are carried out within quantitative and qualitative approach (Algeo, 1995; Smith, 2009; Leech et al., 2009; Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2011), whereas others deal with automatic extraction of LVCs from corpora (Grefenstette, Teufel, 1995; Bannard, 2007; Tu, Roth, 2011; Ronan, Schneider, 2015). Most corpus-based researches on LVCs in English varieties analyse two or more languages (Algeo, 1995; Leech et al., 2009; Schilk, 2011; Hoffman et al., 2011; Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2013; Bernaisch, 2015), but there are a few that are monolingual (Mukherjee, 2010; Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2011).

Corpus-based studies of light verb constructions in English varieties focus on different aspects. There has been an increased interest in studying the frequency of LVCs. Most researches on the frequency of LVCs are based on the analysis of two or more English varieties such as British and American English (Algeo, 1995; Leech et al., 2009), British and Irish English (Ronan, Schneider, 2015), British and Scottish English (Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2013), British, Australian, and New Zealand Englishes (Smith, 2009), British, Indian, and Sri Lankan Englishes (Bernaisch, 2015), Indian, Kenyan, Jamaican, and Singaporean Englishes (Laporte, 2012). Light verb complementation with the focus on deviant light verbs or/and deverbal nouns is one more very popular aspect of investigation of LVCs in English varieties (Mukherjee, 2010; Schilk, 2011; Hoffman et al., 2011; Bernaisch, 2015). Peculiarities of English varieties are also described in the use of the definite and zero articles in LVCs (Mukherjee, 2010; Hoffman et al., 2011; Bernaisch, 2015). Light verb constructions in different Englishes are sometimes studied in terms of the use across registers (Smith, 2009; Leech et al., 2009; Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2011), semantic classes of deverbal nouns (Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2011), or diachronically (Borlongan, Dita, 2015; Smith, 2009).

Light verb constructions with the light verbs *have, take, give* are among most frequently analysed structures in both native and non-native English varieties (Leech et al., 2009; Mukherjee, 2010; Hoffman et al., 2011; Höche, Shahrokny-Prehn, 2013; Bernaisch, 2015). The interest in the study of the light verbs *make* and *do* is increasing as well (Algeo, 1995; Stevenson et al., 2004; Smith, 2009; Tu, Roth, 2011; Laporte, 2012; Plante, 2014). Light verbs *have, take, get, give, make,* and *do* are described as having the most general meaning and can be found in most varieties of English (Quirk et al., 1985, 750; Stevenson et al., 2004; Ronan, Schneider, 2015, 4).
The present investigation analyses the complementation of light verb constructions in different English varieties. Discussions on complementation of LVCs have so far centered around the question whether elements following the deverbal noun are complements of the noun itself or of the light verb\(^1\). This study attempts to demonstrate how complementation of LVCs differs across twenty English varieties. The English varieties chosen for investigation are as follows: American English (AmE), Canadian English (CaE), British English (BrE), Irish English (IE), Australian English (AuE), New Zealand English (NZE), Indian English (IndE), Sri Lankan English (SLE), Pakistani English (PKE), Bangladeshi English (BDE), Singaporean English (SGE), Malaysian English (MYE), Philippine English (PHE), Hong Kong English (HKE), South African English (SAE), Nigerian English (NGE), Ghanaian English (GHE), Kenyan English (KE), Tanzanian English (TZE), and Jamaican English (JME). Due to the limited size of the article, only the deverbal noun \textit{laugh}\(^2\) is chosen for analysis. In combination with the light verb \textit{have} it is semantically described as “a joint speech activity which could cause people involved to feel pleasure” (Wierzbicka, 1982, 786). Constructions with the deverbal noun \textit{laugh} belong to a group of the so-called true light verb constructions since they have the same form as the corresponding verb, they cannot be passivized and pronominalized neither do they allow \textit{wh}-extraction (Kearns, 2002, 2–3; Plante, 2014, 82). The research focuses on the use of the deverbal noun \textit{laugh} with the light verbs \textit{have}, \textit{get}, and \textit{give}\(^3\) which are found in all English varieties under investigation. LVCs with two more light verbs that have general meaning, namely \textit{make} and \textit{do}, are briefly discussed as well.

The aim of the research is to present a descriptive analysis of constructions with the light verbs \textit{have}, \textit{get}, \textit{give}, \textit{make}, and \textit{do} followed by the deverbal noun \textit{laugh} in different English varieties on the basis of corpus data. For this purpose, the light verb constructions will be analysed in terms of frequency and complementation patterns.

\(^{1}\) There is no consensus among scholars on the problem: some support the view that it is the light verb that is responsible for the argument structure of the LVC (Wittenberg et al., 2014, 4; Bruening, 2015, 5–6), whereas others claim that complementation of the light verb construction generally depends on the deverbal noun (Huddleston, Pullum, 2010, 292–293).

\(^{2}\) Some scholars describe the complement of the verb in LVCs as a verbal stem (Wierzbicka, 1982, 756; Kearns, 2002, 13).

\(^{3}\) There are some semantic differences between the light verbs; however, their description is out of scope of the present study. For the discussion on semantic differences of the light verbs under investigation refer to Wierzbicka (1982), Brugman (2001), Dixon (2005), Höche (2009), Plante (2014).
Related Work

There has been an increased interest among scholars in light verb constructions with high frequency light verbs *have*, *take*, *give*, *make* and *do* in different English varieties. The majority of corpus-based researches on LVCs focus on the frequency analysis. Frequency is usually studied from two perspectives: the overall tendencies in the use of LVCs and the use of LVCs with different light verbs. The investigation of British and American English varieties shows that light verb constructions are more characteristic of British than American English (Leech et al., 2009, 180). However, when British English is compared to non-native English varieties such as Indian and Sri Lankan Englishes, the tendencies are different: LVCs in Indian English are more frequent than in Sri Lankan and British English which demonstrate similarity (Bernaisch, 2015, 177).

Frequency studies related to light verbs show that the number of LVCs depends on the English variety it is found in and on the light verbs it is compared to. The research on Australian, New Zealand, and British varieties shows that the light verb *have* is dominant in these Englishes in comparison to the light verbs *make*, *give*, and *take* (Smith, 2009, 146, 153). *Have* is also more frequent in British English when it is compared to American English where preference is given to the light verb *take* (Leech et al., 2009, 180). The light verb *have* together with *take* and *give* demonstrates greater popularity in British English than in Irish (Ronan, Schneider, 2015, 34). *Have* and *give* are also more frequent in British and Sri Lankan English in comparison to Indian English where *take* is more often used (Bernaisch, 2015, 177). *Make* has the highest frequency in Kenyan English when compared to Jamaican, Indian, and Singaporean Englishes (Laporte, 2012). It is also the second most frequent light verb after *have* in Australian, New Zealand, and British Englishes with the light verb *give* being slightly less frequently used and *take* the least used light verb in these varieties (Smith, 2009, 146, 154). The light verb *do*, which has been studied in British and American Englishes, shows very low frequency in American and is not found as a light verb in British English (as cited in Ronan, Schneider, 2015, 5). The analyses on frequency of light verbs show that *have* is a dominant light verb in most English varieties with *make* and *give* being a little less frequently used (British, Australian, New Zealand, Sri Lankan Englishes), while a few tend to most often use the light verb *take* (American and Indian Englishes).

One more often investigated aspect of light verb constructions is complementation of the light verb. The aspect is most widely studied in non-native English varieties, namely South Asian Englishes, which tend to have regional variations that interest linguists. Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi Englishes, when compared to British English, have general extensions of light verbs which lead to formation of new collocation patterns. For instance, the globally used variant *give/make a call* in Sri Lankan and Indian Englishes is replaced by *take a call*, or the commonly used construction *have/take a look* is changed by *give a look* in Indian English (Mukherjee, 2010, 235; Hoffman...
et al., 2011, 275; Bernaisch, 2015, 174). Some deviant forms of LVCs are related to the use of articles. There is a tendency to use the definite article or omit the indefinite article in light verb constructions in Asian English varieties. For example, the LVCs with the definite article take the taste, take the dip are characteristic of Indian English, whereas the LVCs with the zero article take benefit from, take lease are found in Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Sri Lankan varieties (Mukherjee, 2010, 235; Hoffman et al., 2011, 275–276; Bernaisch, 2015, 174).

The present research differs from the previous ones in that it analyses complementation of light verb constructions and is carried out on the basis of twenty English varieties. It presents a case study where the same deverbal noun is studied in combination with different light verbs.

Data and Methodology

The data for the analysis have been collected from the Global Web-Based English (GloWbE) Corpus (http://corpus.byu.edu/glowbe), which is a 1.9 billion word electronic database of web-based English from 20 different countries. The corpus includes informal blogs, newspapers, magazines, company websites, and other web-based materials. However, the 20 countries are differently represented in the corpus: the biggest difference being between native English varieties where American and British English are represented by 386,809,355 and 387,615,074 words, respectively, Australian – by 148,208,169 words, Canadian – by 134,765,381 words, Irish – by 101,029,231 words, New Zealand English – by 81,390,476 words, whereas non-native varieties are represented more equally with the number of words ranging from slightly more than 51 million words for Pakistani English to more than 35 million for Tanzanian English with the exception of Indian English which is represented by 96,430,888 words.

In the data selection, the deverbal noun under investigation was first of all tagged with all verbs (a laugh [v*]). Only the verbs that have general meaning, i.e. have, get, give, make, and do were chosen for further selection where the deverbal noun was tagged with a lemmatized form of each verb separately (laugh [have] / [get] / give] / make] / [do]) with the span of four words to the left to retrieve also the cases where the deverbal noun is modified. Next, the concordances were further studied and light verb constructions were manually picked out. The selection was based on three criteria: idiomaticity, modification, and determination. The highly idiomatic construction “have/get the last/final laugh” was excluded from the research as were excluded the cases where the modified deverbal noun laugh refers to a quality, not an action: e.g. <...> while women attract men through being charming, pretty and having a cute laugh, guys attract women through humor (BrE); He has an infectious laugh, unshakeable self confidence, and strong self esteem (AmE); He had such a grating laugh (IE). The study includes cases
when the deverbal noun is used not only with the indefinite article, which is one of characteristic features of LVCs, but also when it is found with the definite and zero articles, which are a distinct feature of some English varieties.

The data collected are further grouped, described, and compared to come up with similarities and discrepancies in the use of light verb constructions with the deverbal noun laugh in different English varieties.

**World Englishes**

According to Kachru et al. (2009), there are three circles of English: the inner, outer, and expanding. The inner circle refers to the societies where English is the first language. The outer circle represents communities where English is not the native tongue but plays an important part; these are the former British or American colonies. Finally, the expanding circle is related to the countries where English is a foreign language (Kachru et al., 2009, 292). The twenty Englishes under investigation belong to the inner (British, Irish, American, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand Englishes) and outer (Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Singaporean, Malaysian, Philippine, Hong Kong, South African, Nigerian, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Tanzanian, Jamaican Englishes) circles. The latter could be subdivided into three larger groups: Asian Englishes, African Englishes, and North American English.

The non-native Englishes have reached a different level of nativization of the English language. Though English plays an important role in the outer circle countries, communities of these countries are proud of distinctive features of their varieties which are expressions of their identity (Laporte, 2012). Schneider (2003) proposes five stages in his model of the evolution of new Englishes: foundation, exonormative stabilization, nativization, endonormative stabilization, differentiation. Laporte (2012) summarizes these stages in the following way:

I. **Foundation**: the colonizers bring English to a new territory and the use of English between the settlers and the locals is very limited, mainly restricted to trading.

II. **Exonormative stabilization**: the increased contact between settlers and locals leads to an expansion of the use of English. English starts to be marked by local features, although an exonormative attitude still applies.

III. **Nativization**: the range of uses of English increases, and nativization, i.e. changes in formal features at all linguistic levels, equates with the expression of a new identity.

IV. **Endonormative stabilization**: this phase usually follows political independence of the territory and corresponds to the almost unanimous acceptance of local norms. The variety becomes codified and is used to express local identity.
V. **Differentiation**: this last phase corresponds to internal diversification of the variety, that is, to the emergence of dialects and local variants.

The stages of evolution of some varieties in question have been described by Schneider (2003, 258, 260, 263, 266; as cited in Laporte, 2012) (see Figure 1).

As seen from Figure 1, non-native varieties of English have progressed into different phases of evolution. Differences in evolutionary development of Asian Englishes is especially evident: Honk Kong English has advanced into phase 3 with some traces of phase 2, Malaysian and Philippine Englishes have reached phase 3, Indian English is found in phase 4 with some features of phase 3, whereas Singaporean English is the most advanced among Asian Englishes since it has reached phase 5 with some characteristics of phase 4. Native English varieties are in phase 5, i.e. in the final stage of their development. Depending on the evolutionary stage of the variety, different linguistic developments take place. Navitization of verb complementation starts in phase 3 with national identity features added in phases 4 and 5 (Schneider, 2003, 249, 250, 253, 255).

**A Case Study: V + a LAUGH**

In this case study the deverbal noun *laugh* is analysed in combination with high frequency light verbs *have, get, give, make,* and *do* in terms of frequency and complementation patterns in twenty English varieties.

**Frequency Analysis**

The frequency analysis is performed from several perspectives. It provides the data on what light verbs the deverbal noun *laugh* combines with in different English varieties and on complementation of LVCs with different light verbs. The frequency of the former refers to the number of LVCs with different light verbs as compared to the number of occurrences when the deverbal noun *laugh* is tagged with lemmatized form of light verbs with the span of four words to the left. Complementation frequency is counted comparing the total number of LVCs to the number of LVCs that take a complement. In both cases relative frequency is taken into account for the reason that different English varieties are unequally represented in the GloWbE Corpus.
Table 1 demonstrates that in all twenty English varieties the deverbal noun *laugh* combines with three light verbs: *have*, *get*, and *give*. The nominal complement *laugh* can also combine with the light verbs *make* and *do*; however, the light verb constructions with these verbs are used only in 9 varieties out of 20. LVCs with both *make* and *do* are found in all native English varieties except for New Zealand and Canadian Englishes and in Singaporean English, which is the most advanced of non-native varieties. In New Zealand English LVCs with both *make* and *do* are absent, whereas Canadian English has LVC only with the light verb *do*. LVCs with *make* or *do* are characteristic of three more Asian varieties (Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Philippine Englishes), three African varieties (Ghanaian, Kenyan, and South African Englishes) and one North American variety (Jamaican English). The relative number of light verb constructions with the verbs *make* and *do* is very low in all English varieties and ranges from 0.1% to 1.7% except for Jamaican English where LVCs with *do* reach 7%.

### Table 1. Frequency data on the use of the deverbal noun *laugh* with different light verbs in different English varieties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>HAVE</th>
<th>GET</th>
<th>GIVE</th>
<th>MAKE</th>
<th>DO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>LVCs</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>LVCs</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmE</td>
<td>1269</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaE</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BrE</td>
<td>2166</td>
<td>1209</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AuE</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZE</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IndE</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKE</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 The total number refers to the number of occurrences when the deverbal noun *laugh* is tagged with lemmatized form of light verbs with the span of four words to the left.
As seen from Table 1, the distribution of LVCs with the light verbs *have*, *get*, and *give* is different as well. The relative frequency of LVCs with *give* is higher than with the verbs *have* and *get* in all English varieties except for Tanzanian English despite the fact that the raw frequency of LVCs with the verb *give* is low in comparison to those with the verbs *have* and *get*. The relative frequency of LVCs with *give* ranges from 82% to even 100% in Asian varieties and from 77.7% to 90.4% in native varieties. In African varieties the frequency of LVCs with *give* is slightly lower and ranges from 50% to 85.7%.

The light verb *get* in combination with the noun *laugh* has the second highest frequency in most English varieties. However, differently from the verb *give*, the difference in the frequency between *get* and *have* in most cases is only slight with the exception of American, Canadian, and Hong Kong Englishes. The use of LVCs with *get* rather than *have* is found in most native varieties except for New Zealand English, and Asian varieties except for Singaporean and Malaysian Englishes. Most African English varieties show a slight preference for LVCs with the light verb *have* except for Tanzanian English which tends to use *get* instead.

Table 2 shows complementation tendencies in LVCs where the deverbal noun *laugh* combines with the light verbs *have*, *get*, and *give*. As seen from Table 2, LVCs with the light verb *give* select complements only in 11 English varieties out of 20. These include most native varieties except for Canadian English and the majority of Asian varieties except for Sri Lankan, Pakistani, and Hong Kong Englishes. Complementation of...
LVCs with the light verb *give* is not characteristic of African English varieties as well as Jamaican English, though one case of complementation with the verb *give* is found in Ghanaian English.

**Table 2.** Frequency data on complementation of light verb constructions with the light verbs *have, get,* and *give* in combination with the deverbal noun *laugh*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Complementation of light verb constructions with laugh</th>
<th>HAVE</th>
<th>GET</th>
<th>GIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AmE</td>
<td>32.3% (119)</td>
<td>51.2% (141)</td>
<td>4% (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaE</td>
<td>30.6% (45)</td>
<td>41.1% (30)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BrE</td>
<td>18.1% (219)</td>
<td>37.7% (61)</td>
<td>5.3% (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>17.1% (60)</td>
<td>45.6% (21)</td>
<td>8.8% (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AuE</td>
<td>24.4% (84)</td>
<td>39.7% (29)</td>
<td>10.6% (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZE</td>
<td>21.6% (33)</td>
<td>46.2% (12)</td>
<td>14.3% (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IndE</td>
<td>20% (21)</td>
<td>41.2% (7)</td>
<td>6.3% (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>20% (10)</td>
<td>57.1% (4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKE</td>
<td>19.2% (5)</td>
<td>20% (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BDE</td>
<td>31.6% (6)</td>
<td>25% (1)</td>
<td>16.7% (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGE</td>
<td>26.9% (18)</td>
<td>66.7% (8)</td>
<td>7.7% (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYE</td>
<td>20.9% (14)</td>
<td>20% (1)</td>
<td>11.1% (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHE</td>
<td>26.3% (10)</td>
<td>47.1% (8)</td>
<td>7.1% (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKE</td>
<td>25% (9)</td>
<td>37.5% (3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
<td>20.6% (14)</td>
<td>40% (4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGE</td>
<td>21.1% (12)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHE</td>
<td>23.1% (12)</td>
<td>50% (3)</td>
<td>33.3% (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KE</td>
<td>24.2% (8)</td>
<td>75% (3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TZE</td>
<td>21.1% (8)</td>
<td>69.2% (9)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JME</td>
<td>22% (11)</td>
<td>46.2% (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The comparison of complementation of LVCs with the light verbs *have* and *get* in terms of relative frequency clearly shows that the light verb *get* tends to take complements more often than the verb *have* except for Bangladeshi and Malaysian Englishes; however, the difference in the use of complements with the verbs *have* and *get* in these varieties of English is slight. The difference in the relative frequency in Nigerian English differs from all other varieties in that it is the only English variety out of 20 where LVCs select complements exclusively with the light verb *have.*

5 Light verb constructions with the verbs *make* and *do* are excluded from complementation frequency analysis due to very low frequency.

6 The number given in the brackets refers to the raw frequency of the LVCs that select a complement and is related to the raw frequency of LVCs given in Table 1.
To sum up, of the five light verbs used with the deverbal noun *laugh*, only three, i.e. *have, get, and give*, are found in all the 20 English varieties under investigation. LVCs with the light verbs *do* and *make* are used in most native varieties and Singaporean English which has advanced into phase 5 with some traces of phase 4. This could indicate that the further the language has progressed in the process of nativization, the larger the variety of light verbs is used to form LVCs. The verb *give* tends to form light verb constructions with the noun *laugh* more often than the verbs *have* and *get* though the number of such LVCs is lower when compared to LVCs with *have* and *get*. Though LVCs with *have* have the highest raw frequency, LVCs with *get* are formed more frequently in native and Asian varieties as well as Jamaican English. African varieties give preference to LVCs with the verb *have*. It should also be mentioned that the difference in the use of LVCs with *have* and *get* in most varieties is not very big with the exception of American, Canadian, and Hong Kong Engishes where the light verb *get* is found almost twice as often as *have*. Nigerian English differs from other English varieties in that it not only gives a clear preference to the light verb *have*, but it is also the only variety where complements are selected only by LVCs with *have* for the reason that LVCs with *get* and *give* are rare in this variety. Though the relative frequency of LVCs with the verb *give* is the highest, very few such constructions take complements; only 11 varieties out of 20. In terms of complementation, the light verb *get* again surpasses the verb *have* as in the majority of English varieties *get* selects complements more often than *have* with the difference in the relative frequency in most cases being twice as big.

**Complementation Analysis**

The complementation analysis of the light verb constructions with the deverbal noun *laugh* deals with complementation patterns selected by LVCs with different light verbs. The complementation study focuses on the light verbs *have, get, and give*; however, complementation patterns with the light verbs *make* and *do* are also briefly discussed. The description of complementation of LVCs includes not only most frequent complementation patterns found in most English varieties but also the patterns characteristic of some of the varieties to demonstrate distinct features of those varieties.

Table 3 presents data on the most frequent complementation patterns with the verbs under investigation. As seen from Table 3, LVCs with the light verb *have* take the

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7 Variety-specific patterns are rare and are used once or twice with the exception of the pattern to + NP selected by the light verb *have* where the number of occurrences is 3 in British English and 5 in Australian English and the pattern of + NP selected by the verb *make* where the number of occurrences in Irish English is 5. Despite the small number of occurrences, the rare patterns are included into the analysis for the reason that most of them are found in a few English varieties.

8 Due to the limited size, the patterns in Table 3 are reduced to prepositions which, when extended, are followed by a noun phrase (NP).
The largest variety of complements in the Englishes under investigation if compared to the verbs *get* and *give*. They select five different complement patterns *at + NP, about + NP, over + NP, with + NP,* and *on + NP*. Though all the five patterns are synonymous, the preference is given to *at + NP* and *about + NP* which are found in all the 20 English varieties, whereas *over + NP* is used in 14 varieties, *on + NP* in 7 varieties, and *with + NP* in 6 varieties.

LVCs with the verb *get* select four complement patterns. The most popular pattern *out of + NP* is characteristic of 17 varieties of English. The pattern *from + NP* being in the second place is found in 14 varieties, *at + NP* in 10 varieties, and *about + NP* in only 4 varieties.

LVCs with the verb *give* also take four complement patterns, one of which is related to transitivity of the verb *give*, namely, *to + NP*. It is the most popular pattern with the verb *give* as it is found in 7 English varieties. The pattern *at + NP* is used in 4 varieties, *about + NP* and *over + NP* in 3 varieties. In general, LVCs with the verb *give* select few complements and only in 10 English varieties out of 20. This can be explained by the fact that the light verb *give* can take both monotransitive and ditransitive constructions, and in combination with the deverbal noun *laugh* ditransitive constructions prevail.

Table 3. Complementation of light verb constructions with the verbs *have, get, and give* when combined with the deverbal noun *laugh*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Light verb constructions and their complements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HAVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmE</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BrE</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AuE</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 includes only raw frequency for the reason that the complementation analysis focuses on the variety of complementation patterns used in different English varieties.

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1. Table 3 includes only raw frequency for the reason that the complementation analysis focuses on the variety of complementation patterns used in different English varieties.
Table 3 shows that all complements of the light verbs have, get, and give fall into two groups: the complements at + NP and about + NP (1a, b) that are characteristic of all the three light verbs though not in all varieties of English and those that are light verb specific – with/on + NP used with the light verb have (1c, d), out of/from + NP with get (1e, f), and to + NP with give (1g).

(1) a. I **had a great laugh** at a comment about Apple’s mistaking a farm in Ireland as an airport.  (BrE)

*We did have a good laugh* at her<...>.  (SAE)

*But, I still get a good laugh* at his guffaws, and gaffes.  (AmE)

*Connor and Ewan had both learnt to ski at Rannoch and got a good laugh at my efforts.*  (TZE)

*I found myself giving a little amused laugh* at each appearance of the time.  (BrE)

*Hana gave a small laugh* at his comment.  (AmE)

b. We **had a good laugh** about that.  (AmE)

*Many people in other countries have a laugh about* the boring and bland food <...>.  (JME)

<...> we **got a big laugh** about it for a while <...>.  (CaE)
It seems to me it’s as simple and yet complex as getting a laugh about an Irish (or Jewish) joke. (AuE)

He actually gave a little laugh about it. (NZE)

If there is one reason to give a good laugh about this Copa America <...>. (GHE)

c. Your diagrams are precisely why I thought you were having a laugh with this article. (AuE)

I always have a good laugh with this label<...>. (MYE)

d. We had a big laugh on that and he actually blackmailed me <...>. (NZE)

And he had a good laugh on how my friendly lads helped me in collecting fallen trees and branches <...>. (SLE)

e. If nothing else, you’ll get a laugh out of it. (IE)

He got a laugh out of Pacquiao at the pre-fight press conference <...>. (PHE)

f. Is it because he loves getting a laugh from his mates even if it means hurting the girls feelings? (CaE)

Craig replied breezily, getting a nice laugh from the crowd <...>. (KE)

g. That statement gave me a sad laugh to myself. (AmE)

Give laugh to all but smile to one <...>. (IndE)

The complement over + NP is characteristic of LVCs with both have and give.

(2) a. Kenny had a big laugh over it and said he deserved it. (CaE)

We had a good laugh over that. (IndE)

b. A line that gave the characters a laugh over a book entitled The Life Story of the Little Flower <...>. (IE)

<...>it gave us some laugh over the 21-yo JW. (SGE)

Though rarely, in some British, Australian, New Zealand, and Pakistani Englishes to + NP complement is selected by LVCs with the verb have.

(3) a. <...> she must have had a right old laugh to herself <...>. (BrE)

b. When I heard Julia Gillards comment, I had a little cynical laugh to myself. (AuE)

c. Whenever I read about this stuff I always have a good laugh to myself <...>. (NZE)

d. Sometimes he succeeds and then I’m sure he has a good laugh to himself... (PKE)

As seen from examples in (3), the manifestation of NP is limited to reflexive pronouns. Thus LVCs with the verbs have and give share even four complements.

Among other rare complements of LVCs with have are out of + NP (4a) (American and Nigerian Englishes) and from + NP (4b) (American, Irish, Ghanaian, and Jamaican Englishes) that are characteristic of LVCs with the verb get.

(4) a. My office mate had quite a laugh out of that one. (AmE)

Needless to say we both had a good laugh out of it <...>. (NGE)

b. I know I had a great laugh from that show <...>. (IE)

I, myself, had quite a laugh from this most unfortunate experience. (JME)
Other variety specific complements selected by LVCs with the verb *have* are *round/around* + NP (5a) (British and Hong Kong Englishes), and *of* + NP (5b) (Canadian English).

(5) a. <...> chatting around the campus location issue, **having a laugh round** the acronym <...>. (BrE)
   <...>ordered the “HK-cut” prime rib, and we **had a good laugh around** it <...>. (HKE)
   b. <...> people **would have laugh of** her performance for days <...>. (CaE)

LVCs with the verb *get* also select a big variety of rare complements. One of them, *over* + NP (6a) (American English), is characteristic of LVCs with the verbs *have* and *give* and two more *with* + NP (6b) (American, British, Indian, and Tanzanian Englishes) and *on* + NP (6c) (Malaysian and Philippine Englishes) are also found with the light verb *have*.

(6) a. Our whole family **got a good laugh over** that one. (AmE)
   b. Plus, he **got a huge laugh with** a precisely-executed swear word. (BrE)
   I **got a real good laugh with** your post here. (IndE)
   c. <...> I **got a laugh on** the set of ‘Code Name: Jackal’. (MYE)

LVCs with *get* can also take deviant complements *off* + NP (7a) (British and Australian Englishes), and *for* + NP (7b) (British English).

(7) a. He will love **getting a laugh off** his mates too <...>. (BrE)
   <...> British girl from Manchester, **got a good laugh off** that! (AuE)
   b. I did think that Mark Rylance **would get a big laugh for** his opening line as Richard III <...>. (BrE)

Only one rare complement *with* + NP (British English) is selected by LVCs with the verb *give*.

(8) a. **You gave me a laugh with** the following comment <...>. (BrE)
   As previously mentioned, the deverbal noun *laugh* can also combine with the light verbs *make* and *do* both found in 9 English varieties. The LVC *make a laugh* takes five complements of which the most typical one is *of* + NP found in 5 English varieties out of 9: American, British, Irish, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi Englishes.

(9) a. <...>how I am looking, is public **making laugh of** me, my hands <...>. (BrE)
   b. Jake, Tom and his girlfriend **were making a laugh of** me. (IE)
   c. Please **do not make laugh of** any saints or any other human <...>. (PKE)
   d. <...>even if they are your friends **will make a laugh of** your relationship <...>. (BDE)

Other complements of LVCs with the verb *make* are rare and are used in one of English varieties: *at* + NP (10a) (British English), *about* + NP (10b) (Australian English), and *in* + NP (10c) (Pakistani English). It is worth mentioning that complements with the prepositions *at* and *about* are found in LVCs with the verbs *have*, *get*, and *give*. One
more complement *out of + NP* (10d) used with the verb *make* in two varieties (Irish and Kenyan Englishes) is also found with the light verb *get*.

(10) a. *they all make laugh at me called us all sort of name* <...>. (BrE)

b. *imagine animals pretending to be humans and make a laugh about it*. (AuE)

c. *Indians make laugh in what alternate reality is Internet* <...>. (PKE)

d. *kind of make a laugh out of you really* <...>. (IE)

LVCs with the verb *do*, similarly to the verb *give*, do not select complements as only one complement, namely, *at + NP* is found only in 2 varieties (American and Jamaican Englishes) out of 9.

(11) a. *she was touching his arm, doing her big cameron laugh at everything he said* <...>. (AmE)

b. *Killer done even a laugh at the whole issue* <...>. (JME)

All in all, taking into account complementation of all five verbs, i.e. *have, get, give, make, and do*, it can be stated that only one complementation pattern is found with all the verbs: *at + NP*. The pattern *about + NP* is used with the light verbs *have, get, give,* and *make* though with the latter verb this pattern is rare. The pattern *with + NP* can selected by LVCs with the verbs *have, get, and give*; however, it is characteristic of only the verb *have*. The patterns *on + NP, out of + NP,* and *from + NP* are found with the light verbs *have* and *get,* but tend to be used only with one of them. The pattern *of + NP* is popular with the verb *make,* but rare with the verb *have.* A deviant complement *for + NP* is used with the verbs *have* and *get.* The analysis of complementation patterns in different Englishes clearly shows that the largest variety of both typical and rare patterns is found in native Englishes. LVCs with the light verb *have* select the biggest number complement patterns in the English varieties under investigation if compared to the verbs *get* and *give.* The light verb *have* also surpasses other verbs in that LVCs with the verb *have* take complements in more English varieties than the verbs *get* and *give.* Two complementation patterns used with the verb *have* are found in all 20 varieties, whereas the most frequent pattern found with the verb *get* is used in 17 varieties. Most LVCs with the verb *give* are ditransitive and take very few complements.

**Concluding Remarks**

The investigation shows that three of the five light verbs, namely, *have, get,* and *give,* which are used with the deverbal noun *laugh* can be found in all the 20 English varieties. LVCs with the light verbs *do* and *make* tend to be found in native Englishes and the non-native varieties that have advanced in the process of nativization. Of the three light verbs that are used in all varieties of English under investigation, the light verb *give* forms light verb constructions with the noun *laugh* more often than the verbs
have and get though the raw frequency of LVCs with give is lower if compared to LVCs with have and get. When LVCs with the verbs have and get are compared, there is a tendency to use the light verb get with the deverbal noun laugh in native and Asian English varieties as well as Jamaican English, whereas African varieties give preference to LVCs with the verb have. In terms of complementation, LVCs with the verb give select very few complements and only in 11 varieties out of 20. Complements of LVCs with the verb have are found in all the 20 varieties and with the verb get in 19 varieties; however, the light verb get surpasses the verb have as in most English varieties under investigation get selects complements more often than have.

The complementation analysis demonstrates that the complementation pattern at + NP is found with all five verbs, i.e. have, get, give, make, and do, the pattern about + NP is used with the light verbs have, get, give, and make. Other patterns, though found with a few light verbs, are characteristic of only one. Such are the patterns with + NP, on + NP, out of + NP, and from + NP. Though used with other verbs, the patterns with + NP and on + NP are typical of the verb have, whereas the patterns out of + NP and from + NP are first of all related to the verb get. In general, there is a tendency to transfer patterns characteristic of one light verb into LVCs with other verbs. There are also some rare patterns that are used only with some particular light verbs and are variety specific. However, the largest variety of both typical and rare patterns is found in native Englishes. The complementation study also revealed that LVCs with the light verb have select the biggest number complement patterns in the English varieties under investigation if compared to the verbs get and give. LVCs with the light verb have also take complements in more English varieties than the verbs get and give.

On the basis of the study of frequency and complementation of light verb constructions in different English varieties, it could be claimed that English varieties that have progressed further in the process of navitization tend to form LVCs with a greater number of light verbs and show a larger variety of complementation patterns. This view is based on the exploration of only one deverbal noun and needs further investigation which could include more deverbal nouns used with different light verbs. Further research of the light verb constructions in different English varieties could also focus on modification and determination patterns as well as on the exploration of semantic differences of LVCs where different light verbs combine with the same deverbal noun.

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Sources


References


Tekstyno duomenimis pagrįstas konstrukcijų su deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais komplementacijos tyrimas įvairiose gimtakalbių ir negimtakalbių vartojamose anglų kalbos atmainose

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Santrauka

Konstrukcijos su deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais (angl. deverbal nouns) daugelio mokslininkų jau buvo tyrinėtos ne tik anglų, bet ir kitose kalbose, be to, šis reiškinys buvo tyrinėtas...
ne tik gimtakalbių anglų kalboje, bet ir negimtakalbių vartojamose anglų kalbos atmainose. Šiame straipsnyje tiriamos veiksmažodžių have, get ir give (angl. light verbs) su deverbatyviniu daiktavardžiu a laugh sudaromos konstrukcijos. Taip pat trumpai apžvelgiamos veiksmažodžių make ir do su deverbatyviniu daiktavardžiu a laugh sudaromos konstrukcijos. Šiuo tekstyno medžiaga grindžiamu tyrimu siekiama aprašyti konstrukcijas su deverbatyviniu daiktavardžiu a laugh, aptinkamas dvidešimtyje gimtakalbių ir negimtakalbių vartojamų anglų kalbos atmainų. Visa tyrimui būtina medžiaga surinkta iš GloWbE tekstyno.

Straipsnyje analizuojami konstrukcijų have / get / give a laugh vartojimo dažnumas ir komplementacijos modeliai. Konstrukcijų vartojimo dažnumo tyrimas yra siejamas su veiksmažodžių ir deverbatyvinio daiktavardžio a laugh konstrukcijų, vartojamų įvairiose gimtakalbių ir negimtakalbių anglų kalbos atmainose, įvairove, o komplementacijos modelių tyrimas – su konstrukcijas sudarančių veiksmažodžių įvairove. Straipsnyje aprašomi ne tik dažniausi komplementacijos modeliai, bet ir tokie modeliai, kurie yra būdingi tik kai kurioms anglų kalbos atmainoms.

**Esminiai žodžiai:** konstrukcijos su deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais, tekstyno duomenimis pagrįstas tyrimas, gimtakalbių ir negimtakalbių vartojamos anglų kalbos atmainos, dažnumo analizė, komplementacijos modeliai.

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