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Mövzu: Təşkilat Komitəsi üzvü olmaq haqqında

Məktub

"Təşkilat komitəsi üzvlüyü" mövzusunda məktub

Bildirirəm ki, prof. Dr. Həcər Hüseynovanın "Akademi Global Conference & Journals "Dərnəyi tərəfindən təşkil edilən konfranslarda təşkilat komitəsi üzvü olaraq təyin edilmişdir.

Prof. Dr. Mahirə Nağı qızı Hüseynova
ADPU, Beynəlxalq Əlaqələr Üzrə Prorektor

Filologiya Və Sosial Elmlər Bölməsi

Rəhbərliyinə

SENTENCE STRUCTURE: FUNCTIONS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Sashka Jovanovska

PhD, Assistant professor at the Department of English language and literature,
Faculty of Philology, Goce Delcev University, Stip, North Macedonia,
e-mail: saska.jovanovska@ugd.edu.mk
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3965-8697>

Marija Talevska

Bitola, North Macedonia, e-mail: m.talevska1@yahoo.com

Marija Tashkoska

Prilep, North Macedonia, e-mail: marija.tashkoska@gmail.com

Abstract:

Understanding the structure of a sentence involves knowing not only what its constituents are, but also the category and the function of those constituents (Burton-Roberts, 2016, p.7). Also, these three aspects of syntactic analysis are closely bound up with one another. This paper is mainly about syntactic functions, and about how function relates to category and constituency. A systematic sentence analysis is best begun, not by immediately considering the words in the sentence, but by first identifying the very largest phrases – those phrases which are immediate constituents, not of any other phrase, but of the sentence itself. So, the first illustration of the relationship between constituents, their categories and their functions, will concern the functions and categories of the immediate constituents of the sentence itself.

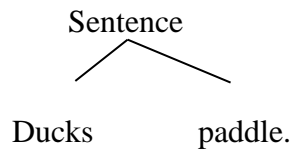
Key words: sentences, functions, subject, predicate, clauses

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

To be sure of identifying only the largest (i.e. immediate) constituents of the sentence it is (wherever) possible, to divide the sentence into the fewest possible parts, i.e. into just two. An example of the simplest possible complete sentence structure is (Burton-Roberts, 2016, p.9):

Ducks paddle.

Other such examples are: *Simon coughed, Birds fly, Empires decline, and Mira retaliated.* In all such cases, there is no option but to analyze the sentence as consisting of two parts, as in:



But, how the complicated sentences are going to be analyzed? A speaker's ability to recognize the structure of the sentences of her/his language is largely a matter of being able to perceive a similar pattern across a wide range of apparently different sentences.

For example:

The ducks are paddling away.

Actually, in [*The ducks are paddling away.*] there is the same general structure as in [*Ducks paddle.*]. It's divisible into two constituents, and the two constituents are of the same general kind (category) as the corresponding constituents. Furthermore, they have exactly the same syntactic functions, and the relation between them is the same.

In asking which sequence of words in [*The ducks are paddling away.*] corresponds to ducks in [*Ducks paddle.*] the question is which sequence of words could be replaced by the single word ducks while leaving a grammatical sentence. The answer can only be *the ducks*. Replacing that sequence by *ducks* yields the well-formed sentence *Ducks are paddling away*. In each of these sentences, both ducks and the ducks could be replaced by the same single word *they* (a pronoun). And the rest of [*The ducks are paddling away.*] – *are paddling away* – can be replaced by the single word *paddle*, giving the well-formed sentence *The ducks paddle*.

This exhaustively divides into two parts:

[The ducks] + [are paddling away].

The same division is shown in:

[Those gigantic ducks] + [were paddling away furiously].

[The mouth-watering duck on the table] + [won't be paddling away again].

All these sentences have the same general structure. They only differ at a lower (more detailed) level in their hierarchical structure. At the general level that concerns us here, they illustrate the same relation and the same functions. In making this first division, the examples have been divided these sentences into two constituents, the first of which is traditionally said to function as *subject*, and the second as *predicate*.

One way of thinking of these functions is to think of the subject as being used to mention something (e.g. *the ducks*) and the predicate as used to say something about the subject (e.g. *that they were paddling away*). The subject generally identifies what the sentence is about; the predicate identifies what's being said about it. This is usually a good way of identifying subject and predicate but sometimes there are sentences where it doesn't work.

1.1. SENTENCES VERSUS CLAUSES

According to Verspoor and Sauter (2000) a sentence is a group of words that in writing starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. A grammatically complete sentence expresses at least one complete whole event or situation with a subject and predicate.

Some sentences consist of only one clause. A clause also expresses a whole event or situation with a subject and a predicate. In the following two examples, each is a simple sentence consisting of one clause.

Whales cannot breathe underwater.
clause
sentence 1

They have lungs instead of gills.
clause
sentence 2

However, a sentence may also consist of two or more clauses. Note how the two simple sentences above are combined in different ways to form longer sentences. Both examples below illustrate one sentence, each with two clauses.

Whales cannot breathe underwater **for** they have lungs instead of gills. } sentence
clause 1 clause 2

Whales cannot breathe underwater **because** they have lungs instead of gills. } sentence
clause 1 clause 2

1.2. SENTENCE TYPES

Sentences may have different degrees of complexity. They may consist of one or more main clauses or they may consist of one or more main clauses with one or more dependent clauses. They are called simple, compound, complex or compound-complex sentences, depending on the types of clauses they contain.

Each type is explained in detail below.

1) Simple sentences

A simple sentence consists of one main clause only. However, this does not mean that the sentence has to be very short. The following is an example of a long sentence that is simple because it does not contain any dependent clauses. Even the last adverbial is not a full dependent clause because it does not start with a subordinator and it does not have a full verb.

3) Complex sentences

A complex sentence is a sentence that contains at least one full dependent clause with its own subject and predicate. A dependent clause is a clause that starts with a subordinator, a word like *because, although, if, who, where, when*.

The difference between a compound and complex sentence is that in a compound sentence, both parts are really just simple, independent sentences. In a complex sentence, the dependent clause cannot stand on its own and functions as a constituent (subject, object, adverbial, or attribute) of the main clause, or in some cases it is only a part of another sentence constituent. There are three different types of dependent clauses.

The first kind of dependent clause functions as adverbial. In the sentence below, the first clause can stand on its own, but the second one cannot because it starts with the connecting word *because*. The whole *because* clause answers the question *why whales cannot breathe* and is therefore not a sentence in itself but a constituent of the main clause: an adverbial. (Verspoor and Sauter, 2000, p.34)

sentence

Whales cannot breathe underwater <i>main clause</i>	because they have lungs instead of gills. <i>dependent clause functioning as adverbial</i>
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If you are not sure whether a clause functions as adverbial, you can try moving it as adverbials may occupy different positions in a sentence. The following sentence is a perfectly acceptable one: *Because they have lungs instead of gills, whales cannot breathe underwater.*

The second type of dependent clause is not a sentence constituent, but part of a sentence constituent. It modifies one particular noun. For example, the next sentence consists of one main clause and a dependent clause. The dependent clause is part of the subject and says something about the noun whales and must occur directly after it. The complete subject of this sentence is *Whales, which cannot breathe underwater*. If you leave the dependent clause off, there is still a complete sentence because the main word of the subject is still in place: *Whales have lungs instead of gills*. However, the dependent clause cannot stand by itself because of the subordinator *which*.

4) Compound-complex sentences

It is also possible to have a compound sentence with complex parts, or a complex sentence with compound parts. Those types are called compound-complex sentences. The following example of a compound-complex sentence has two complete main clauses connected by the coordinate conjunction *and*. Each of these has a dependent clause.

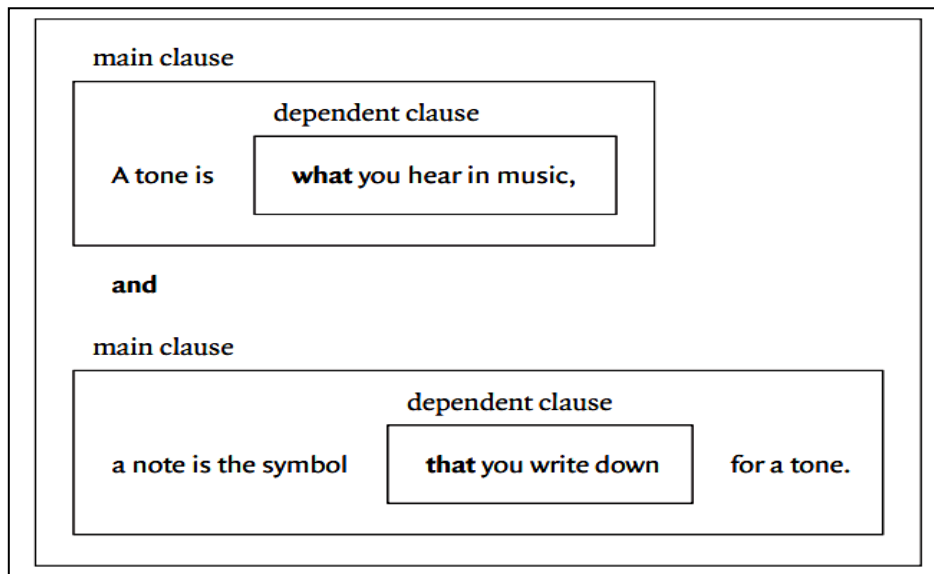


Figure 2.1
Compound-
complex
sentences
(Verspoor and
Sauter, 2000,
p.42)

In the following example of a compound-complex sentence, there is only one main clause. The main word in the subject in this main clause is modified by two relative clauses which are connected to each other by and. Within the second relative clause there is another dependent clause, functioning as adverbial.

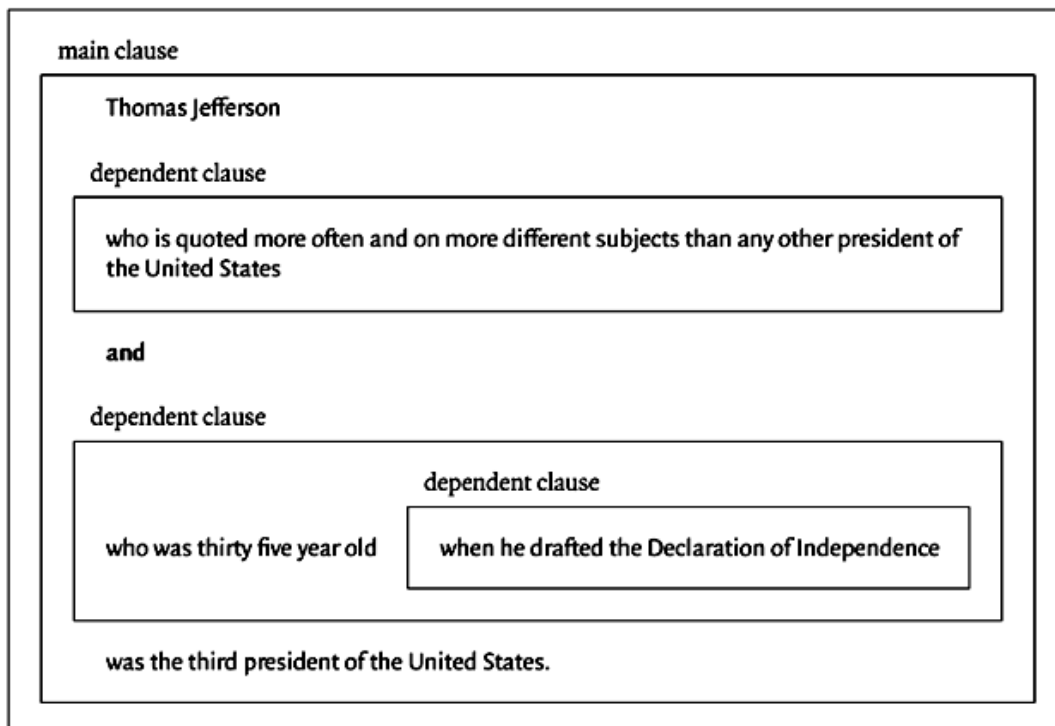


Figure 2.2 Compound sentence with complex parts (Verspoor and Sauter, 2000, p.43)

To sum up a sentence can be simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex, depending on the types of clauses it contains. These clauses may be main (also called independent) clauses or dependent (also called subordinate) clauses. Main clauses can stand on

their own, or two or more main clauses may be connected with a coordinator (a coordinate or a correlative conjunction) or separated with a semi-colon, to form a compound sentence.

Dependent clauses are introduced by subordinators and function as a clause constituent (subject, object, adverbial, and so on) or as part of a constituent; in other words, a dependent clause by itself does not form a complete sentence.

Each clause, in turn, has single words or groups of words that together form grammatical and meaningful units, called phrases. The difference between clauses and phrases is that phrases do not have a subject and predicate.

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