

# Morphology & Syntax

## Sentences

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## What is a sentence?

- **Sentence as a informational-discursive unit**
  - “A complete thought,” generally including a topic and a comment about the topic
    - *Boys are naughtier.*
    - *Boys will be boys.*
  - The topic usually coincides with the grammatical subject.
    - *That doctor is rich.*
    - *That doctor, I hate.*

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## What is a sentence?

- **Sentence as a phonological-orthographical unit**
  - Phonological features, e.g. intonation, pause
  - Orthographical features, e.g. letter case, punctuation
    - *London. Michaelmas term lately over, and the Lord Chancellor sitting in Lincoln's Inn Hall. Implacable November weather.*
  - Tonal languages? Languages with no use of punctuation?

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## What is a sentence?

- **Sentence as a grammatical unit**
  - Simple sentence: 1 independent clause
  - Compound sentence:  $\geq 2$  independent clauses conjoined
  - Complex sentence: 1 independent clause +  $\geq 1$  dependent clause(s)

## Simple sentence

- Consists of one clause
  - A clause consists of a subject and a predicate.
    - *Pat runs every morning.*
    - *Pat sent Sam a letter.*
    - *The first-year students in the linguistics department did well on the midterms.*

## Simple sentence

- Independent clause
  - Can stand alone
    - เนื่องจากอาจารย์ดสอน
    - ที่นักการเมืองกล่าวปราศรัย
    - *That Tom went to Phuket*
    - *Tom to be a teacher*
  - Typically contains a finite verb; finite verbs show morphological categories such as tense, person and/or number. (cf. p. 70)

## Simple sentence

- In some languages, a sentence (an independent clause) consists of a subject and a predicate with no verb. (cf. p. 71)

## Finiteness

- In English only one element in any clause can be finite.
  - Main verb
    - *Pat saw three bears and a moose.*
  - Auxiliary (helping verb)
    - *Pat could see three bears and a moose.*
    - *Pat has seen three bears and a moose.*
  - In some languages (e.g. Warlpiri), both the main verb and the auxiliary are finite.

## Auxiliaries

- Modal auxiliaries: express permission, necessity or ability
  - Present and past forms
  - Precede the bare uninflected form of the verb (infinitive)
- *Have* and *Be*
  - Main verbs or aspectual auxiliaries
    - *I have an apple hidden in the cupboard.*
    - *I have hidden an apple in the cupboard.*
- Cf. p. 73

## Non-finite verbs

- Non-finite verbs: not marked for tense, person and/or number.
  - Infinitives
    - English: bare uninflected form of verb
    - French: suffixes -er, -ir, -re (manger, finir, vendre)
  - Occur after modal auxiliary or auxiliary *do*
  - Occur after infinitival marker *to*

## Non-finite verbs

- Participles: non-finite verbs which co-occur with a finite auxiliary
  - Present participle -ing
  - Past participle -(e)n/-ed
    - Kim has \_\_\_\_\_ (that) already.*
    - Kim \_\_\_\_\_ (that) yesterday.*
- Participles can occur without any finite verb.
  - the professor having taught linguistics*
  - words heard on the street*

## True or False

- A predicate is always realized as a verb phrase.
- A sentence has at least one independent clause.
- Present participles must occur with finite verbs.
- A simple sentence in English has only one finite verb.
- *Have* is a main verb.

## Compound sentences

- Independent clauses can be co-ordinated.
  - Conjoined by co-ordinating conjunctions (and, or, but)
  - Clauses in a co-ordination are on equal footing.
  
- *Sam opened the window and Ken jumped out.*
- *Sam and Ken opened the window.*
- *Sam opened the window and jumped out.*
- *Sam and Ken opened the window and jumped out.*

## Complex sentences

- Have more than one clause; clauses do not have equal syntactic status.
  - **Matrix clause, main clause or root clause**
  - **Subordinate clause or embedded clause** (embedded within another clause)

*John said that Mary was nice.*

*When John heard the news, he was very surprised.*

*She wanted to leave.*

*I doubted if he told you the truth.*

*Mary persuaded John to resign.*

## Complex sentences

- Verbs can select a noun phrase or a clause.
  - I know it.*
  - I know that he lied.*
  
- Not all subordinate clauses are selected by the matrix verb.
  - When John heard the news, he was very surprised.*

**adverbial clauses**

## Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Not all subordinate clauses are optional; some are required.
  - When selected by the verb
    - *Pat wondered whether Sam would come.*
  - When in the subject position
    - *For Sam to fight is impossible.*

**sentential subjects/ clausal subjects**

## Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Not all subordinate clauses would be possible independent clauses.
  - *John said that Mary was upset.*
  - *For Sam to fight is impossible.*

## Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Subordinate clause(s) may precede and/or follow the verb in the matrix clause.
  - Can't tell whether a clause is a subordinate clause by looking at its position.
- One matrix clause, but an infinite number of subordinate clauses
  - Recursion in human language

## Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Each clause contains a main verb.
  - Both main and subordinate clauses have a main verb.
  - A main verb (lexical verb) carries the semantic content.

*John said that Mary was nice.*

*When John heard the news, he was very surprised.*

*She wanted to leave.*

*I doubted if he told you the truth.*

*Mary persuaded John to resign.*

## Subordinate clauses

- Functional relationship
  - Relative (adjectival) clauses
  - Adverbial clauses
  - Complement (noun) clauses

## Relative clauses

- Relative clauses or adjectival clauses
- Modifier of a noun phrase
- Embedded within the NP it modifies
  - *The boy who ate the cake felt sick.*
  - *The cake that the boy ate was bad.*

Relative pronouns

## Relative clauses

- Different functions of relative pronouns
  - Subject  
*The man who came to the dinner left again.*
  - Object  
*The book that he brought is on the table.*
  - Indirect object  
*The man to whom you gave a book was here.*
  - Accompaniment  
*The man with whom you work was here.*
  - Cause  
*I met the man because of whom you no longer have work.*
  - Benefit  
*The man for whom you work phoned.*
  - Adverbial  
*The corner where he had the accident is over there.*

## Relative clauses

- Restrictive relative clause: identify or specify the head noun.
 

*Mi hermano que vive en Mexico tiene dos hijos*  
My brother who lives in Mexico has two children
- Nonrestrictive relative clause: explain something about the noun, but identification is not necessary
 

*Mi hermano, que vive en Mexico, tiene dos hijos*  
My brother, who lives in Mexico, has two children

## Adverbial clauses

- Adverbial in function
- Can be replaced by single-word or phrasal adverbs (except for sentential adverbial clauses)
- Time, location, manner, purpose, reason
 

*She talks as if she has a cold.*  
*When Joy's mother called, she ran home.*  
*We walked slowly where the path was rocky.*  
*I went in order to see Sally.*  
*I went because they wanted me.*

## Complement clauses

- Subject or object of the verb in the main clause
- Sentential complement clauses: subject complement clause or object complement clause

## Complement clauses

- Independent forms  
I know he lied.
- Independent forms introduced by markers
  - **Complementizer**: an introductory word  
*That John can fight is doubtful.*  
*John said (that) he could fight.*
  - In some languages, the complementizer is an affix on the verb.  
Cupeno  
*ne pe-n-enan-qa pis-e-hici-ve-y*  
I it-I-know-DUR SUBR-your-go-R-ACC  
'I know that you went.'

## Complement clauses

- Special forms of the verbs  
*I suggest that he see the doctor immediately.*

## Complement clauses

- Deletion of subject
  - The subject of the object complement clause is not expressed when it refers to the subject of the main clause.

*I want to go.*

Spanish

*El quier-e ir a Mexico*  
he wants to.go to Mexico  
'He wants to go to Mexico.'

## Complement clauses

- Subject raising
  - The subject of the embedded clause is marked as the object and functions as the object of the main clause.
    - I want him to go.
    - I expect him to go.
- Depending on verbs
  - \*I hope him to go.

## Cross-linguistic variation

- Are complement clauses indispensable in all languages?
- Co-ordination (cf. p. 85)
- Nominalization (cf. pp. 86-87)
- Serial verbs (cf. reading assignment)

## Exercises

- 2 (pp. 90-91)
- 5 (p. 94)