

Semantic Structure of the Sentence.

Actual Division of the Sentence.

The Composite Sentence.

Lecture 7

A decorative graphic element consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, white, and light blue) extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

Outline

- Semantic roles. Minimization of semantic roles.
- Actual division of the sentence. The notion of theme and rheme.
- Language means of expressing the theme and the rheme.
- The composite sentence and its types.

Semantic Roles

- A **semantic role*** is the underlying relationship that a participant has with the main verb in a clause.

- *John called Bill.*

*John – the **agent***

*Bill – the **patient***

* semantic case, thematic role, theta role, deep case

Semantic Configurations

- A set of semantic roles and an action expressed by a verb constitute a linguistic semantic model of an extralinguistic situation and are called **semantic configuration**.
- The set of semantic roles preset by the lexico-semantic peculiarities of the verb makes the **role structure** of the verb.

Semantic Roles

Agent/Causer

- The 'doer' of the action denoted by the predicate:
- e.g. *John* killed Harry.

Patient

- The 'undergoer' of the action or event denoted by the predicate:
- e.g. *Mary* fell over.

Theme

- A participant which is characterized as changing its position or condition, or as being in a state or position:
- e.g. The *cat* died.

Experiencer

- The living entity that experiences the action or event denoted by the predicate:
- e.g. *John* felt happy

Recipient/Possessor

- Entity receiving/ possessing some entity:
- e.g. John got *Mary* a present

Semantic Roles

Goal

- The location or entity in the direction of which something moves:
- e.g. John went *home*.

Benefactive

- The entity that benefits from the action or event denoted by the predicate:
- e.g. He showed *me* the stone.

Source

- Object from which motion proceeds:
- e.g. *Mother* promised me a new toy.

Factitive

- The result of the action denoted by the predicate:
- e.g. Mother baked *scones*.

Instrument

- The medium by which the action or event denoted by the predicate is carried out:
- e.g. The *key* opened the door.

Locative

- The specification of the place where the action or event denoted by the predicate is situated:
- e.g. The *building* houses several organizations.

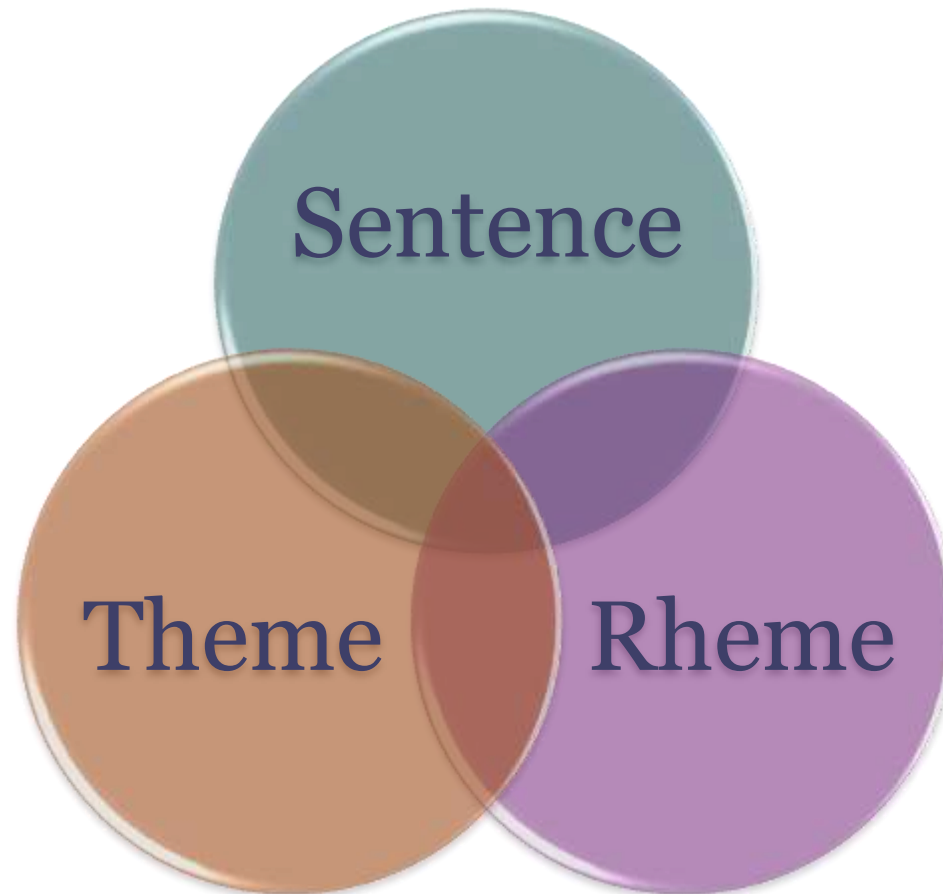
Minimization of Semantic Roles

- *to floor* – to bring down to the floor (**locative**)
- *to bag* – to put into a bag (**locative**)
- *to nose* – to push with the nose (**instrument**)
- *to sugar* – to saturate with sugar (**material/substance**)
- *to catholicize* – to turn to Catholicism (**factitive**)
- *to feed* – to supply food (**patient**)
- *to winter* – to stay during the winter (**temporative**)

Actual Division of the Sentence*

- The actual division of the sentence highlights the *informative perspective of the sentence* showing what immediate semantic contribution the sentence parts make to the total information conveyed by the sentence.
- * functional sentence perspective

Actual Division of the Sentence



The Theme and the Rheme

Theme

- the part of the proposition that is being talked about (predicated).

Rheme

- expresses the basic informative part of the communication, emphasizing its contextually relevant centre.

Language means for the Theme

stating it explicitly as the subject

using passive voice to transform an object into a subject

emphasizing the topic using clefting

through periphrastic constructions like "As for...", "Speaking of...", etc.

using left dislocation

Language means for the Theme

- **The dog** bit the little girl.
- **The little girl** was bitten by the dog.
- It was the little girl **that the dog bit**.
- **Speaking of the girl**, she was bitten by the dog.
- **The little girl**, the dog bit her.

Language Means for the Rheme

a particular word order with a specific intonation contour

an emphatic construction

a contrastive complex

intensifying particles

the indefinite article

ellipsis

graphical means

Language Means for the Rheme

- They found the report extremely valuable. – **Extremely valuable** they found the report.
- **It is the report** that I need.
- I need **the report, not the statistical data.**
- I need **only the report.**
- The orchestra greeted the guests at the entrance. – **There was an orchestra** greeting the guests at the entrance.
- Where are you going? – **To the movies.**
- Please be careful. – I **am** being careful.

The Composite Sentence

- The **Composite Sentence** is a structural and semantic unity of two or more syntactic constructions each having a predicative center of its own, built on the basis of a syntactic connection and used in speech communication as a unit of the same rank as the simple sentence.

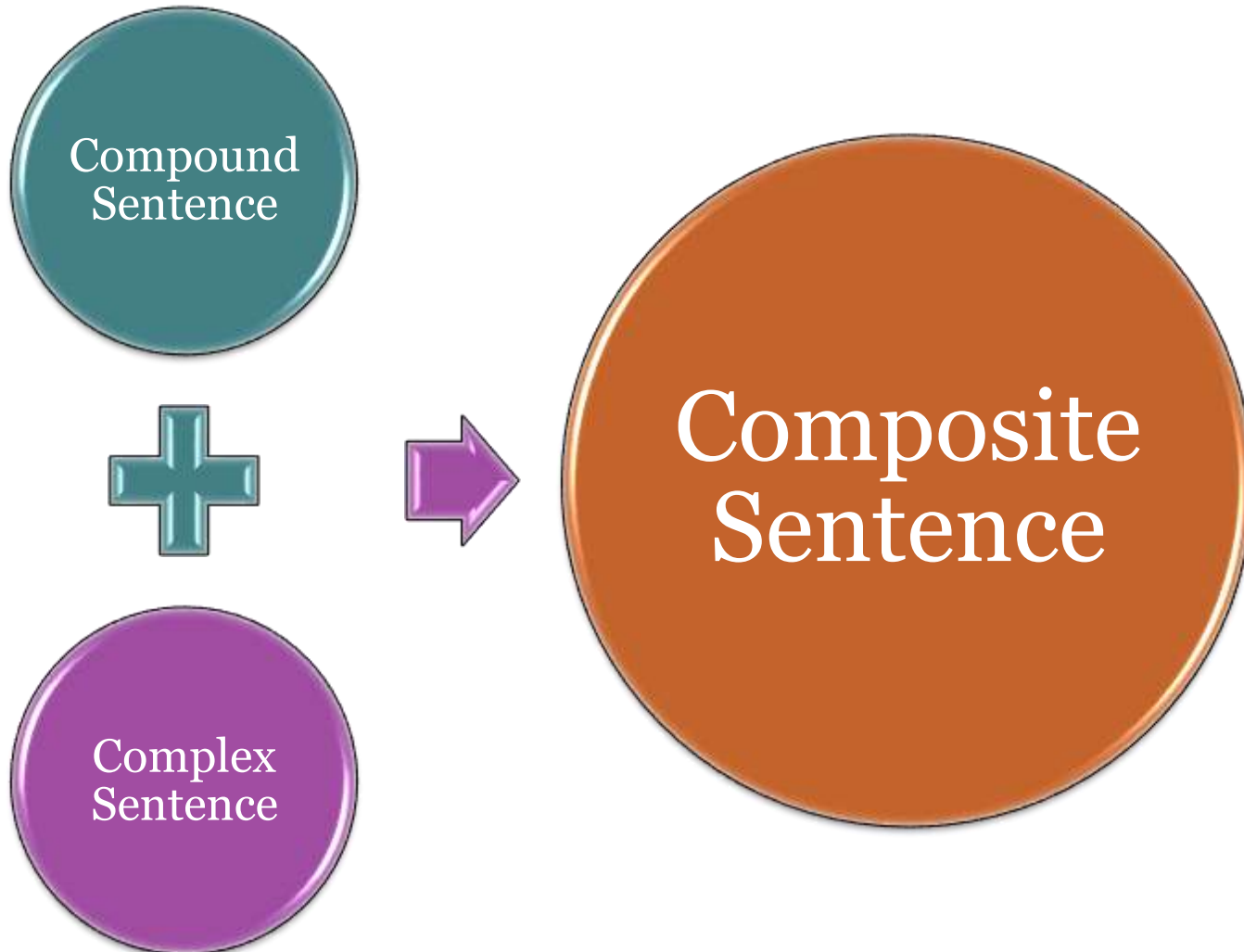
The Composite Sentence Characteristics

the type of syntactic connection
(coordination or subordination)

the rank of predicative
constructions

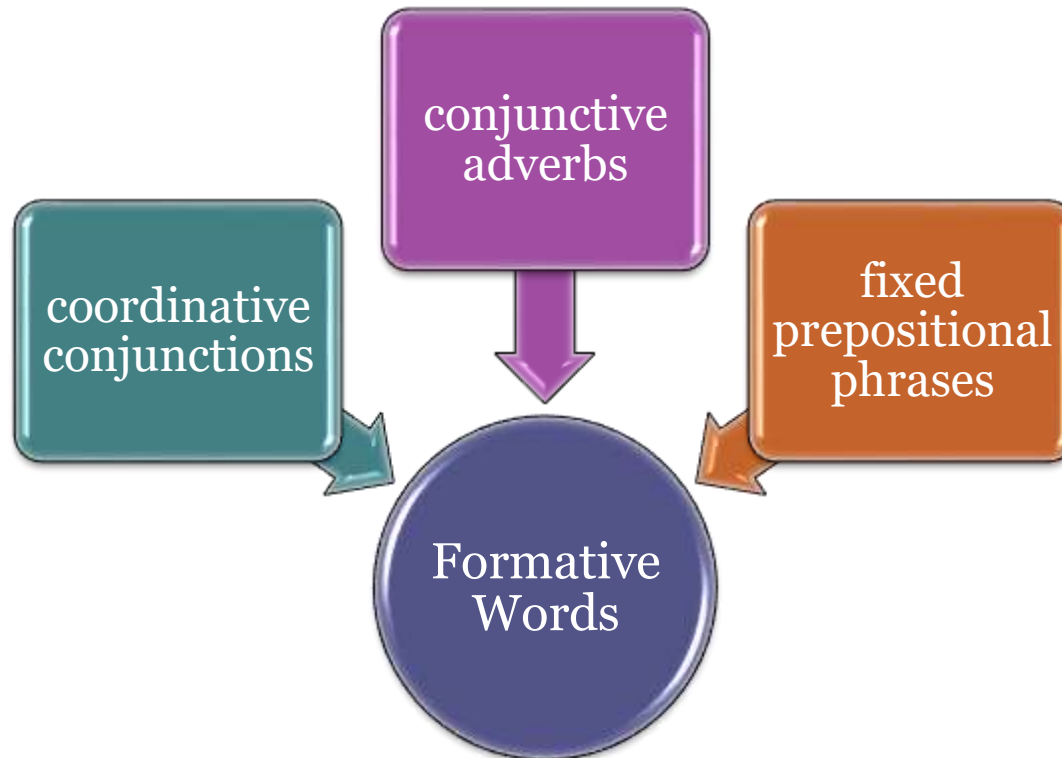
presence or absence of
connectors and their character

The Composite Sentence



The Compound Sentence

- **Compound sentences** are structures of coordination with two or more immediate constituents which are syntactically equivalent,
- i. e. none of them is below the other in rank.



The Formative Words

- Coordinative conjunctions: *and, but, or, yet, for.*
- Sentence-linking words (conjunctive adverbs): *consequently, furthermore, hence, however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore.*
- Prepositional phrases: *at least, as a result, after a while, in addition, in contrast, in the next place, on the other hand, for example, for instance.*

The Coordinate Connectors

Copulative

- connecting two members and their meanings:
- and; both... and; equally... and; alike... and; at once... and; not... nor, for neither, or and neither); not (or never)... not (or nor)... either; neither... nor*

Disjunctive

- connecting two members but disconnecting their meaning:
- or; or... either; either... or; else, otherwise, or... or, or... else*

Adversative

- connecting two members, but contrasting their meaning:
- but, but then, only, still, yet, and yet, however, on the other hand, again, on the contrary*

Causal

- adding an independent proposition explaining the preceding statement:
- for: The brook was very high, for a great deal of rain had fallen over night.*

Illative

- introducing an inference, conclusion, consequence, result:
- namely, therefore, on that account, consequently, accordingly, for that reason, so, then, hence*

Explanatory

- connecting words, phrases or sentences and introducing an explanation or a particularisation:
- namely, to wit, that is, that is to say, or, such as, as, like, for example, for instance, say, let us say*

The Complex Sentence

- **Complex sentences** are structures of *subordination* with two or more immediate constituents which are not syntactically equivalent.

Subordination Means

conjunctions

- *when, after, before, while, till, until, though, although, that, as, because*

fixed phrases

- *as soon as, as long as, so long as, notwithstanding that, in order that, according as*

conjunctive words

- the relative pronouns: *who, which, that, whoever, whatever, whichever*;
- the relative adverbs: *where, how, whenever, wherever, however, why*

The Types of Subordinate Clauses

Subject and Predicate Clauses

- *When he is coming has not been decided yet.*

Object Clauses

- *You can take whatever you like.*

Attributive Clauses

Clauses of Cause

- *As we have just bought a new house, we cannot afford a new car.*

Clauses of Place

- *He went to the café where he hoped to find his friend.*

Temporal Clauses

- *When we finished our lunch, we left.*

The Types of Subordinate Clauses

Clauses of Condition

- *If you ask him he will help you.*

Clauses of Result

- *Suddenly she felt so relieved that she could not help crying.*

Clauses of Purpose

- *I avoided mentioning the subject lest he be offended.*

Clauses of Concession

- *I went to the party, though I did not feel like it.*

Clauses of Manner and Comparison

- *She was nursing the flower, as a mother nurses her child.*

References:

- Chomsky, Noam. 1957. Syntactic Structure. The Hague: Mouton.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1965. Aspects of the Theory of Syntax. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Fromkin, V. and R. Rodman. 1988. An Introduction to Language. 4th edn. New York: Holt, Reinhart & Winston. (7th edn. Indian edn. 2003)
- Hockett, Charles F. 1958. A Course in Modern Linguistics. London: Macmillan (Indian edition: Calcutta: Oxford & IBH).
- Jacobs, Roderick A. & Peter S. Rosenbaum 1968. English Transformational Grammar. Waltham, Mass. etc.: Blaisdell Publishing Company.
- Jacobsen, Bent. 1978. Transformational Generative Grammar: An introductory survey of its genesis and development. 2nd ed. Amsterdam etc.: North-Holland.
- Langacker, R.W. 1972. Fundamentals of Linguistic Analysis. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Lyons, John. 1968. Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Radford, A. 1988. Transformational Grammar: A First Course. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.