

Testing for Structure: substitution, movement, coordination

- 1) What is the **basic word order of subject, object and verb** in English? (Think of the order of an “ordinary” English sentence with a transitive verb)
 - A) verb-object-subject (VOS)
 - B) verb-subject-object (VSO)
 - C) subject-object-verb (SOV)
 - D) subject-verb-object (SVO)
 - E) object-subject-verb (OSV)
 - F) object-verb-subject (OVS)
- 2) How do you say “**accusative case**” in Hungarian?
 - A) alanyeset
 - B) tárgyeset
 - C) részes eset
- 3) How do you say “**nominative case**” in Hungarian?
 - A) alanyeset
 - B) tárgyeset
 - C) részes eset
- 4) One of the below sentences features a **double object construction**, while the other one instantiates the so-called “**dative alternate**”. Which one is the **double object construction**?
 - A) *I sent a link to Judy*
 - B) *I sent Judy a link*
- 5) Identify the **dative complement** (either in A or B – only one of them has it), the **indirect object** (either in A or B), and the **direct object** (both in A and in B).
- 6) Where can you find a nominative vs. accusative distinction in English? Give an example for both
- 7) What are expletive (or pleonastic) subjects? Give an English example. Does Hungarian also have expletive subjects?

Some types of phrases:

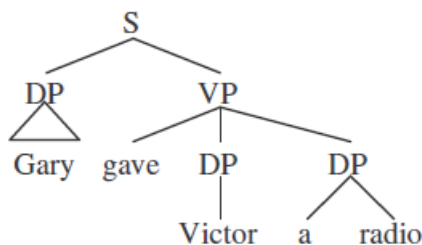
- **NP = noun phrase** (often just a bare noun, with no article), e.g., *sun; robbery of a bank*
 - The head of the phrase is the noun itself
- **DP = determiner phrase:** an article or a demonstrative/possessive pronoun + a noun, e.g., *the sun; this story; a story; my stuff*; but proper names and some pronouns are also DP-s in themselves (because they are definite), e.g., *Vivien, Dóra, Balázs; he, she*
 - The head of the phrase is the determiner. (In the case of *Vivien, he, or she*: a “silent” (unpronounced, abstract) determiner.)
- **PP = preposition phrase** (a preposition + its complement), eg. *at the sun; on syntax*
 - head = the preposition
- **VP = verb phrase** (a verb + its complements), e.g., *staring at the sun*
 - head = the verb

- **AP = adjective phrase** (an adjective + its complements), e.g., *keen on syntax*
 - head = the adjective
- **CP = complementiser phrase** (finite (tensed) sentences/clauses; they may be introduced by a complementiser like *that* ‘hogy; aki, ami’), e.g., *No doubts that this Christmas pudding is awful*
 - head = the complementiser (spelled-out or “silent”)

Phrases are introduced by **heads** in English (a determiner/a noun/a preposition/an adjective/a complementiser etc.); heads are the main elements in a phrase. English is a **head-initial** language.

Exercises:

- 1) Identify the predicate, the subject, the direct object and the indirect object in the tree structure below:



Note:

A triangle is used in a tree diagram when we do not want to represent the details of the internal structure of the phrase.

- 2) **What combinations of elements form, and what combinations do not form one** constituent in the tree structure above? (We will use the term ‘constituent’ here roughly as a synonym for “phrase”)

- does *a + radio* form a constituent?
- *Victor + a radio*?
- *gave + Victor + a radio*?
- *Gary*?
- *Gary + Victor*?
- *Gary + gave*?
- *Gary + gave + Victor*?

If two or more elements have a node in common, and this node only contains these (and no other) elements, then these elements form a constituent

→ Some tests can show us

- whether certain elements form a constituent, and
- if they do, the category of the constituent

- 1) **Substitution / replacement:** replacing a string of words by a **single word** or by a **pronoun**
- 2) **Movement:** whether the string of words can be displaced to another position in the sentence
- 3) **Coordination:** only constituents of the same category can be coordinated

3.1 Substitution/replacement

- replacing a string of words with a **pronoun** (*he/she, it; there* etc.) or with **one word** (e.g., with a verb or with a single noun)
- elements that have the same distribution in a sentence have the same categorial status (DP/NP/VP/PP etc.)

(1) *The bishop that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre*

→ What parts of this sentence can be replaced by the pronouns *he, it,* and *there*?

→ What parts of this sentence can be replaced by single nouns and single verbs (even if the meaning will not be the same)?

- What you can replace with *he/she* will be a **DP** (determiner phrase)
- What you can replace with *there* will be a **PP** (prepositional phrases)
- What you can replace with a **single noun** (with no determiner) will be a **NP** (noun phrase)
- What you can replace with a **single verb** will be a **VP** (verb phrase)

→ What is the subject of the sentence in (1)?

- *the bishop*?

→ **replacement test:**

(2) [**The bishop**] that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre

↓

(3) ***He** that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre

(4) [*The bishop that just left*] was hiding a gun under his mitre

↓

(5) **He** was hiding a gun under his mitre

- the subject of the sentence is *The bishop that just left*, and this string of words forms a **constituent**, a **DP**

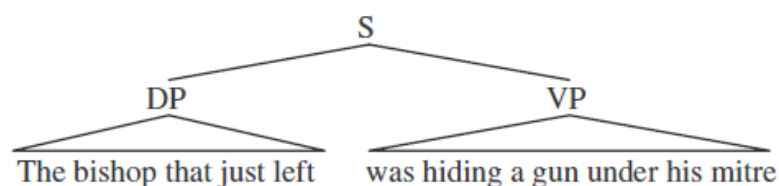
- *was hiding a gun under his mitre* can be replaced by a single verb (structurally they are interchangeable) → it constitutes a single unit, a **VP** (verb phrase):

(6) [_{DP} *The bishop that just left*] [**was hiding a gun under his mitre**]

↓

(7) [_{DP} *The bishop that just left*] [_{VP} **disappeared**]

(8)



- in the VP *was hiding a gun under his mitre*, **a gun** can be replaced by the pronoun *it* → *a gun* is also a constituent, a DP (within the VP) – a DP complement, i.e. the object:

(9) $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was hiding } \mathbf{[a\ gun]} \text{ under his mitre}]$

(10) $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was hiding } \mathbf{[_{DP} it]} \text{ under his mitre}]$

- *his mitre* can also be replaced by the pronoun *it* → *his mitre* is a DP too:

(11) *The bishop that just left* *was hiding a gun* *under* $\mathbf{[his\ mitre]}$

(12) a. $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was hiding } [_{DP} \text{a gun}] \text{ under } \mathbf{[_{DP} it]}]$
 b. $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was hiding } [_{DP} \text{a gun}] \text{ under } [_{DP} \text{his mitre}]]$

- *under his mitre* / *under it* can be replaced by *there* → it is a PP:

(13) $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was hiding } [_{DP} \text{a gun}] \mathbf{[under } [_{DP} \text{his mitre}]]}]$

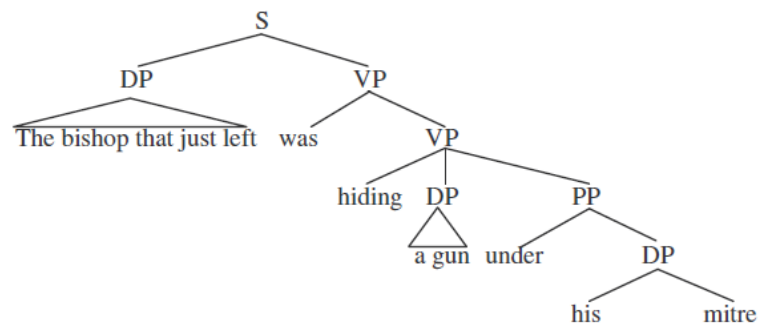
(14) $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was hiding } [_{DP} \text{a gun}] \mathbf{[_{PP} there]}]$

- *hiding a gun under his mitre* can also be replaced by a verb → it is a VP (verb phrase):

(15) $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad \text{was } \mathbf{[hiding\ a\ gun\ under\ his\ mitre]}$

(16) $[_{DP} \text{The bishop that just left}] \quad \text{was } [_{VP} \mathbf{smiling}]$

(17)



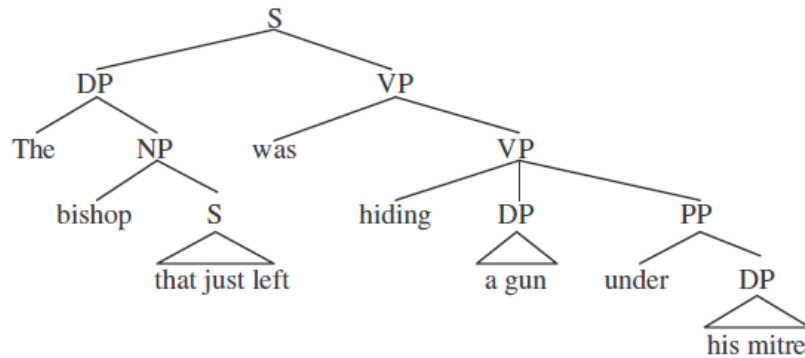
- The part “*bishop that just left*” can be replaced by a single noun → it is a NP (noun phrase):

(18) *The* $\mathbf{[bishop\ that\ just\ left]}$ *was hiding a gun under his mitre*

(19) *The* $[_{NP} \text{impostor}] \quad [_{VP} \text{was } [_{VP} \text{hiding } [_{DP} \text{a gun}] \text{ } [_{PP} \text{under } [_{DP} \text{his mitre}]]]]]$

- *that just left*, which is introduced by a complementiser, is a sentence (clause), and sentences are complementiser phrases (CP-s):

(20)



Homework: Representing (20) with brackets, adding the labels as well

Some more general replacement tests:

- testing whether a constituent is a VP: is it possible to replace it with *do so*?

(21) *The bishop* [_{VP} **hid his gun**] and the verger [**did so**] too

- anything that can be replaced by *one* is an NP:

(22) *This* [_{NP} **robbery of a bank**] was more successful than that [**one**]

- adjective phrases (AP-s) functioning as predicates can be pronominalised by *so*:

(23) *The bishop was* [_{AP} **guilty**] and [**so**] was the verger

- the pronoun *it* can replace clauses (sentences) as well, that is, complementiser phrases (CPs):

(24) *They said* [_{CP} **the bishop robbed the bank**], but I don't believe [**it**]

- *so* can also replace clauses (sentences):

(25) *They said* [_{CP} **the bishop is dangerous**], but I don't think [**so**]

3.2 Movement

- **Anything that can move together forms a single constituent, and what cannot move together is not a constituent**

i) **Movement of topical objects (26b):**

(26) a. *the policeman searched the bishop* → here, “the bishop” is the object of the clause
 b. *the bishop, the policeman searched* → here, “the bishop” (which is still the object in the clause) appears in front of the subject, in the so-called topic position (‘A püspököt a rendőr kereste’)

- (26b) is grammatical, e.g., in the context of:

(27) The policewoman searched the nun, the chief constable searched the vicar and **the bishop, the policeman searched.**

- In (26b), the object is moved from the object position into the topic position. The fact that *the + bishop* move together proves that *the + bishop* form a constituent:

(98) **the bishop, the policeman searched** –

ii) VP movement:

- the verb and its object can also undergo movement → they form a constituent, a VP:

(99) **I thought the policeman would search the bishop, and**
[search the bishop], he did –

iii) Wh-movement:

- *wh*-words: interrogative words like *which, what, where, why*, etc.
- in English, they have a position at the beginning of the sentence
- dual function:
 - 1) they indicate the interrogative status of the clause
 - 2) a syntactic function within the clause: e.g., object (101), subject (*who*), prepositional complement (*where*)

Are these elements always sentence-initial in Hungarian as well?

(101) what did they find?

→ the *wh*-element is moved from the object position to the clause-initial position:

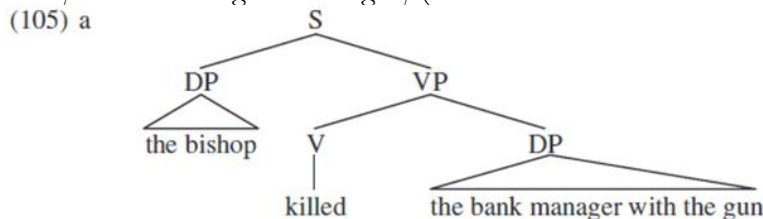
(102) **what did they find** –

Ambiguity:

(104) *The bishop killed the bank manager with the gun*

→ (104) is an ambiguous sentence: what are its two possible meanings? Who has the gun in one case and who has it in the other?

- 1) If it is the bank manager who has the gun: the PP *with the gun* forms a single constituent with the DP: [*the bank manager with the gun*] (it is a modifier of *the bank manager*):

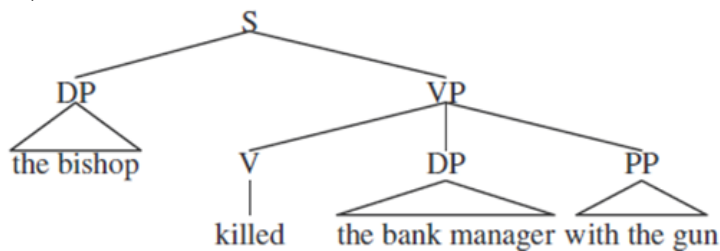


What is the Hungarian translation of (105a)?

- 2) If it is the bishop who has the gun: the PP *with the gun* modifies the VP *killed the bank manager with the gun* and is a separate constituent from this → the PP is an instrumental modifier saying what was used to kill the bank manager:

(105 b)

b



What is the Hungarian translation of (105b), and what is the syntactic function (mondattani szerep) of ‘with the gun’ in this case?

- only **one** constituent can undergo movement, **two constituents cannot move together**
- thus if “the bank manager” and “with the gun” form one constituent, as in (105a), they can be moved together (106):

□

(106) the bank manager with the gun, the bishop killed _

→ This sentence (106) is no longer ambiguous: it can only be interpreted as ‘A fegyveres banki menedzsert a püspök megölte’, but not as ‘A banki menedzsert a püspök megölte egy fegyverrel’

The fact that “the bank manager” and “with the gun” can move together (in 106) is an evidence that they form one constituent both in (105) and in (106a).

- You cannot move “the bank manager” and “with the gun” together in (106b), as they are two separate constituents.
- The same point can be made with the movement of *wh*-elements:

(107) which bank manager with a gun did the bishop kill _

→ this sentence is unambiguous (‘Melyik fegyveres banki menedzsert ölte meg a püspök?’) and the PP must be interpreted as modifying the DP and not the VP

3.3 Coordination

- only constituents and only constituents of the same category can be coordinated
- coordination = putting together two elements to form a single element that have the same function as the elements would have individually.
E.g., coordination of the two nouns *Bill* + *Ben* into a single element → [*Bill and Ben*] → this structure behaves exactly like each of the nouns in it: it can appear as subject (108a), object (108b), object of a preposition (108c) or topic (108d):

- (108) a. [*Bill and Ben*] went down the pub
b. I know [*Bill and Ben*]

- c. They sent a letter to [Bill and Ben]
- d. [Bill and Ben], everyone avoids

- Two constituents that have different categories and functions cannot be coordinated:
 - two nouns can be coordinated (109a)
 - two verbs can be coordinated (109b)
 - but a noun and a verb cannot be coordinated (109c):

- (109) a. the [boys and girls]
 b. have [sung and danced]
 c. *the [boys and danced] have [sung and girls]

(111) the bishop killed the bank manager with the gun and the security guard

- (111') the bishop killed [_{DP} the bank manager with the gun] and [_{DP} the security guard]
 → two DP objects are coordinated
 → “with the gun” is a modifier of “the bank manager” in this case – “the bank manager with the gun” forms one constituent

Homework:

- 1) Identify the constituents and their category in the following sentences, represent the sentences both with tree diagrams and brackets:
 - a. The barman gave Gwyneth a beer.
 - b. The barman gave a beer to Gwyneth.
- 2) Start reading the textbook (<https://mek.oszk.hu/05400/05476/05476.pdf>):
 Chapters 1 and 2