

Basic Syntactic Notions:

- syntactic units
- syntactic relations
- syntactic connections

Syntactic unit is always a combination that has at least two constituents: a word-group, a clause, a sentence or a text.

Their main features are:

1. made of the lower level units (Syntactical units are hierarchical-the units of a lower level serve the building material for the units of a higher level);
 2. can be of either communicative (sentences and texts) or non-communicative nature (word-groups and clauses).
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3. Syntactic Units are of two-fold nature (are a unities of form and content)
SU= syntactic meaning + syntactic form

Syntactic Form

Both the sentence and the phrase enter the system of language by their syntactic patterns. Traditionally there are 4 main types of syntactic patterns:

1 Predicative (subject + predicate)

2 Objective (verb + object)

3 Attributive (attribute + noun)

4 Adverbial (verb/adverb/adjective + adverbial modifier)

Syntactic form may also be described as the distributional formula of the unit (pattern).

~~John hits the ball --- N1 + V + N2~~

Syntactic Meaning - is

the way in which separate word-meanings are combined to produce meaningful word-groups and sentences

Green ideas sleep furiously.

This grammatically correct sentence lacks syntactic meaning

Difference in syntactic meaning

A man bit a dog vs A dog bit a man

- Syntactic relations are syntagmatic relations observed between syntactic units.
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They can be of three types:

1. Coordination
 2. Subordination
 3. Predication
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Coordination –syntagmatic relations of independence which can be observed on the phrase, sentence and text levels

Types

1. **Symmetric coordination** is characterized by complete interchangeability of its elements –pens and pencils.
 2. **Asymmetric coordination** occurs when the position of elements is fixed: ladies and gentlemen.
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Subordination—syntagmatic relations of dependence which are established between the constituents of ~~different linguistic ranks. It is observed on the~~ phrase and sentence level).

Subordination may be of three different types:

1. **adverbial** (to speak slowly),
 2. **objective**(to see a house)
 3. **attributive**(a beautiful flower).
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Forms of subordination may also be different

1. Agreement(this book – these books)
 2. Government (help us)
 3. Adjournment(the use of modifying particles just, only, even, etc.)
 4. enclosure/«вложение»(the use of modal words and their equivalents really, after all, etc.).
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Predication is a syntagmatic relations of interdependence

It may be of 2 kinds:

1. **Primary** (sentence level)

2. **Secondary**(phrasal level)

Primary predication is observed between the subject and the predicate of the sentence while secondary predication is observed between non-finite forms of the verb and nominal elements within the sentence.

Secondary predication serves the basis for gerundial, infinitive and participial word-groups(predicative complexes)

In Modern English there are several ways of expressing secondary predication. One of them is what is frequently termed the complex object: *I saw him run*, *We heard them sing*. ~~Secondary predication in this sentence is between the verb *run* and the pronoun *him*: the verb *run* expressed the action performed by *him*.~~

The objective predicative can be expressed by an infinitive, a participle (I saw him running), an adjective (I found him ill), sometimes an adverb, and a prepositional phrase.

Another type of secondary predication may be seen in the so-called absolute construction. This appears, for instance, in the following example. *The preliminary greetings spoken*, *Denis found an empty chair between John and Jenny and sat down*.

Forms of connection may be

1. Copulative (coordinate similar information)—and, nor, neither...nor, not only...but also, as well as, moreover, besides

2. Disjunctive (you or me)—denotes choice between alternatives—**or**, either...or, else(or else), otherwise

3. Adversative (strict but just) denotes opposition, contrast, contradiction—**but**, while, nevertheless, yet, still, only

4. Causative-consecutive (sentence and text level only)—one has reason, another consequence—**so**, so that, therefore, thus, then. The cost was lower, so everybody like it
