

February 3, 2006

CLASS 3: ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX

ON SENTENCES AND CLAUSES

<i>Sentence</i>	clause (clausal sentences, compound sentences) coordination (coordinated clauses, coordinator)
<i>Clause</i>	subject (noun, noun phrase) – predicate (verb, verb phrase)
<i>Phrase</i>	head, dependent(s) — noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP)

FUNCTIONS, CATEGORIES, AND WORDS

Function (subject, object) vs. *Category* (NP, VP)

Word vs. *Lexeme*

<i>Parts of speech</i>	noun	N – NP	meaning: denotation
			inflection: singular / plural
			function: head of NP (subject, object)
			differences: common / proper N, pronoun
	verb	V – VP	meaning: determinant of situation
			inflection: primarily tense (past, present)
			function: head of VP (predicate)
			subclasses: lexical vs. auxiliary V
	adjective	A – AP	meaning: expression of properties
			inflection: gradability, comparison
			function: attributive vs. predicative
	determinative	D – DP	meaning: (in)definite determiner
			function: determiner, demonstrative...
			differences: term 'determinative'
	adverb	Adv – AdvP	relation: derived from adjectives (some)
			function: modifier

preposition	P – PP	meaning: spatio-temporal relations
		function: head of PP (dependents)
		differences: membership extension (later)
coordinator	???	function: coordinate 2+ expressions
		differences: distinct primary category
subordinator	???	function: introduce embedded clauses
		differences: distinct primary category

Prototypes core members of a class (part of speech) / category

THE STRUCTURE OF PHRASES

Phrases consist of a head and its dependent(s). Every phrase has one and only one head, but there may be more than one dependent (which depends on the type of head, i.e. the lexical — semantic and / or morphosyntactic — properties of the head specify how many and what kind of dependents it takes).

Complement related closely to the head (lexically specified / required)
 most often obligatory (if left out, its meaning is understood)
 object = complement of transitive predicate (direct / indirect)
 predicative complement = object of copula *be* (and few others)

Modifier related less closely to the head (aka “adjunct”)
 always optional (modifiers are never obligatory)

Determiner found only inside NPs (marking it definite or indefinite)
 can be expressed by genitive NPs (or else by determinatives)

MORE ON CLAUSES

Polarity positive vs. negative (negative clauses, negation at large)

Clause type canonical: declarative – statement (interrogative – question etc.)

Subordination embedded under a main clause predicate (plus other types)

Coordination coordinated clauses (but other phrases can be coordinated too)

We’ll see how much of the above we’ll actually be able to cover this semester. However, we definitely won’t have time to deal with the interesting topic of *information packaging* (ENG 236?) or *word structure* (ENG 235!). *Combinations of non-canonical features* will be interspersed throughout (and also in ENG 235).