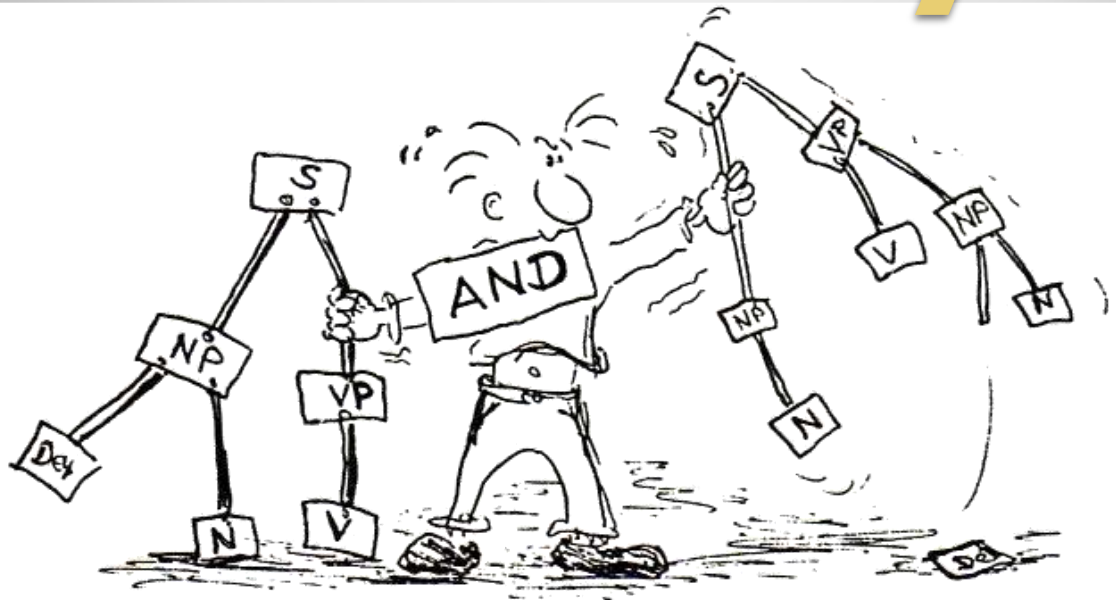


Syntax

Lecture 5



- **Syntax** (from Greek “*syn*” – together, “*taxis*” – ordering) is a branch of linguistics that studies sentence structure.
- Syntax **studies** grammatical structures of sentences and word groups and the regularities of their functioning in speech.

Syntax

SYNTAX

- **Syntax** is the set of rules, principles, and processes that govern the structure of sentences (sentence structure) in a given language, usually including word order.

Syntax

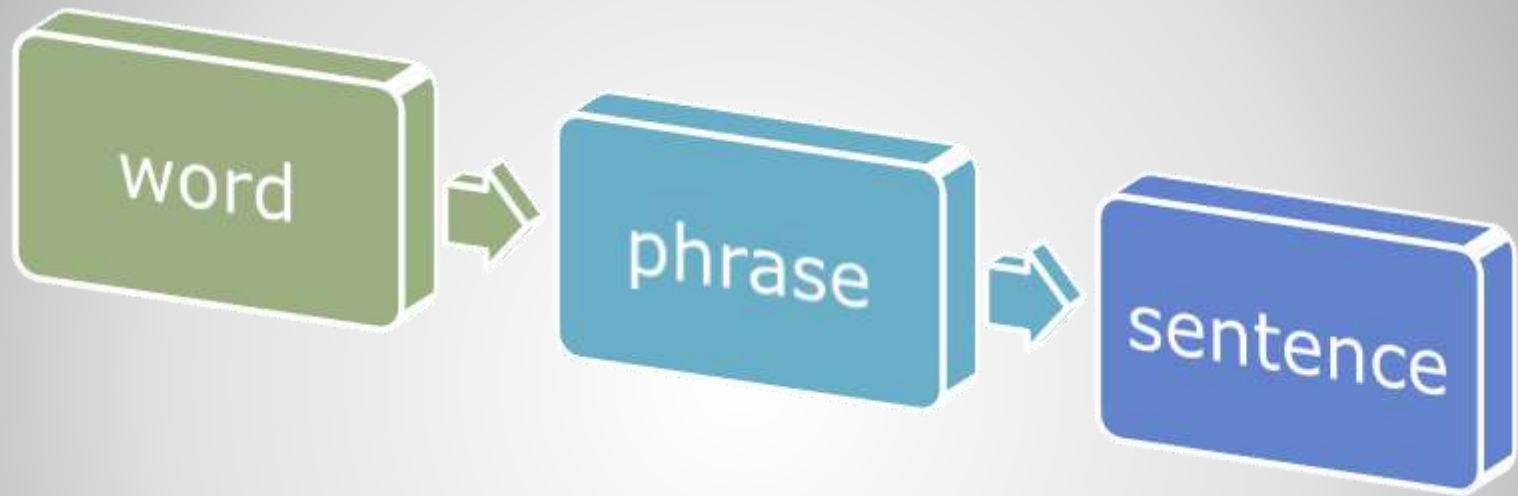
- English has fixed **Subject-Verb-Object** word order.



Word Order

	WORD ORDER	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
IMPERATIVE	(S+)V+O	<u>(John,) sell the books!</u>
DECLARATIVE	S+V+O	<u>John is selling the books.</u>
INTERROGATIVE	[Y/N]V+S+O [Wh]V(+S)+O	<u>Does John sell the books?</u> <u>What does John sell?</u> <u>Who sold the books?</u>

Word Order



The Rules of Syntax

- **Phrase** is a combination of a notional word with a functional word (B.Ilyish, V.Burlakova).
- **Phrase** is a syntactically organized group of words of any morphological composition based on any type of syntactic connection.

Phrase



- A phrase is a means of naming some phenomena or processes, just as a word is.
- Each component of the word-group can undergo grammatical changes without destroying the identity of the whole unit: *to see a house - to see houses - saw houses (grammatical modifications of one phrase)*.
- A word-group is a dependent syntactic unit, it is not a communicative unit and has no intonation of its own.

General Characteristics of the Phrase

- The **phrase** is a nominative unit which fulfils the function of polynomination denoting a complex referent (phenomenon of reality) analyzable into its component elements together with various relations between them.
- The **sentence** is a unit of predication which, naming a certain situational event, shows the relation of the denoted event towards reality.

Phrase vs Sentence

- The **traditional classification** of phrases is based on the part of speech status of the phrase constituents, therefore *nounal, verbal, adjectival, adverbial, etc.* phrases are singled out.

Types of Phrases

- **According to prof. Blokh:**

Notional

Formative

Functional

Types of Phrases

According to prof. Blokh:

- **Notional phrases** are semantically independent combinations of notional words, as the basic type of phrases.
- **Formative phrase** is a combination of a notional word with a functional word: *in a moment, without doubt*.
- **Functional phrases** are combinations of functional words similar to regular functional words, e.g.: *apart from, as soon as, must be able, etc.*

Types of Phrases

- **According to L. Bloomfield:**

endocentric

exocentric

Types of Phrases

According to L. Bloomfield:

- **endocentric**: phrases one or any constituent part of which can function in a broader structure as the whole group: *Red flower* – *He gave me a red flower.*
He gave me a flower. *Flowers and chocolate.* – *He gave me flowers.* *He gave me chocolate.*
- Endocentric structures are further divided into **subordinate** (*red flower*) and **coordinate** (*flowers and chocolate*).
- **exocentric**: none of their constituent parts can replace the whole group in a broader structure: *He gave, to the girl.*
- Exocentric structures are divided into **predicative** (*He gave*) and **prepositional** (*to the girl*).

Types of Phrases

- **According to the internal structure of phrases:**



kernel

kernel-free

Types of Phrases

- **According to the internal structure of phrases:**
- **kernel phrases** are grammatically organized structures in which one element dominates the others: *a nice place, well-known artists, absolutely positive, to run fast, to see a movie, to taste good.*
- **Kernel-free phrases** are divided into **dependent** and **independent**, which are further subdivided into **one-class** and **hetero-class** and characterized by a certain type of syntactic connection.

Types of Phrases

Coordination

Subordination

Accumulation

Syntactic Connections

- **Coordinate phrases** consist of two or more syntactically equivalent units joined in a cluster which functions as a single unit.
- The member units can be potentially joined together by means of a coordinate conjunction.
- E.g. *sense and sensibility*

Coordination

- **Subordinate phrases** are structures in which one of the members is syntactically the leading element of the phrase.
- This dominating element is called the **head-word**, or the **kernel**, and can be expressed by different parts of speech.

Subordination

- The **accumulative** connection is present when no other type of syntactic connection can be identified.
- E.g. *(to give) the boy an apple – (to give) an apple to the boy*
- The accumulative connection is widely spread in attributive phrases made up by attributes expressed by different parts of speech (*these problematic (issues); some old (lady)*).
- *The position of the elements relative to each other is fixed, they cannot exchange their positions (*problematic these (issues); *old some (lady)).*

Accumulative

Agreement

Government

Adjoinment

Syntactic Relations

- **Agreement** takes place when the subordinate word assumes a form similar to that of the word to which it is subordinate, that is formal correspondences are established between parts of the phrase: *that chair – those chairs.*

Agreement

- **Government** takes place when the subordinate word is used in a certain form required by its head word, the form of the subordinate word not coinciding with the form of the head word: *to rely on him, to be proud of her.*

Government

- **Adjoinment** is described as absence both of agreement and of government. Combined elements build syntactic groups without changing their forms: *to nod*
- *silently, to act cautiously.*

Adjoinment