

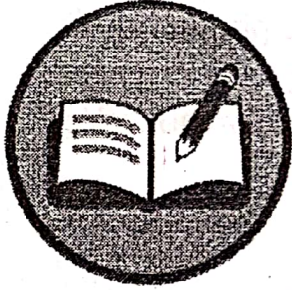
AYDI EST.

Open Learning & Translation

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Third Year

Second Term



2



# Semantics & Syntax

20.05.2022

أ. رنا داخل

Semantics & Syntax 3.2



AYDI 2022

## HELLO EVERYONE!

Last time, we talked about the main points of syntax.

We will have only **four lectures for syntax**. Then we will start with semantics and pragmatics.

Before we start, I want to tell you that we will not have a lecture next week and the week after. After these two weeks, we will have two lectures each week; either we will have two lectures on Fridays or one on Friday and the other on Saturday. Most probably we will have two lectures on Fridays from 9:15 to 12:00 for two weeks.

We said that **syntax** is the way we form sentences.

We talked about **constituents**. We said they are a group of words that form the **syntactic category** like a noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase...etc. They can stand alone as a phrase. We talked about tests to identify if it is a constituent or not. We said that we have three tests:

- 1) **To form a question**
- 2) **Replacement by pronouns or verbs like (do).**
- 3) **Movement as a one unit.**

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Today we will talk about "**phrase structure rules**". Phrase structure rules are related to syntactic categories (noun phrase, verb phrase...etc.). The constituent is not necessary a noun phrase. It could be only a noun or an adjective for example.

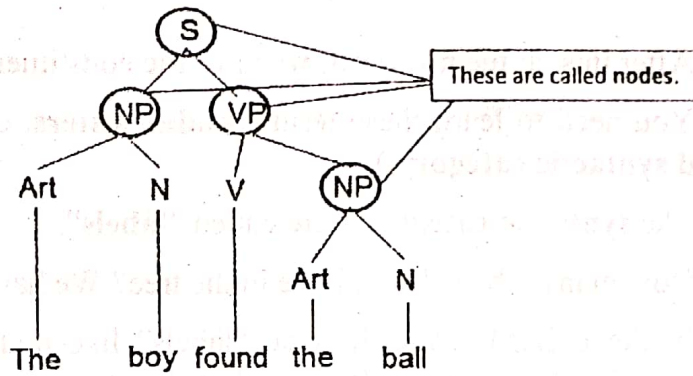
What is the "**tree diagram**"?

It is a formal device to test your knowledge about syntax.

- ***The boy found the ball.***

I will test your knowledge about syntax by drawing a tree diagram.

Let's see:



“*The boy found the ball*” all of it is a sentence [S]. This sentence consists of a noun phrase [NP]; “*The boy*”, and a verb phrase [VP]; “*found the ball*”. Any sentence in English has a noun phrase and a verb phrase. The first noun phrase is made up of a determiner (article); “*The*” and a noun; “*boy*”.

The verb phrase consists of a verb and a noun phrase. The verb [V] is “*found*”, and the noun phrase is the article “*the*” and the noun “*ball*”.

As you can see in the pictures, we have something that is called “**nodes**”. What does “nodes” mean?

For example, this sentence dominates noun phrase and verb phrase. This noun phrase dominates determiner and noun. The verb phrase dominates verb and noun phrase. The last noun phrase dominates the determiner and noun.

(للتسهيل تتبع الشرح مع الصورة المرفقة... كل فرع أساسي يدعى node).

A **node** is a point in a tree diagram or syntactic tree that can be assigned a syntactic category label.

How many nodes do we have in this tree diagram? We have four nodes.

Notice that the noun phrase and the verb phrase are **sisters** because they are dominated by the sentence.

The same is with the determiner and the noun. They are **sisters** because they are dominated by noun phrase.

Let me ask you this question: *Does the verb phrase dominate the verb and the noun phrase only?* No. It **dominates** also the determiner and the noun.

So this verb phrase dominates verb, noun, phrase, determiner and noun. But immediately it dominates the verb and the noun phrase.

After this, at the last level, we have the constituents.

You need to learn these terms (**nodes, sisters, constituents, dominate and syntactic category.**)

The **syntactic categories** are called "**labels**".

How many labels do we have in the tree? We have nine labels.

In the EXAM, you will face "labels" like noun phrase, verb phrase, prepositional phrase, etc. We call them labels.

This is a simple sentence. All of you know that this is a structure. When we talk about "**phrase structure rules**", it means we have **rules**. We can call them "**phrase structure rules**" or "**constituent structure rules**".

Let's write rules according to the tree diagram:

① **S → NP + VP**

The sentence dominates the noun phrase and the verb phrase.

② **NP → determiner + N**

The noun phrase dominates determiner and noun.

③ **VP → V + NP**

The verb phrase dominates verb and noun phrase.

So we have three rules. Till now we are dealing with simple sentences.

If I say:

- **Sara slept.**

This sentence consists of a noun phrase and a verb phrase: **S → NP VP**.

The noun phrase is just a noun (**Sara**), and the verb phrase is the verb (**slept**).

If I changed (**Sara**) with (**The boy**):

- **The boy slept.**

Here the noun phrase is a determiner (**The**) and a noun (**boy**).

We have a new phrase structure rule here:

④ **VP → V**

It is not necessary to have a noun phrase. This verb (**slept**) is an

intransitive verb. If we have a transitive verb, we need a noun phrase.

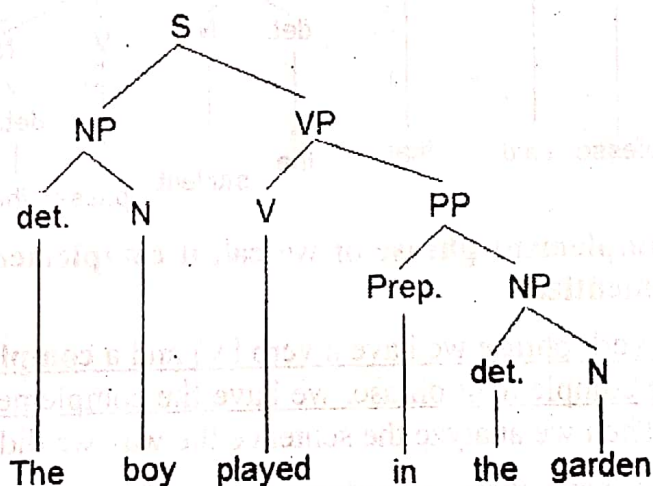
In the previous example "*Sara slept*", we noticed that a noun phrase can be a group of words or just a noun.

⑤ NP → N

What if I say:

- ***The boy played in the garden.***

Here we have a prepositional phrase [PP]. Let's draw this tree:



We have new phrase structure rules:

⑥ VP → V PP

⑦ PP → Prep. NP

The prepositional phrase [PP] is made up with a preposition [Prep.] and a noun phrase [NP].

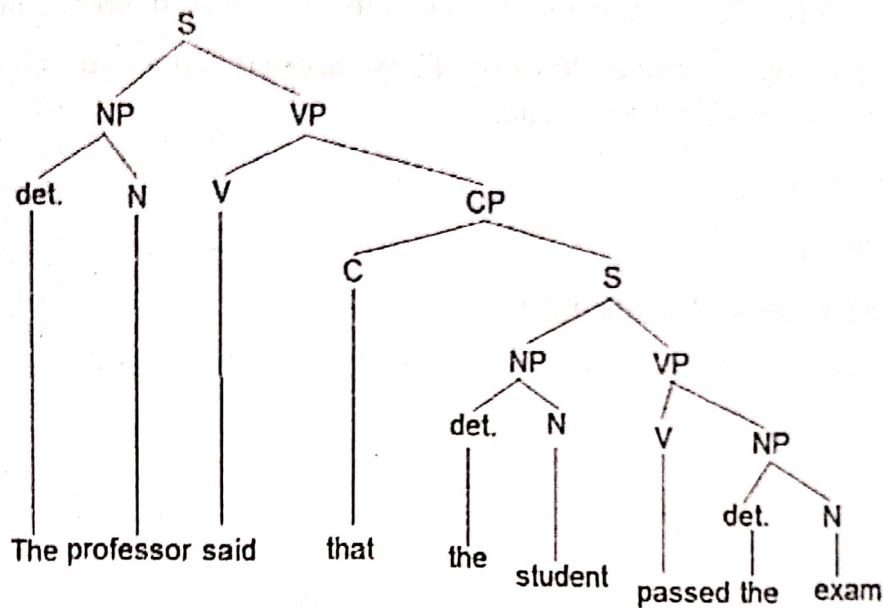
Let's move to something more complicated. We produce and understand limitless sentences because it is part of our knowledge. To see how this happens, we need syntax to understand what happens. Nothing is random.

- ***The professor said that the student passed the exam.***

Here we have a sentence within a sentence. We call it "embedded sentence". In syntax, that word (*that*) is a complementizer.

The first sentence is "*The professor said*". Then we have a complementizer "*that*". Then we have an embedded sentence "*the student passed the exam*".

Let's draw the tree:



[CP] is a **complement phrase** or we call it **complementizer phrase**. [C] is a **complementizer**.

So under the verb phrase we have a verb [V] and a complement phrase [CP]. Under the complement phrase, we have the complementizer [C] and a sentence [S]. Then we analyze the sentence the way we did before.

In English we have three **complementizers**. They are (*that, whether* and *if*). For example:

- *I don't know whether you understand this lecture.*

Here we have a sentence within a sentence. The same structure.

BE CAREFUL, I am NOT talking about the conditional "if". I am talking about "if" complementizer like when I say:

- *I don't know if he passed the exam.*

Here (if) is a complementizer.

Try to practice at home. We have two extra rules:

- ⑧  $VP \rightarrow V CP$

The verb phrase dominates a verb and a complementizer phrase.

- ⑨  $CP \rightarrow C S$

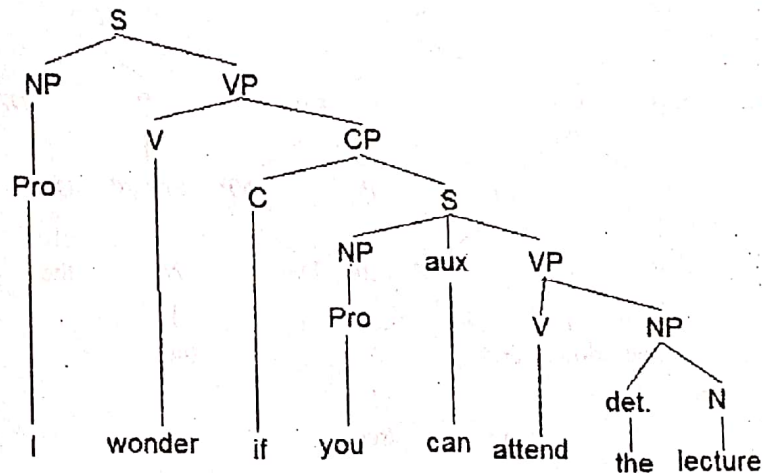
The complementizer phrase dominates a complementizer and a sentence. These are phrase structure rules or constituent structure rules.

I want to test your understanding. I will write a sentence:

- ***I wonder if you can attend the lecture.***

Here in the verb phrase we have an **auxiliary** and a main verb.

Let's draw the tree:



Let's have another sentence:

- ***The girl walked down the street with a gun toward the bank.***

This sentence has three prepositional phrases:

- 1) *The girl walked down the street*
- 2) *The girl walked with a gun*
- 3) *The girl walked towards the bank*

What shall I do according to phrase structure rules?

We repeat the verb phrase because we have three prepositional phrases for the same verb phrase.

There is a new rule. We call it "**recursive rule**". In English, we can add limitless prepositional phrases, adjectives, (that) clauses. In this case, there is a rule called "recursive rule". It means to **generate** new rules.

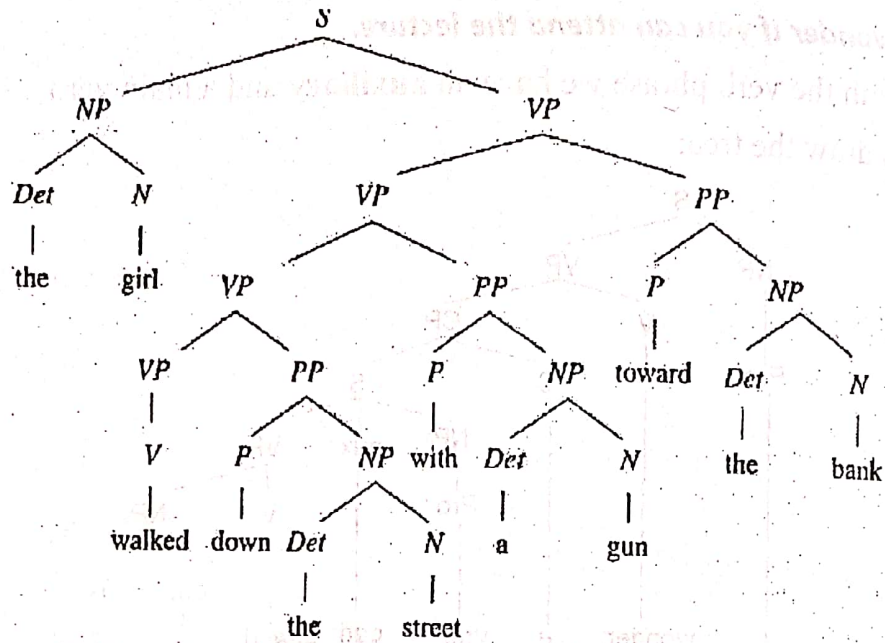
We have this rule: **VP → V PP**

How can I modify this rule? In this case I say that the verb phrase dominates a verb phrase and a prepositional phrase:

**VP → VP PP**

This is a new version of the rule. We have a verb phrase from a verb phrase because we have something repeated. We have three prepositional phrases, so we have three verb phrases.

Let's try to draw the tree:



Read everything at home please.

Thank You



Page:

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