Chapter 8:
Phrases and sentences: grammar
We have already considered two levels of description used in the study of language.

What are they?

- the
- luck
- -y
- boy
- -s
- functional
- lexical
- derivational
- lexical
- inflectional
Grammar

- the lucky boys
- * boys the lucky
- * lucky boys the

asterisk * = unacceptable or ungrammatical

- English has strict rules for combining words into phrases.
  - article + adjective + noun ✓
  - noun + article + adjective ❌
Traditional Grammar

- concepts and ideas about the structure of language that Western societies have received from ancient Greek and Latin sources.
- The best known terms from that tradition are those used in describing the parts of speech.
The parts of speech (Syntactic categories)

the lucky boys found a backpack in the park
and they opened it carefully

- Noun (N)
- Articles (Art)
- Adjective (Adj)
- Verb (V)
- Adverb (Adv)
- Preposition (Prep)
- Pronoun (Pro)
- Conjunction (Con)

- boy, backpack, dog, school, roughness, earthquake, love.
- a, an, the
- happy, large, strange
- go, talk, be, have
- slowly, yesterday, really, very
- at, in, on, near, with, without
- she, herself, they, it, you
- and, because, when

For more information, read pp. 74 & 75.
Agreement

- Traditional grammar has also given us a number of other categories:
  - Number
  - Person
  - Tense
  - Voice
  - Gender
Cathy loves her dog

The verb *loves* agrees with the noun *Cathy*

- **number** (singular or plural)
- **person**
  - 1\(^{st}\) person = speaker
  - 2\(^{nd}\) person = hearer
  - 3\(^{rd}\) person = others
- **tense** (*Loves* = present tense NOT past tense)
- **voice** (active or passive)
- **gender** (*Cathy* & *her*)
Grammatical gender

- Some languages use grammatical gender
- **Natural gender** is based on sex (male & female)
- **Grammatical gender** is based on the type of noun (masculine & feminine)
- Nouns are classified according to their gender class
- Articles and adjectives have different forms to agree with the gender of the noun.
  - **Spanish**
    - masculine (el sol = the sun)
    - feminine (la luna = the moon)
  - **German**
    - masculine (der Mond = the moon)
    - feminine (die Sonne = the sun)
    - neuter (das Feuer = the fire)
  - **Arabic**
    - masculine خاتم ثمین
    - feminine ساعة ثمینة
Transitional analysis

- Read p. 77
Descriptive vs. prescriptive approach

- **Descriptive grammar** refers to the structure of a language as it is actually used by speakers and writers.

- **Prescriptive grammar** refers to the structure of a language as certain people think it *should* be used.

- Read pp. 77 to 79
One type of descriptive approach is called structural analysis. It concerns the distribution of forms in a language.

**e.g.**
- The ________________ makes a lot of noise.
- I heard a ________________ yesterday.

- **car, child, donkey, dog, radio**
- Because all these forms fit in the same test-frame, they are likely to be examples of the same grammatical category (i.e. nouns N)

- **Cathy, someone, the dog, a car**
- They don’t fit!
- We require different test-frames
  - ________________ makes a lot of noise.
  - I heard ________________ yesterday.
Structural analysis

- _____________ makes a lot on noise.
- I heard ______________ yesterday.

- *It, the big dog, an old car, the professor with the Scottish accent.*
- *Cathy, someone, the dog, a car*
- *These forms are likely to be examples of the same category.*
  (i.e. noun phrase NP)
- *Pronouns are words used in place of nouns*
- *More accurately, pronouns are words used in place of noun phrases (not just nouns).*
Immediate constituent analysis

- another type of descriptive approach is called Immediate constituent analysis.
- shows how small constituents (components) in sentences go together to form larger constituents.
- *Her father brought a shotgun to the wedding*
- At the word level, how many constituents do we have?
- How do those eight constituents go together to form constituents at the phrase level?
- *Brought a father brought shotgun to to the*
  Is this right? Are they proper English phrases?
Immediate constituent analysis

- **Her father brought a shotgun to the wedding**

  - *her father, a shotgun, the wedding* = Noun phrases (NP)
  - *to the wedding* = prepositional phrase (PP)
  - *brought a shotgun* = Verb phrase (VP)

- This analysis can be represented in different types of diagrams.

- See p. 80
Labeled and bracketed sentences

1. put brackets round each constituent
2. more brackets round each combination of constituents.

- The dog loved the girl
- Try it!
- At the word level: [the] or [dog]
- At the phrase level: [the dog] or [loved the girl]
- At the sentence level: [The dog loved the girl]

3. Label each constituent using abbreviated grammatical terms.
In performing this type of analysis, we have not only labeled all the constituents, we have revealed the hierarchical organization of those constituents.

- S is higher than and contains NP
- NP is higher than and contains N
- S is higher than and contains VP
- VP is contains V + NP
The constituent analysis is not only useful for describing the structure of English sentences.

ذهب الطالب إلى المدرسة
Homework: p. 82 (1, 2, 3, 4, & 6)

Thank you