Heads vs. Dependents

- Phrase: head of the phrase and dependents to that head
  - ตัวนำ
  - รายการ
  - แพร่
  - ไปไม่ที่ที่ตั้ง

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

- 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.

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

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.*

**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

Taro-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)