

2018

Foundations of Linguistics

aut 2015 Lázár

**The woggles ugged a diggle**

## **The woggles uggged a diggle**

- a NONSENSICAL sentence
- but: have valid grammaticality judgements
- can manipulate structure

e.g. **Did the woggles ugg a diggle?**

← Y/N Interrogative formation

**What did the woggles ugg?**

← **wh-** Interrogative formation

**The woggles didn't ugg a diggle**

← Negation

**A diggle was uggged by the woggles**

← Passive

even

**Wasn't the diggle uggged (by the woggles)?**

← combination of Interrog./Neg./Pass.

**It was a diggle that the woggles uggged**

← cleft construction/sentence

**What the woggles uggged was a diggle**

← pseudo-cleft construction/sentence

and

**Where did the woggles ugg a diggle?**

**They are hunting dogs**

## They are hunting dogs

- perfect sentence w/ a meaning?
- rather: not *one* sentence since AMBIGUOUS\*
- have TWO sets of valid grammaticality judgements
- can manipulate TWO kinds of structure

\*not in speech

1 (= they hunt dogs)

2 (= they are dogs of the hunting kind, dogs that hunt)

Use tests

- e.g. 1 **Are they hunting dogs?**  
← Y/N Interrogative formation  
= 2 **Are they hunting dogs?**

but

- 1 **What are they doing?**  
← wh- Interrogative formation  
2 **What are they?**

- 1 **Dogs are being hunted** ← Passive  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

My favourite author wrote this novel was likely to be a bestseller

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Garden path sentence

1            2            3 →  
(i) [<sub>subj</sub> **My favourite author**] [<sub>Pred</sub> **wrote this novel**]

1            2            3                            4            5            6            7! →  
(ii) [**My favourite author**] [<sub>Pred</sub> [**wrote**] [**this novel was likely to be a bestseller**]]

Object of **wrote**: NomP vs. Clause?

Backtracking, rebuilding of structure

So: sentences

*linear* (left-to-right)  
and *hierarchical* at the same time  
**hierarchy matters**

## Home assignment

*The train stopped at platform five was ten minutes late*



***The train stopped at platform five was ten minutes late***

1 2 →

(i) [Subj? **The train**] [Pred? **stopped at platform 5 was 10 minutes late**]

1 2 3 4 5 6 **7!** →

(ii) [Subj✓ **The train stopped at platform 5**] **was ten minutes late**

**stopped** has two analyses grammatically:

1) active past tense 2) passive (= past) participle