

## 2.2 The object (tárgy)

- last week we defined it as a nominal complement but more precisely, it's a DP (determiner phrase) complement
- like other complements, it follows the verb:

(58) a. Peter put [DP the bike] [PP in the shed]  
 c. Gary gave [DP the voucher] [PP to the attendant]

*in the shed* and *to the attendant* are not objects of the verb but prepositional complements of the verbs

(but: prepositions themselves have objects, cf. (64a))

- **immediately follows** the verb:

(59) a \*Peter put [PP in the shed] [DP the bike]  
 c \*Gary gave [PP to the attendant] [DP the voucher]

- some syntactic processes are restricted to objects, e.g., passivisation: the object 'moves' into subject position:

(60) a we all saw Wendy  
 b Wendy was seen –  
 ⌞—————⌋

- the object appears in the **accusative** Case (63a-b); objects of prepositions (prepositional objects) as well (64a-b):

(63) a. I saw *him/her/them*/etc. → accusative case  
 b. \*I saw he/she/they/etc. → \*nominative case

(64) a. I looked *at him/her/them*/etc. → accusative case  
 b. \*I looked at he/she/they/etc. → \*nominative case

## 2.3 Direct and indirect objects

- **double object construction – ditransitive verbs** (*lend, send, give* etc.): they have two DP objects:

<b>indirect object</b>	<b>direct object</b>
↓	↓
(71) Lucy lent [DP Larry]	[DP a lasso]

→ the order of an indirect and a direct object is fixed in Standard English:

(72) \*Lucy lent a lasso Larry (ungrammatical in Standard English)

- the indirect object is often assigned the *goal* or *beneficiary* theta-role by the verb ('valaki részére, számára; vkinek') and it typically refers to a person
- if the goal/beneficiary argument is expressed as a PP = **dative alternate/dative construction** – ! this is not a double object construction, because *to Larry* is not an object but a dative complement ('Larrynek')  
 (the order of the theme and the goal/beneficiary is the opposite in this case, cf. (74) and (71):

(74) Lucy lent [DP a lasso] [PP to Larry]