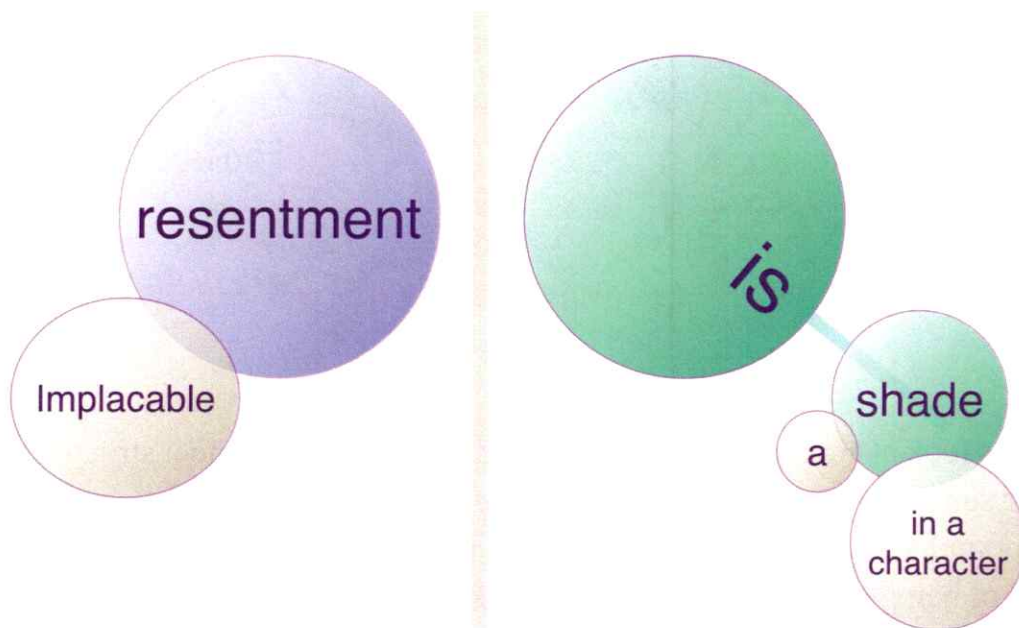


Not all sentences have action verbs. The other common verb form is the linking verb, a verb that often creates an equation between a subject and a subject complement. A subject complement is a noun, pronoun, or adjective that is linked to the subject by a linking verb, making an equation. In other words, the subject IS the subject complement, and vice versa. For example, in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, we read that "Mrs. Bennet was profuse in her acknowledgements." Thus, *Mrs. Bennet* is the subject, *was* is the linking verb, and *profuse* is the subject complement. Let us look at some more examples. Here is another sentence from *Pride and Prejudice* that uses a present tense linking verb: "Implacable resentment is a shade in a character."



The algebra of this sentence is *resentment* = *shade*. The subject is equated with a noun. Notice that this structure is also a metaphor; linking verbs are the essence of metaphors.