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2022-2023

Third Year

Second Term



6



Semantics
& Syntax

07.07.2023

مؤسسة العائدي للخدمات الطلابية

Semantics & Syntax 3.6

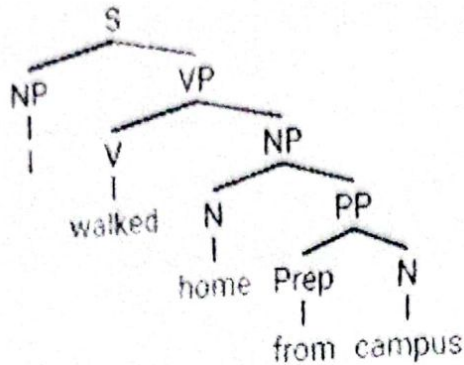


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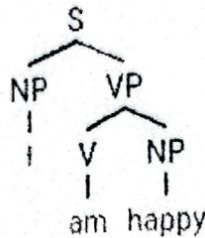
HELLO EVERYONE!

Syntax

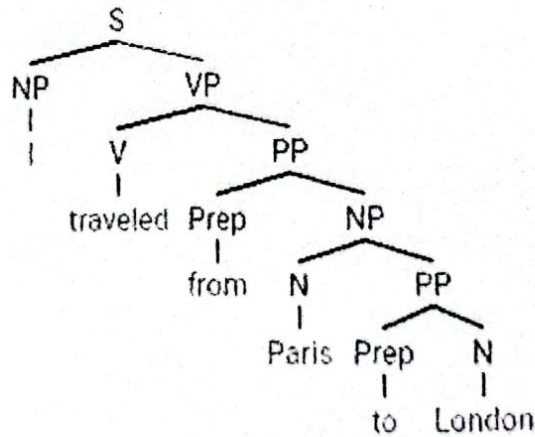
- Let us draw some syntax tree diagrams.
• **I walked home from campus.**



- **I am happy**



- **I traveled from Paris to London.**



Clauses

Today we are going to talk about clauses.

- What is a clause? Compared to a phrase, how would you think of a clause?

A clause is a structure that is smaller than a sentence and bigger than a phrase.

The clause either consists of one phrase or of a complete sentence.

- What types of clauses do we have?

There are different ways of categorizing clauses. Let us talk about clauses in terms of dependence and independence.

We have **independent clauses** (superordinate clauses, sometimes called as main clauses) and **dependent clauses** (subordinate clauses).

- What is the difference between the two of them?

The independent clause can stand alone and give a full meaning of a sentence. It's a meaningful unit. The dependent clause can't stand alone.

Let's deviate a bit from syntax and go to composition and academic writing. An independent clause always ends with a full stop but a dependent clause ends with a comma if it is at the beginning of a sentence and a full stop if it is at the end.

Let's talk about the types of clauses in terms of the verbs they contain. *In terms of verbs, we have three types of verbs:*

- *Finite clauses:* A finite clause entails a clause that contains a finite verb.
- *Non-finite clauses:* Non-finite clause is a clause containing a non-finite verb.
- Verbless clauses:* Verbless clauses don't have verbs at all.

A finite clause can either be dependent or independent. Non-finite and verbless clauses are always dependent. So dependent clauses can be any of the three.

Examples:

- *I walked home from campus.*

This is an independent clause. It definitely has a finite verb.

- *When complete, the structure is going to be marvelous.*

If we omit the first part, we have the independent clause. The first part is a verbless dependent clause that cannot stand alone.

- *Having made that mistake once, I won't make it again.*

The second part "I won't make it again" is an independent clause with a finite verb. The first part "having made that mistake once" has a gerund "having" which is a non-finite verb. "Made" is a main verb in the past form, so it's a finite verb. "That mistake once" is also another clause serving as an object to the verb "made".

When we go through the noun clauses and wh- clauses we will get back to this example again because the noun clause can have one of four functions of a noun phrase (a noun phrase has more than 4 functions).

We classified clauses based on two criteria: dependence and type of verb. We can also classify clauses based on a third criterion which is the function of the clause.

Clauses can function as:

- *Nouns*
- *Noun clauses*
- *Adjective clauses*
- *Verb clauses*
- *Adverb clauses*

A fourth criterion is the structure of the clause or the elements that a clause consists of.

It can also be

- *A noun clause*

- An adverbial clause
- An adjective clause

From the fourth criterion we have *that* clauses and *wh* clauses.
Let's start with the first type of clauses which is the independent clause.

❖ Main (independent) clauses:

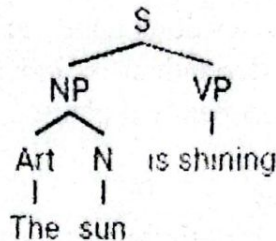
Independent clauses always have finite verbs but we have seven types of these clauses in terms of structure.

1 - SV

The subject-verb clause is a clause that only consists of a subject and a verb; the subject could be a noun phrase or whatever functions as a subject, and the verb is a verb phrase that is reduced only to a verb group (the verb group means a verb and its auxiliaries and adverbs).

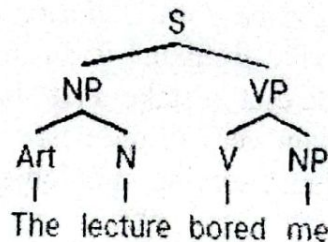
☞ The verb in this type is intransitive.

- **The sun is shining.**



2 - SVO

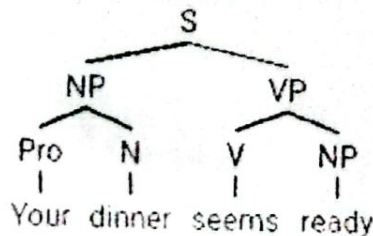
- **The lecture bored me.**



3 - SVC

He is a teacher.

- **Your dinner seems ready.**

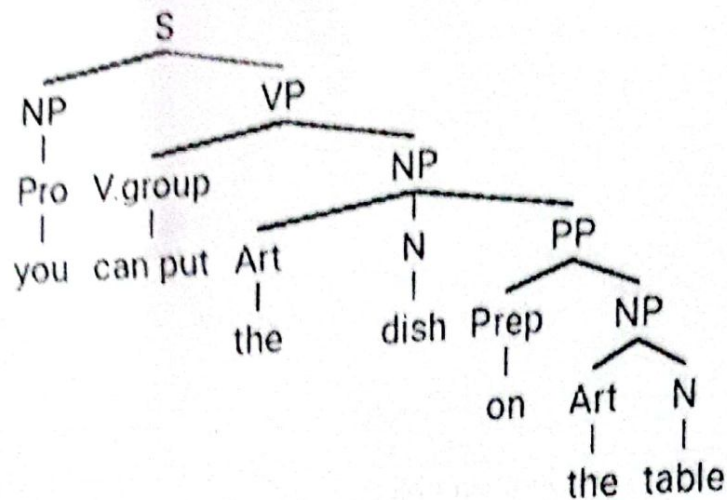


- What is the implied object of this sentence?
The dinner is the implied object here.

4 - SVA

7 - SVOA

• You can put the dish on the table.



We can add optional adverbials (adjuncts) to two types of those seven. Adverbials are related to space or time but not necessarily significant to the structure of the sentence; we can omit it and the sentence will still be correct. We can only have additional adverbials in two cases: the SV and the SVOA.

Examples:

- Luckily, the sun is already shining. [SV]
- Later, you can perhaps put the dish on the table. [SVOA]

The most important thing is to know that the independent clause is a complete unit of meaning. It must have a subject and a verb. The other components can be the object, the adverb, the complement, etc. All the seven types have a subject and a verb. The verb in the independent clause is always a finite verb.

The less important thing is to be able to recognize the seven patterns.

The difference between a finite verb and a non-finite verb:

The finite verbs indicate tense so they can be in the -ing form and in the -ed form and in the past participle and in the infinitive. Whenever in the -ing form, they need verb to be. In the past participle, they just have an auxiliary as well. In the infinitive, they must have an (s) if the subject is a third person singular.

Examples:

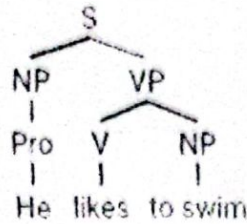
- I like swimming. *The verb "like" is a finite verb in the infinitive form.*
- He likes to swim.

He is interested in swimming. "Is" is a finite verb, "interested" is a non-finite verb.

The non-finite verbs don't function as verbs: they are tenseless. We don't have an action taking place so we don't have a tense.

Let's draw the tree diagram of this sentence:

He likes to swim.



❖ The subordinate (dependent) clauses:

There are three occasions where a dependent clause may appear. It either:

1. Can replace a noun phrase, or
2. Modify a noun phrase in another clause, or
3. Replace an adverbial in another clause.

Let's take some examples:

Everyone could see that he was frightened.

- Everyone: pronominal group
- Could see: V.group
- That he was frightened: NP

I often see my close friends who were at school with me.

- Who were at school with me: an independent clause modifying a noun phrase "my close friends".

I met Salem Ali when I was at school.

- When I was at school: a dependent clause replacing an adverb.

A subordinate clause is usually -and always can be- introduced by a SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTION, e.g. when or what, or by a RELATIVE PRONOUN, e.g. who.

Types of the subordinate clauses:

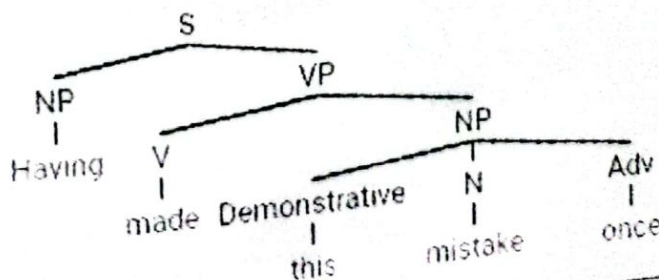
- Finite subordinate clauses.
- Non-finite subordinate clauses.
- Verbless subclauses

Let's take the following example:

Having made this mistake once, I won't make it again.

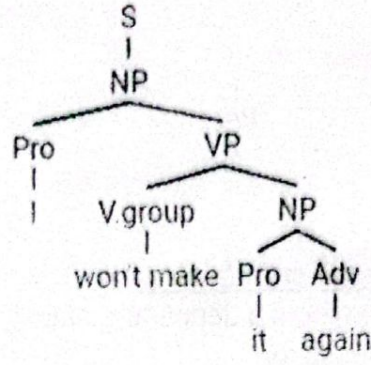
- I won't make it again: independent clause with a finite verb
- Having made this mistake once: dependent clause with a finite verb

Having made this mistake once




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- I won't make it again




Thank You

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دورات متابعة ومكثفات
بإشراف نخبة من أفضل الأساتذة الجامعيين
في معهد الكندي
لطلاب الترجمة (التعليم المفتوح) ولجميع المواد



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