

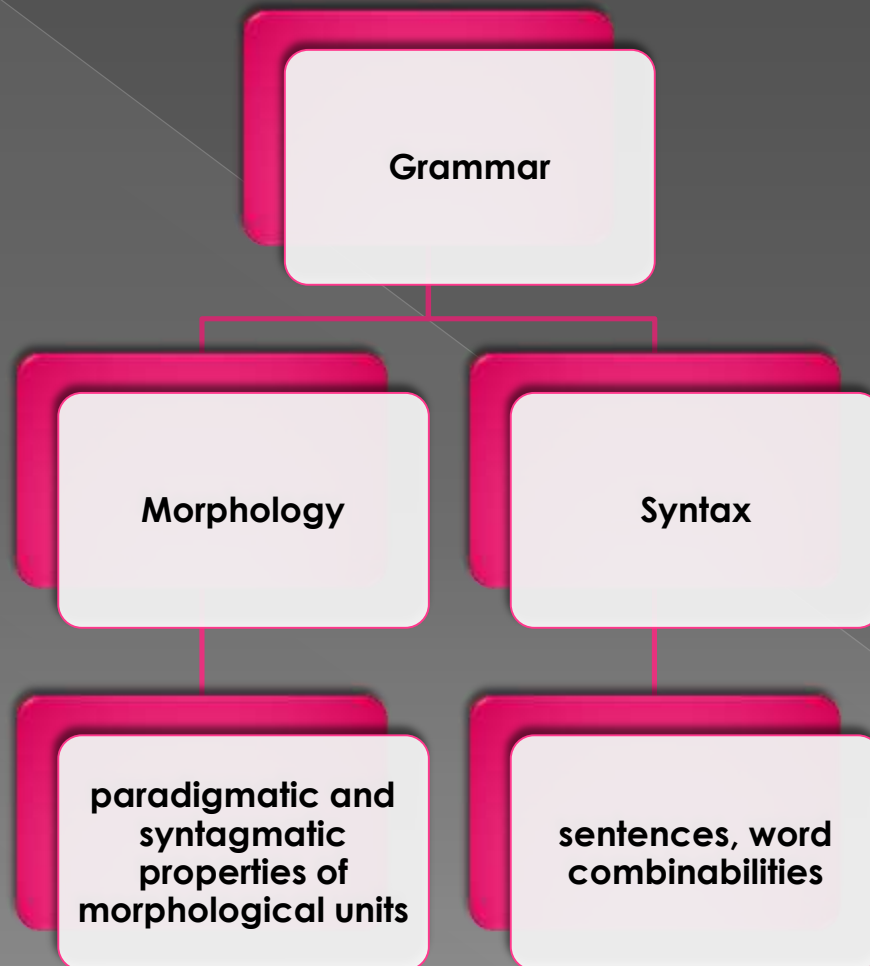
SYNTAX AND THE BASIC SYNTACTIC NOTIONS

Lecture 6

Outline

- The Sentence and its distinctive features.
- The classification of sentences.
- Sentence Parsing.

Grammatical Structure of Language



Syntactic Unit

- ◉ a combination that is composed of the minimum of two constituents.



The Syntactic Units

- ◎ The **word group** is the simplest non-predicative unit of speech (based on agreement, government, coordination).
- ◎ The constructions which are based on the relations of the secondary predication are called **predicative constructions**.
- ◎ The **clause** is a unit of grammatical organization next below the sentence in rank and in traditional grammar is said to consist of a subject and predicate.

The Sentence

- S. is the *minimum linguistic unit* which allows the speaker to realize his/ her *communicative purpose* (giving information, asking for information, etc.).
- S. is marked by *integrity*: its main parts are *interdependent* .
- S. ascribes *temporal and modal characteristics* to this fact by means of predication .
- S. is characterized by its own *intonation pattern* which corresponds to the speaker's communicative intention.

The Sentence

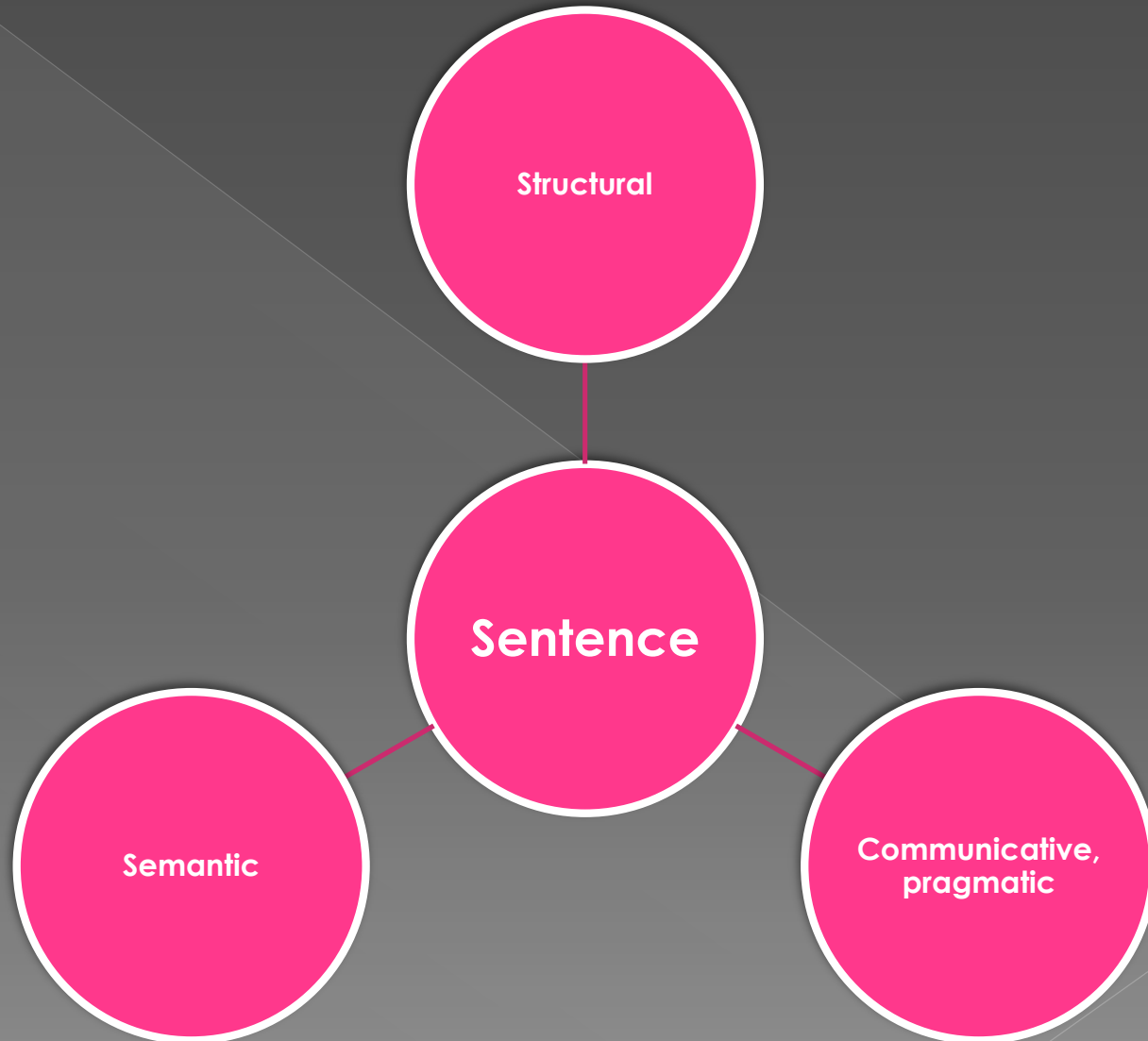
is the smallest syntactic construction used in an act of communication which is characterized by predicativity and has its own structural scheme and intonation pattern.

- * Predication is defined as the subject-predicate relations on which the sentence is based and which refer the situation described to objective reality.

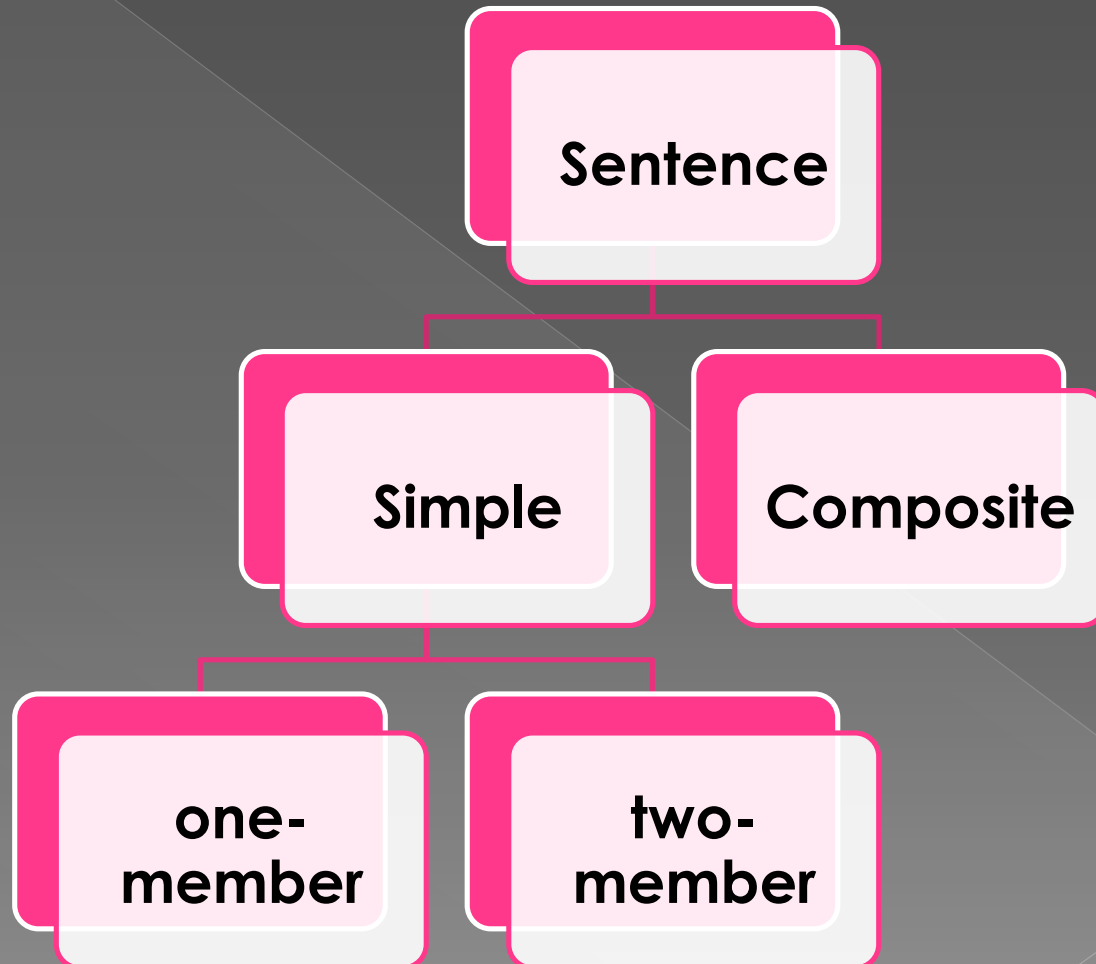
The Sentence Properties

- S. as a linguistic expression of extralinguistic reality must be **actualized**. Actualization of S. content makes predicativity an inseparable property of every S.
- S., just like any other meaningful language unit, has a **form**. Every S. has an intonation pattern.
- S. occupies the highest hierarchical position relative to other structural language units since the final purpose of all structural language units is to build Ss.

The Sentence



Structural Classification



One-member Sentences

- ◉ e.g. *Come here! Hurry up! Come in!*
Listen!

One-member Sentences

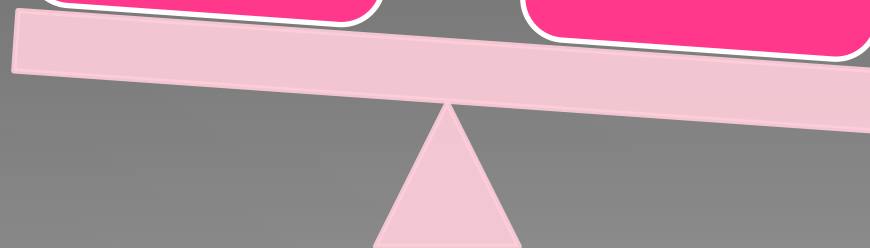
V.
Vinogradov

Prof. Bloch

two-axis
constructions

“main part”

one-axis
constructions



One-member Sentences

Nominal

name a
person or a
thing

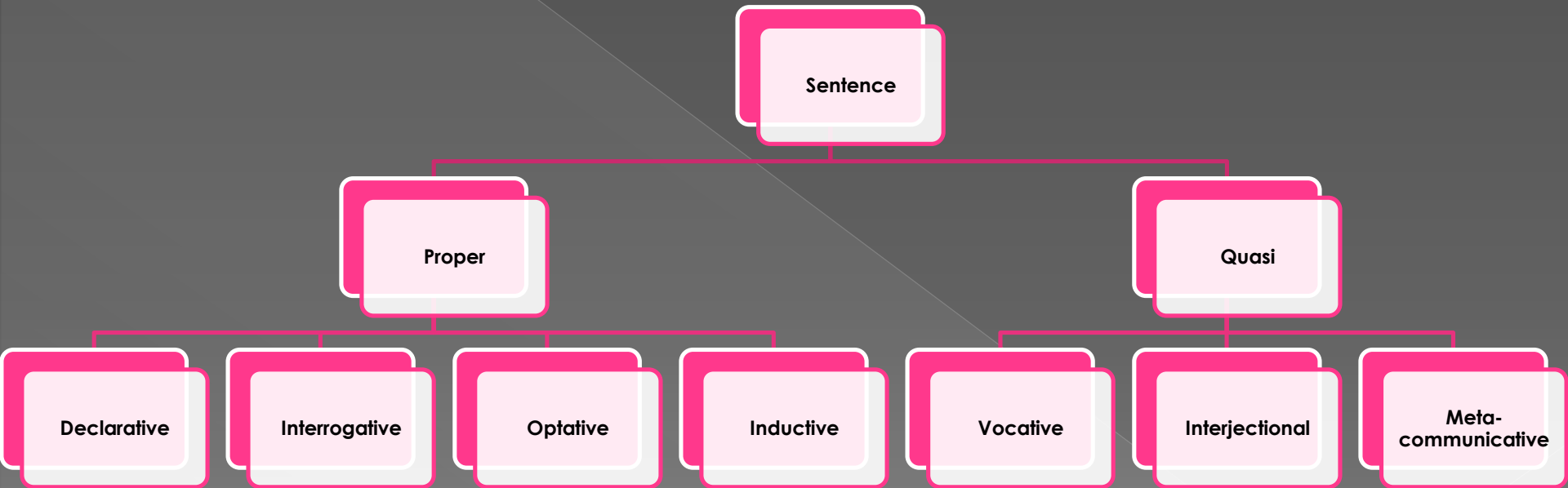
e.g. Winter.
Snow.
Stars.

Infinitival

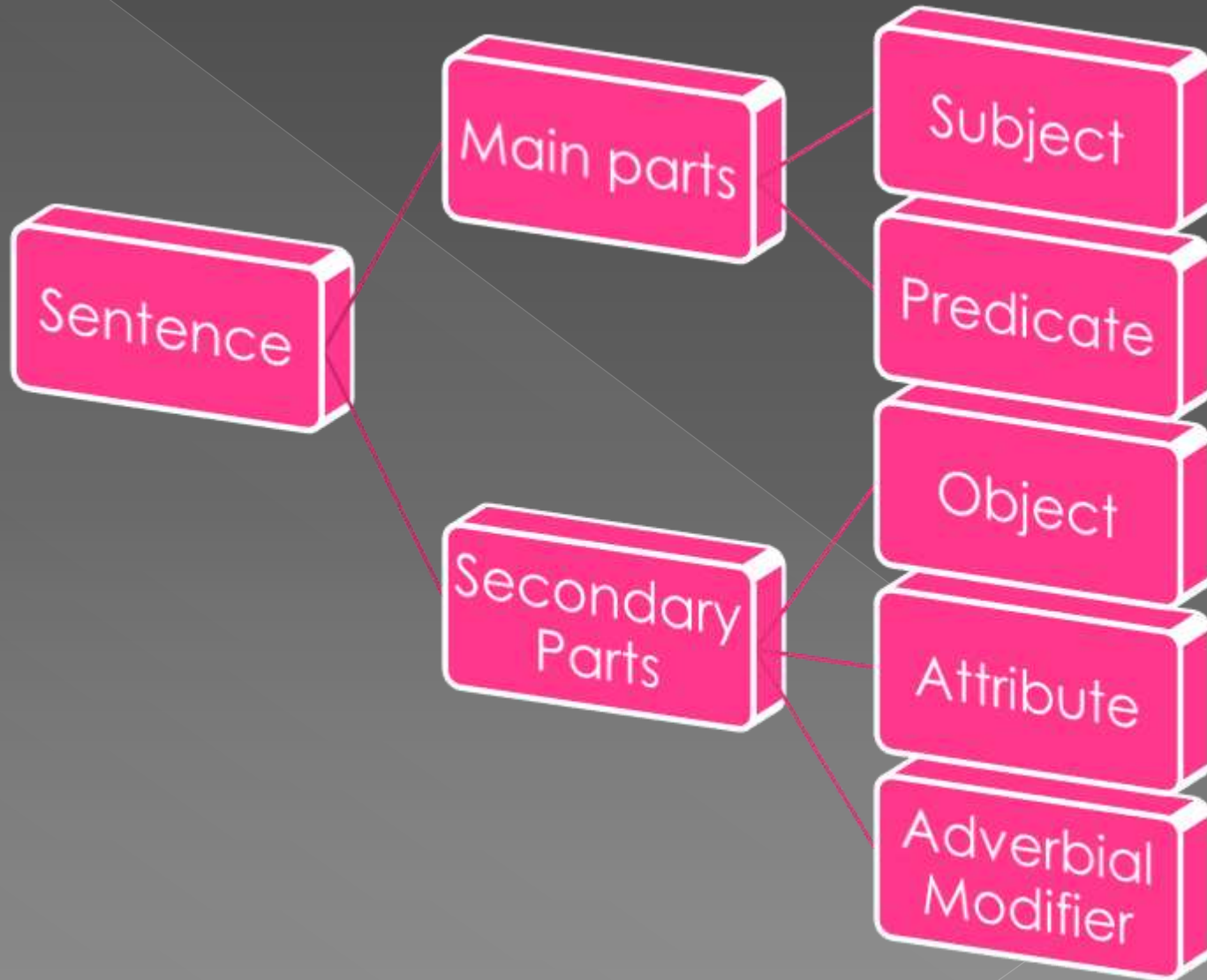
expressed
by an
infinitive

e.g. To talk
like that to
him!

Classification of Sentences



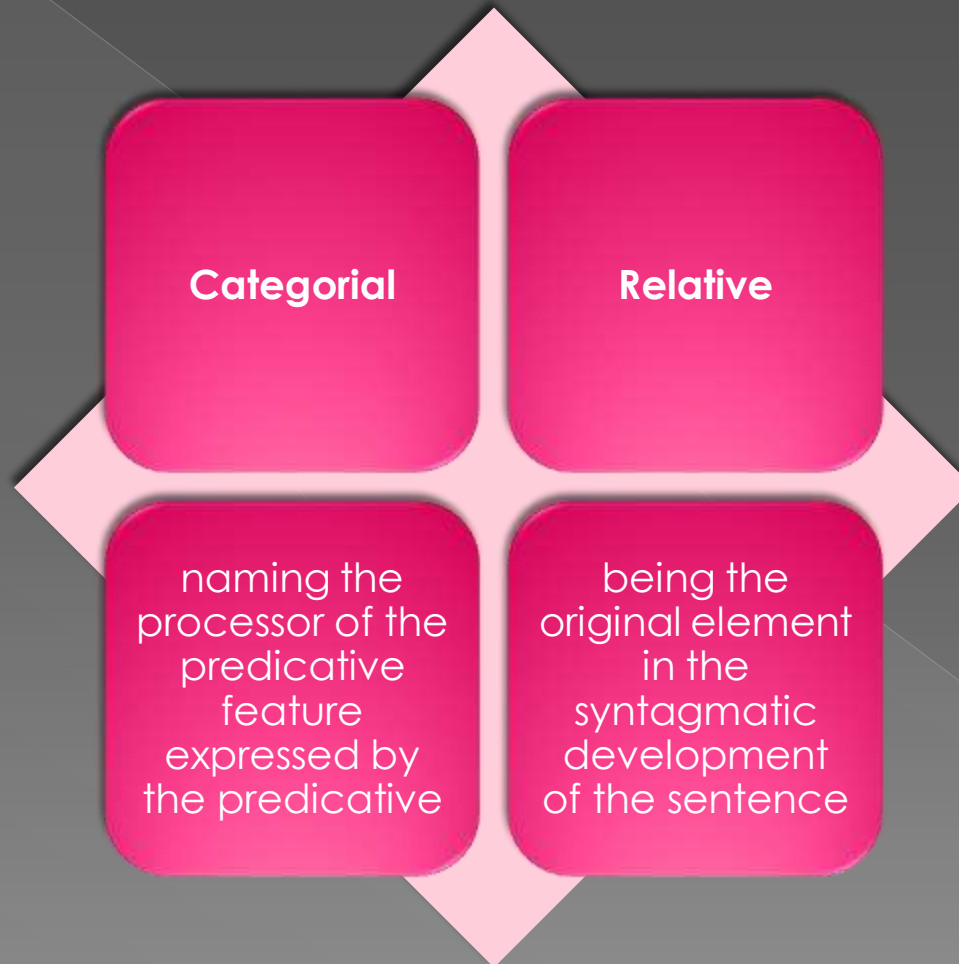
Sentence Parsing



The Subject

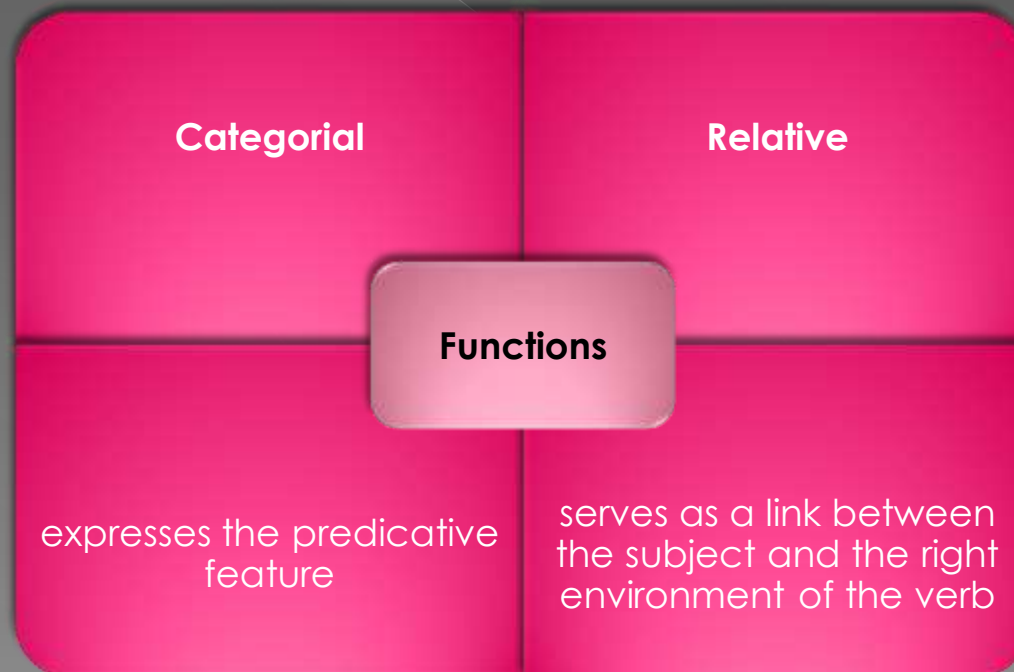
- ◉ Subject denotes the thing whose action or characteristic is expressed by the predicate.
- ◉ It may be expressed by: a noun in the common case, a personal pronoun in the nominative case, a demonstrative pronoun, a substantivised adjective, a numeral, an infinitive, and a gerund, a phrase.

Subject Functions

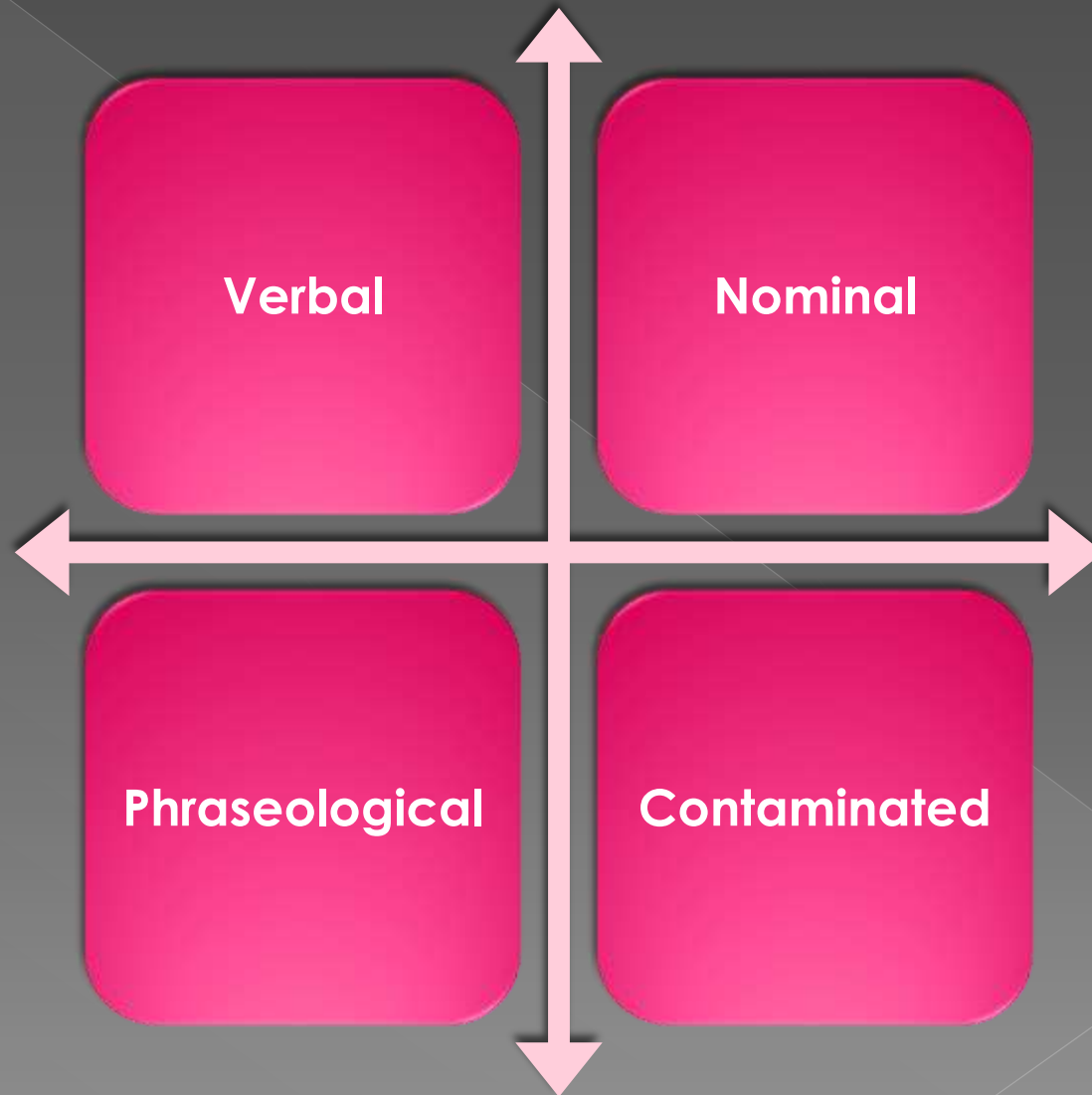


The Predicate

- ◉ The predicate denotes the action or property of the thing expressed by the subject.



The Types of the Predicate



The Object

- Acc. to its formal features: *direct, indirect and prepositional*.
- Acc. to its formal features: *prepositional and non-prepositional*.

The Object

Object object

- a sentence member dependent on the verb, adjective or a word of the category of state that denotes an object of action or of quality
- e.g. *prepositional* or *non-prepositional*

Addressee object

- denotes a person or an object to which some action performed by the subject is directed
- e.g. *prepositional* or *non-prepositional*

Subject object

- used with a verb in Passive and denotes the doer of the action expressed by the verb
- e.g. *prepositional* – by/with N

The Attribute

- Attribute is a dependent element of a nominative phrase that denotes an attributive quality of an object expressed by a noun. It may be expressed by a noun, a substantival pronoun, a cardinal numeral, and any substantivised word, and characterizing the thing named by these words as to its quality or property.

The Adverbial Modifier

- ◉ AM is a secondary part of the sentence modifying a part of the sentence expressed by a verb, a verbal noun, an adjective, or an adverb, and serving to characterize an action or a property as to its quality or intensity, or to indicate the way an action is done, the time, place, cause, purpose, or condition, with which the action or the manifestation of the quality is connected.

The Adverbial Modifier

place and direction	manner	cause	condition
time	attending circumstances	comparison	exception
frequency	description	consequence	
degree	purpose	concession	

The Structural Scheme of the Sentence

- ◎ The **structural scheme** of the sentence is a sentence structure minimal by its composition and simplest by grammatical and semantic structure.
- ◎ A construction built according to a structural scheme and realizing all of its components is called an **elementary sentence**.

Structural schemes	Elementary sentences
Subject – predicate expressed by a verb of nondirected action (Active Voice)	Pages rustle. (S. Bedford)
Subject – predicate expressed by a verb of nonprepositional-object directivity (Active Voice) – direct object	Mor was enjoying the port. (I. Murdoch) Subject –
Subject – predicate expressed by a verb requiring two non-prepositional objects: object of addressee and object of patient (Active voice) – non-prepositional object of addressee – non-prepositional object of patient	'I've taught him that.' (J. Galsworthy)
Subject – predicate expressed by a verb of spatial directivity (Active Voice) – adverbial modifier of place	The Judge is in the chair. (S. Bedford)
Subject – predicate expressed by a verb of temporal directivity (Active Voice) – adverbial modifier of time	That was long ago. (P. Abrahams)
Subject – predicate expressed by a verb of nonprepositional object directivity (Passive Voice)	They had been seized. (H.G. Wells)