25/09/2024
Syntax Seminar
BBN-ANG-252
Erika Asztalos

Grammatical functions: subject, object (direct object, indirect object). Testing for structure: Substitution

Homework:
p. 53

Exercise 4

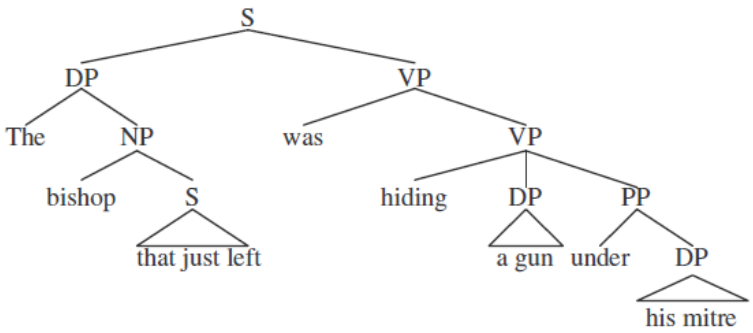
Give sentences according to the following patterns:

(1) a N+V
b N+V+N
c D+N+V+V+P+D+N
d D+N+V+D+N+P+D+N
e D+V+NEG+V+C+D+V+V+D+N
f D+Adv+V
g Adv+N+V+D+N
h N+Adv+V+D+N
i N+V+D+N+Adv
j V+D+Adv+V+P+N

p. 85

- **Exercise 1**

List the rewrite rules used in generating the following structure:



0.

- What are complements, and how do they differ from arguments? What is/are the complement(s) in *Jodie kept the hamster in a cage for several days?* What is an argument in this sentence, but not a complement?
- What are intransitive verbs? How would you translate the term into Hungarian?
  - Is *to look for* an intransitive verb? E.g., *I'm looking for something fun*
- What are transitive verbs? Is 'to find' a transitive verb, e.g., in *I find this boring*? What are the arguments in this sentence?
- Tell me a verb which has an adjectival complement

- How would you translate the term 'phrase' into Hungarian?
- What are the immediate constituents and the constituents of the S node on the tree structure on p. 1? What are the immediate constituents and the constituents of the upper (and leftmost) DP node?
- Who is the mother of the lowest (and rightmost) DP node on the tree structure on p. 1? Who are the daughters of the upper DP (and leftmost) node? Who are the sisters of the PP node?

1.6 Labels

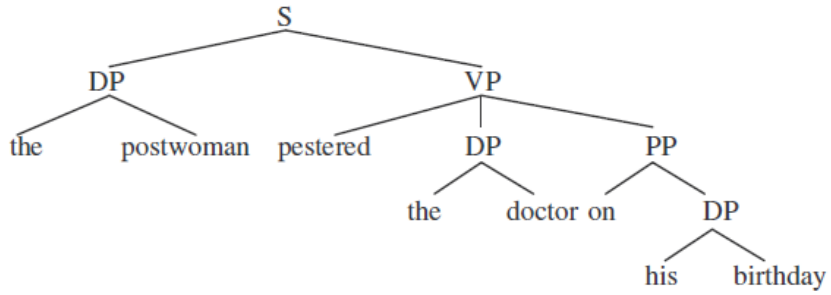
- the identity of a phrase is determined by one of the words it contains → the **head** of the phrase:
  - **determiner phrases** (DP): ***the*** *postwoman;* ***a*** *radio;* ***his*** *birthday; Lucy; she, he, I etc.*
  - **preposition phrase** (PP): ***on*** *his birthday*

  phrases associated with every kind of word category:
  - **verb phrases (VPs)**: ***pestered*** *the doctor*
  - **adjective phrases (APs): *keen*** *on karate*
  - **noun phrases (NP)s: *doctor***
  - **inflectional phrases (IPs): *can*** *dance;* ***have*** *moved*
  - **complementiser phrases (CPs)** -- sentences: ***that*** *I'm not interested in this*
  - **degree adverb phrases (DegPs): *so*** *boring;* ***too*** *abstract*

What is the position of heads in a phrase in English?

1.7 Rewrite rules

(34)



From the structure in (34) it is possible to formulate the following rules:

(36) $S \rightarrow DP\ VP$
$VP \rightarrow V\ DP\ PP$
$PP \rightarrow P\ DP$
$DP \rightarrow D\ N$

→ **rewrite rules:** how to draw a tree by 'rewriting' the symbol on the left of the arrow for the symbols on the right

2 Grammatical Functions

- **subject, object, indirect object**
- they are defined in terms of their structural position within the sentence
- any element which sits in these positions will be interpreted as subject and object respectively, no matter if this makes sense or not:

		subject	verb (predicate)	object
(75)	a.	Eddy	ate	his dinner
	b.	?His dinner	ate	Eddy

□

How would you translate the terms "subject", "verb", "predicate", "object" into Hungarian?

2.1 The subject (alany)

- Subject: an argument of the verb which appears to its left. The basic word order of English has one and only one argument of the verb to its left and all the others to its right → English is an SVO (subject-verb-object) / SVX (subject-verb-complement) language:

(37) a. Garry gave Victor a radio
b. *gave Garry Victor a radio
c. *Victor Gary gave a radio
d. *a radio Victor Gary gave

What do you think what is the basic word order of subject, verb, and object in French/Italian/Spanish? And in Hungarian?

(languages can be classified based on their basic word order; SVO languages (such as English) typically have head-initial phrases; SOV languages typically have head-final phrases)

2024. szeptember 27. (péntek), 15:00-16:30, a Kutatók Éjszakája keretében:
Nádasdy Ádám: Deviáns szórendek az angolban
HUN-REN Nyelvtudományi Kutatóközpont (1068 Budapest, Benczúr u. 33.), fszt-i előadóterem és online: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83943499284?pwd=wOJNcoYIX7sABn6Cz1ir9feabslLes.1
Nádasdy Ádám előadása a *Milyen nyelv az angol?* című új könyvének egy fejezetéből

"Bár az angol szórendben nagy fegyelem uralkodik, hiszen az Alany-Ige-Tárgy konfiguráció szoros pórázon tartja a mondatrészeket, némi trükközéssel előállíthatók a rendből kilógó, deviáns szórendek a kiemelés kedvéért, vagy egyszerűen a stílus színesítésére. A szórendcsere bajnoka Yodamester a Csillagok háborújából — de nem kell odáig elmennünk, gondoljunk a "Here comes the train" típusú inverzióra. Előadásomban a szórend szorításából való kibújási lehetőségeket tekintem át.

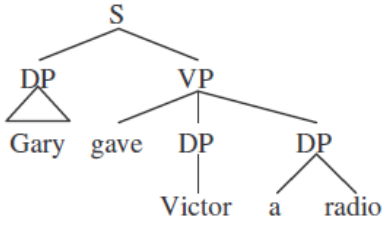
Az előadás után dedikációval egybekötött könyvvásárt tartunk: megvásárolható Nádasdy Ádám mindkét új kötete, a *Szmoking és bermuda* és a *Milyen nyelv az angol?* is.

Minden érdeklődőt szeretettel várunk!"

https://app.kutatokejszakaja.hu/esemenyek/hun-ren-nyelvtudomanyi-kutatokozpont/devians-szorendek-az-angolban

- The subject also differs from a structural point of view from the other arguments: it is an **immediate constituent** of the sentence, whereas **all other arguments are inside the verb phrase**:

(38)



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.

Some morphosyntactic properties of the subject:

- **Agreement** (egyeztetés): a relationship that holds **between the subject and the finite (tensed) verb:** the verb agrees with the person and the number of the subject:
  - '*-s*' = inflection: it shows **tense** + the **person** and **number** of the subject (3rd person singular) (39)
  - see also the agreement of the verb *to be* (*are, is, was, were*)

In which persons and numbers does a Hungarian verb agree with the subject?

(39) a. I/you eat breakfast at 6.30
c. he/she/Ernie eat**s** breakfast at 9.15

- **Case:** the subject of a finite (tensed) clause is in the **nominative** case (43a) (morphologically apparent **only on pronouns in English**); in all other positions English pronouns have the accusative form (43b-c):

How do you translate the terms "nominative" and "accusative case" into Hungarian?

(43) a. **Nominative** case: **I/he/she/we/they** will consider the problem
b. Accusative case: Robert recognised me/him/her/us/them
c. Accusative case: Lester never listens **to** me/him/her/us/them

Does Hungarian mark the nominative and the accusative case on **nouns**? What about German, Latin and French/Italian/Spanish?

- Finite clauses (clauses which show tense) always have a subject in English, cf. *it* in (43-44):

(43) **It** is raining
(43') *Is raining

Do finite clauses always have an overt subject in Hungarian as well?

(44) **It** seems [that Roger ran away]

→ *it* in (43-44) is a semantically vacuous (= meaningless), i.e., an **expletive/pleonastic** subject
! **expletive subjects are not arguments**, as they are not distributed a theta-role (no semantic role – they don't have a meaning, they are just structurally needed in the English sentence)

- languages may differ whether they require an expletive subject or not

Does Hungarian, French, Italian/Spanish, German have expletive subjects?

- not only DP-s (determiner phrases) may be subjects:

(57) a [$_{PP}$ down there] would be a good place to hide
b [$_{S}$ that I don't know the answer] should not be surprising
c [$_{AP}$ ill] was how I was feeling at the time
d [$_{VP}$ run away] is what I advise you to do

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 but prepositional complements

- **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 –


- not only verbs but prepositions also have objects, i.e., DP complements (62b), but nouns (62c) and adjectives (62d) do not:

(62) a see [$_{DP}$ the sights]
b to [$_{DP}$ the castle]
c *a picture [$_{DP}$ his mother]
d *regretful [$_{DP}$ his deeds]

if you want to make (62c) and (62d) grammatical, you have to insert a preposition, but then the noun and the adjective will have a PP (prepositional phrase) and not a DP complement

- 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.)**:**

	indirect object	**direct object**
	↓	↓
(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 and it typically refers to a person (it is a kind of a *részeshatározó*), while the direct object bears the "theme" theta-role

- if the goal/beneficiary argument is expressed as a PP = **dative alternate/dative construction** – this is not a double object construction
(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]

3 Testing for Structure

→ What are constituents, and what are not constituents in the tree structure in (38) on p. 3?

Some tests can show us
- whether a string of words form a constituent, and
- if they do, what the category of the constituent is

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 by ***one word*** or by a ***pronoun***
- elements that have the same distribution in a sentence have the same categorial status

(78) *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***?

- anything that can be replaced by *he/she* will be a DP (determiner phrase)
- anything that can be replaced by *one* or by a single noun will be a NP (noun phrase)
- anything that can be replaced by *there* will be a PP (prepositional phrase)
- *it* can replace DP-s and sentences (CP-s = complementiser phrases)
- *do so* and single verbs can replace VP-s (verbal phrases)

→ What is the subject of the sentence in (78)?
- *the bishop*?
  → **replacement test:**

(78) [**The bishop]** that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre
↓
(79) a. *__He__ that just left was hiding a gun under his mitre

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

(79) b. **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**, it is a **DP** (a determiner phrase, a phrase where the head is a determiner, in this case, *the*)

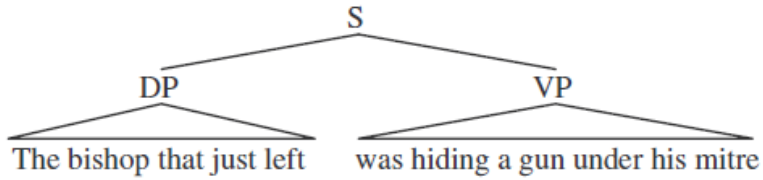
- *was hiding a gun under his mitre* can be replaced by a single verb (structurally they are interchangeable) → it constitutes a single unit, the VP (verb phrase):

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

↓

(80) *[DP The bishop that just left]* ***[VP disappeared]***

(81)



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

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

↓

(82) *[DP The bishop that just left]* *[VP was hiding* ***[DP it]*** *under his mitre]*

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

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

↓

(83) a. [DP the bishop that just left] [VP was hiding [DP a gun] under *it*
b. [DP the bishop that just left] [VP was hiding [DP a gun] under [DP his mitre]]

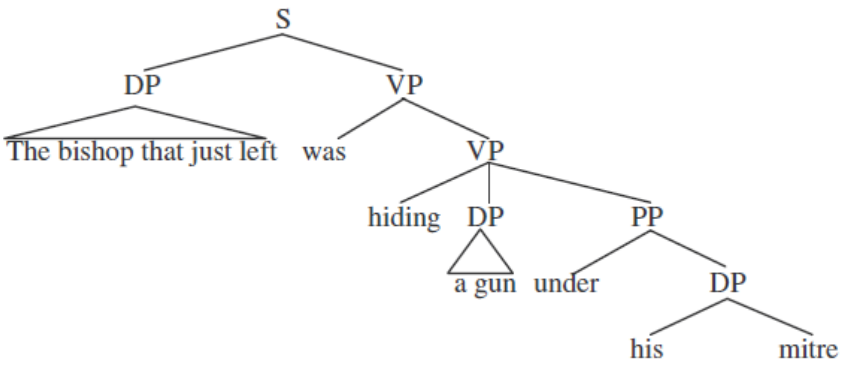
- *hiding a gun under his mitre* can also be replaced by a verb → it is a VP (verb phrase):

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

↓

(86) *[DP The bishop that just left]* *was* ***smiling***

(87)



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

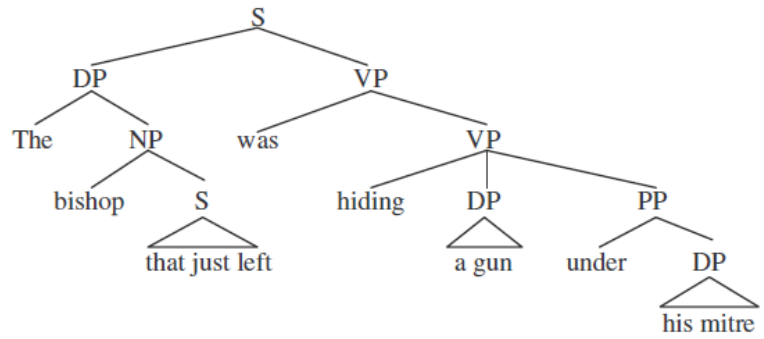
(78) *The [**bishop that just left]** was hiding a gun under his mitre*

↓

(88) *The [impostor] [VP was [VP hiding [DP a gun] [PP under [DP his mitre]]]]*

- *that just left*, which is introduced by a complementiser, is a complementiser phrase (CP):

(89)



Some general replacement tests:

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

(90) *The bishop **[VP hid his gun]** and the verger **[did so]** too*

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

(92) *This **[NP robbery of a bank]** was more successful than that **[one]***

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

(93) *The bishop was **[AP guilty]** and **[so]** was the verger*

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

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

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

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

Homework:

1) Represent (89) (the tree diagram on this page) with brackets (add the labels of the phrases as well)

2) 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.
   c. The influencer who got many likes on Instagram is very happy