

## Lecture 21

# **SIMPLE SENTENCE**

# ***PLAN***

## ***1. Constituent structure***

***a) notional parts of the sentence***

***b) expanded and unexpanded sentences***

**c) complete and  
incomplete (elliptical)  
sentences**

**d) semantic  
classification of simple  
sentences**

## ***2. Paradigmatic structure***

***a) derivational procedures***

***b) clausalization and  
phrasalization***

***c) predicative functions***

# ***1. Constituent structure.***

**the finite verb + the  
subject = the basic  
predicative meaning  
of the sentence**

**= predicative line of the  
sentence**

# **sentences are divided into:**

- 1) *monopredicative* - one predicative line, i.e. *simple*,
- 2) *polypredicative* = two or more predicative lines, i.e. *composite* and *semi-composite*.

***a) notional parts  
of the sentence***



***simple sentence** = a system of function-expressing positions reflecting certain element of situation.*

*Each position = the member of the sentence.*

*They are arranged in a hierarchy  each of them modifying the others.*

# Hierarchy of members:

## 1) principal (main):

- the subject
- the predicate,

modify each other

the subject is the “person”  
modifier of the predicate,

the predicate is the “process”  
modifier of the subject;

they are **interdependent.**

## 2) secondary:

- the object – a substance modifier of the predicate;
- the attribute – a quality modifier of substantive parts, either the subject or the object;
  - the apposition – a special kind of an attribute, a substance modifier of the subject;

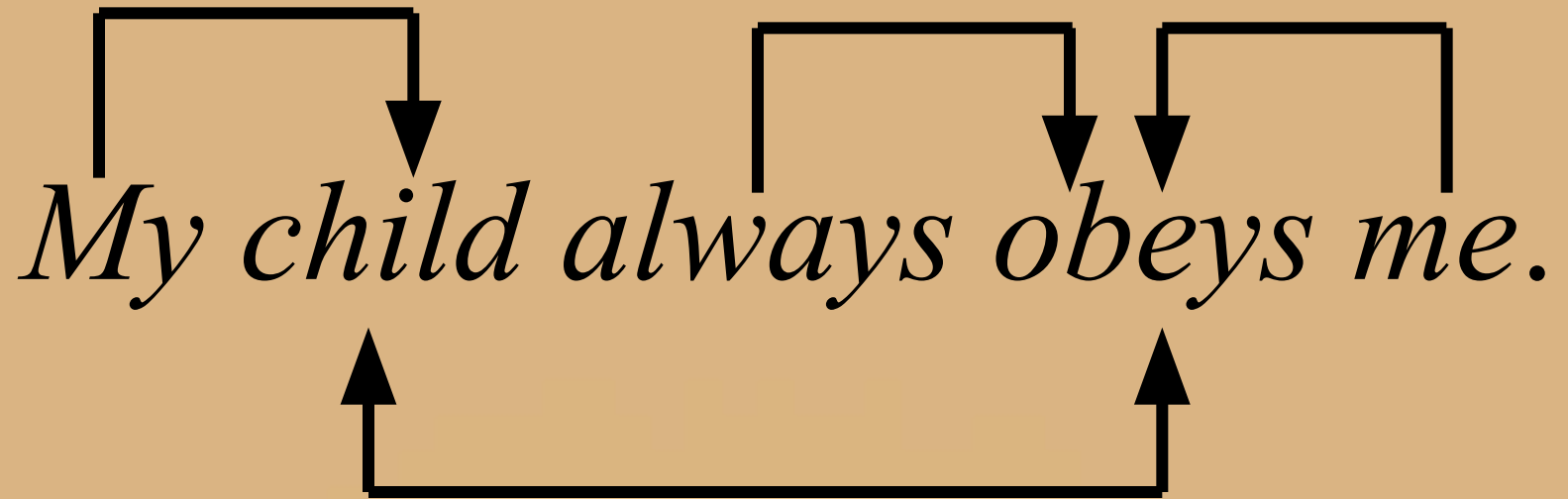
- **the adverbial modifier** – a quality modifier of the predicate;
- **the parenthesis (parenthetical enclosure)** - a detached speaker-bound modifier either of one of the nominative parts of the sentence or of the sentence in general: *To be sure, Morris had treaded her badly. He probably won't be able to make it today.*

- **the address (addressing enclosure)** – a modifier of the destination of the whole sentence;
- **the interjection (interjectional enclosure)** – an emotional modifier.

nominative parts of the sentence are syntagmatically connected,

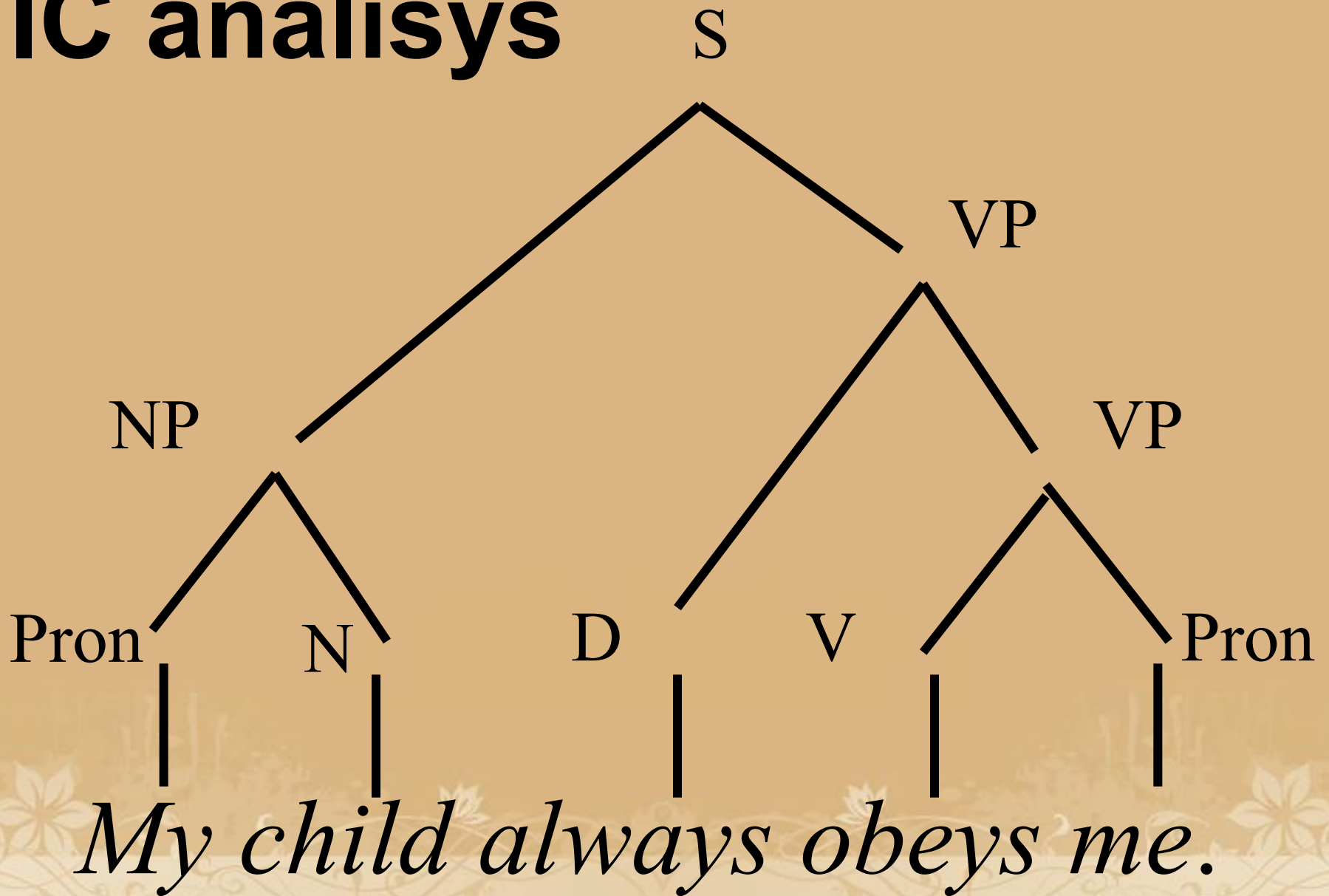
the relations between them can be represented in a **linear** as well as in a **hierarchical** way

# linear analysis





# IC analysis



***b) expanded and  
unexpanded  
sentences***

# *Sentence parts*

*obligatory*

*optional*

- may or may not be actually represented in the sentence.*
- This is determined by the valency of the verb-predicate*

the category of “*elementary sentence*”

= a sentence in which all the positions are obligatory

(the principal parts + complementive modifiers).

# Simple sentences can be:

- **unexpanded** = *elementary sentence*, **includes only obligatory nominative parts**;
- **expanded** - includes some optional parts, i.e. *supplementive modifiers*, which do not change the simple sentence into a composite or semi-composite sentence.

- *'He gave me the book'*
- **unexpanded** - all the nominative parts of this sentence are required by the obligatory valency of the verb *to give*;
- cf.: *\*He gave...; He gave me...* - semantically and structurally deficient.

• ‘*He gave me a **very interesting** book*’

□ **expanded** - includes the attribute-supplement *very interesting*;

□ is reducible to the elementary unexpanded sentence

***c) complete and  
incomplete  
(elliptical)  
sentences***



**the subject and  
the predicate**

+

**the subordinate  
secondary parts**

- the **axes** of the sentence:
  - the subject group (**the subject axis**)
  - the predicate group (**the predicate axis**).

- Sentence with both axes present □ **complete sentences** (“two-member sentences” or “two-axis sentences”).
- Sentence with one of the axes present □ **incomplete sentences**, (“one-member sentence”, “one-axis sentence”) e.g.: *What a nice day!*

□ **free one-axis sent.** – the zero axis can be easily restored from the context.

**Elliptical sentences:** e.g.: *Who is there? – Your brother.*

□ **fixed one-axis sent.** - the absent axis cannot be easily and accurately restored.

## Examples of fixed one-axis sentences:

- emotionally colored name-calling, e.g.: *Brute!*;
- psychologically tense descriptions, e.g.: *Night. Silence. No one in sight* (so-called nominative sentences);

- various emphatic constructions,  
e.g.: *To ask a question like this!*  
*What a joy!;*
- some conversational formulas,  
e.g.: *Thank you! Nice meeting you!;* etc.

# BUT!

- negation and affirmation formulas (*Yes; No; All right*),
  - vocative sentences (*Ladies and gentlemen! Dear friends!*),
  - greeting and parting formulas (*Hello! Good-bye!*)
- belong to the periphery of the category of the sentence

**+ exclamations of interjectional type**, like *My God! For heaven's sake! Gosh!*, etc.,

= “pseudo-sentences”, or  
“non-communicative utterances”

□ render no situational nomination, predication or informative perspective of any kind

***d) semantic  
classification of  
simple  
sentences***



The semantic classification  
of simple sentences is  
based on *principal parts*  
*semantics.*

A. On the basis of **subject categorial meaning**, sentences are divided into

1) **impersonal**, e.g.: *It drizzles;*  
*There is no use crying over spilt milk;*

a) **factual**, e.g.: *It drizzles;*

b) **perceptual**, e.g. *It looks like rain. It smells of hay here.*

## **2) personal;**

### **a) human**

- **definite**, e.g.: *I know it;*
- **indefinite**, e.g.: *One never knows such things for sure.*

## **b) non-human.**

- **animate**, e.g.: *A cat entered the room;*
- **inanimate**, e.g.: *The wind opened the door.*

**B.** On the basis of **predicate**  
**categorial meaning**, sentences  
are divided into

1) **process featuring** (“**verbal**”)

a) **actional**, e.g.: *I play ball*;

b) **statal**, e.g.: *I enjoy your party*;

2) **substance featuring**

(“**nominal**”);

a) **factual**, e.g.: *She is clever;*

b) **perceptual**, e.g.: *She seems to be clever.*

# C. subdivisions of simple sentences based on the structure of the predicate:

## predicates:

- *simple* (*I read*)
- *compound*,

- **compound**,
  - **compound nominal predicates** with pure and specifying link verbs (*She looked beautiful*).



– **compound verbal predicates**

- ✓ CV modal Pr (*You can prove it*)
- ✓ CV aspect Pr (*She started crying*)
- ✓ Mixed types

**D.** *On the basis of **subject-object relations**, simple sentences are divided into*

**1) subjective, e.g.: He is a writer;**

**2) objective, e.g.: He is writing a book;**

**3) neutral or potentially objective, e.g.: He is writing.**

# ***2. Paradigmatic structure.***

Traditionally, the sentence was studied only syntagmatically.

**F. de Saussure:** paradigmatics is quite natural for morphology, while syntax should be studied primarily as the linear connections of words.

Regular paradigmatic  
description of syntax  
started in the middle of  
**the 20th century**  
**(N.Chomsky's**  
transformational grammar  
theory).

# various sentence patterns

- various functional meanings

They make up syntactic categories = the oppositions of paradigmatically correlated sentence patterns.

Study of these oppositions

- distinguish formal marks and individual grammatical meanings of paradigmatically opposed sentence patterns.

# ***a) derivational procedures***



syntactic derivation starts with

**the kernel sentence**

= **the elementary sentence**

(the principal parts +  
complementive modifiers)

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the  
table.*

*Derivation of a sentence*  
= *several*  
*transformational steps*

# **transformational steps**

1) *morphological arrangement* of the sentence parts (word forms within categories)

- changes of the finite form of the verb

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table* □

*Mary would have put the book on the table.*

2) the use of functional words (functional expansion), which transform syntactic constructions

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.* □

***Did** Mary put the book on the table?*

*He understood my question.* □ *He seemed to understand my question.*

3) the process of substitution, (the use of personal, demonstrative and indefinite pronouns and of various substitutive half-notional words),

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.* □

*Mary put **it** on the table.*

*I want another pen, please.* □ *I want another **one**, please.*

4) deletion, i.e. elimination of some elements in various contextual conditions,

e.g.: *Put the book on the table!* □

*On the table!*

5) the process of positional arrangement, (changes of the word order)

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.*  *On the table Mary put the book.*

*We must go.*  *Must we go?*

6) the process of intonational arrangement, i.e. application of various functional tones and accents,

e.g.: *Mary put the book on the table.*

*Mary put the book on the table? (!)*



These steps may be employed either alone or in combination with each other;

*e.g. Where did Mary put the book?*

□ the kernel sentence

*Mary put the book on the table,*

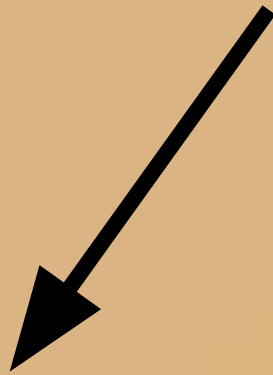
Types of derivational relations in the paradigmatic system of sentences:

- **constructional relations** - the formation of more complex syntactic structures out of simpler ones,
- **predicative relations** - expression of the predicative semantics of the sentence.

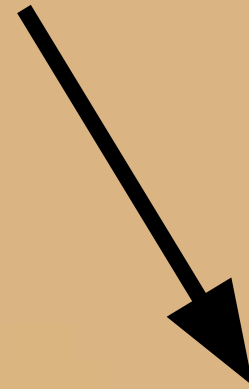
***b) clausalization  
and  
phrasalization***

**kernel sentences**

**transforms**



**clauses**



**phrases**

- **clausalization** = the transformation of a base sentence into a clause in the process of **the subordinative or coordinative combination of sentences.**

- use of conjunctive words;
- the change of the word order;
- the change of intonational arrangement, deletion, substitution and other derivational procedures may be involved.

**Cf.: The team won.**

**+ It caused a sensation.**

□ *The team won and it caused a sensation;  
When the team won, it caused a sensation.*

- **phrasalization** = the transformation of a base sentence into a phrase in the process of building the syntactic constructions of various degrees of complexity.



# types of phrasalization:

- *nominalization*, i.e. the transformation of a sentence into a nominal phrase;

▶ *complete nominalization*

the kernel sentence □ a regular noun phrase

□ NO predicative semantics,

e.g.: *The team won.* □ *the team's*

*victory; The weather changed.* □

*the change of the weather;*

▶ *partial nominalization*

the sentence □ a

semi-predicative gerundial or  
infinitive phrase

□ part of its predicative  
semantics is lost,

*e.g.: the team's winning; for the team  
to win; the weather changing.*

# ***c) predicative functions***

a kernel sentence  
undergoes  
transformations  
connected with the  
expression of predicative  
syntactic semantics

Predicative functions, expressed by primary sentence patterns, can be subdivided into

**1. lower** - include the expression of such morphological categories as tense and aspect; they have “factual”, “truth-stating” semantic character.

**2. higher, “evaluative”**; they are expressed by syntactic categorial oppositions, they make up the following syntactic categories:

# 1) the category of communicative purpose:

- **the first sub-category - question is opposed to statement,**  
*cf.: Mary put the book on the table. –  
Did Mary put the book on the table?;*
- **the second sub-category - statement is opposed to inducement,**  
*e.g.: Mary put the book on the table. –  
Mary, put the book on the table;*



2) **the category of existence quality**  
**(affirmation and negation)** -

affirmation is opposed to negation,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary didn't put the book on the table;*

3) **the category of realization** -

unreality is opposed to reality, cf.:  
*Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary*  
*would have put the book on the table...;*

4) **the category of probability** -  
probability is opposed to fact, cf.:  
*Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary might put he book on the table;*

5) **the category of modal identity** -  
modal identity is opposed to fact,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary happened to put the book on the*  
*table;*

6) **the category of subjective modality,**

- modal subject-action relation is opposed to fact,

cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary must put the book on the table;*

7) **the category of subject-action**

**relations,** - specified actual

subject-action relation is opposed to fact,

cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary tried to put the book on the table;*

8) **the category of phase** - phase of action is opposed to fact,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*Mary started putting her book on the table (though I asked her not to);*

9) **the category of subject-object relations** - passive action is opposed to active action,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* –  
*The book was put on the table by Mary;*

**10) the category of informative perspective** - specialized, reverse actual division is opposed to non-specialized, direct actual division,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* – *It was Mary who put the book on the table;*

**11) the category of (emotional) intensity** - emphasis (emotiveness) is opposed to emotional neutrality,  
cf.: *Mary put the book on the table.* – *Mary did put the book on the table!*

The total volume of the strong members of predicative oppositions actually represented in a sentence = its **predicative load**.

- The kernel sentence, which is characterized in oppositional terms as non-interrogative, non-imperative, non-negative, non-modal-identifying, etc., = predicatively “*non-loaded*” (has a “zero predicative load”);

- sentences with the most typical predicative loads of one or two positive feature expressed = *lightly* loaded;



- sentences with predicative semantics of more than two positive predicative features (normally, no more than six) are **heavily loaded**.

*Why on earth has Mary failed to put  
my book back on the table?!*

- expressing positive predicative semantics of interrogations, subject-action relations and intensity;
- its predicative load is **heavy**.