

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):
 - ***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:



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graph TD; A[Paradigm of the Sentence] --> B[the morphological sphere]; A --> C[the syntactical sphere]
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- **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

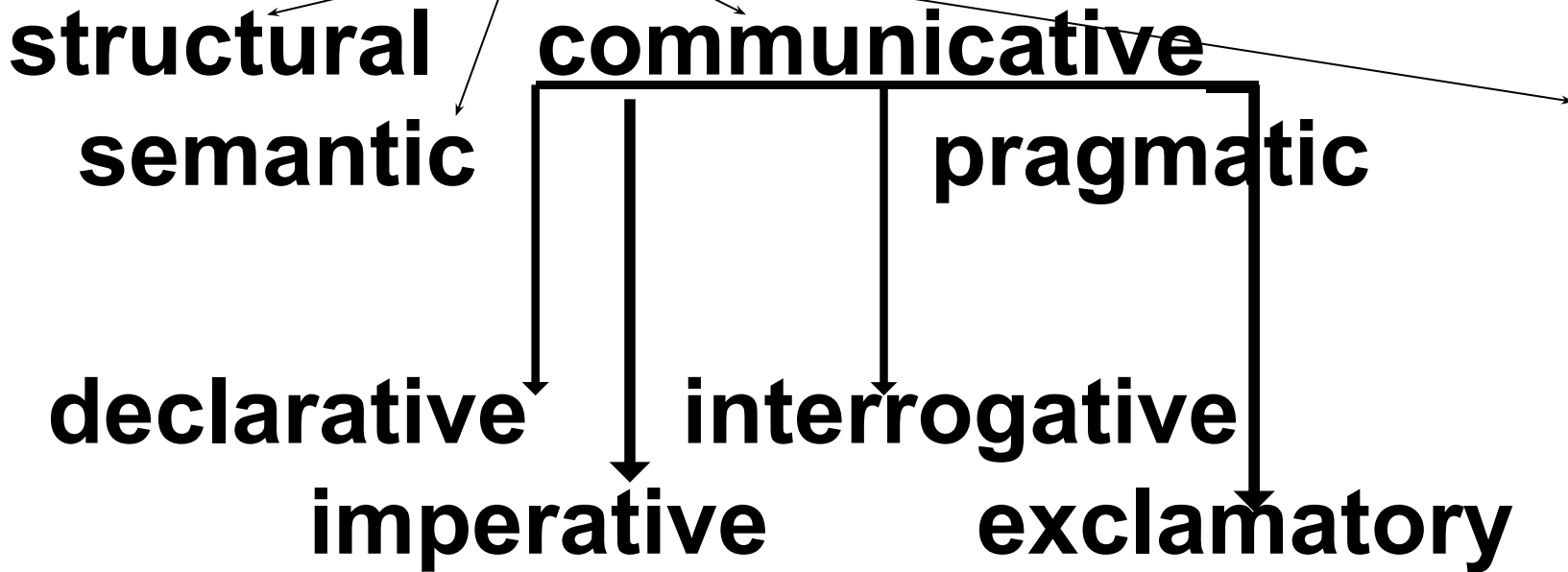
- TP of **clausalization**

- **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 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
mod. of time*) *adv.*

(John Fowles, THE MAGUS)

Structural Classification of Simple Sentences

- implicit predicative lines
- formally unexpressed
- distinguishable transformationally

E.g. *I am amazed at the sun shining so brightly.*

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
- independent
- the structural
nucleus
- *Subject/Predicate*
- *secondary* elements
- dependent
- its *adjuncts*
- *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 pale and soft.*

He was rude and nasty.

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 kindly.*

He broke the thing gently.

The introductive tie

- very loose

E.g. Frankly speaking, I don't know anything about it.

Syntactic Ties

```
graph TD; A["Syntactic Ties"] --> B["• immediate explicit syntactic ties"]; A --> C["• implicit semantic ties"]; C --> D["• revealed transformationally"]; C --> E["• interpreted componentially in terms of semantic agreement/disagreement of subclasses of words:"]; E --> F["- abstract/concrete, -"]; E --> G["inanimate/animate, -"]; E --> H["human/non-human, -"]; E --> I["young/old, -"]; E --> J["male/female"];
```

- immediate explicit syntactic ties

- implicit semantic ties
 - revealed transformationally
 - interpreted componentially 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 **expanding 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 tired.

- the element tired is added to the copulative verb seem
- otherwise a sentence would not be complete

Completion

E.g. I consider him clever.

- The adjective clever is indispensable
- the verb consider 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. By me.

***There is a cloud in the sky.
Grey. (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 pre- or post position or distanced 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

- **subject and the predicate**
- **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.

5. a *rhematic* subject:

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

6. a *thematic* subject:

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 are satisfied with the outcomes of the elections.

The Predicate



```
graph TD; A["The Predicate"] --> B["• Simple"]; A --> C["• Compound"]
```

- **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 the boy to the theatre.*

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 blue eyes.*

- which makes it obligatory

