

MAJOR SYNTAX: SENTENCE. SIMPLE SENTENCE

Lecture 2.

1. Definition.
2. Characteristics.
3. Sentence in *langue* and *parole*.
4. Classifications

Sentence definition

- ◎ the immediate integral unit of speech built up by words according to a definite syntactic pattern and distinguished by a contextually relevant communicative purpose.
- ◎ a portion of the flow of words of one speaker containing a complete thought.

Word vs. Sentence

- ◉ Nominative units
- ◉ Predicative
- ◉ Modal
- ◉ Word: objects and phenomena of reality
- ◉ Sentence: situation
- ◉ Sentence: reflects the connection between the nominal denotation of the event and objective reality, showing the time of the event
- ◉ Reality of the situation, attitude of the speaker

Predication and modality

- ⦿ connection between the named objects and actual reality.
- ⦿ Modality is a broader category, revealed not only in grammar, but in the lexical elements of language:
 - Modal verbs: *can, may, must...*
 - Particles and adverbs: *just, even ...*
 - Modal words: *perhaps, unfortunately...*
- ⦿ Predication = syntactic modality, expressed by the sentence.

Modality

- ◉ Objective: real / unreal situation
- ◉ Subjective: speaker's attitude towards the situation (action)
- ◉ Mood
- ◉ Modal verbs
- ◉ Modal words

What type of modality?

- England and America are two countries separated by a common language. (G. B. Shaw)
- Even if you do learn to speak correct English, whom are you going to speak it to? (Clarence Darrow)
- We have really everything in common with America nowadays except, of course, language. (O. Wilde)
- Every English poet should master the rules of grammar before he attempts to bend or break them. (Robert Graves)

Predication

- ◎ Broad meaning: relation between the sentence and reality
- ◎ Narrow meaning: structural core (kernel) of the sentence

Predication

- ⦿ the finite form of the verb = the predicate
- ⦿ tense, mood, person, and voice = the main predicative meanings, actual evaluations of the event.
- ⦿ *You get married at twenty, you're going to be shocked who you're living with at thirty.* (Peter Blake)

Expressing predication

- ⦿ verbal time/tense and mood
- ⦿ word order
- ⦿ functional words
- ⦿ Intonation in oral speech

e.g.,

- ① *The Internet is like alcohol in some sense. It accentuates what you would do anyway. If you want to be a loner, you can be more alone. If you want to connect, it makes it easier to connect.*

(Esther Dyson)

- ① verbal time and mood
- ① word order
- ① functional words
- ① Intonation in oral speech

- ◎ *Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance?* (Edgar Bergen)
- ◎ *Things are only impossible until they're not.* (Jean-Luc Picard)

- ① *Too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.* (George Burns)
- ① *Only the mediocre are always at their best.* (Jean Giraudoux)

Word? Sentence?

- ⦿ *What?*
- ⦿ *Thanks.*

Word vs. Sentence

- ◉ Word
 - ◉ a ready-made unit, reproduced in speech
- ◉ Sentence
 - ◉ produced each time in speech (except for a limited number of idiomatic utterances.)

Nominalization: S > NP

- ◉ transformation of a sentence into a nominal phrase

- ◉ *His father arrived unexpectedly* >

- ◉ *his father's unexpected arrival,*

- ◉ *the unexpected arriving of his father*



no

predication

Nominalization

- ① She recovered soon. =>
- ① She grew vegetables at home. =>

Sentence as a unit of speech ("parole") = utterance

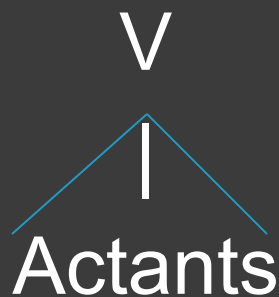
- ◎ intonation: *To London? To London!*
- ◎ pauses, pitch movements and stresses, which separate one sentence from another in the flow of speech:
- ◎ *Казнить нельзя помиловать*

Sentence as a unit of language (‘langue’)

⊙ typical models, generalized sentence patterns:

1. SP *The bird sings.*
2. SPO₁ *The hunter killed a bear.*
3. SP_cComp *He is a boy/ young.*
4. SPO₂O₁ *Sam gave him a book.*
- SPO₁Comp_o *He painted the door white.*
1. There P_rS *There is a book on the table.*

Case Theory of the Sentence by L. Tesnière

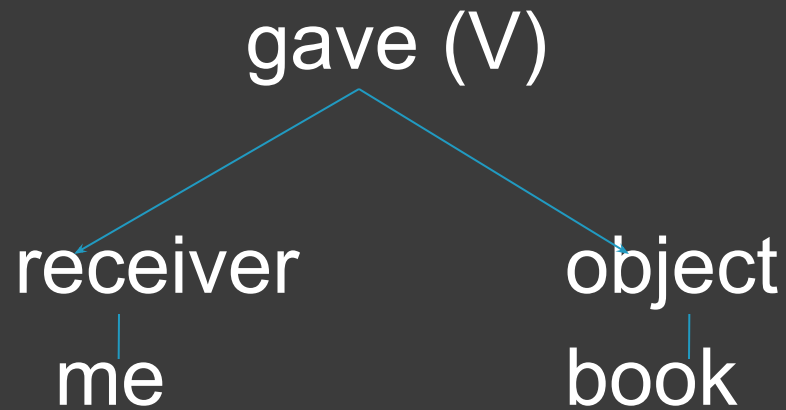


(participants in the process)

= valencies

Circonstants
(circumstances)

He gave me this book
yesterday.



yesterday (time)

- (place)

Proposition

- ⊙ nominative **content** of a syntagmatically complete average sentence
- ⊙ processual situation = an event:
 - process (actional or statal) as its dynamic center,
 - the agent of the process,
 - the objects of the process, and
 - various circumstances of the process.

- ◎ *Experience teaches slowly and at the cost of mistakes. (James A. Freude)*
- ◎ Process?
- ◎ Agent?
- ◎ Objects?
- ◎ Circumstances?

What are the propositions?

- *I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him.*
(Galileo Galilei)
- I always learn something from people.
- Every person knows something.
- I can learn.

Functions of the sentence

- ⦿ predicative function , or reality-evaluating
- ⦿ nominative

Sentence predication

- ⦿ Evaluation of the situation
 - ⦿ real or unreal
- ⦿ the purpose of communication:
 - declaration
 - interrogation
 - inducement
- ⦿ affirmation and negation

Communicative Types of Sentences

- ◉ Declarative statements
- ◉ Interrogative (questions)
- ◉ Imperative (commands)
- ◉ ? Exclamatory ?
- ◉ I can do nothing to you.
- ◉ What can I possibly do to you?
- ◉ Do something!
- ◉ What can he possibly do to you!

Problem of the exclamatory sentence

- ⦿ Not a communicative type:
- ⦿ Do not express communicative intent
- ⦿ Express intensity of tone

- ⦿ Affirmative sentences.
- ⦿ Negative sentences
 - I don't know this.

???

- ⦿ *I know nothing.*
- ⦿ *I saw him nowhere.*
- ⦿ *It was difficult for him not to do it.*

not grammatical structure:
affirmative

Semantic types of the sentence

- ⦿ Existential (*There is a book on the table.*)

Structural and semantical

- ① Definite-personal (*I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.*)
- ② Indefinite-personal (*They say we'll have a warm spring this year.*)
- ③ Impersonal (*It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite .)*

Structural classification

simple

- S P
- *It snowed last night.*

compound

- S P and S P
- *He should have been here at five and he's not here yet.*

complex

- S P when S P
- *When I left college, I couldn't find any work.*

Simple sentence structure (based on main parts)

1. One-member
sentence

- ◉ *Fire!*
- ◉ *Come on!*

2. Two-member
sentence

- ◉ *Helen sighed.*

One-member sentence

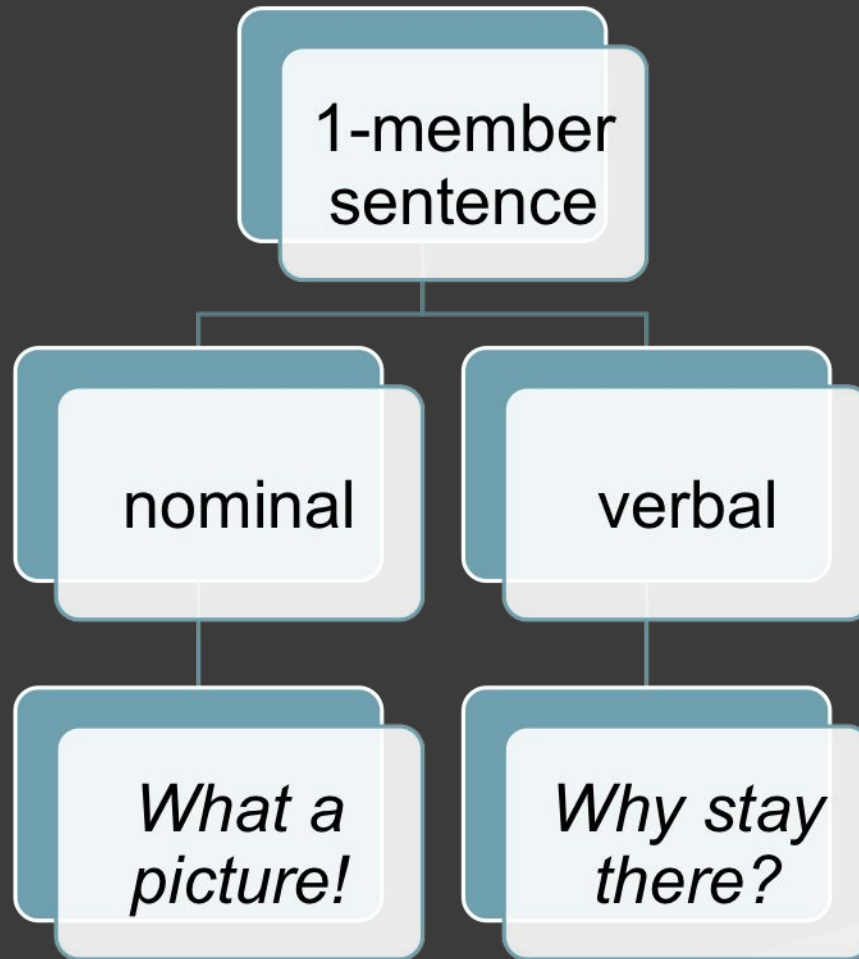
1. No separate main parts (no subject, no predicate) \leq V. Vinogradov.
2. Either subject or predicate \leq
A. Shakhmatov

Is it a one-member sentence?

- ⦿ *Why not?*
- ⦿ *Haven't heard from you so long!*

- ⦿ No. These are **elliptical** sentences, with one or more of their parts left out but easily restored from the context.

One-member sentences



Structural types of sentences:

full

- *I am glad to meet you.*

elliptical

- *Glad to meet you.*

Structural type (based on secondary parts)

Extended

- *Hunger breaks stone walls.*
- *Every dog is a lion at home.*

Unextended

- *Extremes meet.*
- *Promise is debt.*

Глоссарий

- Предикативность
- Модальность
- Высказывание
- Валентность
- Актант
- Сирконстант
- Пропозиция
- Декларативное предложение
- Вопросительное предложение
- Повелительное предл.
- Утвердительное предл.
- Отрицательное предл.
- Простое предложение
- Сложносочиненное пр.
- Сложноподчиненное пр.
- Бытийное предложение
- Определенно-личное пр.
- Неопределенно-личное
- Безличное предложение

Глоссарий

- Односоставное предл.
- Двусоставное предл.
- Полное предложение
- Неполное предложение
- Распространенное пр.
- Нераспространенное пр.
- Именное предложение
- Глагольное предложение