The Definition of a Sentence:

- Scholars have **failed to achieve a generally acceptable definition**
- There exist **hundreds of definitions**,

but none of them is found adequate

The Definition of a Sentence

- a ***polyfunctional unit***
- many aspects (facets):   -   - *a grammatical structure*

     - a certain distribution of communicative dynamism

     - modality

     - predicativity

     - intonation, etc.

The Definition of a Sentence

- absolutely differing types of sentences:

- one-word sentences

  E.g. Help!   Fire!   Women! Magnificent! Eighty-five!

The Definition of a Sentence

- 50 page-long sentences:

   Molly Bloom's unpunctuated monologue from J. Joyce's "Ulysses"

The Definition of a Sentence

prof. Khaimovich:

- **a communicative unit**

- **made up of words** and word-morphemes - in accordance with their combinability

- structurally united by intonation and **predicativity**

The Definition of a Sentence

- **M.Y. Bloch** in his definition attempts to cover all aspects of a sentence:

  - structure, nominative quality, - intonation, predicativity,

  - modality, pragmaticity,

  -communicative dynamism

The Definition of a Sentence: M.Y. Bloch

- **a unit of speech, built of words**
- unlike a word, a sentence **doesn't exist** in the system of a language **as a ready-made unit**
- it's **created by the speaker** in the course of communication

The Definition of a Sentence: M.Y. Bloch

- **intonationally** coloured
- characterized by **predicativity**
- possesses **a nominative aspect**
- has a contextually relevant **communicative purpose**

Syntactic Modelling of the Sentence

- representing **infinite living structures** as **a finite set of basic structures**,

  of the models:

  E.g. *The sun shines.*

  He is clever.

  There is a book on the table, *etc.*

Syntactic Modelling of the Sentence

- associated with transformational grammar **(N.Chomsky)**

Syntactic Modelling of the Sentence

- All possible grammatical structures ⟶ derivations of kernels, received by *transformational rules*

Syntactic Modelling of the Sentence

- *Transformational rules (TR)*:
    - addition,
    - substitution,
    - deletion,
    - embedding ,
    - recategorization (verbalization, nominalization)

Semantic Modelling of the Sentence

- **generative semantics and semantic syntax**
- **Charles Fillmore, Wallace Chafe, Ch. McCauley, O.I. Moskalskaya, V.V. Bogdanov**

Semantic Modelling of the Sentence

- **a semantic structure:**

  a mental model of an extralinguistic situation

- in terms of *propositions, predicates, arguments*

- *deep cases*

Semantic Modelling of the Sentence

- 2 parts within a basic structure:

  a noun + a verb,

  a subject + a predicate,

  a noun phrase +a verb phrase,

  a predicate + an argument

Semantic Modelling of the Sentence

- **W. Chafe:**

  the total human conceptual universe is **dichotomized into two major areas:**

  smb does smth

  smth happens to smb

The Notion of a Syntactic Paradigm

- **_a set of syntactic structures_**

- _a kernel_, invariable

- **_others, variables_**

- received by various transformational procedures

- **_syntactic derivation_**

Paradigm of the Sentence:

- ***the morphological sphere***

all possible changes

of the constituents

of the kernel:

E.g. ***The sun shines***

   = > the sun shone,

   the sun will shine,

   these suns shine,

- ***the syntactical sphere***

the negative and

the interrogative forms

of a kernel:

   E.g. ***The sun does not shine.***

   The sun did not shine.

   Does the sun shine?

   Did the sun shine?

   How does the sun shine?

The Morphological Sphere

- the paradigm includes the changes ***in nouns*** as to number and case; **in verbs** as to number, person, tense, voice, aspect, correlation and mood; ***in adjectives*** as to   degrees of comparison

The Syntactical Sphere

- **phrase-transforms** of kernels
- by the TP of **phrasalization**

E.g. The sun shines =>
the sun shining,
the shining of the sun ,
for the sun to shine,
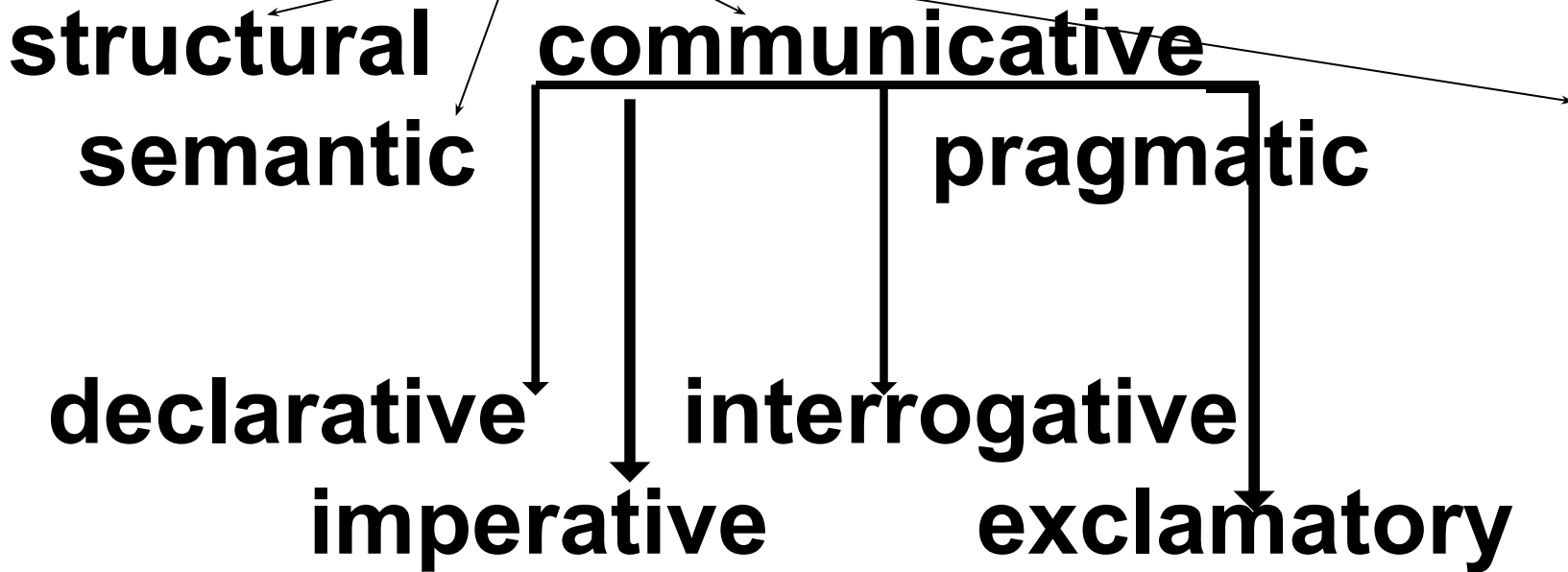*with the sun shining*

- **clause-transforms**
- TP of **clausalization**
- **connectives** - conj., conj. pronouns and adv. conjunctive phrases:

E.g. *if the sun shines,*
***though** the sun shines,*
***when** the sun shines,*
***while** the sun shines,*
***as** the sun shines,*
etc.

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

• classifications of a simple sentence:

structural   **communicative**

semantic   **pragmatic**

declarative   **interrogative**

imperative   **exclamatory**

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

- a monopredicative unit
- one explicit predicative line
- formally expressed by

  a subject and a predicate

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

- **one-member**   **two-member**

  single-nucleus   double-nucleus

  one-axis   two-axis

1. Nominal
(nounal and adjectival):

E.g. Silence! Wonderful!

2. Infinitival: *E.g. Forget all so soon!*

To love her! To have loved her! To be loved by her!

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

Extended sentences carry the main parts
(a subject and a predicate) and secondary parts
Unextended sentences carry only the main parts

   ! two-member extended

E.g. *She approved.* **E.g.** *I went to Oxford in 1948.*
(subject + predicate)   (subject + predicate +
             adv. mod. of place and   adv.
mod. of time)
         (**John Fowles, THE MAGUS**)

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

- implicit predicative lines
- formally unexpressed
- distinguishable transformationally

  E.g. *I am amazed <u>at the sun shining so brightly</u>*.

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

- Speech is subtler than writing

- actual performance ⟶ fragments of sentences, deviating from norm

     E.g. *On the hill. Yes.*

  Extracted from the context these fragments can be interpreted in an unlimited number of ways.

General Properties of a Simple (Two-Member Expanded) Sentence

- a simple sentence

• *primary* elements	• *secondary* elements
• independent	• dependent
• the structural *nucleus*	• its *adjuncts*
• *Subject/Predicate*	• *objects, attributes, adverbial modifiers, etc*

Syntactic Ties

- ***The primary predicative tie***

- makes a sentence

- realizes itself in the **changes of the verb** for person, number, tense, voice, mood, aspect, time relation

  E.g. ***"You've been there?"***

  (John Fowles, THE MAGUS)

- ***The secondary predicative*** tie

- revealed **transformationally**

- it does not make a sentence

- ***concealed*** in infinitival, gerundial, participial ***constructions***, predicative constructions with nouns, adjectives, statives

  E.g. *I saw him running.*

Immediate Explicit Syntactic Ties
The Subordinating Tie

- an expression of **dependence** of an adjunct on the head

    x

E.g.   *I was proud of him*

The coordinating tie

- establishes syntactically homogeneous elements
  E.g. ***The sky was <u>pale and soft</u>.***
  He was <u>rude and nasty</u>.

The appositive tie

E.g. King Alfred was a remarkable figure.

- _King_ is an apposition

The attributive tie

- exists between a modifier and a modified word
- can be transformed into a predicative tie

E.g. a *beautiful girl*

The completive tie

- exists between an indispensable object and a verb
- the object completes the meaning of the verb

E.g. *He broke his promise*

The attributive completive tie

- exists between a verb and an adverbial modifier of manner which is indispensable

  E.g.   *He treated me <u>kindly</u>.*

  He broke the thing <u>gently</u>.

The introductive tie

- very loose

  E.g. <u>Frankly speaking</u>, I don't know anything about it.

Syntactic Ties

- **immediate explicit syntactic ties**

- **implicit semantic ties**
- revealed <u>transformationally</u>
- interpreted <u>componentially</u> in terms of semantic agreement/disagreement of subclasses of words:
  - **abstract/concrete,   - inanimate/animate, - human/non-human,   - young/old,   - male/female**

Implicit Semantic Ties

E.g. *The flowers stood* **white and desolate.**

Flowers stood.

Flowers were white.

Flowers were desolate.

Syntactic Processes

- The ways of ***introduction of various dependent elements*** into the subject-predicate skeleton of a sentence as a means of **expandeding structures**

Completion

- consists in **adding**

  subjective and objective complements **to complete the meanings** of transitive verbs of **incomplete predication** and copulative (связочные) verbs

Completion

E.g. He seemed <u>tired</u>.

- the element   *<u>tired</u>* is added to the copulative verb *<u>seem</u>*

- otherwise a sentence would not be complete

Completion

*E.g. **I consider him <u>clever</u>.***

- The adjective *<u>clever</u>* is indispensable
- the verb *<u>consider</u>* is that of incomplete predication

Syntactic Processes

- ***Extension:*** adding adverbial modifiers

- ***Expansion (enlargement):*** the amplification of a sentence structure

Syntactic Processes

- ***Modification:***

 adding an attribute to the subject or the object

Syntactic Processes

- ***Contamination*** (стяжение):

  fusing elements into a whole which results in a **double predicate**

  E.g. The *moon* *rose red*.

- or a predicate of **double orientation**

  E.g. *He* *is said to have* *done* it.

Syntactic Processes

- ## *Syncretism:*
  combining two functions within one and the same form

  E.g. *She is not a girl to marry* =>

  - She is not a girl who would marry somebody.

  - She is not the girl somebody would marry.

Syntactic Processes

- ***Ellipsis:***

  omitting a principal or a subordinate element or both which can be restored from the context

  E.g. *Wanted a governess. Must possess knowledge of French, Italian, Russian, Romanian, music and mining engineering.* *= A governess is wanted*

Syntactic Processes: Ellipsis.

! in **conversation, ads, newspaper** headings where expanded structures are customarily ellipticized

Syntactic Processes: Ellipsis.

- structures which produce the impression of being elliptical:

  E.g. *She beautiful! He a general!*

- logically and grammatically **complete** sentences

- they are to be analysed the way they are

- Their expansion would destroy their spontaneous scream style

Syntactic Processes: Ellipsis.

- O. Jespersen:

  against the **ellipsomania** of those grammarians which speak of ellipsis in season and out of season as a sort of panacea **to explain all the structures which deviate from the pattern** *subject-predicate-object-adverbial modifier* **with a finite verb.**

Syntactic Processes: Ellipsis.

- The surface and deep structures of such sentences do not coincide:

E.g. *He a general! =>*

   He is a general.

   I do not believe that.

Syntactic Processes

- ***Inversion*** (*broadly)*: placing a part of a sentence into **an uncustomary position** for it to be ***rhematized***

- to become a new communicative centre:

> **E.g. *Economics* *Mary just doesn't know*.**

Syntactic Processes

- ***Narrow inversion:***

  placing the predicate before the subject:

  E.g. *There comes a mournful procession*.

Syntactic Processes

- ***Parcellation***

- a new syntactic process, characteristic of the XX-th century syntax

- ***a break of the chain of elements*** on the syntagmatic level

Syntactic Processes
Parcellation

E.g. He was interrupted at that point. <u>By me</u>.

There is a cloud in the sky. <u>Grey.</u> (Joyce. Ulysses)

Syntactic Processes
Parcellation

- **Any element** can be extracted from the maternal structure and turned into an independent structure:

E.g. _**Shame of death.** **They hide.**_ _**My handkerchief**. **They threw it**._

Syntactic Processes
Parcellation

- **Parcellated elements** in any function can be in

  <u>pre-</u> or <u>post position</u>

  or <u>distanced</u> from the maternal structure

A simple sentence

- **a grammatical structure:**
  principal and secondary parts
- **a semantic structure:**
  the predicate, arguments and deep cases
- **a communicative structure:**
  communicative dynamism,
    the rheme and the theme

A Simple Sentence

E.g. I opened the door.

1. **in grammatical terms:** its grammatical structure is

subject+ predicate+ object

2. **in semantic terms:** its semantic structure is   agent + action + object

3. **in communicative terms:** its communicative structure is

theme + rheme

A Simple Sentence

- a hierarchy of dependencies in a simple sentence

  the principal and secondary parts

The Principal Parts of a Simple Sentence

- <u>subject and the predicate</u>
- indispensable

The Principal Parts of a Simple Sentence: Subject

- **denotes something that is spoken about**

The Principal Parts of a Simple Sentence Subject (6)

1.a **_group subject_** (expanded):

E.g.**_Ten minutes passed._**

2.a **_complex subject_** (expressed by a predicative construction*)*

E.g. **_For me to do it_** **_is dangerous_**.

3. a **_formal subject_** which introduces the genuine subject:

E.g. **_It_** **_is strange his doing that_**.

Subject

4. an *impersonal* subject: E.g. ***It* rains**.

5. a *rhematic* subject:

   E.g. ***A woman* entered the room**.

6. a *thematic* subject:

   E.g. ***The woman* came up to the window.**

Subject

4. an *impersonal* subject: E.g. ***It* rains.**

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  E.g. ***A woman* entered the room.**

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  E.g. ***The woman* came up to the window.**

The Predicate

- denotes **an action**, **state or property** of the thing expressed by the subject

- agrees with the subject **logically:**

  E.g. a single subject denoting multitude agrees with a plural predicate:

  The great majority <u>are satisfied</u> with the outcomes of the elections.

The Predicate

- **Simple**
1. simple **verbal**
2. simple **nominal**
3. **infinitival**
4. **reflexive**

- **Compound**
1. compound **nominal** predicates
2. compound **modal** predicates
3. compound **aspect** predicates
4. **double** predicates
5. predicates **of double orientation**

The Secondary Parts of a Simple Sentence. An Object.

- indispensable (obligatory) is used after verbs of incomplete predication (to be, seem, appear, smell, take)

The Secondary Parts of a Simple Sentence. An Object.

Such verbs are *insufficient* by themselves, *structurally, communicatively and semantically* incomplete and need an object or an adverbial modifier

E.g. *They took <u>the boy to the theatre</u>.*

An Object.

- direct,
- indirect,
- prepositional
- cognate (родственный) (*He smiled a winner's smile. He lived a happy life)*.

An Object

- In the cognate object the verb and the noun, functioning as the object, are **of the same root**.

An Attribute

- very often merely decorates a sentence,
- but there are instances when without it a noun is communicatively empty

  E.g. *She has <u>blue</u> eyes.*

- which makes it obligatory