

ENGL 2384-003

Fall 2013

assignment 5, due in class Tues 1 Oct

An exercise in analyzing verb phrases. The sentences below are adapted from Adrian Hyland's novel *Moonlight Downs* (first published in Australia as *Diamond Dove*, 2006; this edition is NY: Soho, 2008, pp. 72ff.).

For each sentence, extract all the verb phrases. Then, identify their components, including operators, modals, auxiliaries, and main verbs; also show where negatives and adverbials are included within each verb phrase.

Then, for each verb phrase, identify its *tense* (present or past), its *aspect* (simple, progressive, or perfect), its *voice* (active or passive), and (where applicable), which of the four NICE categories it fits into (Negation, Inversion, Code, Emphasis). Also identify phrasal, prepositional, or other multi-word main verbs.

I scratched my head. Clearly there was nothing I could do. Given what Kenny Trigger had just told me, it did seem fair enough. There had been a breach of some tribal law, and Lincoln had been killed in retribution. Why wasn't I satisfied? I repeated the call half a dozen times. I could just about see my voice in the static. I was approaching my own place. A barrage of barks broke out. People were forever whinging about the bush dogs, but their own dogs were much more dangerous. In this town a front yard wasn't taken seriously. I saw a beautiful woman. She wore a blue dress that looked like it had been poured onto her. She took my hand, gave it a gentle squeeze, and was distracted by the whistle that signalled the resumption of the game. There was not much I could do about it. The men attempted a scrambled halt, but it wasn't going to be quick enough. Moments before the stampede struck, the bloke in the red beanie, who until then had been loping along behind the pack, somehow appeared at its front. The cheers were drowned out by a heavy crane truck. What was it they'd called him? Don't worry, I wanted to tell her, and maybe did in some obscure way.