Word classes

- Semantic criteria
  - Nouns denote entities.
    Givón (1984): Words that express time-stable concepts
  - Verbs denote actions.
    Givón (1984): Words that express the least time-stable concepts, e.g. events
  - Adjectives denote states.
  - Adverbs denote the manner in which something is done.
  - Prepositions denote location.
  - Determiners serve to specify.

Semantic criteria

- Not a reliable test for word classes
  - assassination, freedom, ความสุข, กรุงเทพฯ

Morphological and syntactic criteria

- Morphological and syntactic criteria for identifying word classes
  - What are the different forms that the word can have? (Morphology)
  - Whereabouts in a phrase or sentence does the word occur? (Distribution)
  - What work does the word perform in a phrase or sentence? (Function)

Word classes

- Verbs
- Nouns
- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Prepositions

Verbs

- Morphological criteria
  - Base form
  - Present tense –s
  - Past tense –ed
  - Participle
  - Gerund –ing
- Distinguish verbs from modals (modal auxiliaries)

Verbs

- Syntactic criteria
  - Distribution
    Pat _____ her cat.
    Sam can _____ a monkey.
    Mary wanted to _____.
  - Function
    Predicates (denote situations, events, actions, processes, etc.)

Arguments

- Participants in an event
  - John ran.
    Intransitive
  - John hit Bill.
    Transitive
  - John gave a present to Bill.
    Ditransitive

Semantic roles

- Agent, Patient, Experiencer, Recipient, Goal, Force, Instrument

- Arguments and semantic roles
  - John and Bill laughed.
  - John and Bill killed two rats.
  - Tea, I like.

Nouns

- Morphological criteria
- Syntactic criteria
  - Distribution
  - Function
    Arguments of predicates
    Grammatical relations: Subject, Object (Direct object, Indirect object, Prepositional object)

Criteria for subjecthood

(1) <u>In the garden</u> was a rabbit.

(2) John is <u>a teacher</u>.

(3) Mary doesn't like <u>apples</u>.

(4) These pictures were painted <u>by John</u>.

Criteria for subjecthood

- Control subject-verb agreement (in terms of person and number)
- Nominative case marking (seen in pronouns)
- Canonical position: right before the verb

Nouns and predicative function

- Noun phrases can be predicates, and in some languages a copula verb is not present.

Adjectives

- Morphological criteria
- Syntactic criteria
  - Distribution
    - He is very/too/quite _____.
    - Degree modifiers
  - Function
  - Attributive and predicative functions

Functions of APs

- Attributive APs modify a noun and normally have a fixed position.
  - a round table, a black book
  - une table ronde, un livre noir
- Predicative APs
  - He felt tired/happy/bad.
  - She is nice/smart/jealous.

Functions of APs

- Predicative APs occur with a copula verb in English, but not in many other languages.

- Some adjectives in English can only be used as predicative adjectives or attributive adjectives, e.g., awake, utter.

Are adjectives essential?

- A closed class in Igbo
- Languages express concepts differently.
  - He is happy.
  - เขามีความสุข

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Prasithrathsint (2000)

- There are languages which have no category of adjectives.
- Adjectives in Thai are in fact verbs.

Prasithrathsint (2000)

- Functional criterion: verb and adjective
- Semantic criterion: adjective
- Syntactic criterion: verb

Prasithrathsint (2000)

- Proposed that NP+"Adjective" is a relative clause in which *thîi* can be absent.
- Verb-like behaviors
  – Occurrence in predicative position
  – Negation
  – Imperative
  – Co-occurrence with words signifying aspects

Prasithrathsint (2000)

- Verbs behave like "adjectives".
  – Nominal modification
  – Nominalization
  – Intensification
  – Comparison
  – Co-occurrence with classifiers

Prasithrathsint (2000)

- Thai expresses adjectival concepts through verbs.
  - Can be separated from action verbs
  - "adjectival verbs" (Matisoff 1973)

Post (2008)

- Questioned the claim that Thai does not have adjectives
- Examined the internal structure of the Thai adjective class and compared behaviors of adjectives with those of members of other word classes

Post (2008)

- Adjectives are terms that denote property concepts.
- Terms denoting property concepts in Thai classified into verblike and nounlike forms.

Post (2008)

- Adjectives in Thai exhibit behaviors and distributional patterns that are similar and different from stative and active verbs.
- Nominalization

  Only adjectives and non-core verbs can take *khwaam*.

Post (2008)

- Adnominal modification
  - Attributive clause

    [คน [พูดภาษาอังกฤษ]] ชอบมาออสเตรเลีย
  - Relative clause

    [คน [ที่พูดภาษาอังกฤษ]] ชอบมาออสเตรเลีย

    Adjectival modification with attributive clauses, and verbal modification with relative clauses.

Post (2008)

- Adjectives in Thai can be distinguished from verbs on distributional grounds.
- There is a class of terms in Thai that is similar to the adjectives classes in many languages.
- Thai cannot be used as evidence for the existence of a language that does not treat property concept words differently from other types of words.

Prepositions

- Distributional properties

  It was right _____ the bed.
- Functions
  - Mark location and time
  - Express manner in which an event is carried out, modify verbs

    (A PP can be an adverbial.)

Adverbs

- Morphological criteria
- Syntactic criteria
  - Distribution

    He treats her _____.

    His _____ red shirt was stolen.

    He sings very _____.
  - Function

    Modify verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
- Adjectives and adverbs are similar.

Grammatical categories

- Different types of grammatical categories
  – Inherent
  – Agreement
  – Relational
- Can be represented in 2 ways
  – Change in form (e.g., affix)
  – Use a closed class word

Grammatical categories for nouns

- Number
- Gender or noun class
  – Generally marked on nouns
  – Bantu languages: extensive noun class systems
- Definiteness
- Case

Grammatical categories for verbs

- Tense: systematic coding of the relation between two points of time (reference time and event time)
- The default temporal reference point which event/state clauses are anchored is the time of speech.
- Absolute tense, relative tense
- Past, Future, Present (Habitual)

Grammatical categories for verbs

- Languages may have sub-divisions of tense (remote and recent past, immediate and distance future.

  – English: past, present (non-past)
  – Cross-linguistic differences: Past and non-past, Future and non-future

Grammatical categories for verbs

- Aspect
  - Inherent (lexical) aspect vs. grammatical aspect
- Perfective: perspective focus on termination and boundedness

  Imperfective: perspective focus away from termination and boundedness
  - Progressive: ongoing process
  - Habitual: repeated events

Grammatical categories for verbs

- Interaction between inherent aspect and grammatical aspect

    He shot the gun.

    He was shooting the gun.

    She left the house.

    She was leaving the house.

- Perfect

Grammatical categories for verbs

- Modality
  - Deontic modality: the speaker's intention to influence others' action (obligation and permission)
  - Epistemic modality: addition of information regarding the nature of proposition (conjectural, evidentiality)
- Mood

    Actual and hypothetical events

    Indicative, subjunctive

Grammatical categories for verbs

- Voice

    Active and passive

- Agreement

    Person and number

    Gender or noun class

Grammatical categories for adjectives

- Comparison
- Agreement

Grammatical categories

- How grammatical information is expressed depends on morphology in the language.