

Morphology & Syntax

Heads & Dependents

1

Heads vs. Dependents

- Phrase: **head** of the phrase and **dependents** to that head
 - เดินเร็วมาก
 - สวยมากๆ
 - ในกล่อง
 - ใบไม้ที่เปลี่ยนเป็นสีแดง

Head

- Bears the crucial semantic information
- Determines the word class of the whole phrase
- Has the same distribution as the whole phrase
- Is the obligatory item in the phrase (can't be omitted)

- Discuss the examples in slide 2 using these criteria.

Head

- Can dependents be omitted?
 - *He [died slowly].*
 - *He [killed her slowly].*

- Dependents can be obligatory or optional.

- A head is required for a phrase; there may be dependents (obligatory or optional).

Generalizations

- The subject of a clause is normally a phrase of one word or more which is headed by a noun.
- The predicate is normally a VP, which may contain just a head verb or a head verb and its dependents.

Heads and dependents

- Heads select dependents of a particular word class.
 - beautiful girl, *beautifully girl
- Heads require their dependents to agree with grammatical features of the heads.
 - *un livre vert*
a:MASC book green:MASC
'a green book'
 - *Une pomme verte*
a:FEM apple green:FEM
'a green apple'

Heads and dependents

- Heads require their NP dependents to occur in a particular case.
 - *Kodomo-ga hon-o yon-da*
child-NOM book-ACC read-PAST
'The child read the book.'

Complement and adjunct

- **Complement:** dependent that is selected by the head and has a close relationship with the head
 - Complements can be obligatory or optional.
- **Adjunct:** dependent that carries additional information and does not have a close relationship with the head
 - Adjuncts are optional.

Complement and adjunct

- Discuss the following examples.
 - We killed!
 - He dashed across the field.

Complement and adjunct

- sings in the bath
 - in the car, at school, before dinner
 - The form of the PP is not constrained by the verb.
- relies on her parents
 - *in the car, *at school, *before dinner

Complement and adjunct

- A complement occurs closer to head than an adjunct.
 - We sang Christmas carols yesterday.
 - *We sang yesterday Christmas carols.
- Adverb phrases
 - Kim practices carefully.
 - You should treat sensitive people carefully.

Verbs and complements

- Verbs can be categorized according to what complements they select.
- Complements are contained within the VP which the verb heads.

She [saw her friends].

Verbs and complements

- Intransitive verbs: no complement
- Transitive verbs: an NP complement
- Verbs with transitive/intransitive alternation
 - *I broke the window. / The window broke.*
 - *I phoned him. / I phoned.*
- Ditransitive verbs
 - *I sent Jack a flower. / I sent a flower to Jack.*

Verbs and complements

- Verbs with an NP and a PP complement
- Prepositional verbs: a PP complement
- Verbs with an object NP and a clausal complement

Prepositions and complements

- Intransitive prepositions
 - *nearby*
- Transitive prepositions
 - *in, under, after*

Adjectives and complements

- Optional complements
 - *I'm [sorry for your loss].*
 - *I'm [glad that you can come].*
- Obligatory complements
 - *She is [fond of fruit].*

Nouns and complements

- Optional complements
 - *a student of Physics, a manufacturer of tyres*

Complementizers and complements

- A complementizer (C) selects a clause and forms a complementizer phrase (CP).
 - *John said [that Mary cried].*
 - *[For John to be a teacher] is impossible.*

Complement and adjunct

Complement

- Selected by the head
- Close relationship with the head
- Obligatory or optional, depending on the head
- Limited number
- PP dependents selected by the head

Adjunct

- Not selected by the head
- No close relationship with the head
- Optional
- Potentially unlimited
- PP dependents of different kinds

Determiners and nouns

- Specifier
- Determiner as head of an NP, forming a determiner phrase (DP)
 - An NP is a complement of the head D.
This box of dates
- Has the same distribution as the entire phrase
- Is obligatory part of the phrase
- Requires their dependents to agree with grammatical features of the heads

Head placement

- A head tends to have a fixed position in all phrases within a language.
- Head-initial languages: the head precedes its complement
- Head-final languages: the head follows its complement

Head-initial

eats apples
behind the door
happy for you
students with long hair

Head-final

Taroo-ga [Hanako-ni hana-o ageta]
Taro-NOM Hanako-DAT flower-ACC gave
'Taro gave Hanako flowers.'

[tomodaji-to]
friend-with
'with a friend'

[sono tesuto e no zisin]
that test to POSSESSIVE confidence
'confidence in that test'

Head-marking and dependent-marking

- Marking head or dependent to indicate syntactic relationship between them
- Head-marking: agreement, cross-referencing
- Dependent-marking: case
- In some languages, the relationship between the head and dependent is not marked.

Adposition and object

German

mit mein-em Freund
with my-DAT friend
'with my friend'

Welsh

arna i
On:1SG me
'on me'

Verb and arguments

Southern Tiwa

bey-mu-ban
2SG:SU/1SG:OBJ-see-PAST
'You saw me.'

Japanese

Taroo-ga [Hanako-ni hana-o ageta]
Taro-NOM Hanako-DAT flower-ACC gave
'Taro gave Hanako flowers.'

Noun and possessor NP

Mary's sister

Saliba

sine natu-na
woman child-3SG
'the woman's child'

Ayacucho

runa-pa wasi-n
man-GEN house-3POSSESSIVE
'a person's house'

Noun and AP

Chadian Arabic

mara tawila
woman tall:FEM
'a tall woman'

Hawrami

aesp-I zil
horse-SUFFIX big
'big horse'

Head-marking and dependent-marking

- English has both head-marking and dependent-marking.
 - Possessive NPs
 - Subject-verb agreement

Exercises

- 1 (p. 118)
- 3 (pp. 119-120)
- 4 (pp. 120-121)