

## 8 Syntax (I-II)\*

### I Syntax

#### II Parts of speech (word classes/grammatical categories)

a. Identify the part of speech of each word in the sentences below.

- (1) John likes eating nice food.
- (2) The workers must have built the bridge near Boston.
- (3) A friend of mine gave a very interesting book to John.

b. Give sentences according to the following patterns.

- (4) N + V
- (5) N + V + N
- (6) D + N + V + V + P + D + N
- (7) Adv + N + V + D + N
- (8) D + A + N + P + D + N + V + Adv

#### III Sentence structure

a. Broca's aphasia

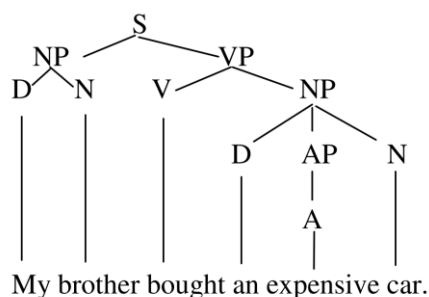
- (9) "Ah... yes... er... John and Harry... er... London... airplane and... er... Monday... and... Monday three o'clock... holiday..."
- (10) a. John gave Mary books.  
 b. Books were given to Mary by John.

b. Ambiguities

- (11) John shot the man with a gun.
- (12) There are smart women and men in this group.

c. Representing structure

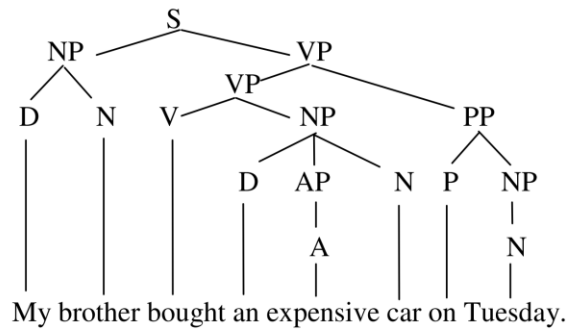
(13)



[S[NP[D My][N brother]] [VP[V bought][NP[D an][AP[A expensive]][N car]]]].

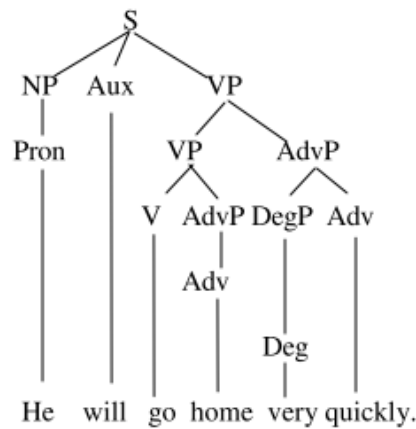
\* Examples and exercises from Varga (2010) and Newson, Mark, Marianna Hordós, Dániel Pap, Krisztina Szécsényi, Gabriella Tóth Veronika Vincze. 2006. Basic English Syntax with Exercises (BESE). Budapest, Bölcsész Konzorcium.

(14)



[S[NP[D My][N brother]] [VP [VP[V bought][NP[D an][AP[A expensive]] [N car]]] [PP[P on][NP[N Tuesday]]]]].

(15)



[S[NP[Pron He]] [Aux will] [VP [VP [V go][AdvP[Adv home]]] [AdvP[DegP[Deg very]][Adv quickly]]]].

#### IV Grammatical functions

- a. (16) \*The director slept a dream.
  - (17) \*The director bought.
  - (18) \*The director bought on Saturday.
  - (19) \*The director gave.
  - (20) \*The director gave a pen.
  - (21) \*The director gave John.
  - (22) \*The director gave a pen John.
  - (23) \*The director put a pen.
- b. Give two examples for a one-place predicate, two-place predicate and three-place predicate.

c. Identify the arguments in the following sentences.

- (24) Peter and Mary met in the park.
- (25) Mary suddenly noticed that her purse had disappeared.
- (26) Before she locked the door, she checked her bag.
- (27) Peter considers Mary beautiful.
- (28) John knew that Peter and Mary met in the park in the afternoon.
- (29) John knows Mary.
- (30) Peter wrote a letter to Mary the other day.
- (31) He sent her a box of chocolate, too.
- (32) Peter called Mary yesterday.
- (33) John called Peter a liar.

d. Given the two main parts of a sentence subject and predicate, chop up the sentences below into their parts. With the help of the grammatical functions subject, direct object, indirect object, adverbial, divide the sentences into even smaller units.

- (34) Peter met Mary in the park yesterday.
- (35) He gave Mary flowers when she greeted him.
- (36) Mary put the flowers into a vase at home.
- (37) The man who lives next door saw that they met.
- (38) That these two people met surprised everyone.
- (39) The curtains extended to the floor.
- (40) Mary has written a book.

e. Try to reveal the constituent structure of the following sentences and phrases by drawing trees for them.

- (41) The big dog followed the small boy.
- (42) The president went to the wedding last Sunday.

#### IV Sentence types

- (43) I heard the good news.
- (44) I heard that he had won the race.
- (45) I heard him speak about the race.
- (46) I heard it, but I didn't understand it.

Terms to remember:

sentence, clause, constituent, phrase, head, grammatical function, subject, predicate, argument, complement, adjunct, verb, direct object, indirect object, adverbial, case (nominative, accusative, etc.), bracketing, tree diagram, nodes, branches, recursion, simple sentence, complex sentence, matrix clause, main clause, embedded/subordinated clause, compound/coordinated sentence (additive, adversative, disjunctive conjunction), finite clause, non-finite clause, tense, agreement, PRO, part of speech/word class/grammatical category, noun, pronoun, verb, auxiliary, adjective, adverb, degree adverb, preposition, determiner, article, conjunction