

## **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:

- *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,***

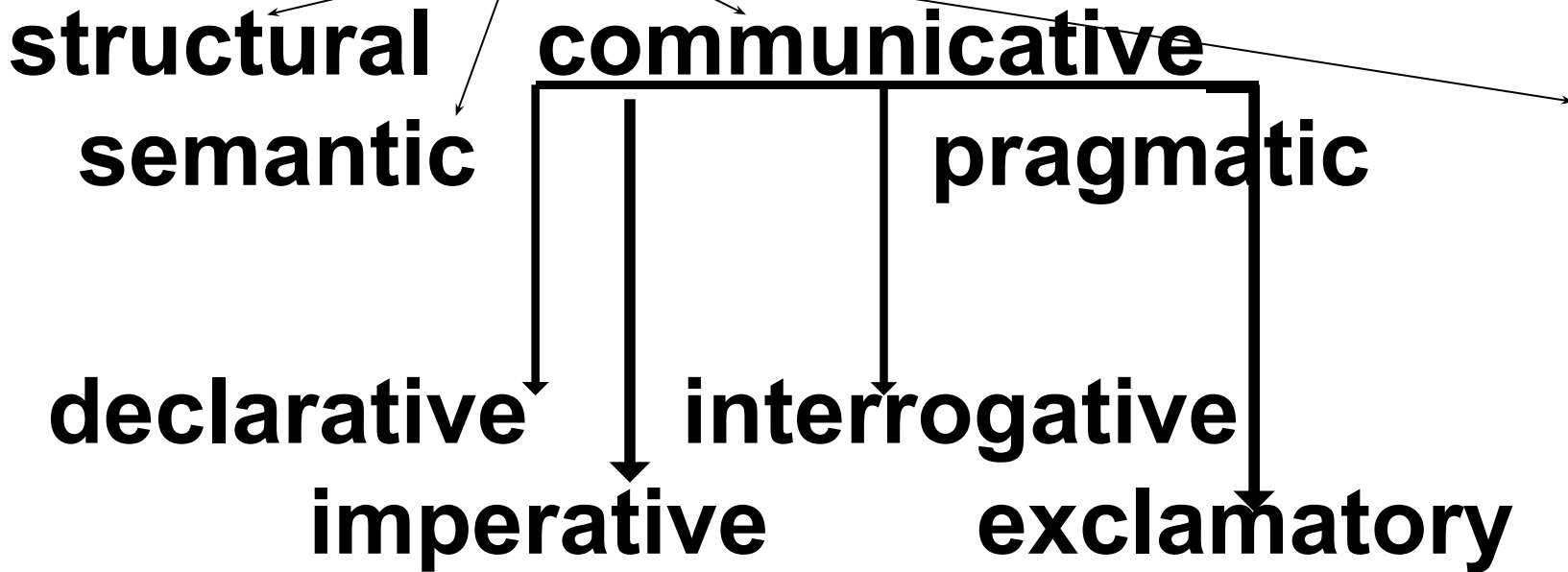
***as the sun shines,***

***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 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 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

```
graph TD; A["Syntactic Ties"] --> B["The primary predicative tie"]; A --> C["The secondary predicative tie"];
```

- 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"]; style F fill:none,stroke:none; style G fill:none,stroke:none; style H fill:none,stroke:none; style I fill:none,stroke:none; style J fill:none,stroke:none;
```

- 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

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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 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



