

September 29, 2003

## CLASS 13: FUNCTIONS IN THE SENTENCE

### SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

These are two — by now I certainly hope! — familiar terms. We talk about the **subject of a sentence** and the **predicate of a sentence**, where the latter comes in several types.

- (1) a. The bored students sleep.  
b. They sleep.
- (2) a. The brave students study grammar.  
b. They study it.
- (3) a. The desperate teacher teaches grammar to all the students.  
b. He teaches it to them.

- ❶ *subject* — this is usually realized as **NP** (daughter of S, sister of VP, maybe even Aux)
- ❷ *direct object* — this is usually realized as **NP** (or **PP** with very few verbs; sister to V)
- ❸ *indirect object* — this is usually realized as **PP** (NP with very few verbs; sister to V)

### SUBJECT PREDICATE AND OBJECT PREDICATE

These **combinations of the above terms** are pretty easy once we look closer at them:

- (4) The students are bored.
- (5) The teacher considers them dead.

- ❶ *subject predicate* — this is usually realized as **copula** (or a **special verb** instead) + **AdjP**
- ❷ *object predicate* — this is ether realized as **V + AdjP** (**infinitival S** instead; later classes)

I expect you to **know this terminology** and **the corresponding phrase structure** (not shown).

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### Further readings:

If van Gelderen's (2002) presentation is not enough, read Brinton's (2000) ch. 10, as mentioned last time.

### READINGS FOR NEXT CLASS:

📖 van Gelderen 2002: Ch. 5 (pp. 79-96) — *AND PREPARE SLOWLY FOR THE MID-TERM...* 😊