

## Lecture 23

# COMPLEX SENTENCE

***b) The classifications  
of complex  
sentences on the  
basis of mutual  
dependence of  
clauses***

# Russian linguist N. S. Pospelov:

## 1) “one-member sentences” -

complex sentences with  
obligatory subordinate clauses:

a) complex sentences with **subject**  
**and predicative clauses:**

*e.g.: What the telegram said was clear.*

*The telegram was what I expected  
from you.*

b) complex sentences with subordinate clauses performing the functions of **complements**, **(object clauses and adverbial clauses)**,

*e.g.: Tell me what you know about it.  
Put the pen where you've taken it from.*

c) complex sentences with **correlative connections**, for example, with **double connectors**,

*e.g.: The more he thought about it, the more he worried;*

d) complex sentences with  
**restrictive attributive**  
**clauses** - based on a  
correlation scheme too,

*e.g.: It was the kind of book  
that all children admire.*

e) complex sentences with *the subordinate clause in preposition to the principal clause,*

*e.g.: As far as I remember, the man was very much surprised to see me there.*

*Even if the fault is all his, I must find a way to help him.*

## 2) “two-member sentences”

complex sentences with optional subordinate clauses.

- with the adverbial clauses,
- parenthetical clauses
- descriptive attributive clauses in **postposition** to the principal clause,



*e.g.: The man was very much surprised to see me there, as far as I remember.*

*She wore a hat which was decorated with flowers.*

Subordinate clauses may have

**1) parallel subordination**

-subordinate clauses

immediately referring to one  
principal clause are

subordinated **“in parallel”** or  
**“co-subordinated”**.

Parallel subordination may  
be:

***a) homogeneous***

- the subordinate clauses  
perform similar  
functions,

- connected with each other coordinatively,
- depend on the same element in the principal clause (or, the principal clause in general),

e.g.: *He said that it was his business and that I'd better stay off it;*

b) ***heterogeneous***:

- the subordinate clauses mostly refer to different elements in the principal clause,

*e.g.: The man whom I saw yesterday said that it was his business.*

2) **consecutive subordination**  
- one clause is subordinated  
to another in a string of  
clauses,

*e.g.: I don't know why she said that  
she couldn't come at the time that  
I suggested*

***3. The correlation  
between  
compound and  
complex  
sentences***

Some compound sentences can be easily transformed into complex sentences,

- diagnostic models to expose the semantic relations between the coordinate clauses, especially in unmarked coordinative constructions.



*E.g.: Water the seeds and they will grow. □ If you water the seeds, they will grow;*

*She took some medicine and she became sick. □ She became sick because she took some medicine;*

**Coordinative connections**  
are semantically more  
general than the  
**connections in complex**  
**sentences**, which are  
semantically more  
discriminatory.